

# The White Book

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## Part Five of Seventeen: Belly of the Whale

Hearing nothing but the sound of birds,  
I went to a house nearby.  
Each window space filled with boards;  
No humans were inside.

I tried the door, it opened wide, 5  
And so I then stepped through.  
It seemed to me a normal house  
Like any that I knew.

I explored it and the next one down 10  
In the course of that bright day.  
As night came I closed one up,  
There in the dark to stay.

There was no electricity, though  
Switches I had found. 15  
I sat there bony as the gloom  
Of night drew all around.

I drew my hand across my leg,  
And felt the exposed bone. 20  
It was then and there I realized  
What it meant to feel alone.

Come morning, I had nothing but  
The White Book at my side.  
Hoping it could lead me on,  
I again opened it wide.

Its words now were different, 25  
It seemed to be a guide.  
To this strange city I was in  
A name it did provide.

I was on the great lost continent,  
The mythic land of Mu, 30  
And I sat now in its capital,  
The city of Vendou.

I had to meet a creature there,  
Within that time-lost place.  
I had to look into its face 35  
And give it an offering  
To win from it its grace.

Before gazing upon its eyes  
I had three tasks to meet.  
To complete them was a feat. 40  
And once done with those trials  
There were guardians to beat.