

the **SXTEENS**

and the **FAKE GODDESS**

THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL TEEN NOVEL
THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVERMORE

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GLOWING SHADOW PRODUCTIONS INC.

Steve and Oliver browse the Web site suggested by Jean-Philippe several times this week. Since they are not initiated members, their access is, unfortunately, strongly restricted. They consequently plan to meet Jean-Philippe at Oliver's place Friday night. As Oliver's parents are away, they are sure not to be disturbed. This evening, seeing their thirst to know more about this Web site as fast as possible, Jean-Philippe agrees to schedule their initiations for next Sunday morning. They therefore choose to be inaugurated in a deserted old factory located in the Toronto harbour at the end of the Don Valley Parkway. It is an excellent location for the squatters. Steve is sceptical about the location chosen, but Oliver convinces him it's the best location to receive an honorary title. The latter also thinks that using this homeless refuge constitutes an excellent occasion to protest against the domineering and well-off social class surrounding him daily.

As agreed, Sunday, at two o'clock, Steve and Oliver go together to the chosen squat for their entry trial into the Sixteens' Select Society. The team gives them a warm welcome even though the room is humid, badly-lit and extremely dusty. The grey cement walls, sweating like a prehistoric cave, reflect the mood of the workers who wasted their lives as slaves without even slightly contributing to humanity's progress. The two smiling novices wear torn jeans and a red t-shirt thus contrasting with the immaculate whiteness of the dove that enlivens the scenery. Jean-Philippe took care of hanging Eros' picture on the dark wall for the ceremony.

After welcoming the two neophytes, Jean-Philippe comes back with the initiators to form a seven-member group. Steve and Oliver carefully observe the Sixteens' group surrounding them. They can't distinguish the different faces, but they discern four feminine and three masculine figures. In order to mask the putrid odour coming from the nearby old petroleum tanks, a member purifies the place by burning rosemary incense. Jean-Philippe, their sixteenfather, slowly moves forwards and asks them if they accept to join, and to proactively work in the interest of the Sixteens' Society. After two clearly positive answers, Steve and Oliver must deliver Aphrodite's oath.

'I, Steve, aspirant to be a Sixteenian, do solemnly swear, in honour of our goddess Aphrodite and our faithful Eros, to fulfil with dignity the requirements of the trial without flinching [...].'

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