

# SCARFES & ARTS

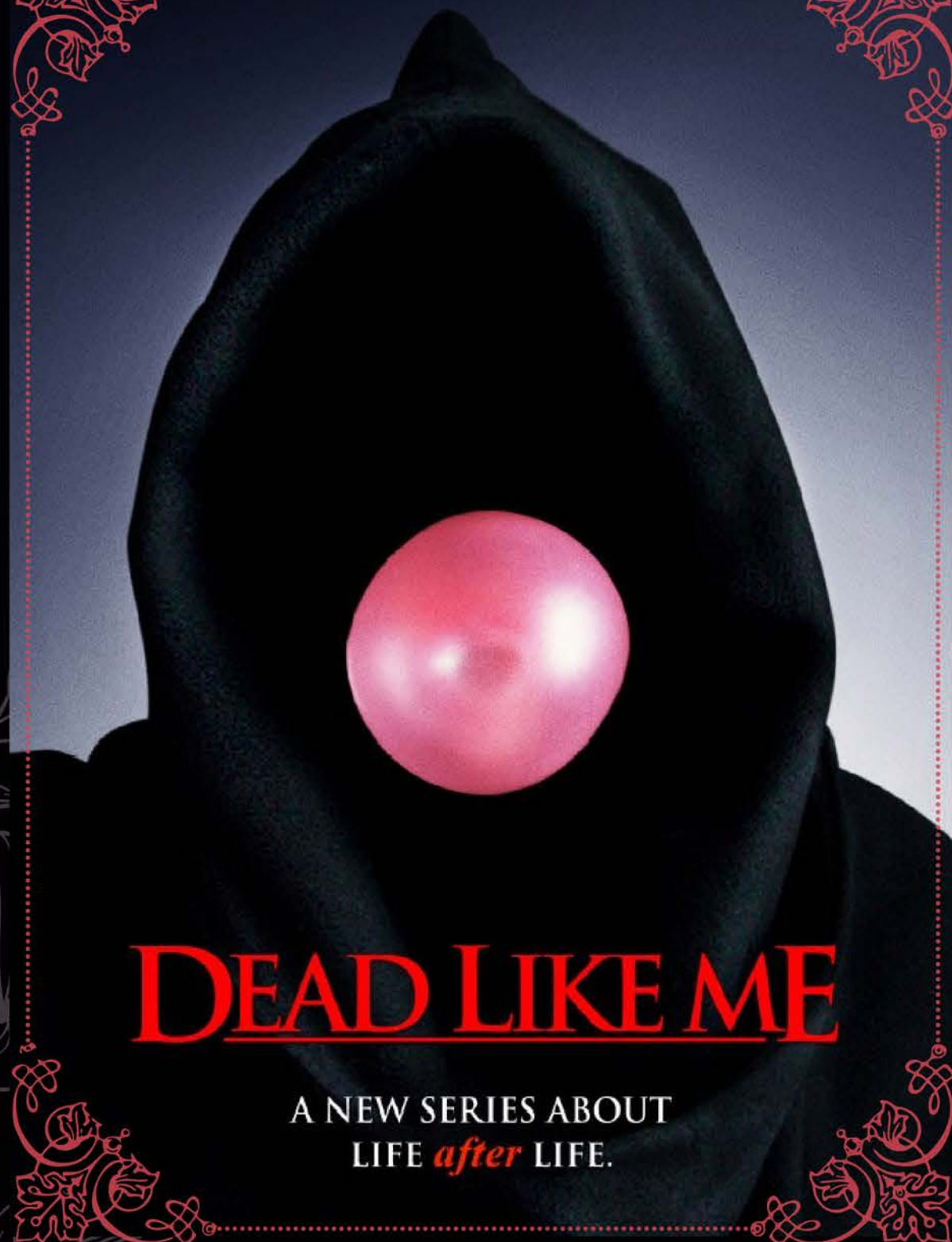


by  
Alyssa Jefferson



# IN THE VEIN OF

A SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES

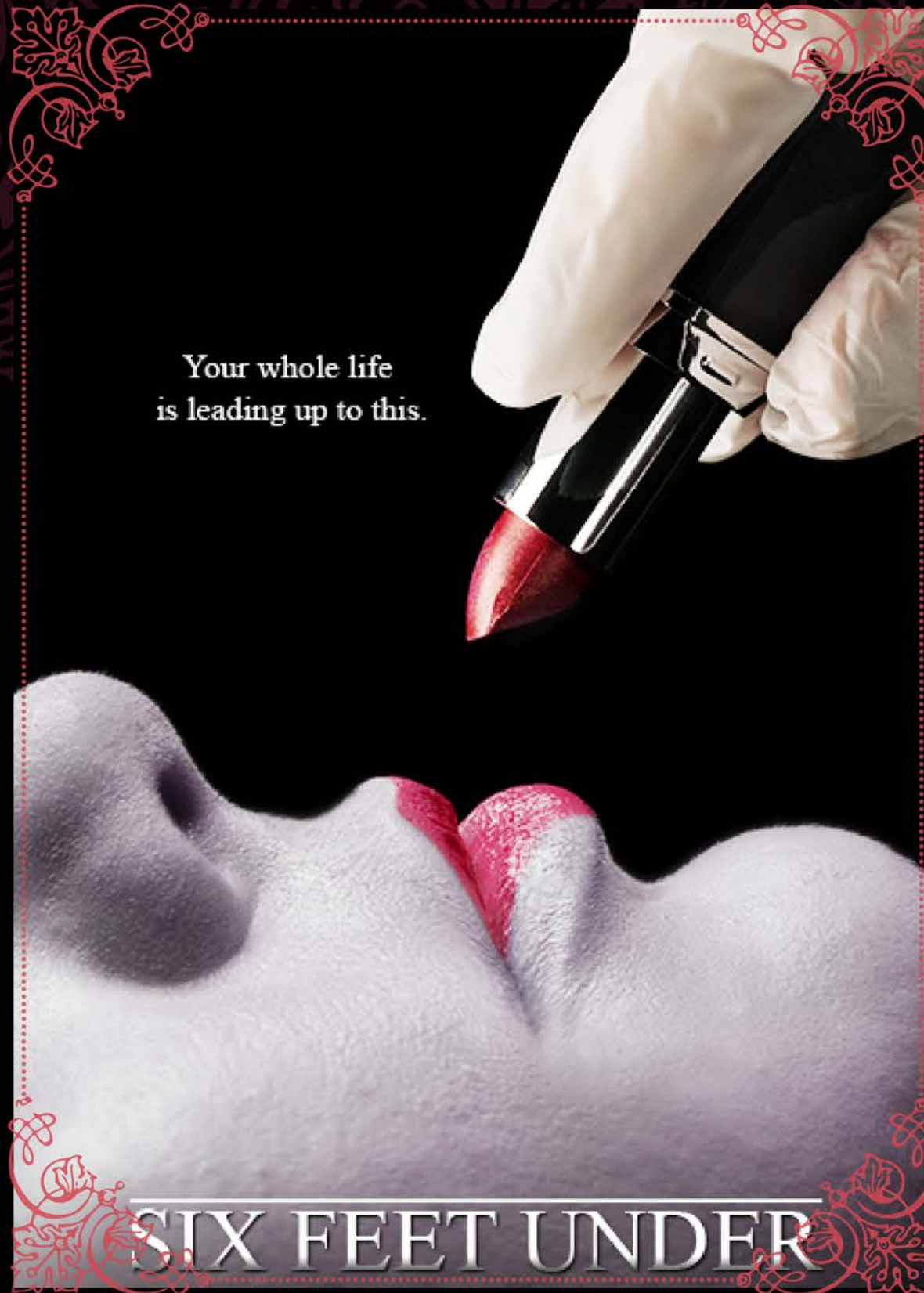


## DEAD LIKE ME

A NEW SERIES ABOUT  
LIFE *after* LIFE.


# &

Your whole life  
is leading up to this.



## SIX FEET UNDER





When a small desert town is shaken by a string of supernatural murders, a funeral home's young Sin-Eater must put the victim's stories together by taking them apart.



# What is a Sin-Eater?

An ancient practice born out of superstition and grief, Sin-Eating is a ritual performed over the dead, to absolve them of their sins.

Both respected and feared, the Sin-Eater was regarded as essential for ensuring the salvation of the departed, but in doing so, they are tarnished— A **scapegoat**, carrying the guilt and sins of the community, and a harbinger of Death.

In the 1926 book, *Funeral Customs*, Bertram S. Puckle wrote "Abhorred by the superstitious villagers as a thing unclean, the sin-eater cut himself off from all social intercourse with his fellow creatures by reason of the life he had chosen; he lived as a rule in a remote place by himself, and those who chanced to meet him avoided him as they would a leper."







In our story, a Sin-Eater, or **Scapegoat**,  
is an ancient beast zipped into an illusion of human skin,  
tasked with shepherding lost souls to the afterlife.

Based on the Faun or Satyr of Greek mythology; Scapegoats are half-man, half-goat demigods, descendants of Pan, the god of shepherds, flocks, and rustic music.

