



HORRORSCAPES

VOODOO IN NEW ORLEANS

by Stephen Person

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VOODOO IN NEW ORLEANS



by **Stephen Person**

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Hauntings of the Crescent City*

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Voodoo at Midnight

It was a moonless night in New Orleans, Louisiana. The year was 1825. A young African American woman raced quietly through the dark, empty streets. She turned down an alley and finally saw what she was looking for—light coming from behind a half-opened door.



The young woman ran to the door and knocked. The door opened wider, and there stood Sanité Dede (SAN-i-tay DAY-day), a powerful **priestess** of **Voodoo**. "You have come late," Sanité said. The young woman apologized, and Sanité let her inside.



Sanité Dede was known as the
"Voodoo Queen of New Orleans."
This was a title given to the most
powerful Voodoo priestess in the city.

The Right Place to Learn

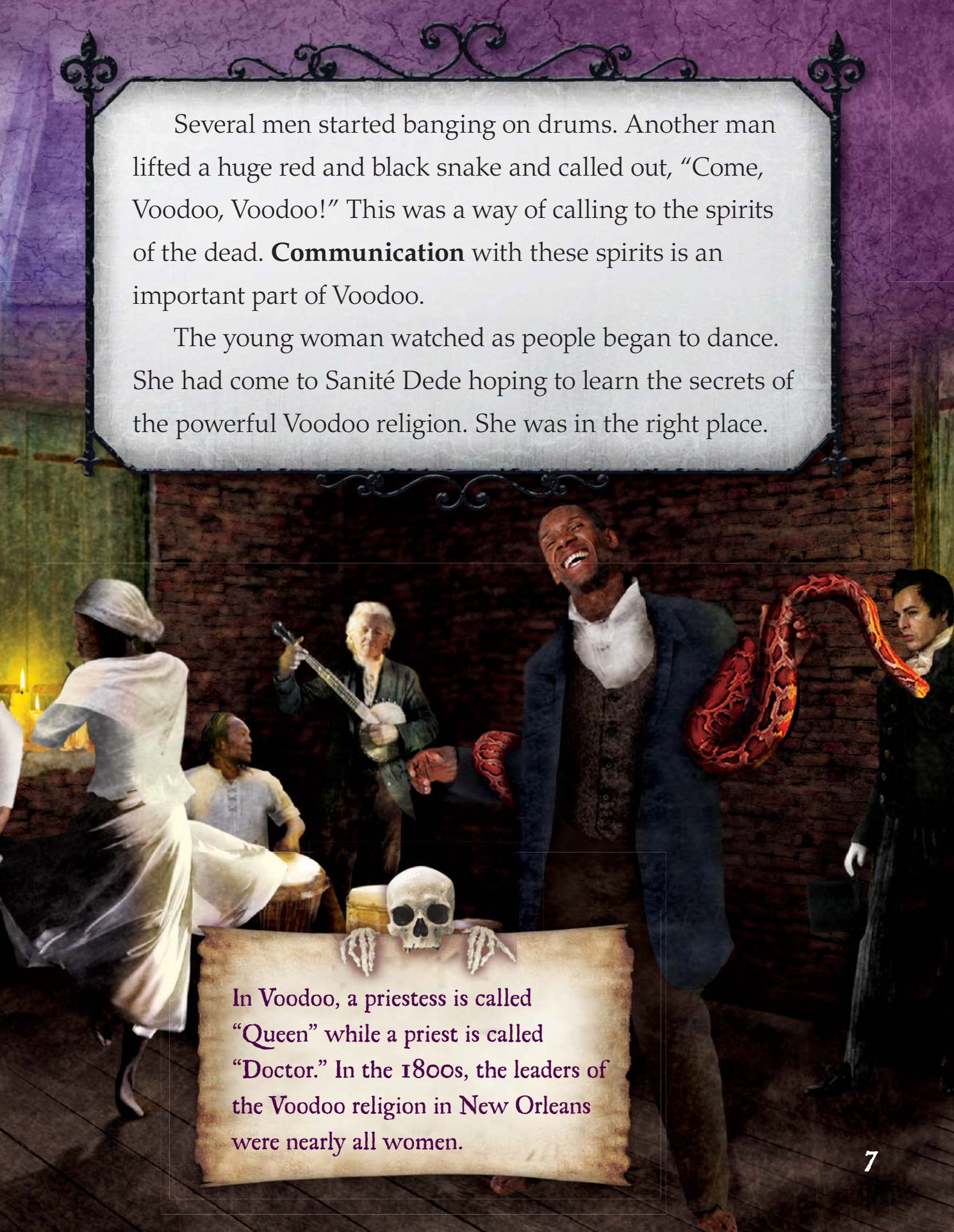
Sanité led the young woman into a large room that was lit by the dancing flames of burning candles. About 60 people stood in the room—women and men, black and white, young and old. When Sanité gave a signal, the Voodoo ceremony began.



Music and dancing are important parts of Voodoo ceremonies. The goal of the ceremony is to contact the spirits of people who have died.

Several men started banging on drums. Another man lifted a huge red and black snake and called out, "Come, Voodoo, Voodoo!" This was a way of calling to the spirits of the dead. **Communication** with these spirits is an important part of Voodoo.

The young woman watched as people began to dance. She had come to Sanité Dede hoping to learn the secrets of the powerful Voodoo religion. She was in the right place.



In Voodoo, a priestess is called "Queen" while a priest is called "Doctor." In the 1800s, the leaders of the Voodoo religion in New Orleans were nearly all women.

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About the Author

Stephen Person has written many children's books about history, science, and the environment. He lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

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VOODOO IN NEW ORLEANS

In the mid-1800s, Marie Laveau was known as the Voodoo Queen of New Orleans. Voodoo is a religion that mixes African beliefs and traditions with the Catholic religion. During Marie's lifetime, many people believed that she could contact the spirits of the dead to ask for their help. Today, some people say her power lives on. Are the stories true? Look inside to discover what really happened in the mysterious and sometimes spooky city of New Orleans when Marie Laveau reigned as its Voodoo Queen.

Dracula's Dark World

Ghostly Alcatraz Island

Tut's Deadly Tomb

Voodoo in New Orleans

Witchcraft in Salem

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