



DEGENESIS

JUSTITIAN: 300 PLOT HOOKS





LUPUS
EST
HOMO
HOMINI

[LATIN PROVERB]



JUSTITIAN: 300 PLOT HOOKS

This is a community fanwork containing 300 plot hooks, encounters, and story seeds for DEGENESIS: JUSTITIAN. Anything written herein is by no means mandatory, but rather meant to be viewed as suggestions and inspiration fodder to be applied to a narrative however you see fit. These plots can't cover everything in the Justitian books though, and so are meant to be used in conjunction with, or as extensions of, those works.

Each of the four chapters are divided by common themes but mainly by an increasing level of threat, stakes, and consequences. So, while the first chapter can be used freely as everyday encounters, the following chapters contain gradually more difficult and far reaching plots that likely require more playtime, effort, and high leveled characters to complete.

Inspiration has been drawn from all over, especially from the Degeneration books, of course, but also from video games, novels, movies, and other RPGs. Even so, the sources have generally been rewritten, expanded upon, or recontextualized, unless a likeness is intended, in an effort to make them different from the original and to merge them with the setting.

The addendums after the pointer symbols are additional information, meta text, suggestions, and examples of how you can use this particular plot hook. These are followed by page references to the Degeneration books with an obvious focus on Justitian itself.

Reference abbreviations are as follows:

Justitian: The Righteous Fist	[TRF]
Justitian: Moloch	[MOL]
Rebirth: Katharsys	[KAT]
Artifacts	[ART]
The Killing Game	[TKG]
Black Atlantic	[BA]
Harm's Way	[HW]
Clans of the Moloch	[COTM]
Clans of the Frontier	[COTF]
Atlas	[ATL]

References have not been provided for general elements of the setting, such as Cultures and Cults in Rebirth, or entire quarters and regions in Justitian. So, references may not cover all elements in a plot, but instead focus on the ones that are specific or might be hard to find. This document therefore requires additional reading and a good base understanding of the setting to fully appreciate, but there is nothing stopping those that want to read to the best of their understanding anyways.

Lastly, we – Obie_Decker and Kleffe – want to thank you so much for taking your time to read this, for it has been a blast to make.



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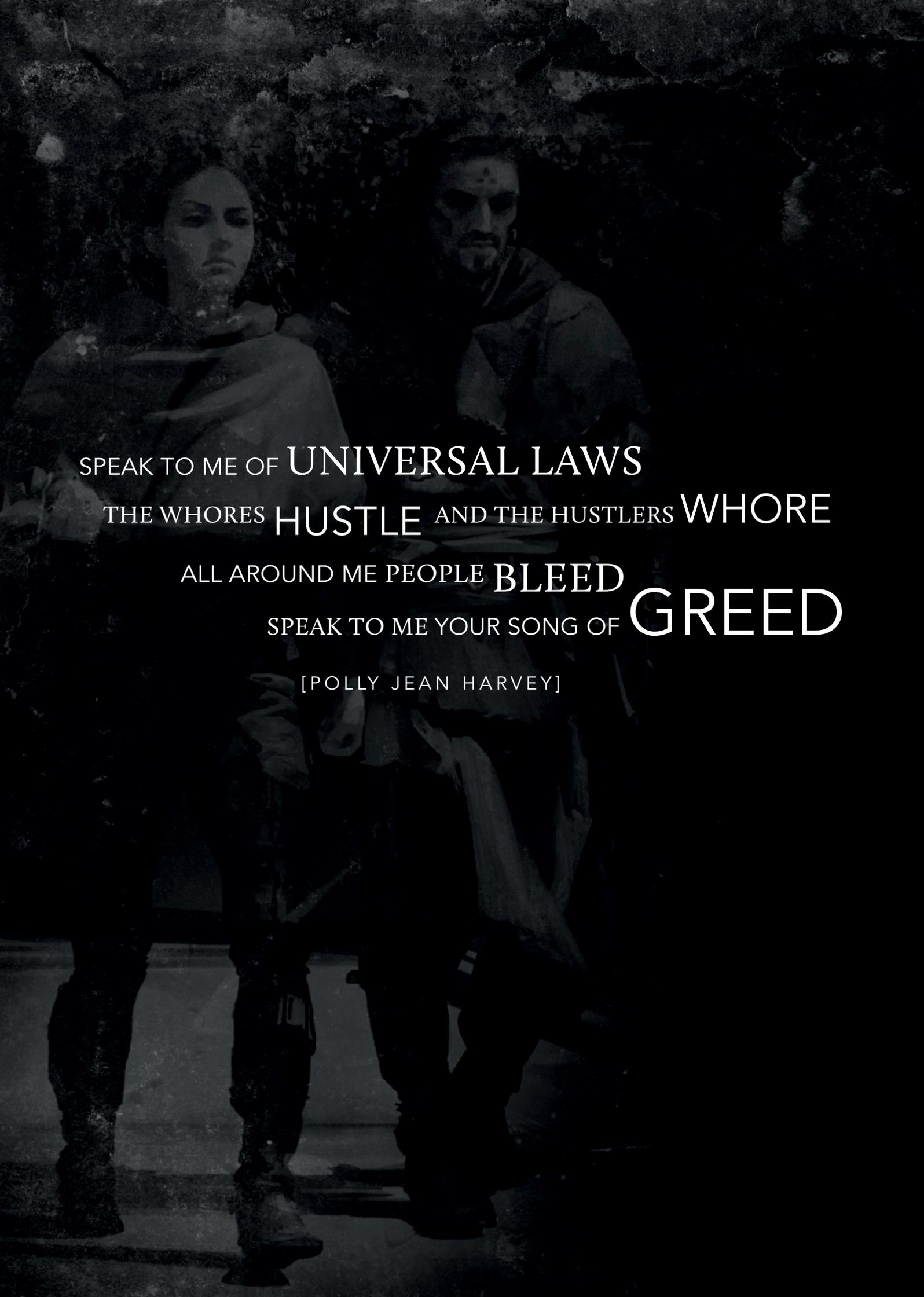
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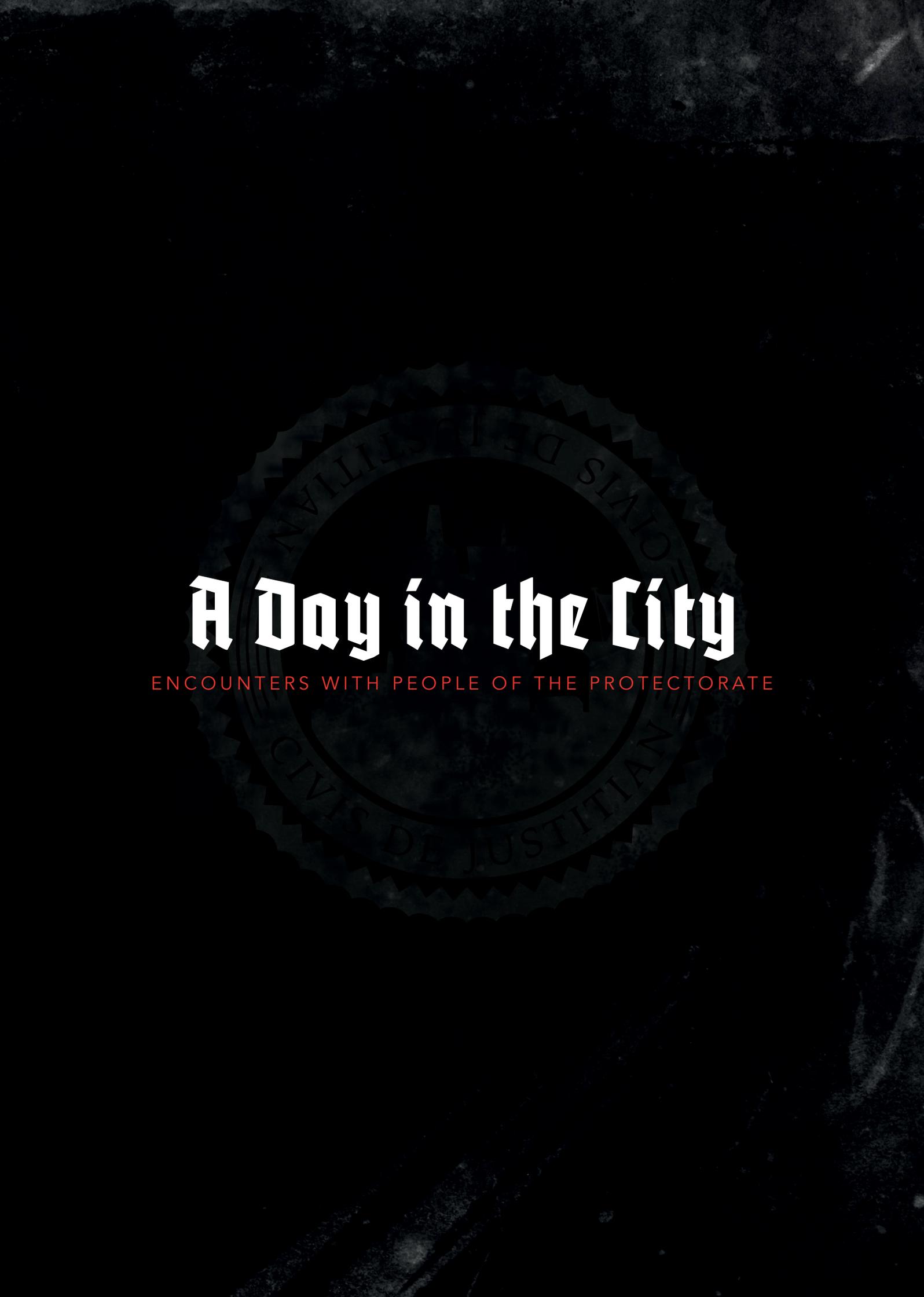
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SPEAK TO ME OF **UNIVERSAL LAWS**
THE WHORES **HUSTLE** AND THE HUSTLERS **WHORE**
ALL AROUND ME PEOPLE **BLEED**
SPEAK TO ME YOUR SONG OF **GREED**

[POLLY JEAN HARVEY]



A Day in the City

ENCOUNTERS WITH PEOPLE OF THE PROTECTORATE

Figures are seen near valuable infrastructure. Scrappers that redirect electricity or disassemble Chronicler devices; Providers that siphon water or chemicals from silos; people scurrying across the Peace Walk who definitely are not Judges; or shadowy Palers hacking into alcoves. ▶ [TRF 138, 141, 147] • [COTM 13-15]

An old lady won't leave a character alone. Does she mistake them for one of her grandchildren? Or is she a prying, but harmless, old gossip who at least brings freshly baked treats now and again?

When renting in the Guest Quarter or Bottomlands, the apartment is suddenly co-leased with a large family of refugees – the landlord is not receptive to complaints. Sleepless nights due to a crying baby, language barriers, kids fidgeting with the character's stuff, and a severe lack of privacy now await.

A braggart or embellishing entertainer is taking the credit for someone else's deeds.

Two neighboring families hate each other intensely. Are their bloodlines ancestral enemies, or did it just begin as a dispute over a shared backyard? Regardless, now their rivalry has escalated to outright hostility with cut clotheslines, late night disturbances, thrown muck at doors, and community wide brawls. Must an outside party intervene before it escalates to arson and manslaughter?

A shifty merchant with a small market stand rarely seems to be in the same spot twice. Do they lack a sales permit and must avoid the law? Or are they noticed in the background at certain crime scenes, whether complicit or an inadvertent witness? Regardless, the merchant is very convenient when one needs to acquire various bits and bobs.

A marital dispute is getting out of hand. Is physical abuse happening openly in a Stallion Street; can pots and pans be seen flying out of a window; or is a suspected lover about to get stabbed by a jealous spouse?

A large procession of somber men wanders down the street. A Judge has died and is about to be laid to rest. ▶ [TRF 218-219]

A nearby African, or someone of another relevant culture, is having trouble being understood. Perhaps they try to pay with dinars and are turned down by a merchant. If one can overcome the language barrier and assist them, there may be a reward in waiting? However, the dinar's exchange rate in Justitian is unfortunately deplorable. ▶ Reach out to the African to be justly rewarded? ▶ [MOL 197]

HALT CITIZEN! SHOW YOUR PAPERS, STATE YOUR BUSINESS, PRESENT YOUR BELONGINGS, WHAT IS YOUR CULT...

A sausage eating contest, sponsored by the generous Harm! Entry fees go to charity for the Orphanage, and the final prize is... ▶ [TRF 212]

ATTENTION, CITIZEN...

... THE CLUSTER SPEAKS... but only mind numbing static follows. Is everything alright there in Uptown?

▶ Palers or Membrane that prods the Cluster's defences and overloads its systems.

▶ [MOL 75]



Some Carrion Birds or Cartel Thugs are brutally, and maybe openly, assaulting a defenseless figure.

▶ A victim of racketeering, or a gambling fiend who's already missing a couple of fingers and toes?



„Ah, my friend! The day brightens at the sight of you! Here. Take some freshly plucked fruit.“ A friendly face in a city of scowls, or someone just waiting for the right moment to ask a favor?



A solemn, perhaps annual, ceremony is held in the Cross Quarter in honor of the fallen Vicarent who gave his life fighting the Demiurge.