Infamous pranksters and hedonists, their unrestrained nature got them into trouble often. Following a particularly heinous sleight, the gods did not hesitate to punish Pan and his ilk—

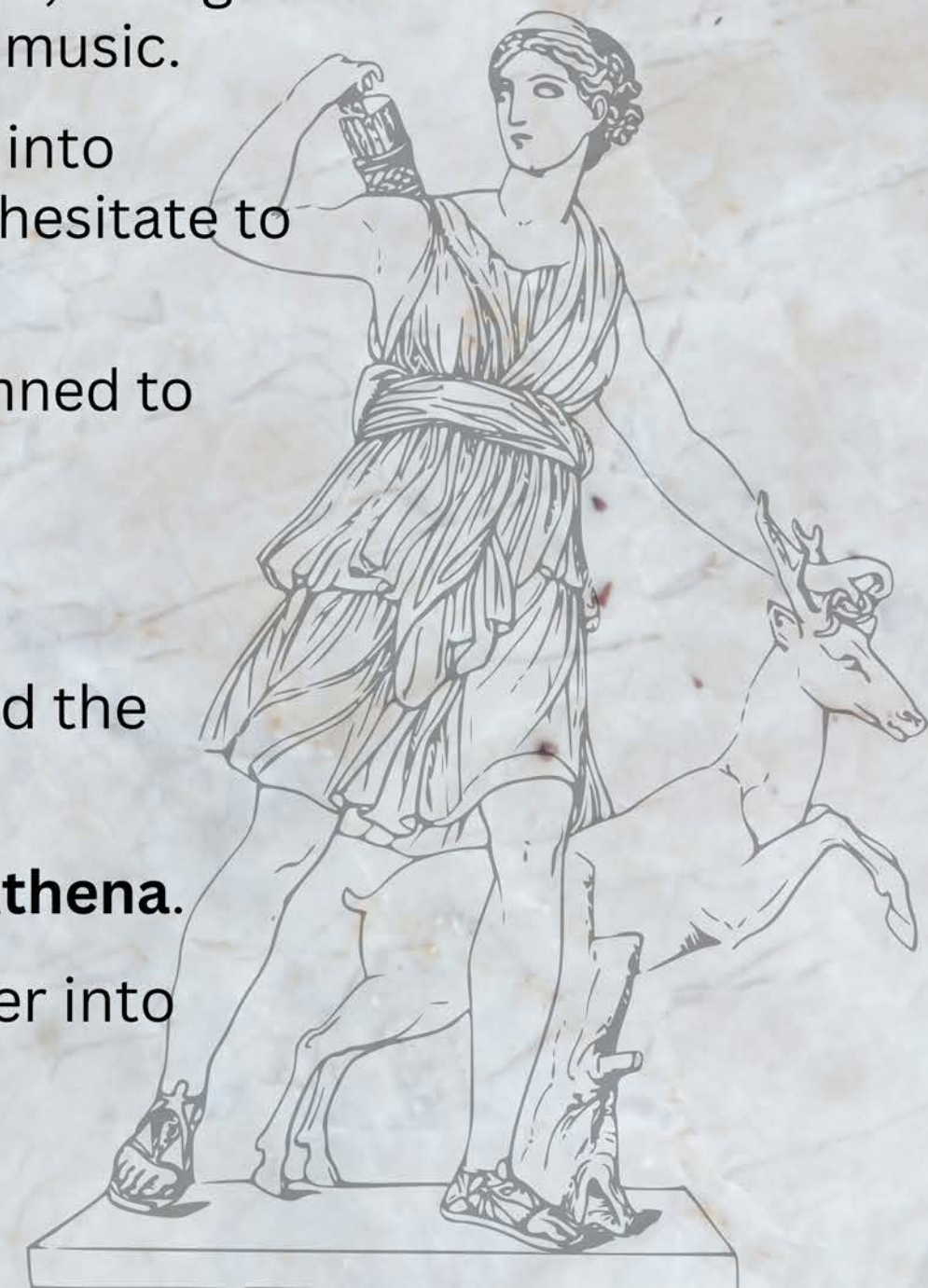
To pay for their overindulgence, the Goats were ordered to service, damned to maintain the delicate balance between worlds.

In doing so, they must also **maintain balance** within themselves;

Thinning the herd too vigorously, a Goat risks their humanity, and the illusion Gods and Demigods must keep to participate in society.

Becoming too **bestial** could result in a visit from the **Huntress, Athena**.

Being overcome with the burden of humanity, a Goat may wander into the **Scape**, never to be heard from again.





# Synopsis

## EPISODE I

There's a new 'goat in town!

