

SWAMP THING

THE TOXIC AVENGER

FIRST APPEARANCE HOUSE OF SECRETS #92 (July 1971)

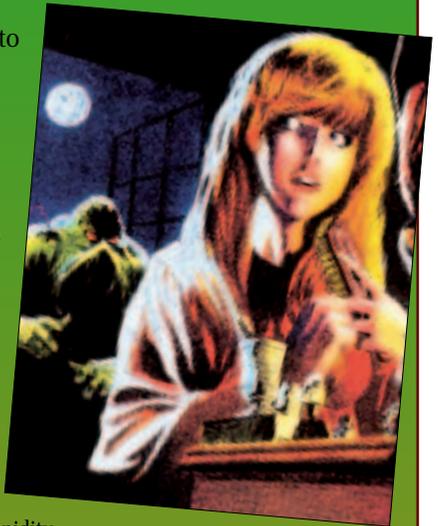
STATUS Hero REAL NAME Alec Holland

OCCUPATION Plant elemental BASE Houma, Louisiana

HEIGHT Variable WEIGHT Variable EYES Red HAIR None

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Earth's plant elemental can manifest itself wherever there is organic life and can sense anything that affects said life; superstrong, with amazing regenerative powers; can change size and shape; can travel back through time.

GAIA, THE EARTH SPIRIT, has always had Elemental avatars to look after the planet and its living inhabitants. The greatest among them is the plant elemental known as Swamp Thing, who protects the planet at the risk of eliminating all human life. Several individuals have been given the role of plant elemental. The most recent is Alec Holland, who fell into a Louisiana swamp polluted with chemicals, which turned him into Swamp Thing.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Swamp monsters have been drawn to attractive women through the years.



UNDER GLASS *General Sunderland studies Swamp Thing's body, trying to establish dominance.*

AVATARS OF THE GREEN

The Green was established as the Earth cooled and Yggdrasil was created. Yggdrasil gained sentience, and the Parliament of Trees grew in a sacred South American grove. Other elemental forces created their own parliaments soon after, including Water, Air, Fire, and Stone. Over time, each elemental caused a human to

become its avatar. Each avatar lives until circumstances demand a changing of the guard. In the 20th Century this occurred with great rapidity, from Alex Olsen in 1905 to German pilot Albert Hollerer in 1942, to 1953's Aaron Hayley, to Alan Hallman, to the current Alec Holland.

Holland's spirit was enveloped in a plant body that thought it was still human, until he learned the truth after being captured by the vile Sunderland Corporation. Though shaken by the revelation, Swamp Thing eventually came to terms with this life. Swamp Thing endured much, environmental pollution as well as mystic threats. He also fell in love with Abigail Cable, daughter of Anton Arcane (see ARCANES, ANTON), one of the recurring threats to the creature. At one point, Swamp Thing took an unwanted sojourn into outer space. To fill the void, the Parliament of Trees sought to replace him with his child, dubbed Sprout and ultimately named Tefe (a child conceived with more than a little help from John Constantine).

Upon his return, Swamp Thing endured a series of trials that had him master each neighboring Parliament until he gained total control over the world's elements. The WORD I intervened and stopped Swamp Thing from being corrupted by his own absolute power. Now representing the Earth as a whole, Swamp Thing took his place in the Parliament of Worlds.

Tefe grew to adulthood, trying to find her way, rebelling against Abby's love. Swamp Thing, stripped of Holland's human consciousness, sought to destroy all life, starting with Tefe. Constantine restored Holland to the elemental and the new unified being is establishing his place in the world anew. RG

GATOR TAMER *Swamp Thing loved Abby and protected her from every conceivable danger.*



KEY STORYLINES.

- SWAMP THING: DARK GENESIS (TPB, 1991): The original storyline of the Swamp Thing and Abby.
- SWAMP THING (2ND SERIES) #61 (JUNE 1987): In "All Flesh is Grass," while exiled in space, he encounters Green Lantern Medphyl's homeworld.
- SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING #34 (MARCH 1985): Abby eats a tuber and experiences life from Swamp Thing's perspective.
- SWAMP THING #21 (FEBRUARY 1984): Swamp Thing learns he is not Alec Holland but a plant elemental.
- HOUSE OF SECRETS #92 (JULY 1971): The first ever Swamp Thing story.