

# Notes from the Disturbed Edge

## Chapter 2

...Can we break freeeee from Lygodium... A car whizzed by the intersection, ten feet from her hindquarters. These were the outer reaches indeed, the northern edge of a cypress swamp that stretched south for a mile. Somewhere out there he was pulling Brazilian pepper seedlings, while she reconned the perimeter, carefully applying herbicide to pillars of Old World climbing fern that reached 30, 40 feet into the canopy. Within two weeks the horrible insidious plants would be dead, spirits returned to their native range, leaving masses of wiry stems and desiccated leaves to decay. Long days — she slipped back into her role as temptress nightingale, draped in a flowing veil of climbing fern, blowing in the wind (of course, her wafting garment would be silken, faux fern, for she could only guess the range of windborne alien spores). I can feel something inside me say, I really don't think I'm strong enough... another car flew by, and she heard the next one stop. A designer-clad remnant of a woman cast a sideward glance her way from the tinted depths of a red camaro, and she heard the door locks click. Oh yeah? Climb that guardrail Gucci girl, jump this ditch, and humble yourself as you enter my world, you vehicle-impaired Jezebel — I rule on this side of the curb! The painted lady raised her eyebrows, grimaced and pulled away as the light turned green. Man, did I say that out loud? she wondered, as taillights faded. Maybe she had been out too long... Oh well, another day, another piece of mother earth to reclaim from the exotic invasion. What am I supposed to do, just sit around and wait for you, well I can't do that, cause there's no turnin' back... she danced on to the next hideous mass of climbing fern — Yes, you would definitely look good in brown. Meanwhile, far south, he bent to pull the millionth seedling. You weed you weed, whoah oh ho, ain't you gotta go... Some folks are just meant to be together.

- J.A.

**An excerpt from "The Adventures of Hack Garlon and his buxom sidekick Squirt."**