▶ [BA 121]



An evening of recreation derails and turns into a night of debauchery. Drinking- and armwrestling competitions, brawls, intermittent blackouts, irregular tap dancing on tables, and half-remembered carnal relations in an alley.

LITTLE SHOP OF ODDITIES

While getting lost in the Stukov Quarter's winding alleys, the most peculiar little shop lies down a flight of stairs. It's filled with pickled Primer fauna, tarot cards, African talismans, and a real, taxidermied monkey's paw. What treasures to be found!



An unknown, and maybe inane, law is broken and a character is immediately called out by a Judge and marked on the spot.



An ascetic tills their field. When they thrust their spade into the soil, they hit something unexpected.



A loudmouth talks openly and angrily about the tyranny of Uptown. Will the conversation steer towards outright treason, and will some law abiding citizen hear and notify the Judges?

▶ Argen, a Cooperative member, a vengeful Jhammedan, or just an angry drunk?

▶ [TRF 216-217] • [MOL 163]



A family is forced to move to the Bottomlands when their grain fails a quality check, their home is destroyed, or when a parent is killed or locked away. The family are then regularly seen accepting ever more wretched means of survival. Will the characters do the right thing and help, or is the family just another casualty in an already brutal world?

▶ [TRF 133]



The cable car or elevator platform to Uptown rumbles to an abrupt halt – the repairs will take quite some time. „Well... shit. Does anyone have some good stories?“ „Hopefully, none of you have vertigo.“

▶ [TRF 158, 162]



A certain mushroom has become a local delicacy both at street vendors in the Outskirts and among fancy restaurants in the Stukov Quarter. Though some citizens might think twice about savoring it if they knew that it was, very effectively, grown in the waste of the Defiler Streets. The business has since become quite profitable, and attracted interest from some, unsavory, inventors.

- ▶ However, the mushroom's allure may in fact come from the Sepsis it grows with.



An African, or other relevant culture, holiday is drawing near, and the Tent City is preparing for the festivities. If chaos doesn't ensue first, a few nights of needed revelries await. If the Judges object to the festival, could they be convinced to turn a blind eye, and would such an act of goodwill in fact yield greater results in the long run?



In the neighborhood, a certain type of game is immensely popular. The prestige is such that a scoreboard has been set up at the local tavern. Can the champion be beat?

- ▶ Old men playing chess on the streets of the Outskirts or Stukov Quarter.



Conventional medicine has failed a certain client, whether wealthy Neolybian or humble Clanner. Now they need a rare herb, Aberrant organ, or powdered mammoth tusk to increase their waning vigor... and to mend their marital problems.

- ▶ [ART 106-127]



An entrepreneurial citizen wants to start up the most bureaucratic thing of all: insurance! But he needs some start-up money to make his dream come true.

- ▶ Banking is another option. And if things get out of hand, it may very easily turn into, or be perceived as, loan sharking despite the best of intentions.



A City Guide leads the way to the paid destination, but the city grows and changes constantly. It eventually becomes clear that they are quite lost, and now the group is in the wrong part of town – the bad part.

- ▶ [TRF 139]



An underdog pit fighter wins spectacularly, perhaps instead of taking the fall like they were supposed to.

- ▶ [TRF 205]



Your renown has grown with your successes, and now people flock to the sound of your name. If you're lucky, fawning lovers and loyal henchmen await. Otherwise, you'll have to settle for a single overbearing fan.



One or more of the characters participate in a game of chance. Besides being an opportunity for leisure and to earn money, they might be accused of cheating, win something peculiar, or witness one of the gamblers stab their opponent and abscond with the winnings.

LOW AND HIGH

A drug den is hidden in an inconspicuous cellar, likely needing a lot of hoop-jumping to reach. Does the dealer offer work? Is the Burn virtually unprotected? Or do the characters find someone they know, lying there lost in intoxication?

UNCANNY AUGURY

A soothsayer refers to a character in a prophecy that is eerily accurate. However, they need more Argus to see further...

- ▶ [KAT 192-199]





Either through happenstance or rumor, the party come across a skilled Brenni that could be invaluable as a discreet emergency healer. Their naivety, greed, or hate of the Spitalians could surely be exploited to persuade them of such a notion.

▶ [TRF 172-173] • [COTM 13-15]



A Chronicler drone is buzzing above the rooftops. Does it persistently follow a character? Or does it fall from the sky; and if so, did someone bring it down?

▶ [TRF 144]



A character is witnessed in action by an impressed individual who then wants to hire them as their personal concubine, bodyguard, or pit fighter.

▶ Buto's recruiters
▶ [TRF 205] MOL 161



A raving citizen claims that the Chroniclers either stole their child, are watching their every step, or rose from the ground like „the Demiurge's get!“

▶ Operation Monochrome
▶ Seeing Chroniclers emerge from hidden Exit Levels
▶ [TRF 224, 270-271]

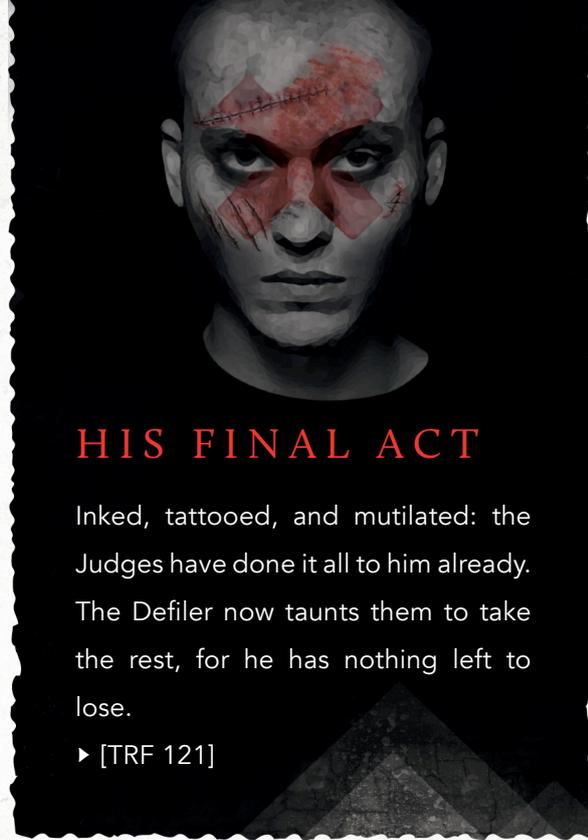


A Hybrispian food vendor offers a free serving of their family recipe, a fiery hot stew, to any brave enough to taste it. But the locals are wise enough to abstain. If the whole bowl can be stomached, the meal is free, and a modicum of respect is earned. A hasty visit to the privy might then be necessary though.



Someone nearby drops something of value into the latrine. Is it worth the climb, search, and smell of the Defiler Streets far below?

▶ [TRF 192]



HIS FINAL ACT

Inked, tattooed, and mutilated: the Judges have done it all to him already. The Defiler now taunts them to take the rest, for he has nothing left to lose.

▶ [TRF 121]



One character is flirted with by an attractive person of a relevant gender; however, their significant other notices. Does the spouse become jealous, or encourage it?



A stray cat takes an un-cat-like liking to one of the characters.



An inside gambling scoop is overheard or received. From whom? And what's the catch? Does the gambler simply need someone to spot their bet, or does it turn out to be bullshit?



In a tavern or small square, a singer performs a hauntingly beautiful song about the fall of their Clan.



An incorrigible family member, friend, or contact needs help out of a pickle. Is it worth the hassle to bail them out of trouble, yet again?

▶ The return of the deadbeat father.



INFESTATION

A large ant bites a nearby child who starts bawling, perhaps seeking consolation. But more importantly: Ants? Here?

- ▶ Does the ant trail lead to the nearest Defiler Street and the growing Spore field?
- ▶ [MOL 275]



A mad, old beggar lives near the character's residence. Do they have a horde of individually and oddly named pets, are a crippled yet mirthful war veteran, or always refer to themselves in third person? Despite their odd and maybe abrasive nature, are they in fact a valuable ear to the ground?



„Hm? What about my clothes? Oh, the fact that I don't have any, you mean? Well. Funny story really...“

- ▶ A gambling fiend who bet on black one time too many; an adulterer who's forced to show his shame to the world; or a drunk who's been robbed blind time and again?



A character is walking along a street just as a donkey relieves themselves or a tenant empties a chamber pot. The one responsible does not care.



In the Pit Fights, the characters see someone who's definitely in over their head about to enter the ring. Do something to prevent their demise, perhaps against their wishes, or use the insider info for when the betting starts?

- ▶ [TRF 205]



A certain tavern has a customer base despite its swill and disgusting interior. Naturally, it's a front for something else.

- ▶ The Amaranth or smuggling tunnels under the East-side.
- ▶ [TRF 187] • [MOL 249]



A passerby is an obvious addict. How does such a lowlife still get a hold of Burn nowadays? Can they share who their dealer is? Or do they bear the red triangle on their forehead and can lead to the Amaranth? In either case, some convincing might first be needed.

- ▶ Dahne
- ▶ [TRF 187] • [MOL 173, 249]



A character becomes entangled in a lighthearted game with either playful children, loopy old codgers, or an entire neighborhood. Is it a physical competition or a game of wits?

- ▶ Tag, hide and seek, football, storytelling, riddles, etc.



Something glimmers half buried in the dust or left behind on a nearby table. It could be as simple as a water token, a small bundle of drafts, citizenship papers just dying to be tampered with, or a purse filled with gold teeth.



In a local bar, a Lone Wolf is a regular customer along with his best friend: an old, actual rat. „What do you mean ‚what's with the rat?‘ It's loyal, finds its own food, can crawl through cracks in the ruins, and sure as shit doesn't ask stupid questions.“



When the Cluster speaks, gossip spreads in the city's many queues, or propaganda suffuses the Righteous Hammer, much wisdom can be gained for the perceptive. Sift the sand to find the nugget. Roll for rumors.

- ▶ [TRF 140] • [MOL 20-21, 113]



„In all due respect, you smell like you’ve been dead for a fortnight. Get yourselves to the Bath House, or the Spitalians are likely to cleanse you with fire. And rightly so, I’d say.“

- ▶ A reason for the characters to spend money on a non-essential expenditure. Plus to introduce Fatim.
- ▶ [TRF 234] • [MOL 215]



A Jhammedan, a Judge, and an Apocalyptic walk into a bar.

- ▶ Troika – or not



A cart is broken or stuck, and its cargo tumble out across the street. If someone helps the owners, they give away some of their wares in thanks. Or do they look anxiously at the ones assisting them?

- ▶ They are likely innocent and only wary of authorities and strangers. Likely.



A charismatic charlatan is selling potions that they claim cures everything from hair loss to irregular bowel movements.

- ▶ They’re in fact of Brenni descent and may actually have some skill.
- ▶ [TRF 172-173] • [COTM 13-15]



Two Trotter brothers are fierce competitors; they are faster than most and never tire as long as the other still runs. However, they generally don’t take fares unless both are, so that they can race each other, but they usually end up in a fist fight anyway.

- ▶ [TRF 139]



Children steal disinfectants from the sluices and get high in nearby alleys. Does someone intervene if they overdose on the fumes – whether out of kindness or to keep the kids in one’s debt?

- ▶ [TRF 144]



A character is met with bigotry or hostility: *spits* „We don’t take kindly to you folk around here!“



One of the artisan’s guilds, such as tailors, cobblers, or coopers, is organizing a big event, like one of their markets. Or they’re protesting a loss of business due to some new mandate. Either way, it’s a spectacle in itself, but does this also leave the guild house in the Stukov Quarter largely unguarded?

- ▶ [TRF 168]



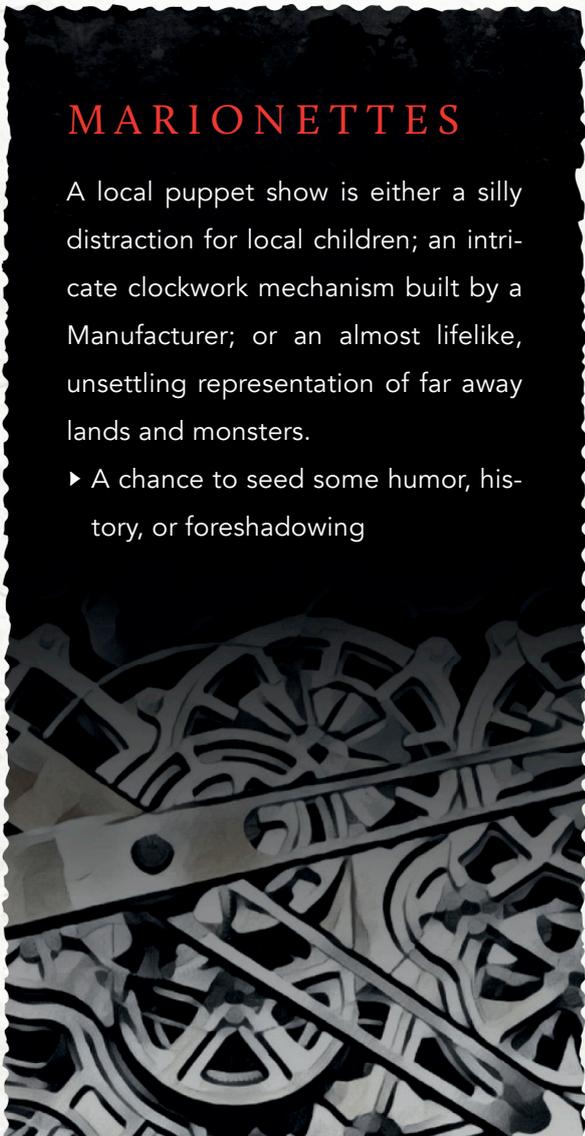
A Hellvetic in a Heavy Duty Harness, a Judge cavalry squad, or an entourage to a Stukov Urbanist acts as if they own the street, pushing aside, or trampling, anyone not wise enough to move out of the way.

