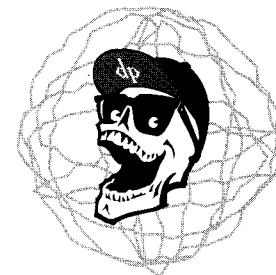


the crack in the rusted steel door. The stars watch me with that cruel curiosity you find in Africa.

Too weak to move, I lie in the dark of the moonless night and await my fate. Finally the steps are at my door. I try to make out a shape or form in the darkness. The door clangs open and reveals a silhouette. Looking up, I see what my nemesis is—just an inquisitive donkey.

Africa can do things like that to your mind.

—RYP



DRUGS



War's Bastard Son

DP Drug Law #1: In most of the world, drugs are not a form of recreation. In the rest of the world, drugs are a business. A business that includes peasants, tricksters, smugglers, rebels, police, governments, jailors, the military, and you. Having spent some time helping foreigners get out of jails for drug setups, busts, and extortion, I can never really look at joint, a pill, or a line of powder without seeing the thousands of victims involved.

In an era of travel guides that wink at drug use, is *DP* being uncool in warning travelers about drugs? Guns, bribery, war, crime . . . sure, all those are bad things, but drugs, those are for fun . . . right? Wrong. Those who travel tend to notice that places where you can find guns, bribery, war, crime, and violence are places where you find drugs. We are not talking about the pot places in Amsterdam. We are talking