*STALKING CRAWLROLLIES* is first and foremost an epic semi-nonsense poem, in a style borrowed half from Lewis Carroll and half from space opera; it is embellished with several pages of mostly prose documentation in a slightly more realistic fiction / science fiction mode. The poem is purportedly the work of one of the characters (Gordo Chessland), and as such is in effect another piece of documentation.

The poem is divided into chaplets, with one page of documentary quotations preceding each chaplet. Quotations are culled from such sources as the Brown Unit training manuals, Cloud Hog literature, *The Roswell Memo, The Green Writings*, and interviews with various of the characters.

 **CHARACTERS**

**Brown Unit** (a U.N. run team with a genetic immunity to temporal consumption):

 **Gordo Chessland**, main narrator & purported author of the poem

 **Lil Lorca**, the girl; lead singer, prankster, buddy to Gruntle

 **Oscar Lerwill**, secondary narrator; an occasional bigot who provokes a

 disaster, but works to redeem himself; big friend of the Cloud Hogs

 **Carlos Weill**, laid-back friend of all

 **Will O’Clare**, the straightest and most shadowy of the gang

**Other Humans:**

 **The Chief,** drill instructor to Brown Unit;

 **Doc: Dr. Helga S. Dorn**, science head of the U.N. Crawlrollie mission

**Squilks, etc:**

 **Galumph**, a fishquartz;

 **Gruntle**, a growk; later, a Cloud Hog

 **Grace**, a Cloud Hog

 **Ganmela**, a Cloud Hog

**Alien Species:**

 **Crawlrollies** (aka Timefleas, Fleas, Chronospores, Swampflax, Bugs)

 **Squilks** (subspecies of whom include fishquartz and growks)

 **Cloud Hogs** (related in some not fully understood way to Squilks)

 **Roswell Aliens***, or* **R.A.s** (who are perhaps also the Dice Tossers?)

 **Dice Tossers***, or* **Diceplayers** (a species who may or may not exist)

 ***STALKING******CRAWLROLLIES:* A SYNOPSIS**

 Crawlrollies seem to be a kind of interplanetary locust (their degree of sentience is uncertain) which preys on other species’ temporal histories. The Roswell Aliens spot the signs of an incipient infestation on Earth’s moon, and flee our galaxy, leaving behind advice on how to deal with the infestation as best we can. Following these guidelines, Brown Unit is set up and trained.

 Brown Unit consists of five young people who are genetically immune to temporal consumption, and temperamentally suited to make effective counterstrikes. The poem follows their training at Boot Camp Tower; their first Crawlrollie attack, in which the Chief, their drill instructor (or “Watcher”) is almost killed; their continued schooling, supervised by Dr. Helga Dorn, Earth’s top Crawlrollie expert; a second Crawlrollie battle, in which Dr. Dorn is injured and her friend and colleague Galumph (an alien, a Squilk) is killed; a joint expedition with another group of aliens, the Cloud Hogs, to take the fight to the Crawlrollie moonbases and destroy them; a series of battles fought on the moon, where eventually, thanks to a maverick intervention by Gordo Chessland, the Crawlrollies are defeated; the aftermath, back on Earth, where Gordo foresees one last ditch surprise attack, launched by the Crawlrollies during Gordo’s own memorial service, and the eventual eradication of all hostile leftovers.

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 Throughout, there are hints that some alien species (possibly but not necessarily the Roswell Aliens) is responsible for the infestation or else exploiting it for its entertainment. A number of issues are left unresolved, including the role of these mysterious aliens (nicknamed the Diceplayers); the real nature of Cloud Hogs; the continued Cloud Hog-Crawlrollie vendetta; the possibility of Earth participation in future Cloud Hog expeditions (the hope is to develop technologies of stopped time); and the future of the new moon.