- ▶ Such god damned arrogance.
- ▶ [COTM 9-11]

MARIONETTES

A local puppet show is either a silly distraction for local children; an intricate clockwork mechanism built by a Manufacturer; or an almost lifelike, unsettling representation of far away lands and monsters.

- ▶ A chance to seed some humor, history, or foreshadowing



„Hey, asshole! That’s our table. We sit there every night – everybody knows it.“

A stream of jugglers, minstrels, and street performers flows by. Are they met by cheerful faces or the usual Borcan frowns? What is the cacophony also obscuring, intentionally or accidentally?

A wandering vendor is an excellent source of rumors from around the city. However, be careful so they don’t end up in possession of your secrets too – whether naively or maliciously spreading that which they pick up in conversation.

- ▶ King Cockroach or just a friendly rat-kebab salesman. Does the information end up with the Bottom Feeder?
- ▶ [TRF 212] • [MOL 177]

THORN IN THE SIDE

A madman berates people around them with a storm of insults. Is Argen harassing those who, he thinks, slight the Cartel’s honor? Or is a split-lipped Scavenger screaming down at passersby from a seemingly inaccessible part of the Great Northern Wall?

- ▶ Should one weather the abuse, partake in a disgraceful shouting match, or publicly assault the pathetic wretch?
- ▶ [TRF 121] • [MOL 163]



A man screams outside a brothel in the Harbor. Is he madly in love, kicked out when his purse got light, or accusing the Magpies of stealing his secrets during pillow talk?

During a visit to one of Justitian’s latrines, one can experience interesting things. A lewd illustration of a Spitalian and a Chronicler abusing a Scrapper while a Judge looks the other way – do the arriving Hygienists accuse someone of drawing it? An advertised tavern name? Or do the characters just partake in some good old gossip?

- ▶ Roll for rumors.
- ▶ [TRF 194] • [MOL 20-21]

A couple of kids drop rocks down into the Defiler Streets or are tormenting a Defiler carting a corpse to the Knacker’s Office. Is this a moment for the characters to be humane? Or do the kids draw attention to something that is usually hidden in plain sight?

A brewer or distiller is handing out drinks on a street corner. Is its flavor the result of a secret, illicit ingredient?

- ▶ Mead made of honey from darkest Franka or schnapps whose extra sting comes from diluted Primer fauna venom. Is the beverage in fact named in honor of a fallen hero: Blacksmith or a dead player character?
- ▶ [TRF 190-191] • [KAT 344]

„No, I can’t ,fix‘ that garbage you’ve wrapped around your feet – no one can. If you instead want iron-studded soles with real grip, and leather that’s durable and doesn’t make your feet bleed... well, that costs actual drafts, you cheap fuck.“

In the evenings, an old Balkhani sits down in front of their home with a stringed instrument, softly playing into the night. People gather from all around, bringing what they have of food and drink. Moments of reprieve from the drudgery.

CLOUDBURST

A rare phenomenon can be seen over the city: rain clouds. Soon downpour falls from the heavens in veils. Children splash in the rushing gutters, old couples put their arms around each other under overflowing awnings, and dry weeds burst into newfound life.

- ▶ Something previously hidden, like a sign or hatch, may be revealed when the layers of grime are washed away.
- ▶ [TRF 132]



A group of ruffians enter a tavern, demand food and drink, harass the barmaid, and disturb the peace in general. Does the party intervene? Or does another imposing figure when they do not?

- ▶ To introduce a powerful character such as Hector, Atama, Laika the Bitch, etc.
- ▶ [MOL 99, 127, 237]



A family is weeping in front of someone dead or dying, hung high for all to see.

- ▶ Reenactment, treason, or a grim warning from a criminal group
- ▶ [TRF 154]



Bow your heads, for Giants are walking among us. Impulse with entourage visits downtown, Kranzler or Rutgar rides at the head of their troops, or Archot addresses the people.

- ▶ [MOL 33, 73, 93-95]



DEPLOYMENT

A nearby Judge patrol explodes into action and takes off. A raid? A riot? Follow and you may find out.



ONE CAN NOT BE
BETRAYED
IF ONE HAS
NO PEOPLE

[THE USUAL SUSPECTS]



Conflicts Innumerable

THE STRUGGLES THAT PERMEATE LIFE

A man turns up dead with african gold forced, or poured in molten form, down his throat. Did he cross the Neolybians, or are the Africans set up to receive the brunt of the Borcan xenophobia?

The characters find themselves ostracized, ridiculed, or harassed due to vicious rumors – whether true or not. Is someone in particular spreading them?

- ▶ A cunning rival, insulted entertainer, or spurned lover.

A local hero is stealing supplies and gives it back to their community, and receives their adoration and protection in turn. Can the law ignore them no longer when a shipment of blackpowder goes missing?

- ▶ A Defiler feeding his people? Or if it's a Jehammedan, the rebel may clash with Baruch who doesn't want to anger Uptown further.
- ▶ [MOL 211]



RED-HANDED

A crate, wagon, or basket of bread is found to be containing hidden contraband. Did the owner know or were they kept in the dark by the one hiding the items? Can this be reported to the Judges without taking the fall for the crime?

A Jehammedan hides their heritage, successfully covering the tattoos, to avoid prosecution and to run a business unimpeded. How are they discovered and by whom? What will they do to keep their secret?

- ▶ [TRF 232]

When an alcove is assaulted by the Cartel or an angry mob forms around an electrified platform, the Agent in charge becomes trapped in a cage of their own making. Will the assailants go to great lengths to breach the defences? Is the party witnesses, participants, or saviors in this equation?

- ▶ Grimly, the attackers might try to burn the Agent alive, through the bars, if they prove unreachable
- ▶ [TRF 147-149]

Goats have been poached from the Jehammedan herds, and the Judges aren't exactly breaking their backs searching for the culprits. The owners claim that it's the work of bigots and Fishermen.

- ▶ Hungry Defilers or Bottomlanders, Scrappers from the Tent City that feast on the bounty of the land, or the animals' very owners that embezzle from their own Cult.

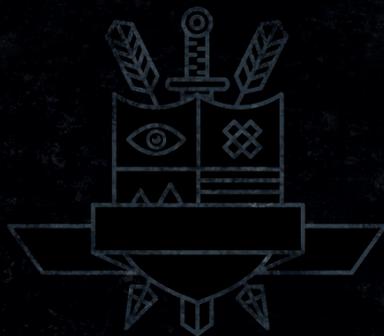
A martial-looking individual wants to wager the outcome of a friendly, or antagonistic, competition. For instance, a bored Judge sharpshooting birds from a bridge in the Rubble; a Scourger sprinting to be the first to reach Ligua; a drunk Lone Wolf challenging the worthy to a pistol duel; or a boisterous Orgiastic eagerly engaging in contests of strength in the dirt.

- ▶ Do they bet their tinted glasses, a bag of dinars that „were slowing them down anyways“, their Marvel revolver, or something passed down from a previous, defeated contestant?

A Clanner or Scourger is grateful when saved from enemy captivity; or a cowardly enemy begs for their life when the dust has settled. Either way, they now vow to serve the characters.

Something is unearthed by an expanding fissure from the Crack, or by a digging Scavenger employed by the Office of Urban Planning. Is it a buried murder victim, or a subterranean chamber, forgotten by the world?

- ▶ [TRF 172-173, 250-253]



HERITAGE

A lord has begotten a son with his mistress or favorite Magpie and now wants the child as his heir. What the mother thinks does not seem to be of importance, nor will she be allowed to get in the way of the noble legacy.



A new name has been scribbled in an alley near the Forecourt. What's more important is that when Buto questions his closest Officers about it, nobody seems to know who's responsible. Perhaps it's not a Chronicler name at all.

▶ [TRF 159] • [MOL 14-15, 161]



A Clan elder or senior Advocate has a new, gorgeous spouse who almost certainly is a gold digger or worse – e.g. a Cuckoo or member of a rival house. But the old coot is blinded by love, or lust, and doesn't believe such slander. Or perhaps love really is blind.

▶ For instance a Stukov Guild Leader, Urbanist, or Deputy
▶ [COTM 9-11]



A fire has erupted. Is the party in danger, do they assist in the rescue efforts, or do they use the chaos to their advantage – e.g. by braving the flames to plunder abandoned buildings.

▶ Was this caused by an accident, or were the flames intentionally unleashed, and do they risk spreading through the city?
▶ [TRF 152-153] • [MOL 135]



A woman has escaped her spouse and is looking for help. Is she a young Provider fleeing the arranged marriage with a Village Juryman, or a converted Jehammedan on the run from her abusive Abrami husband?

▶ [TRF 220, 235] • [COTM 13-15] • [WEBSITE „Grace“]



A Manufacturer needs a special piece of equipment to finish their project, perhaps in time for the Carnival of the Scrapers. They want the characters to acquire said part, or infiltrate a competitor to sabotage their creation instead.

▶ [TRF 119, 200-201]



The strong dominate the weak and break those who resist – whether in the name of the law or not. Does the abuser profit from it, or even enjoy it? And what happens when somebody accepts the punishment no more?

▶ Chroniclers and the Cartel bullying Scrapers to comply; or the likes of Laika, Kerber, and Hector using force to get what they want
▶ [TRF 206-207] • [MOL 99, 111, 237]



A parade or security cordon prevents the party from reaching their destination, home, or prey in time.

▶ [TRF 118-119, 144]



A mother goes to great lengths to hide her newborn child from the Spitalians. Is she merely suspicious of the bald headed ones, or is the child legitimately worth hiding?

▶ [TRF 145]



A contact is extorted and may end up attacked if they don't comply with the demands – either with physical violence, arson, or abductions of family members.

▶ A Judge looking the other way, an Official falsifying documents, or a business owner that lends their warehouse to a smuggling operation.

A group of people, whether at a dingy establishment or fancy dinner, are found disoriented and confused. Have they unknowingly ingested Unity or Dreamtime served by their host?

- ▶ [KAT 192-99] • [ART 118]

A benefactor offers significant financial backing for a business venture or operation. Is it worth being in somebody's pocket though, and what will the sponsor ultimately want in return?

- ▶ Emiel Salvano, Bosch
- ▶ [MOL 107, 159]

A wide-eyed Paler arrives at Justitian – one who is neither a hardened explorer or cunning scout. And while they stumble about in wonder, the dangers of the outside world will soon become quite apparent.

- ▶ Hunted by the Chroniclers, and therefore the Judges, or forcefully recruited by Vesna.
- ▶ [TRF 280-281] • [MOL 269]

A neighbor is dragged out of their home and abducted in the dead of night. The Judges claim to not be responsible.

Two groups of armed individuals are going to violently converge in a square. Anabaptists and Jehammedans? Or different gangs of Scappers in the Tent City?

- ▶ Ranging from a simple street brawl to throngs of clashing people armed to the teeth.

Someone is on the run. They might've been framed, fleeing their former life, or are in fact guilty of some crime. The fugitive now needs help to hide, escape the city, or clear their name in court with the Heathen. Do the characters help out of kindness, or is it worth something to someone?

- ▶ Heza Gotokai or Danka
- ▶ [MOL 119, 149, 243]

A young woman turned to prostitution in desperation and was ostracized by her family. Her brother can't stand idly by. Will he attack her boss? Or avenge the family honor?

- ▶ A Hagari and her Ismaeli brother.

Another body turns up beheaded. Perhaps this time someone knows something: „So, you're saying the victim was recently deep in Clan territory in the south? No... No, I don't think the clans cursed him, Ma'am“.

- ▶ [MOL 279]

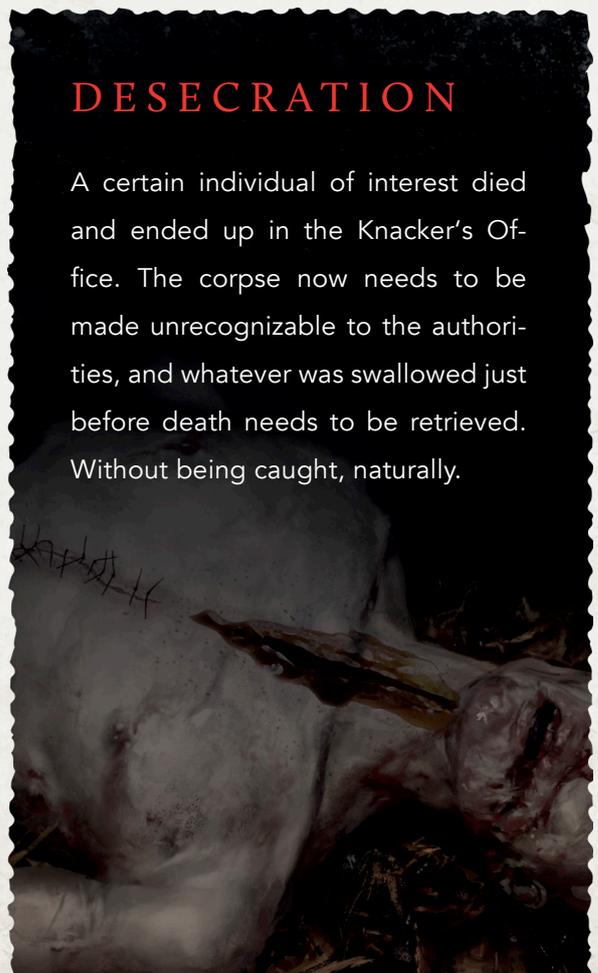
A solitary Judge holds off a crowd intent on dragging away their prisoner for some good old mob justice. Or is the prisoner being silenced before they can testify?

