

opals. Its hide retained the dun hue of the dunes, and from around its waist hung a dense loin covering comprised of myriad tinkling, uncut, milky-colored crystal shards.

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In shape they each bore the likeness of bearded, bald-headed, mortal men from waist to head—arms and torsos lean and muscularly-built—excepting that in place of hands were large talons like those of raptors, and rather than two eyes they each bore four—one on each temple and two upon the forehead, placed one above the other. Around their waists grew a dense, mane-like coat of long hair, from below which stretched, not legs, but three thick, serpentine tails upon whose sinuous muscles they stood or slithered. On each of their backs was a pair of large, white-feathered bird's wings by which they flew like enormous eagles.

Don't miss the full adventure of "A Handful of Evil" by Andrew Marini, appearing only in the Summer 2017 issue of Startling Visions Magazine.