



DRAWING BY JOHN HELD JR.

THE VIRGINS OF SPRING

"Thank heaven for little girls."
~MAURICE CHEVALEIR

Spring. Time for the ritual festivals of fertility, the interminable spectacles of middleaged men of various fraternal orders fawning over the season's young virgin princesses while obliterating any resemblance to the former camality of these annual rites.

Humanity's biological clock does not keep the same time as its intellectual designs. We are pagan savages underneath our surface dust of civilized society. Our ancient fertility rituals are layered in antiseptic disguises that reflect a rigidly puritanical and sexually repressed culture (despite MTV and the movies). Our libertine male ancestors, elders of various tribes or clans, demanded first crack at every spring's virgins, and later within reach of our own era, *noblesse oblige* gave a local baron the right to consummate a marriage with the virgin bride of a peasant. Old bulls in the natural mammal world fight young stags for intercourse dominance over a plurality of females. Old bulls in the contrived human world compete with hair implants and sporty automobiles.

Older men have always wanted to mate with young girls, not from nostalgia for lost youth but to consolidate aging and vitiated genes with strong robust genes, maintaining a vigorous stock by minimizing the disadvantages of worn out RNA. Although the desire for young lambs is socially degenerate, it reflects age-old lusts and determination to survive through greater genetic diaspora.

However, for the same reason older men strive to preserve their reproductive vitality and biological imperative, few younger women are willing to risk vitiating their own genetic possibilities with old dogs past their prime. After all, young men are strong bulls yet and offer the best opportunity for sturdy stock. As a woman wrote once: "Sperm is cheap; eggs are expensive."

The sexual desire of older men and women for girls and boys is an insensate desire, a primeval siren's call to invigorate reproductivity. However, like individual cells, each person's purposes and depravities are their own. Children throughout history have been initiated early to sex, more often as not by adults. Only recently has society prolonged sexual abstinence, just as it has prolonged childhood itself. Laws and social restrictions are designed to prevent promiscuous older persons from debauching children, especially to keep the predatory

hands of males off the bodies of young girls until they grow old enough to make their own choices of mates. Most older people in consequence stifle their sexual desires for the young in fear of social disapproval and legal vengeance, sublimate them in other ways. But those who do not are explosive with their thwarted desires and become deviant and violent in pursuit of them. The strictures that attempt to protect are themselves perpetrators of the grotesque molestation and sexual murders of children.

Pomography, promiscuity and pedophilia are results of sexual repression (and are in turn demanded to be suppressed). A civilization out of control breeds violence and insecurity, which is taken out on children by neurotic bitter adults. Movies, documentaries, groups of parents and others throughout the country advocate for laws for greater protection of children. Yet abuse flourishes underground.

From a Time magazine article (9/6/93) about pop/rock star Michael Jackson's alleged felatio with a 13 year old boy: "The allegation also spoke to the modern preoccupation with child abuse. In an age when lurid lyrics, sniggering sitcoms and trash-talking stars work hard to rob children of innocence, the sexually abusive parent, guardian or family friend is not only a predator in his own right but also a stand-in for all the gaudy malevolence of pop culture...The public reacts with wide eyes and a bit of drool at the corner of the mouth." The article quoted a psychologist who is also a lawyer (Melvin Guyer): "The public gets to be puritanical and voyeuristic at the same time. Their attitude is basically, 'This food is terrible, and there's not enough of it.'"

James R. Kincaid, author of *Child Loving: The Erotic Child and Victorian Culture*, wrote in a N.Y. Times OpEd piece: "The story our culture feels it deserves would allow us to speak endlessly about child sexuality and the sexual attraction of children (for others) while maintaining our distance from these lurid tales...the moving story of how parents affirm the unspeakableness of sexual interest in children by speaking of it frequently...."

A noted pederast, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), wrote a family requesting the opportunity to photograph their young daughters in the nude. "Both Ruth (age 13) and Ethel (11) seemed quite sure that Janet (6) wouldn't object in the least to being done naked, and Ethel, when I asked her if she would object, said in the most natural way, that she wouldn't object at all. I didn't ask Ruth, as I felt no hope of leave being given by the higher powers in her case."

For thousands of years it was acceptable for adults to have sexual relations with children, though child sexual abuse was a capital crime among Native Americans. Only recently has the interest in child abuse opened a campaign to prevent and punish it, and in particular to warn and protect children. Child abuse and neglect are now said to be major sources of crime and international wars. "Sexual offenders will tell you who they are by what they do," says an attorney involved in abuse cases. Child molesters do what they want to do, and do it over and over again. They do not serially abuse children because they are depraved but because they have the opportunity.

Prison time does not change a molester's attraction for children and eventually they get out of jail. In Washington State child molesters who have served their sentences are being kept behind bars, which is unconstitutional and which many believe addresses a flaw in the legal system through the back door. The manner in which child abuse is treated drives predators underground and into more violent acts. Following a long period of neglect, public antipathy toward child abuse, whether sexual or violent (or both) has swung to the extreme, making almost any adult contact with children suspect.

One woman expressed eloquently the public's enflamed anger at the surge of child molestation. "If anyone messed with my daughters," she said, "I would nail his penis to a stump in the middle of the woods, set the stump afire, hand him a rusty ax and walk away."

So we sanitize our public sexual ceremonies in the same manner we act unconscious of the implications of dressing little girls to resemble women (and dress older women as prepubescents). We are however a contradictory species: at the same instant we arouse the ancient lust for young girls (and/or boys) we act aggressively against child molestation. We ruthlessly strip the ancient fertility festivals of overt camality while older men pantomime with much flair and flim-flam the covert seduction of ceremonial queens selected from among virgin princesses to rule imaginary courts of Spring, Scandinavia, Roses or Regatta.

Only fools and hypocrites deny the attractions of the beautiful young. Young women and men are among the grandest creatures on earth. We all love youth, reproductively, restoratively and retrospectively. The distinctions between abusive touching of our young and caring and loving touches are necessary for all of us to know. Dreams and attractions are out of our control. Our responses to them are not.