During a black market deal, Judges bust down the front door. Scatter, grab what you can, fight, or play along?

- ▶ Was the character only there to retrieve something already stolen from them?
- ▶ [TRF 148, 190-191]

DESECRATION

A certain individual of interest died and ended up in the Knacker's Office. The corpse now needs to be made unrecognizable to the authorities, and whatever was swallowed just before death needs to be retrieved. Without being caught, naturally.





A romantic relationship is forming, but the two lovers are of different Cults. To what lengths will their kin go to stop the union? To make it worse, is one of the lovers only doing it out of spite? Will the party use the situation to their advantage, help prevent the relationship, or is one of them in fact one of the lovers in question?



A reckless individual uses Judge's garb to get what they want, but is not convincing to the trained eye and may suffer capital punishment for reenactment if discovered. The foolhardiness of youth, the scheme of a con man, or a cog in a larger operation?

- ▶ [TRF 154]



A distressed person is looking for a loved one that disappeared in Uptown, the Jehammedan Quarter, or the Harbor. But they are refused answers. Can the characters instead gain access?

- ▶ A Magpie died by the hands of a diplomat? Or did someone never leave Hector's Darkroom?
- ▶ [TRF 186, 256-257] • [MOL 155]



A vigilante is brutally murdering suspected crime figures.

- ▶ Aello, or just somebody who can no longer stand idly by?
- ▶ [MOL 65]



Overseeing someone loading up gunpowder, warped metal pipes, or something looking like a body on their cart.

- ▶ [MOL 129, 161] • [HW 5]



Sorrow's renowned buggy barrels past. Are nearby horses startled, do the characters need to quickly avert a collision, or is the vehicle sabotaged by Borcans who resent her close affiliation with the African?

- ▶ [MOL 179]



Some vendors are ramping up the prices of certain goods. Are they organizing, or is it a simple case of supply and demand? Do their power eventually turn into arrogance and disdain towards the desperate customers?

STIGMATIZED

A member of one of the ruling Cults shows signs of Burn abuse.

- ▶ Heiden
- ▶ [MOL 41]



For whatever reason, the characters' path takes them to the Defiler Streets. Are they evading pursuers, looking for someone or something, or need the ears and eyes of the city's downtrodden? Regardless, befriending the outcasts would make it far easier to navigate the filthy maze. And if asking one of the Matrons for assistance, what could she want in return?

- ▶ Searching for Belmondo or Gotterdam
- ▶ [TRF 192-194] • [MOL 139-141]



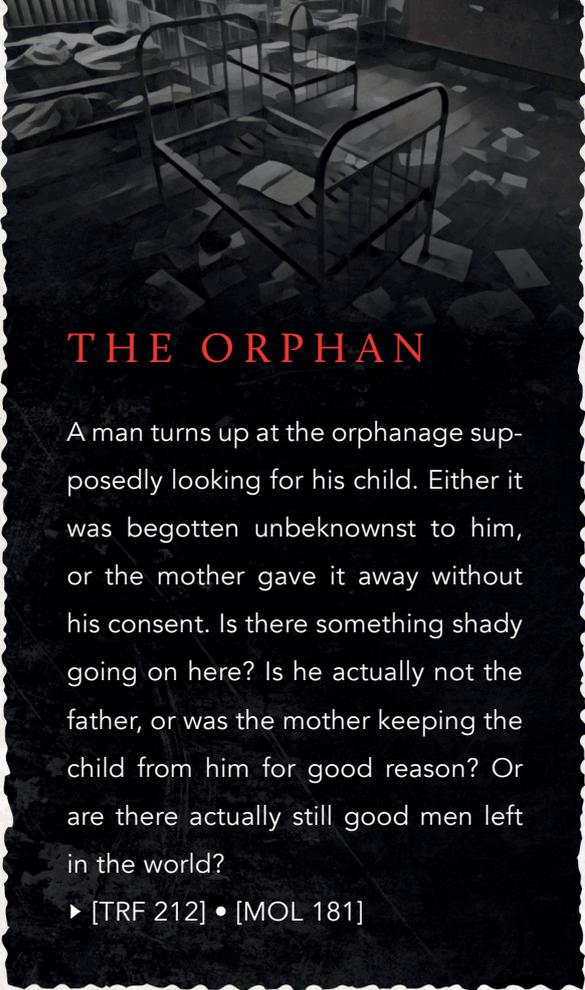
A public speaker is taken away to the Cleft, but their sermons ring of truth: that the Chroniclers and Judges are ruling people and information with an iron fist, silencing those who speak of what's hidden under the city streets. Does the party or the speaker's congregation intervene and risk the wrath of the law?

- ▶ An Anabaptist preacher or a Cooperative firebrand
- ▶ [TRF 150, 216-217, 270-273]



Children are rounded up and made to disappear into Cult slavery – urchins and citizen alike. But no one seems to give a shit. Do the characters?

- ▶ Sold to Scrappers, Chroniclers or Spitalians by the Apocalyptics.



THE ORPHAN

A man turns up at the orphanage supposedly looking for his child. Either it was begotten unbeknownst to him, or the mother gave it away without his consent. Is there something shady going on here? Is he actually not the father, or was the mother keeping the child from him for good reason? Or are there actually still good men left in the world?

▶ [TRF 212] • [MOL 181]



A special item is acquired, whether in a black market deal, through chance, or via a clerical error in a security checkpoint to Uptown. Is it valuable, or does it contain hidden documents in a compartment? And will its owner, or others of their Cult, come looking for it?

▶ [TRF 148, 158, 190-191]



Many Couriers are seen taking a risky shortcut over some rooftops or through cramped alleys. Do one of them have an accident; do they unintentionally witness something not meant for their eyes; or do several Couriers go missing while navigating the nooks and crannies?

▶ [TRF 139]



An unexpected parcel arrives, but from whom? Did the Courier just screw up, or does the true recipient share a name with one of the characters? If so, does the package contain something interesting?

▶ But if someone's been snooping, it may be from Cinnamon...

▶ [MOL 129]



In the Rubble, a couple of Jurymen are about to execute someone who naturally claims to be innocent. Importantly, there is no Advocate present to have lawfully sentenced the culprit.



A spouse is behaving oddly and is suspected to be having an affair. Their significant other subsequently hires investigators, but the situation may not be what it seems.

▶ Darius Masek's second life, or a secret of another sort – whether more or less serious

▶ [MOL 105]



A Judge has done their duty with diligence but not made any friends doing so. Now their residence and family have been disclosed. Is someone seeking revenge by hitting their home, or has the Judge intercepted the rumor and intends to strike at the tormentors first?

▶ [TRF 154-155]



A character's face is portrayed on a most wanted poster. Is this a mistake, has their crimes finally caught up with them, or is the reward insultingly low for one as great as them?

▶ [TRF 286-287]



A stranger is covertly circling some members of the Cartel, or watching an alcove from the shadows. But the watcher is discovered and when approached they abscond, so Thugs or Judges are sent after them.

▶ Load or Mishitchi

▶ [TRF 147] • [MOL 67, 265]



A business opportunity is presented where the party can retrieve a sizable shipment of Petro, e.g. from Liqua, and so make friends with the Africans. However, is the money worth the shunning they'll receive from bigoted Borcans, and the reprisals from Chroniclers? Transporting the combustible shipment is another problem in itself.



Birds are circling the air: hovering above a corpse in the Rubble or reacting to some unknown sonic phenomenon?



A sibling or close ally is sighted in the enemy ranks. Is it due to betrayal, clashing ideologies, an enemy's cruel plot, or an unfortunate coincidence?



A character receives a secret admirer; praising, if a bit unnerving, letters and small gifts are left at their door or delivered in parcels. However, eventually belongings or pets go missing, the bed starts to smell oddly, and strange fetishes made of hair are found inside the home.



Someone new is introduced to the group. They can be a foulmouthed barmaid who can outdrink anyone, a gentle giant, a clumsy Scrapper down on his luck, a plucky and always positive single mother, a family man earning extra cash getting beat up in chess boxing, and so on. Are they a special, hopefully likable, character, or is there more than meets the eye?

- ▶ A Cuckoo in disguise, Atama as a civilian, one of Decoy 5's personas, or even Jade. Or a friendly encounter that then turns into the previous plot hook.
- ▶ [TRF 179] • [MOL 67, 127, 239]



A jealous Judge is using the Peace Walk and his authority to watch a young couple a little too closely – at all times. Perhaps it's only a matter of time before he frames the husband and tries to take the wife for himself.

- ▶ [TRF 141]



The characters are hired to help evict a deadbeat tenant. Perhaps so that they can get access to the lodgings themselves? However, the squatter turns out to be troublesome, perhaps even fearsome, and is unwilling to leave.

- ▶ A Cave Bear or Vrakul
- ▶ [MOL 145]



The streets are not safe after dark for women anymore. Are they abducted for nefarious business reasons, like a Woodpecker „recruiting“? Or is there another form of predator out there?

- ▶ Ferhat
- ▶ [MOL 153]



A corpse in the party's possession suddenly starts moving.



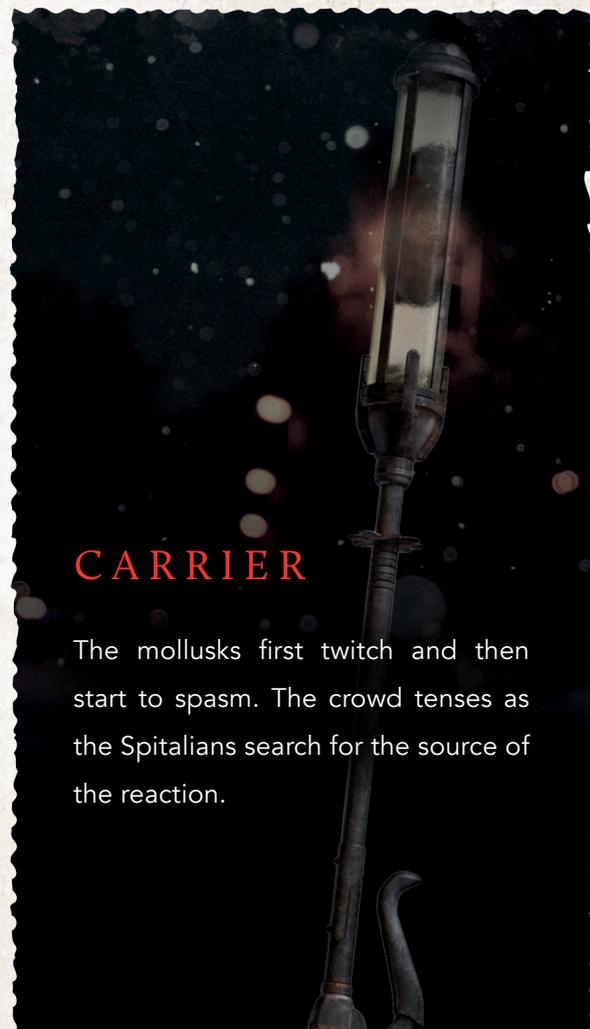
A matter of honor must be resolved, but the law won't let it be done in the old ways. Duel in the Rubble in the dead of night? Settle it in the Pit Fights? Or instead mediate a suitable monetary settlement?

- ▶ [TRF 205]



In a cellar or near an alley, the ground beneath the characters suddenly caves in, and they drop into a deep sewer.

- ▶ [TRF 192-194, 270-281]



CARRIER

The mollusks first twitch and then start to spasm. The crowd tenses as the Spitalians search for the source of the reaction.



„The client wants this to be slotted in at some tech-porting at this location. No, I don't know what it is or does. Will you do it? The money is good.“

- ▶ Membrane is trying to plant something but stays out of personal danger. Is he merely creating a decoy?
- ▶ [TRF 270-271] • [MOL 75]



Some punks are trying to assault the characters. Are they mugging them by chance or trying to prove themselves by taking them down?

- ▶ Even legends can be stabbed in the back.



Someone becomes an inadvertent witness to a clandestine or mysterious event, before being forced to flee from the scene. Now it's only a matter of time before the word spreads – unless they can be found and silenced first.

- ▶ E.g. Hostin, the camera toy, and the Chroniclers. What did he witness?
- ▶ [MOL 183]



The Circus of Flaws' members are living mysteries. From its human attractions to the Scrapper bouncers and unseen owner. But if questioned, any investigation is brick-walled. Are they silent out of loyalty, or fear?