GRETA Woodhouse is fresh out of medical school and ready for her boring eternity as this sleepy, desert town's resident Sin-Eating Scapegoat—

Cursed with the task of shepherding souls to the afterlife, it's said Scapegoats struggle to maintain a balance of humanity. If the scales tip, they risk falling into deadly depression, often killing themselves ("Wandering into the Scape"). If they take too much pleasure in their work, growing callous and unjust, ARTEMIS herself is said to hunt them down with her damning bow.

Greta struggles to determine the literal from the metaphor in her history, but she knows one thing: **She's doomed to taking on the sins of Man until she breaks.**

Greta is just settling into her Funeral Home when a local 'Goat sniffs her out. Jaded, and content with sliding under Artemis' radar, FORD is an old 'Goat that owns a bar on the edge of town. Sated by the endless supply of sad sack regulars, Ford offers to help Greta find her footing.

## A DEATH!

Greta gets her first case; A young woman was found dead in her father's basement. During the autopsy, Greta finds something that puzzles and excites her; an embryo. She jars the little buddy as a memento.

Ford tries in vain to explain to Greta the humanity in this Death, but Greta's just a "kid." She's naïve and aloof, and looks at the little embryo like a bug, an oddity. This is a flaw within Scapegoats: **When humans are your work, they're a burden.**

No time to butt heads over a googly-eyed lump of cells,  
Greta's got another case!

This call takes Greta and Ford to a seedy motel, where one of Ford's regulars has been brutally murdered. Police are at a loss, but Greta's got some otherworldly tricks up her sleeve. They bag the guy, and haul him back to the Woodwose Funeral Home for Judgement—

In an attempt to humanize the humans, Greta holds a funeral for the Overdosed Woman, inviting her friends and family. The hurting. The love. A touching experience that softens Greta some to these gooey, hairless apes. When the time comes to push the woman's body into the ovens, Greta adds the embryo to make her whole.

## JUDGEMENT.

Alone, Greta starts her ritual. Wine, salt, a sacred chalice, she calls to HECATE. All this... Is bullshit. Tradition. She steps between dimensions by poisoning herself. **There, in the in-between, Greta holds court.** She and the spirit finally face one another— Or, they would, if this guy had a spirit. He's gone!

Greta barfs up her poison, coming back to the Living, she's startled by Ford looming over her. This was his soul to cleanse, not hers. After explaining the emptiness of the departed, the duo takes the body to autopsy, where they find, crammed down his throat... A CHARON'S OBEL. This soul was stolen! — But only a 'Goat could do that...



## *In Loving Memory*



**GRETA WOODHOUSE**  
(30s in Human Years)

Naive, aloof, and stubborn, Greta comes from a long line of Funeral Directors. She accepts the role and curse passed down to her, but remains bitter about the cost to her, and the stain on her kin.

### **ARTHUR FORD**

(50s in Human Years)

A “burner-type” this Sin Eater was around for a lot of great musician deaths, and is a font of gossip about rockers. Now he owns an old dive bar in the desert.



### **DEDE BROWN**

(60s in Human Years)

Meeting her quota through her work in Hospice & Assisted Suicide, Dede is wise for her years. Usually smiling and lighthearted, the burden of her work is heavy on her.

## *Order of Service*

At the conclusion of the Pilot, the episode II teaser continues the autopsy of Ford’s Regular. Upon finding a Charon’s Obel lodged in his throat, the ‘Goats worst fear is confirmed;

**There’s a ROGUE ‘GOAT in town, upsetting the balance of Souls across Planes.**

For decades, Ford has crept under the radar, shepherding lost souls that find comfort in his bar, but this Rogue ‘Goat is a threat to his easy-street existence.

With their unique skills, and stations across the desert, Greta, Dede, and Ford must sleuth out this wayward Goat before Artemis, the Goddess of the Hunt herself, with her Hell Hounds sniff them all out.







*Alyssa Jefferson*

## *About the Writer*

The product of a pair of CA CSI/investigators, the uglier side of society has been in my peripherals for as long as I can remember.

As a child, while my mom cleaned her service weapon at the coffee table in front of the news, I would sneak into her case files. Poring over gruesome crime scene photos, her investigation notes played out as horror/mystery films in my mind. It was thrilling, and horrifying, and— Eventually, it was routine.

It was drilled into my head early on that good always defeats evil, but in my unique position behind the scenes, I quickly picked up on the blurred line between “good” and “evil.” That line is my obsession, I’m driven to explore it—

Now, I write to understand the monsters.

I dissect them, I become them, I fall in love with them,  
and I destroy them, one story at a time.