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## *This Rock*

Simon Perchik

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August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

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*This Rock*

*Cthulhu*. His work has earned several honorable mentions in The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror collections. An entertainment columnist with Tampa Bay Newspapers, Lee has penned hundreds of film, theater and book reviews and has interviewed novelists as well as music industry icons such as Paddy Moloney of The Chieftains and Alan Parsons. His work for TBN has been recognized repeatedly by the Florida Press Association, including a first place award for criticism in the 2013 Better Weekly Newspaper Contest. Lee lives on the west coast of Florida with his wife and daughter. Visit <http://www.leeclarkzumpe.com/>.

## **This Rock**

by

Simon Perchik

This rock no longer tries  
though you give each grave  
the tool it needs

--does it matter  
you haven't looked here in years  
--you bring the dead

and your forehead each day  
closer to the ground  
easy to grab, hold close

let it harden, already  
scraped for the powder  
that cures, can stop the breathing.