- ▶ Are some of the specimens unlawfully imprisoned, or in fact born of Borca's twisted Clans?
- ▶ [TRF 212]



Some urchins are a menace on the streets, maybe seen violently picking on another child. If someone intervenes, the gang becomes far more of a nuisance, or dangerous, than first thought.

- ▶ Will the party's gear be pickpocketed, or will they fall to a thousand cuts? Are the kids led by one of the Matrons, the Bottom Feeder, or a kid who grew up vicious in the Eastside?
- ▶ [TRF 194, 212]



An incompetent ally needs babysitting, so that they don't get in over their head – with the law or otherwise.

- ▶ The boss' spoiled child, a foreign diplomat lusting for adventure, or an unworldly scholar out to document their observations.



The wealth of the mighty does not come for free but is bought with the blood of the workforce.

- ▶ The African employing grueling sweatshops, a Manufacturer stealing the credit of his subordinates, or Providers and refugees being bureaucratically exploited by corrupt Village Jurymen.
- ▶ [TRF 131, 188, 200-201] • [MOL 197] • [COTM 13-15]



A grave in the Cemetery of the Judges has been exhumed, and the honorable remains are missing.

- ▶ [TRF 218-219]



IN PLAIN SIGHT

Something is left behind from the previous tenant. Underneath some loose floorboards, a journal is stashed; the book shelf swings open to reveal a hidden passage; bodies are bricked into the walls; or a mattress is filled with drafts. But will the original owner return for what's „theirs“?

- ▶ Or are they in fact still living there unseen?



Ponzu has been lost during one of Luren's drunken stupors! If people knew, many would be distraught to see something so wonderful lost or hurt. Even the Judiciary is scrambling to find the animal to keep on the diplomat's good side. If Ponzu for whatever reason disappeared in Downtown, surely some lowlifes are right now preparing to ransom the pet back for an exorbitant sum.

- ▶ [MOL 155]



Whether for personal business or on the behalf of someone else, a character is stuck in the glacial bureaucracy of the Offices. Do they deal with the bullshit with composure, knowledge of the system, or „creative solutions“?

- ▶ May be described as ludicrous satire or crushing oppression, e.g. with Darev Jungbau.
- ▶ [TRF 250-253] • [MOL 131]



Deselect's expertise is needed for his knowledge of the Bygones. But how to acquire his aid? He is busy, arrogant, and his peers won't stand for irregularities in the Central Exchange. Do the characters need to help someone else make contact – perhaps because the two parties can't stand each other? And does someone else hunt for the item or data too?

- ▶ Chevanski, Kreda, Rotter
- ▶ [MOL 47, 53, 61, 267]



Someone keeps the existence of their horse secret from the Judiciary, so it doesn't get confiscated. A proud Isaaki protecting his war mount; a young Provider caring for the last memory from her late father; or an outlaw never giving up their steed to the damn Judges.

- ▶ [TRF 139] • [COTM 13-15]



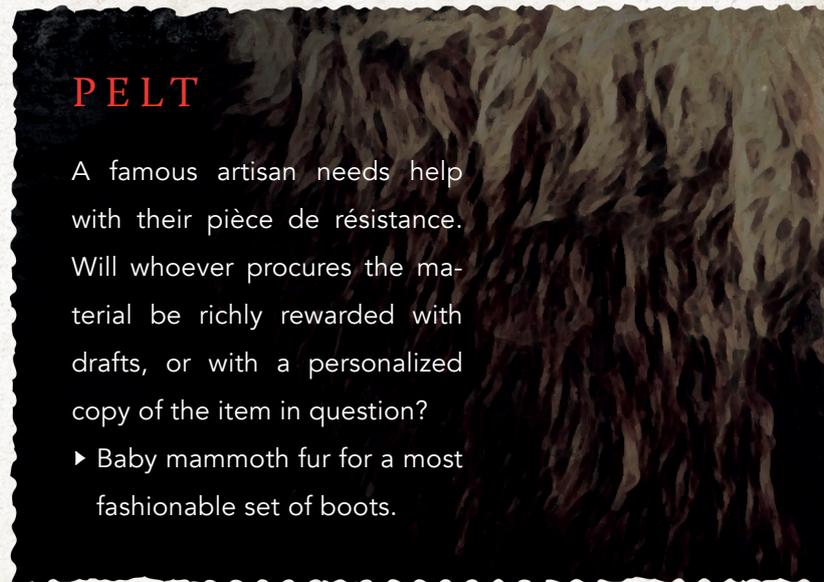
After a long assignment or venture, one character discovers that they've in fact been legally declared dead.

- ▶ A Judge thought lost in the war.



A clue is left behind in the form of an item or piece of clothing, which is unassuming but otherwise stinks of sulphur. Follow the trail to its only logical conclusion: the Paper Mill.

- ▶ If a suspect is being pursued, a chase among the chugging, maiming machinery may follow. A similar set up also works for a clue leading to the Tanneries.
- ▶ [TRF 246, 254-255]



PELT

A famous artisan needs help with their *pièce de résistance*. Will whoever procures the material be richly rewarded with drafts, or with a personalized copy of the item in question?

- ▶ Baby mammoth fur for a most fashionable set of boots.



If someone were to get a Gendo from Vukodlak, or some hunter, they'd have an asset that can alert them to danger, guard their home, and maul their enemies. But is it really doable? Do they need to train it since it was a pup, or be immensely strong-willed to break it? Lastly, such a beast would be certainly dangerous in the hands of their enemies too.

- ▶ [MOL 137]



A character finds themselves being involved in Justitian's booming liquor industry. However, soon they might be tasked with ruthlessly acquiring ingredients when there is a shortage, or handle rowdy patrons and racketeering Apocalyptics. Perhaps even defending against, or conducting, industrial sabotage.

- ▶ [TRF 172]



Hygienists suddenly bear down on a character, scouring them, their home, or business for every trace of impurity. Substantial fines, and worse, may await those who fail the tests. It would be unfortunate if the Spitalians also discovered something else while investigating...

- ▶ Are they there due to an anonymous tip?
- ▶ [TRF 250-253] • [MOL 39]



The Protectorate's people have been pushed down too long, and a small group of spiritual individuals have taken their protests in a new, somewhat peaceful, direction: setting themselves on fire in public.



The Burn trade has slowed to a trickle, and someone needs to fill the void. Whether Spitalian renegade, Brenni Apothecary, or industrious Neolybian, there are other ways of getting people high. Though, you will be stepping on the toes of some mighty people in doing so.

- ▶ Will Heiden provide chemical components if he gets something in return?
- ▶ [TRF 172-173] • [MOL 41, 185] • [COTM 13-15]



A contact in the Tent City, the Badger's Burrow, or out in the wasteland is found addled out of their mind – spores pouring from their mouth. Can they be saved without contacting the Spitalians? Or have they, and maybe others nearby, become Leperos? Pray then that the information is still there in some other form.

- ▶ [TRF 197-199]



A skilled weaponsmith has finished a masterful, and expensive, commission for an important patron. It's to be delivered as we speak.

- ▶ A Neolybian rifle, Damascene saber, intricate Marvel, Judge's weapon straight from a Steel Master, or even something like a Newcrest horse.
- ▶ [TRF 65, 163-165] • [COTM 21-23]



Bounty hunting around Siege is a lucrative business. Especially when you don't care from whom the heads are collected – enemies or otherwise. With a convincing story and some creative use of mutilations, the Judges won't know the difference. Nor care, necessarily.

- ▶ [TRF 105]



During negotiations, the characters are offered Burn. Can they refuse without offending or looking suspicious? Are they unwittingly offered Unity or Discordia?

- ▶ [KAT 192-199]



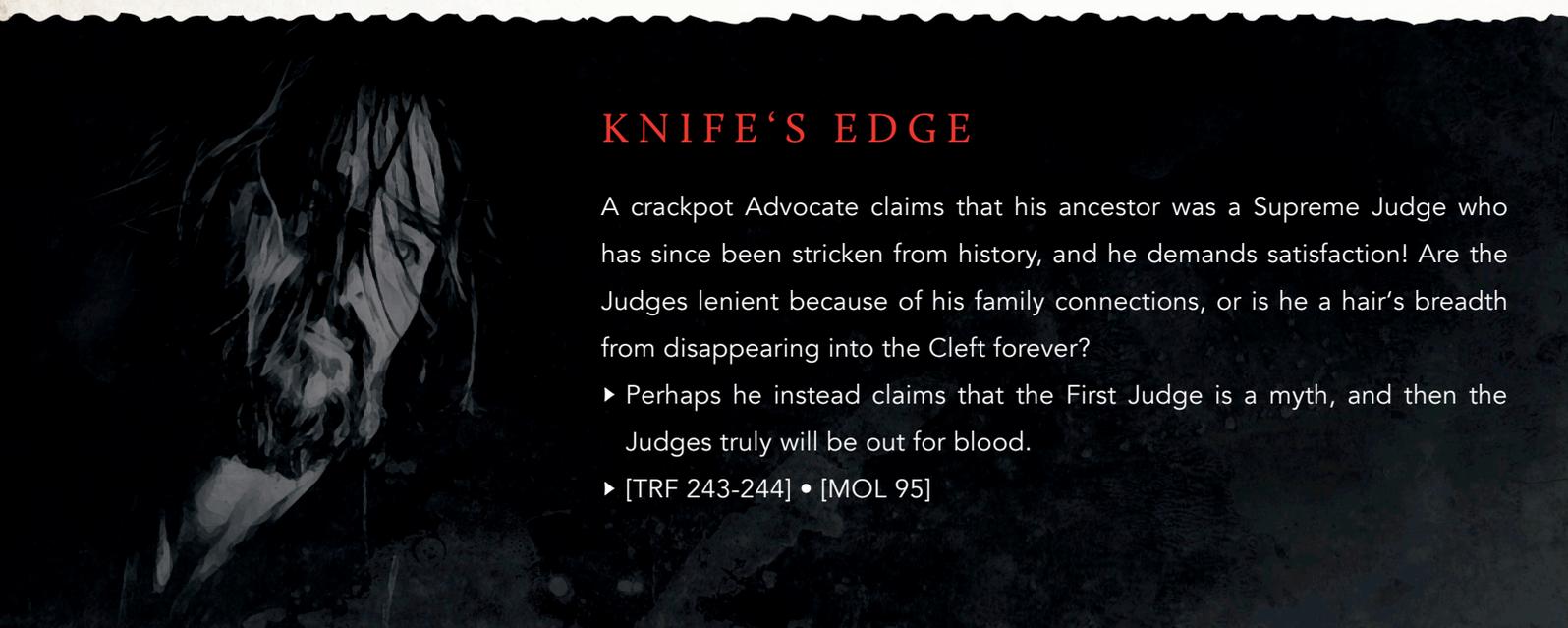
A refugee in the Guest Quarter or the Bottomlands seeks aid to reassert their former status. Can a rich patron be convinced to take them in; do they need help to reclaim their lost wealth; or is someone from their former life searching for them already?

- ▶ An Oppolid that escaped Brest; a Touloni patriarch who knows of the contents of Vericon's vault; or just someone desperate or opportunistic enough to lie.
- ▶ [BA 64] • [TKG 112]

KNIFE'S EDGE

A crackpot Advocate claims that his ancestor was a Supreme Judge who has since been stricken from history, and he demands satisfaction! Are the Judges lenient because of his family connections, or is he a hair's breadth from disappearing into the Cleft forever?

- ▶ Perhaps he instead claims that the First Judge is a myth, and then the Judges truly will be out for blood.
- ▶ [TRF 243-244] • [MOL 95]





A certain group hungers for human flesh: the Scions of Nihil whose depravity knows no bounds; Defilers or Bottomlanders who've been forced to embrace new means of survival; or the remnants of a Clan, holding on to the past ways of the Black Lung?

- ▶ Have they fallen so low as to sell the flesh in the market, disguised as other meats?
- ▶ [TRF 229]



Cheese and honey from Franka, Hybrispian ham, Purgan wine and olives, and so on. Exquisite flavors in an otherwise drab world of destillate and Gendo flesh. A single dish would impress most dinner guests. A combination of them all could gain the favor of a king.



One of Archot's favored artisans, such as a mason, writer, or painter, is drawing some negative attention. Are they no longer willing to venerate the Supreme Judge's tyranny? Is a painting, song, or political flyer containing satire bordering on sedition? Or is an artistic work depicting a Judge in unflattering realism instead of stoic heroism?

