**Tales from the shelf, vol. 1 Transcript**

[Dial tone and the dialing of a ten digit number the phone doesn’t ring but goes right to an answering machine].

**Answering machine**: The person you have dialed can’t take your call now. At the tone, please record your message. When you are finished recording, simply hang up or press the pound key for further options.

**Shaz Stevenson**: Ugh, yes well…**[...clears throat]** Hello, this is Shaz Stevenson calling from the Open Shelf Public Library. We received a visit from one of our patrons who requested a particularly rare item from your collection.

I don’t think we’ve ever requested material from your library before, in fact, I don’t think I’ve ever heard of Night Vale before making this request. I went to your library web page to find your library’s contact information and it’s actually the strangest thing… I couldn’t seem to find the contact information anywhere on the site. Only a black page with the letters N V P L written in what appeared to be strawberry jam, well...it was either strawberry or cherry I ran my finger along the screen and had a little taste, the thing is, I was never good at taste tests. It was sweet, that’s all I can tell you.

I distinctly remember hearing the faint whisper of a child's voice chanting in a rhythmic fashion a ten digit number over and over again, it was very quiet so I tried to turn up the speakers on my computer to better hear the numbers but when I tried there were no speakers attached to this particularly machine. I remember thinking this was really strange. How was I hearing the voice?

Anyways, I must have fallen asleep because I awoke several hours later and now I’m locked in the library overnight. So I thought I’d give you a call now, since you know, my situation… oh ugh by the way, I recommend reviewing your website, I see some serious user experience issues with this desig… **[Dial tone cuts off Shaz]**

**Answering machine**: The person you have dialed can’t take your call now. At the tone, please record your message. When you are finished recording, simply hang up or press the pound key for further options.

**Shaz Stevenson**: Sorry about that I got cut off...Where was I? Oh ya, back to the point. The book that we want to request is called… well, you know what? Here’s the thing… the man who requested the book didn’t tell me the name of the book he wanted… he just handed me a small package.

It was wrapped in old cloth tied around the middle with a thin leather rope. I looked at the man and he nodded at the package. So I opened it. Inside the package was a medium sized raven skull. Well, I mean, I assumed it was a raven’s skull.

I called over one of my colleagues who was a raven skull enthusiast and very knowledgeable on the subject. “Yup, that is one them there cursed raven skulls from the Upper Midwest” oh I said, taking the skull back from my colleague I asked the man. “What is this?” The man said nothing. He just kept pointing at the skull and then at his own head. Obviously this is the international symbol for putting a raven skull on your head. I’m guessing he was European.

To appease the patron I did as he requested and placed the skull on top of my own head. The room started to spin and I fell back away from the man. The skull fell off my head and shattered on the floor into pieces. I profusely apologized to the patron but he didn’t seem concerned.

Instead he just pointed his index finger to his right temple. It was at that moment I knew exactly what he wanted...no...not just what he wanted...but what he desired… However, due to the Patron/Library Deepest Desire Agreement, I can say no more, other than the man was thirsty. Thirsty for a salty beverage, lightly sprinkled with bacon bits and wrapped in a sock worn by a circus performer who had been on the road for 56 days and 59 nights….

Anyways, where was I… oh...ohhhh I see, yes… the book… I also knew exactly what book he wanted. It is called the Necronomicon written by S. A. Tan. I see that you are the only library with this book in its collection.

If you are able to send it to us, I know that our visitor would be very grateful, you know...because I know his deepest desires. We look forward to hearing from you… Also.... if you happen to know any circus performers who have been on the road for 56 days and 59 nights...could you send us their socks? **[clears throat...]** you know, for our eccentric visitor. Hey I didn’t get cut off this ti- **[Dial tone cuts off Shaz].**

**Conclusion (Post Story):**

Hello everyone, my name is Ryan Tucci, one of the digital editors for Open Shelf and the writer of *Tales from the shelf, vol 1*.

I thought the bizarre nature of Tales from the shelf might find a good home in this issue of the magazine. That said, I want to know what you thought of Tales from the shelf. I’ve created a simple Google form to take your feedback, let me know what you really think.

Are you interested in finding out what happens to Shaz in future special issues of Open Shelf?

Let me know, thanks!