- ▶ [TRF 117]

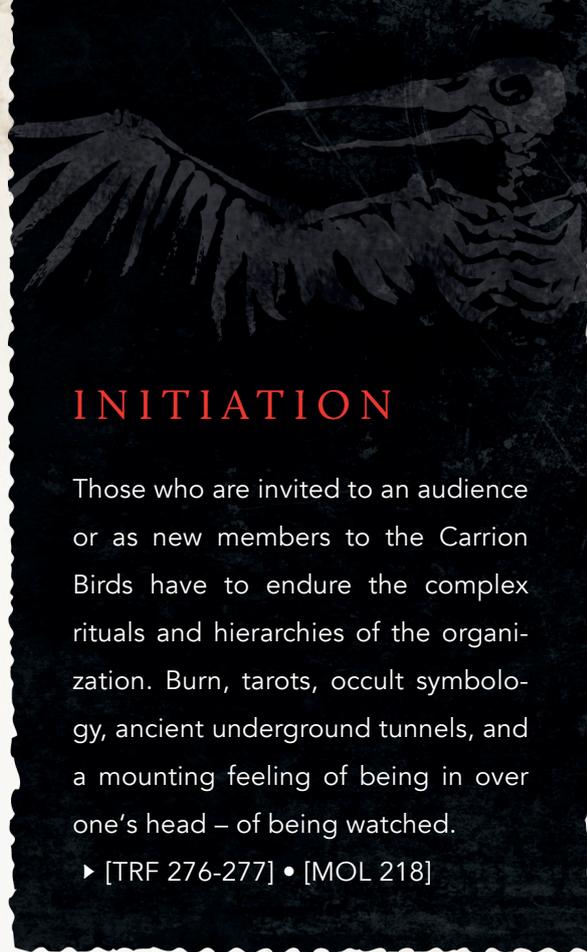


A Chaga or Jehammed's Blessing refuses to secure his weapons and is moments away from resisting the Jurymen's arrest - violently. Can the bloodshed be averted, and will the warrior then show gratitude; will he fight his way clear and disappear into the city; or will he take several of the Judiciary with him in death?



During a crazy bender or when looking for quick cash, the characters find themselves in the Nidhogg. Perhaps they encounter someone who likes the pain a little too much; or a dead-eyed man who has survived round after deadly round - what has happened to make him like this, will his luck run out, and is there anything left of the man to save?

- ▶ [TRF 186]



INITIATION

Those who are invited to an audience or as new members to the Carrion Birds have to endure the complex rituals and hierarchies of the organization. Burn, tarots, occult symbology, ancient underground tunnels, and a mounting feeling of being in over one's head - of being watched.

- ▶ [TRF 276-277] • [MOL 218]



Scribbled symbols are seen above storefronts, on street posts, in dim alleys, and along aqueduct brickwork. Is it the symbology of the Carrion Birds or Palers, or odd Scrapper runes of a different kind than seen in Tech Central? If deciphered, do they indicate secret routes, safe havens, warnings, places worth hitting, or something stranger still?

- ▶ What if a character finds one above their own door?



Out in the wilderness, a storm forces travelers to seek shelter in a roadhouse. However, others have found their way here too, and conflicts tend to emerge and secrets be uncovered in stressful, cramped situations.



A lone sniper shoots at intruders in the wasteland. Are they a Scrapper defending something of value, a trigger happy madman, or somebody targeting a specific foe.

- ▶ Shooting Apocalypics along an orphan smuggling path.
- ▶ [ATL 58]



I WILL SHOW YOU **FEAR**
IN A HANDFUL OF
DUST

[THOMAS STEARNS ELIOT]



Lands of Ruin

DISCORD BREWING BENEATH

◆

Ignio the Bottom Feeder has overheard whispers from the streets, and is offering the information to the characters while grinning from ear to ear. Is it a missing puzzle piece for a stalled investigation, sold at a steep price; or a lucrative, but shady, job opportunity? However, this sort of meddling might not go unnoticed, and clever mice best tread lightly around sleeping giants.

- ▶ Insider info for a heist or hit, or a clue that unwittingly leads deeper down a larger plot.
- ▶ [TRF 212]

◆

Ogmund's band of Protectors were disgraced after his death and posthumous censure. Bitter and angry, they're now cast adrift looking for other, alternative forms of livelihood.

- ▶ But to exact revenge against the ones who shamed them: that they'd do for free.
- ▶ [TROIKA]
- ▶ [ART 12, 24, 31-35]

◆

A shipment of Burn goes missing. If the Carrion Birds were robbed, they would likely seek vengeance, while the Splinter Hawks instead may want to keep the affair under wraps so as to not be discovered. Regardless, no one wants Uptown's attention. But who would be so brazen as to steal from the Apocalyptics? Perhaps foreign Scrap-pers who don't know better than to fear retribution? Or Defilers who seed spore fields for their young King?

- ▶ [MOL 249, 275]

◆

The characters are ambushed when vulnerable. Overturn furniture to block doors, take out the lights so the intruders stumble blindly, gouge eyes, and turn everyday objects into weapons. Adapt and survive with any means necessary.

- ▶ Drawn blades during peaceful negotiations or while sleeping unarmed; Protectors and Preservists breach through doors, gun flashes in the spreading gas. Shake up stale combat encounters and reward creative thinking and skill combinations.

FATE

A character is invited to a tarot reading, perhaps seemingly out of nowhere. How, why, and by whom?

- ▶ The Mother of Ravens herself?
- ▶ [MOL 231]



◆

For Psychopaths, Justitian's winter is heaven. Unaccounted transients are pouring in, and nobody will miss a few. If one owns property, it's easy to get rid of the bodies, stacked in the walls, incinerated in furnaces, and buried in the foundation. Within such a den, it's even easy to lure one's enemies and see them scramble like ants under a boot.

- ▶ Darwin, and maybe Vadim, in Flotsam's bowels.
- ▶ [MOL 153, 225, 229]

◆

The party has been tasked with acquiring a certain item, perhaps for a Neolybian collector, and are to be handsomely rewarded if they succeed. But to do so they must first gain access to, and overcome the formidable security of, the Cross Quarter, Flotsam, Uptown, or one of the Advocate houses.

- ▶ Vicarent's Bidenhander, Tolomei's coin, an exquisite painting in the Museum, or a set of classified documents
- ▶ [TRF 174-175, 248] • [MOL 223] • [BA 121]



The daughter of a corrupt Judge is in the hands of an Apocalyptic Flock, which must be kept from the rest of the Judiciary. Is she fleeing, in love with one of the members, or being used to coerce her father? Or has she embraced the criminal life, and maybe even become the Flock's Raven? Can the Judge do what's necessary, will he seek revenge if the characters fail, or will he protect his child to the end?

- ▶ Hawker perhaps
- ▶ [HW 20-21]



Serve your time in the Cleft – abusive guards, contraband smuggling, shankings, riots, and surviving from day to day. Is being imprisoned the only way to reach an elusive target, such as Sikorski? Does one of the convicts gain the attention of Kant, and can they thus keep their secrets and their mind?

- ▶ [MOL 101, 249]



A prisoner is needed for their knowledge or as a valuable asset during a particular mission. Will the Judges allow them to leave the Cleft for a good cause? Or must one go through the Judges' allies or plan a jailbreak to get the asset out of their bonds?



The characters are invited to a grand play at the Odeon to enjoy some culture in a decaying world. But mid-play some citizens scream out their political dissent, anonymous in the vast crowd; a political assassination or coup is attempted; or do the party get a foreshadowing glimpse of the history of the Judges from the play?

- ▶ [TRF 248]



Seeing movements just outside the corner of one's eye. Hearing strange, clicking sounds from the darkness of an alley. Feeling watched.

- ▶ Owls, Shutters, Rotter, Palers, Sissma's brood, and so on.
- ▶ [MOL 53, 143]



Some madmen wear a uniform, free to commit atrocities under the pretense of order: Preissler using whatever brutal means necessary to kill the Clans; an Executioner cutting a notch in his hammer, savoring the kill of every dissident; or a Subaltern razing fringe settlements, preventing them from aiding the enemy.

- ▶ [MOL 35]

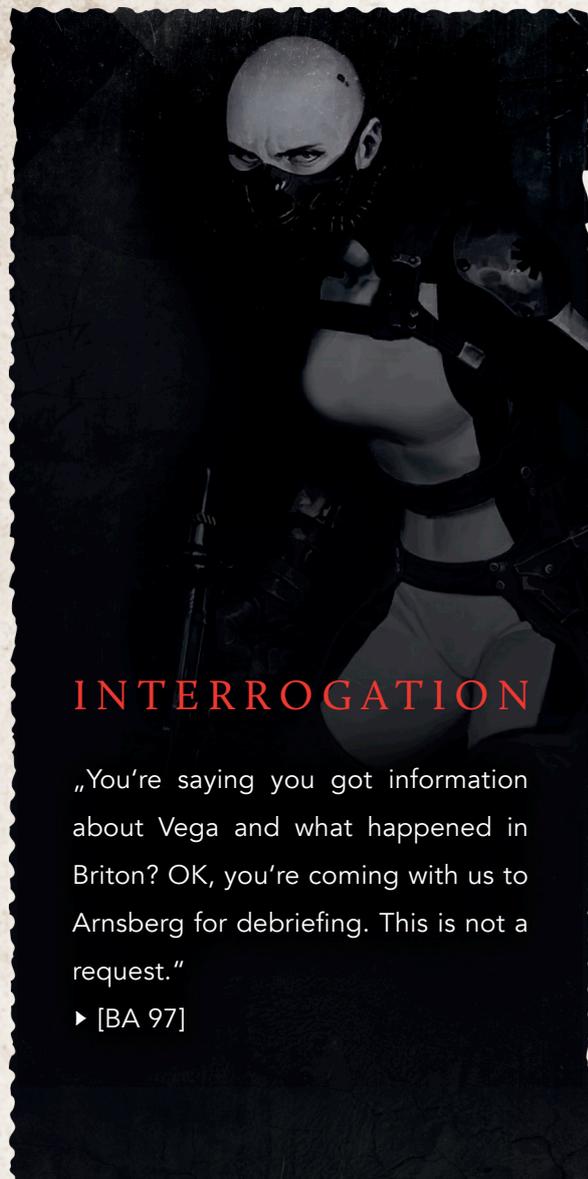


A punitive expedition has disappeared in the shadow of the Ice Barrier and needs to be rescued, perhaps because of a storm, revolt, or Clan attack. Is the party guards, investigators, or convicts themselves?



A Stukov Nomad, Pneumancer, or similarly mysterious Clanner has arrived in the Protectorate and seems to want to... talk?

- ▶ [TRF 293-95] • [KAT 213, 217] • [PNEUMANCERS]



INTERROGATION

„You're saying you got information about Vega and what happened in Briton? OK, you're coming with us to Arnsberg for debriefing. This is not a request.“

- ▶ [BA 97]

PAPERWORK

The clues are stacked high, yet it's all just nonsense. So now it's time to go to the archives. Suspected sightings of Black Judges – what does the house deeds of their hideouts implicate? The Head Collector's victims – is there a pattern between what they sold to the Central Exchange? The strange physiology of the Bear Brothers – study the medical texts of the Spitalians and deduce the origin of their prowess.

▶ [TRF 90-91, 170, 175, 245, 250-253, etc.]



Hector or Buto has something or someone the characters need, and a sit-down has been proposed. What do they wish in return, and can the party risk coming unarmed?

▶ [MOL 161, 237]



Unrest is about to boil into a full blown riot. Can the Judges stem the tide or will the violence spill out amongst the city?

▶ The protests can be led by, or against, Jehammedans, Scrappers, Africans, Anabaptist, or the Cooperative.

▶ [TRF 216-217]



During a tavern visit, weird sounds are noticed from below. If investigated, the characters see something not meant for their eyes. Now the witnesses need to be caught and silenced – with whatever brutal means necessary.

▶ Hector conspiring with Argus about betraying the Dust Riders, or Buto torturing another captured Shutter.

▶ [MOL 161, 227, 237]



An infamous outlaw has been sighted and now the bounty hunters are flocking. Are mercenaries banding together to take down the dangerous quarry? Does it turn into a free-for-all as every fool with a gun wants to try their luck? Maybe the right call is to take the side of the hunted, in this case?

▶ One of the Most Wanted or even Steelbeam himself

▶ [TRF 286-287] • [MOL 169]



The fever is burning you up. Your head is pounding. Shivers. You knew that the butcher's cough didn't sound right. Can you ride this out? More importantly will it spread, and what will the Spitalians do to contain the contagion?



One of the huge Fuel Stations in the Rubble has been emptied of its chemical contents or, if possible, set alight. Now the land around it is turned into toxic waste. Was this an accident when someone tried to siphon extra pesticide; did a bitter Provider sabotage it; or was it a deliberate attack against the city's food production?

▶ [TRF 133] • [COTM 13-15]



The ever pragmatic Rutgar sees the value of someone, due to their deeds or thirst for truth, and takes them under his wing. They therefore become one of his agents, introduced to a gray-scale world of intrigue.

▶ Akin/similar to Black Mary, etc.

▶ [MOL 95, 121]



Someone of importance is caught inside Dog's End, which is quarantined by the Spitalians. Do the rescuers even realize why the settlement is sealed off; will they, too, be trapped within; has the one sought succumbed to the contagion; and will the Corpse Eaters inadvertently be released by their actions?

▶ [TRF 223]



AMONGST GIANTS

A character is invited to attend the Senate, either as a spectator or as an expert for the passing of a new political mandate. For the latter, they should prepare for a verbal slugging match when defending their statement. All this can be an invaluable insight into the life of Justitian's titans. Does one of them even suggest a personal meeting?

- ▶ Laakon, Generation, Rutgar
- ▶ [MOL 57, 93-97]



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- ▶ Black Mary, etc.
- ▶ [MOL 95, 121]



A character miraculously survives an execution – perhaps earning a rope-burn scar along their neck. Why were they put to death? Was it a mistake, or do they know something that they shouldn't?



A covert group from one of the characters' Cults is on a secret mission. If they were to be discovered, they could bring wrath down upon themselves and the Cult as a whole in the city.

- ▶ Scourgers hunting the Dusk Riders or Nestor; Preservists, Black Judges, or Shutters attacking members of a supposed allied Cult



„That damn Ascetic is distracting Dr. Ramon again! If he wants a patient treated, he needs to take 'em here like everybody else, and not drag away the good doctor to the Cross Quarter.“ or „Goslar has not been himself for some time now. He's been reclusive, absent from the temple, and even that blonde floozy of his seems worried.“

- ▶ [MOL 43, 247, 259, 273]



For whatever reason, the characters are invited to the Ambassadors' Quarters. Are they seen as valuable representatives of their Cult and creed, as lowborn novelties, or as honorable guests who may freely partake in the exorbitant luxuries? Regardless, an immense responsibility rests on the guests to avoid a diplomatic scandal.

- ▶ Luren, Wakili
- ▶ [MOL 155, 193]



The party is cornered by a numerically superior enemy. Fortunately, they've been run to ground in a largely abandoned area: the Tech Central during summer or deep in a Defiler Street. Now they need to fortify themselves and make the bastards pay for every inch.



Someone sits on invaluable experience from a long and venerable life. But how to coax it out of their addled mind? Can a beautiful lady be convinced to entertain a sensual – and rather senile – dinner guest: Samuel? Or must a dying Judge be interviewed at the Sanatorium without Keszler or the guards intervening? What knowledge are they in possession of that is worth such trouble?

- ▶ [TRF 220-221] • [MOL 31, 255]



An architect or mason does not only design a building, but also its secrets – escape tunnels, passageways in the walls, secret vaults, entrances to the Underground, or attics to lock away disgraceful family members in. Do the schematics need to be stolen for a job? Or are they found accidentally?

- ▶ House Wender
- ▶ [TRF 174-175]

One of the sisters Liah & Liah wants to escape. Problem is which one? And would the other prevent her sister from leaving? Does the person organizing the escape only want to keep the Magpie for their own pleasure? Or could she finally live a free life if given the chance?

▶ [TRF 186]

In order to finalize their masterpiece, an artist has resorted to desperate measures: ingesting Muse. However, now they risk being executed if discovered, and madness might've replaced eccentricity. The painting is sublime though – transcending mortal senses.

▶ [TRF 117] • [KAT 192-199]

The Scourgers are closing in on Nestor. But they are strangers in this land and need collaborators to follow the leads and spring the trap. But the stolen hoard is incredible, and riches do foul things to people – maybe even to honorable Lions.

▶ [TRF 105] • [TKG 88]

„OK, there's a shortage of Burn, right? Yet, some say it still flows. So where does it go? My guy shared a campfire, and a bed, with a Flock in Franka and overheard some interesting things. Now. You can know too, but you gotta pay me first“.

... „Thank you kindly. They were called the Blood Birds. Operating out of Born. There's more, but the rest will cost double“.

... „All right. The cargo was headed for Ferropol. Now get out of my sight.“

▶ [TRF 50] • [MOL 249]

A herd of reindeer is found dead in vast numbers. The cause of death – and the reason for them wandering far off course – is as of yet unknown.

▶ If nothing else, the pelts are worth a fortune. Is the mystery better than the answer?

▶ [TRF 104]

A group of prostitutes need assistance to protect them from, or to exact revenge against, outside abusers: a customer who slashed the face of one of the girls, a Woodpecker that enslaves the Magpies, or the aforementioned lord who wants to collect his „rightful“ heir. If taking it further, have the women taken their protection and independence in their own hands? Have they thus allied with Phoebe and so must become involved in the Broiled trade?

▶ [MOL 249]

The Krawe are dead, but their legacy remains. Out in the southeast, past the borders, stone pillars can be found where sacred rites were once performed. If one were to complete the pilgrimage, who knows where it can lead? If the horrors of the Red Expanse can be overcome, that is.

▶ The Clan's hidden sanctums, built on the legacy of the Bygones. Or the ancestral weapons of their champions, resting on great altars.

▶ [TRF 38-39, 101, 105]



THE LABYRINTH

Secrets await in the maze that is the Badger's Burrow: a large, seemingly forgotten workshop; a brilliant but unscrupulous Scrapper striving to outshine the Manufacturers to whom he once belonged; the grizzly site of a hidden massacre; clanking pipes ominously signaling one's approach to the waiting Steelbeam; or creations never meant to see the light of day.

▶ [TRF 197-199] • [MOL 169]



The secrets of the Jehammedan Quarter must be kept from Uptown so as to not invoke its wrath. Has an Observer or wayward member of the flock seen something not for their eyes, such as the presence of Naraka? Are the reparation taxes stolen before they can be delivered to Uptown, maybe as a plot to further undermine the Quarter's autonomy? Regardless, the situation is rapidly destabilizing for the Council.

▶ [TRF 232] • [MOL 211-213, 217]



A listening- or jamming device is discovered atop a rooftop in Uptown, the Great Northern Wall, the Steel Monolith, or even the Radio Tower. Only a Roper could surely reach such a remote location. Or was it put there by a hacked drone?

▶ [TRF 161, 271]



The Carrion Birds are moving against the Dust Riders. A small group of Owls and Crows are to scale the immense hull of the Flotsam with the help of corrupt Ropers to strike just before first light. Are the characters part of the attackers, or are they made aware of the plot? More importantly, how do they react to the information?



The Advocate houses expand their power with espionage, political maneuvering, economics, and darker means still. But not least by marriage. A house's children are married off and absorbed by their new family, but some still remain loyal to their roots. But if the new spouse can't be manipulated by a power behind the throne, surely the coming offspring will be more malleable.

▶ [TRF 174-175]



Someone in the Office of Internal Affairs smuggled out a certain file before it was burnt or archived. Info on the Black Judges, perhaps singled out for destruction by Rutgar himself? Or dirt on one of Emiel's rivals? If the latter, can it be altered before sent back – to change incriminating evidence, make Salvano look like a fool, or set a trap?

▶ [TRF 250-253] • [MOL 95, 107]



One of the Heavy Duty Harnesses is ready to be stolen – in cooperation or conflict with the Dust Riders. Is Bastille finally coerced; are pulsors or electrical cables used to overload the Harness' mechanisms; or are Ropers bribed to hoist it with wires?

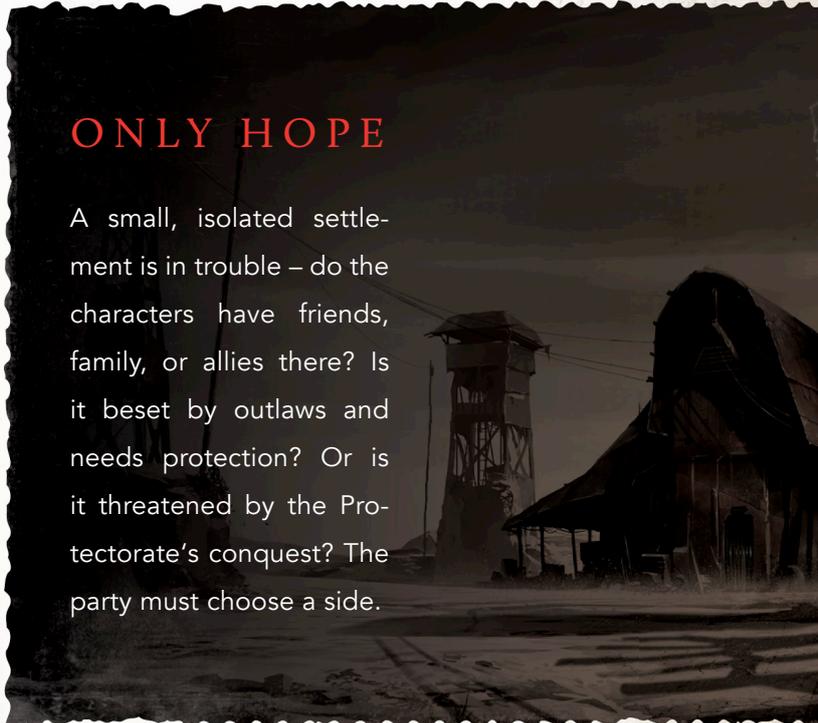
▶ [MOL 85]



A certain group has become a threat as they carry far more powerful weapons than seems likely. What are their motives, and are they so dangerous that diplomacy is preferable to violence? Or is the key to hinder their supplier, whomever they may be?

▶ A Scrapper or Neolybian selling simple firearms to rebellious Clanners, like the Cooperative? Or a small, mercenary group supplied with high-tech weapons from a Fuse or Sleeper.

▶ [TRF 216-217]



ONLY HOPE

A small, isolated settlement is in trouble – do the characters have friends, family, or allies there? Is it beset by outlaws and needs protection? Or is it threatened by the Protectorate's conquest? The party must choose a side.



A gruesome attack has befallen the city. Several farms in the Rubble stand empty, or citizens are found slain and dismembered.

▶ Has the Clans finally arrived in numbers, or is this something else?

▶ [MOL 143]



INFERNAL AFFAIRS

Black Mary has become more and more steeped in Justitian's criminal underbelly. In the eyes of the law and other criminals, she may now be indistinguishable from the other scum she's affiliated with.

- ▶ Whether or not she's still loyal to Rutgar is up to you.
- ▶ [MOL 95, 121]



A dogmatic figure leads a loyal community, which has become ever more isolationist and resistant to authority. Will their defiance only end when the Judges kick down the doors and gun everyone down, from child to elder? The situation may be complicated further when something or someone needs to be extracted from the compound – against the wishes of the leader, naturally.

- ▶ An offshoot of the Providers, radical Ascetics founding a new Eden, or a large family of wasteland hicks.
- ▶ [COTM 13-15]



Preissler finally snaps from a lifetime of horrors, and must be brought under control, or put down like a rabid dog. With his battle experience, preparations, and equipment, a hideout can be turned into an absolute death trap, and perhaps he has taken „clan conspirators“ as hostages as well. How will the other Preservists react to one of their own going rogue? And will this draw out Vrakul seeking vengeance?

- ▶ [MOL 35, 145]



Justitian is overflowing with signals for those with the ability to understand them. Are the characters part of a team gathering intelligence, or simply some fools with a radio? If a pattern is discovered, by skill or luck, can it be used to track the signal's origin? Can a trap be set for its recipient, but how would they react to being hunted? Or is discretion and counter surveillance the key to discerning who's really involved here?

- ▶ Lucia, Naraka, Aeshma, Echo, or even Beryll.
- ▶ [MOL 59, 89, 165, 217, 273]



A prisoner in your custody needs to be transported under guard: Gram captured and brought back for Justice; a Balelord who under torture can divulge military secrets; or a pale, amnesiac prisoner who is to be brought to Cathedral City. Transporting a living, conniving target is complicated though. Especially when their allies are on your trail.

- ▶ [TRF 286, 295] • [MOL 63]



Two different groups or individuals become witnesses to each others' crimes or secrets. If one falls so, too, does the other. Is the characters themselves, their allies, or an enemy one of said parties?

- ▶ Wicker might betray his superiors or other locations of the Cartel's victims. If Bosch is threatened, he has connections with both Rutgar and Emiel Salvano. And both Chroniclers and Carrion Birds know that the other inhabits the Underground as well.
- ▶ [MOL 95, 107, 159] • [HW 8]



A Scrapper in Cavernis unearths the find of their lifetime: a huge jewel, a nugget of rare mineral, or even a meteor fragment containing the Primer. Do they risk being stabbed by rival Scrapppers? Or are there Spitalian renegades desperate to acquire a raw Primer sample before the Spital does?

- ▶ Vega, Charcutier
- ▶ [TRF 79] • [BA 94-97] • [ART 110] • [TKG 31]

Shutters, like Aello and Relink, are on the party's trail after the events of Harm's Way, looking for Stringer's and Xerox's murderers. Will the characters resist arrest, or will they give up what they know and so risk making a powerful enemy of the Cartel?

▶ [MOL 65] • [HW 22]

A patrol is out in the Red Expanse south of Siege when they get cut off from friendly lines. Now they need to survive, and get back while their ammo still lasts. Are they in fact out to rescue someone, such as another military unit? Or do they come across something else out in the wastes?

▶ Meeting a Cartel expedition sent to Exalt, following the Angband documents, to explore the fallen city. Must they fight together to survive?

▶ [TRF 78, 105]

A steadily broadcasting signal has been triangulated out in the wasteland. Is it a plea for help, some kind of awakened technology, or a trap waiting to be sprung on the curious?

The characters become blessed with one of the greatest means to success: luck. Do they fortuitously come across enemy communications; are their foes impeded or scattered by storms; do a third party intervene when they are about to fall; or is a plan, like an attack against Impulse or Archot, foiled by something utterly mundane?

▶ Give underdogs a fighting chance, and establish a sense of history being stranger than fiction.

▶ [MOL 73, 93]

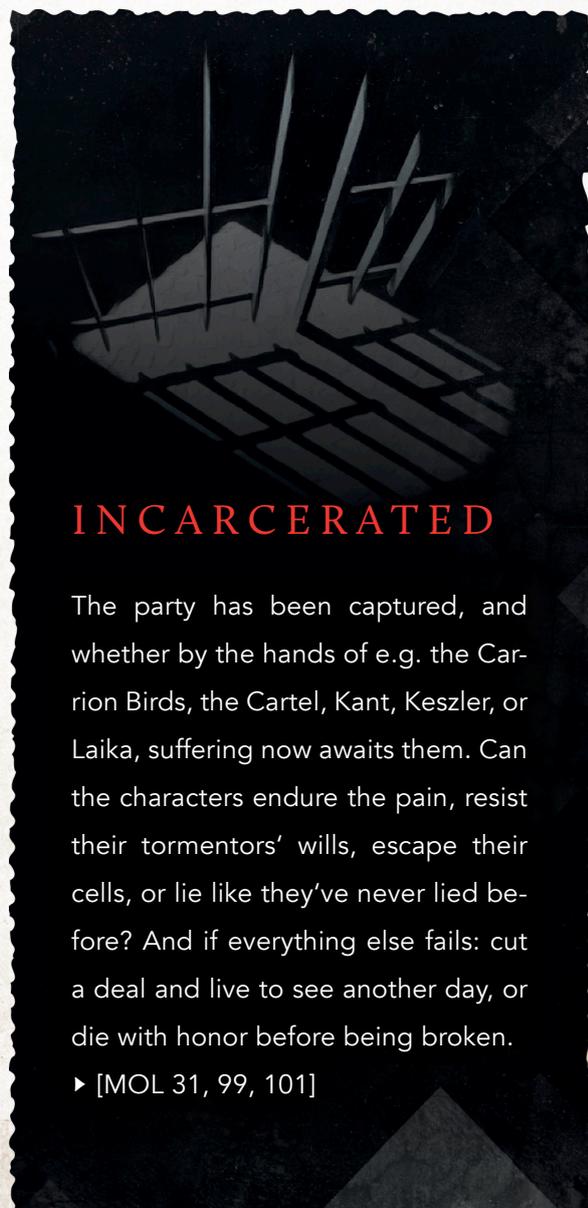
From the shadows of the alley, a ragged figure gurgles: „the King has come!“ Soon others like it emerge from the shadows; insects swarming in every nook and cranny.

▶ [TRF 275]

A grizzled mercenary is gearing up to take on a sizable bounty: Gram. However, the merc is in fact also a, maybe former, Hellvetic who aims to erase a stain on their Cult's honor. Are they covert for plausible deniability from the Alpine Fortress, or is this mission not sanctioned at all? How will the party react when „taken alive“ is not an option? All this might be a moot point though, because Gram and his retinue are far from easy prey.

▶ [TRF 286]

An old Scrapper Fox entices the party to recover the find of a lifetime out in the wasteland. But at the site, he attempts to seal them in the underground among his previous victims, so he can later loot their corpses in peace. Can the characters find their way out of the ruins before they succumb – does this lead to an unexpected discovery, above or below ground? Or must they use their survival skills and endure until the bastard's patience runs out?



INCARCERATED

The party has been captured, and whether by the hands of e.g. the Carrion Birds, the Cartel, Kant, Keszler, or Laika, suffering now awaits them. Can the characters endure the pain, resist their tormentors' wills, escape their cells, or lie like they've never lied before? And if everything else fails: cut a deal and live to see another day, or die with honor before being broken.

▶ [MOL 31, 99, 101]

PLAGUE

Someone falls victim to acute symptoms of an unlikely kind. A disease, chemical compound, or radiation? Or even something far more rare like the Raze, entropic nanites, or the Primer? How the hell were they exposed or poisoned, what will happen to them, and where can one find a cure?

- ▶ Do the characters need to find the organs of an Aberrant to cleanse the rot; seek aid from Clanner hermits or an Anubian in hiding; transport the patient to the Spital; or ask a far older source for aid?
- ▶ [KAT 118-119] • [ART 106-127]



A character finds themselves in a physical duel – are they resolving a conflict in the Crowbar or the Pit Fights with their lives at stake; are they thrown in as sacrifices, like Markesh; or are they simply in it for the glory? To win would they enhance their own strength, or try to impair their foe's? What if they ultimately reach Lupo or Atama – is the risk of dying with honor better than living with none?

- ▶ [TRF 186-187, 205] • [MOL 127, 241, 261]



The Advocate houses are dour places of echoing hallways and rampant conspiracy. Are the characters outsiders who investigate among glaring eyes? Are they stepping on their kins' necks, and vice versa, to ascend the family hierarchy? Can they gain the ear of an elder to influence the house's stance in the senate? Plots are forged behind locked doors – can they gain access or eavesdrop unseen? Or is the only solution left to burn the wretched place to the ground – by uncovering its schemes to the world or something far more literal.

- ▶ Laakon, Darius Masek, Emiel Salvano, Aritha Manteufel
- ▶ [TRF 174-175] • [MOL 97, 105-109]



Breaching a sealed carriage bound for Justitian could make someone very rich. However, info of its route, protection, contents, and response force must first be determined. Can the latter be lured away with the village warning systems?

- ▶ And if one is suicidally ambitious, going after Bosch's carriage, where the difficulties are multiplied manyfold, is another possibility.
- ▶ [TRF 130, 206-207] • [MOL 159]



An informant seems to be warning the scum of Downtown before they can be brought to justice. Following the clues – from the top in Uptown or below in the gutters – will lead to the conclusion that high ranking Cult members are collaborating with the outlaws. Will the investigators then be brickwalled or „relocated“ as their superiors cover their tracks; are they silenced by the Cult's own agents; or would nothing really change even if the truth is uncovered, for such are the ways of rulers?

- ▶ „Forget it, it's Uptown“. Levantis, Laika, Aello, the Office of Internal Affairs. Operation Archetype & Rutgar's cooperation with Bosch
- ▶ [TRF 178, 252-253] • [MOL 65, 95, 99, 115, 159]



A dust storm of monstrous proportions draws closer. Winds roar and lightning splits the sky.



Bumblebee is beseeched by the Judiciary to find a solution to Justitian's waning energy supply. Can the Gyrodome be expanded to reap the thunder on a grander scale? Or he may instead try to create a version of the Fulgur, requiring very rare, specialized components. Otherwise, a foolhardy solution could be to acquire uranium from Cavernis...

- ▶ Will the Chroniclers object to such meddling; will the project be susceptible to catastrophic failure; or must the party risk their hides when gathering data during a thunderstorm?

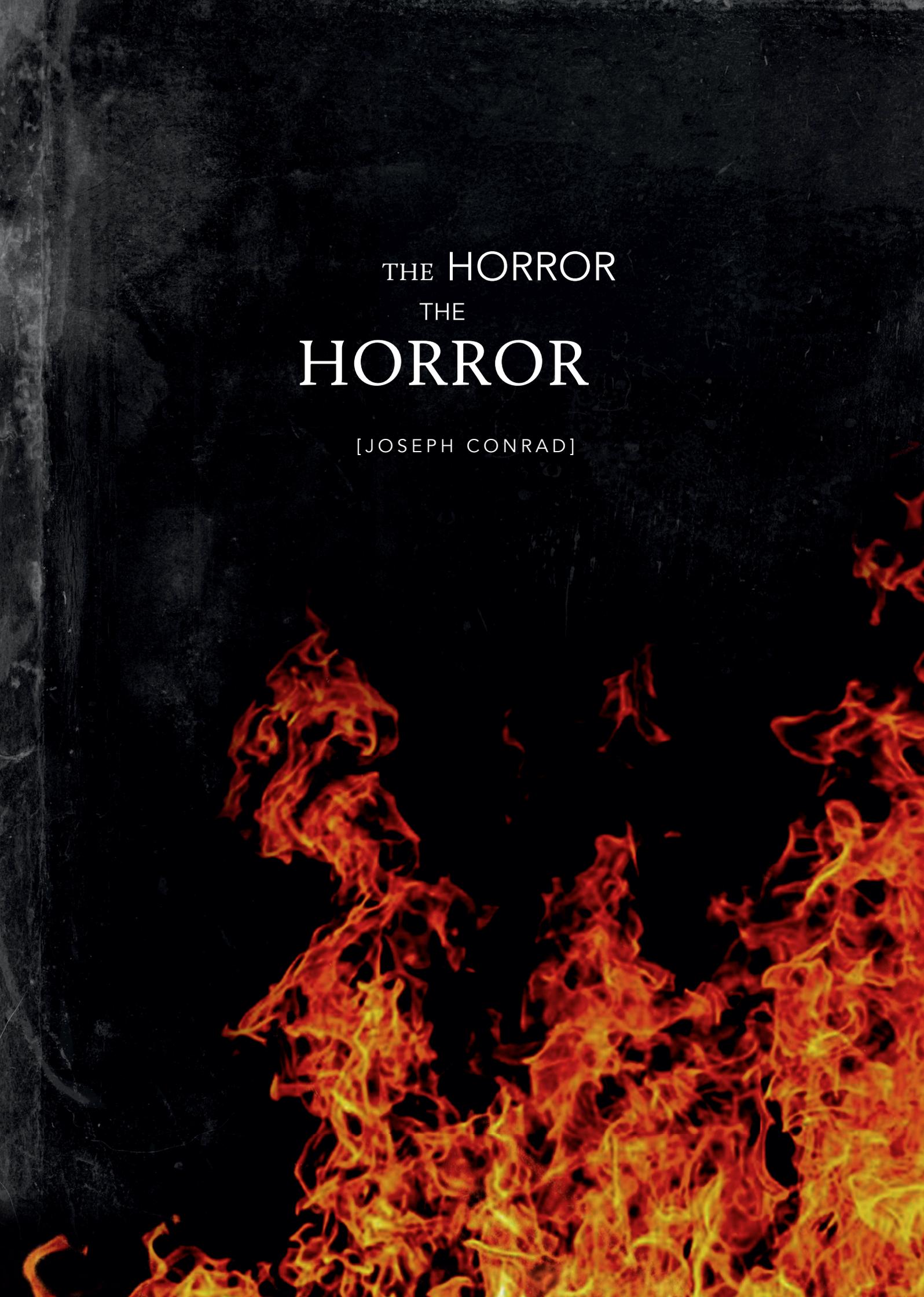


STAY OUT
OF MY
TERRITORY

[BREAKING BAD]

THE HORROR
THE
HORROR

[JOSEPH CONRAD]





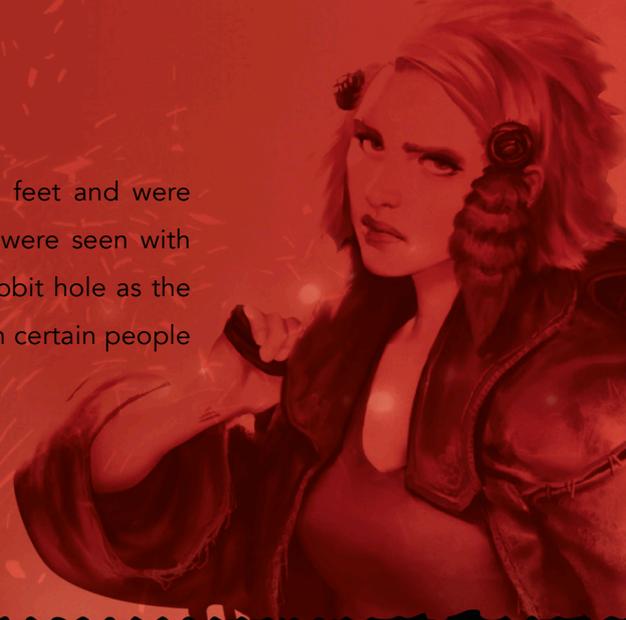
Justition Burns

THE PLOTS OF GIANTS, THE ANCIENT WAR, THE END TIMES

SPARK

One of Cinnamon's cell members ends up murdered: they got cold feet and were poisoned. The victim's kin describe how they became reclusive and were seen with strangers – specifically a blonde, young woman. This leads down a rabbit hole as the woman becomes a mythical figure that seems to have been talking with certain people all around the city. Slowly the pieces form a larger whole.

- ▶ Race against time to stop her gunpowder plot.
- ▶ Sprenger, Atama, Khaleb, or others
- ▶ [MOL 127, 129, 135]



Heresy is suspected to fester in the Cross Quarter, and Cathedral City has sent its own – perhaps even an Acheron – to cut out the rot within. The Scions of Nihil will likely not go quietly into the night though. Do they use Burn or forbidden oils? Or are they simply willing to go down in flames with the rest of the city?

- ▶ [TRF 229]

If the party descends below the streets, new mysteries unfold the deeper they go – perhaps not the ones first sought, either. Endless tunnels filled with swarms of insects, strange symbols, stalking figures, and technological wonders hidden from the world. Can the characters overcome the depths themselves, or is it wiser to negotiate with the denizens of the Underground to acquire guides? Either way, they best avoid the areas that intruders do not return from.

- ▶ [TRF 271-281] • [MOL 275]

A group of individuals have died mysteriously, seemingly attacked by an unseen assailant. However, these are no ordinary victims...

- ▶ Armed Palers shot by Arnika or another disillusioned Paler; Decoy 5 killing his way through Nullify's henchmen; or Eliza culling Sleepers or their pawns who may appear as Liquan Merchants
- ▶ [MOL 63, 67, 77] • [ART 123] • [BA 119]

Either by protecting Chevanski or crossing paths in the Defiler Streets, the party encounters Rotter. Hunting the strange Preservist proves hard though, when he makes the darkness his own. Strange sounds rattle the mind.

- ▶ Is he also manifesting more of Eidolon's phenomenons, such as the creation of more Usudi?
- ▶ [MOL 47, 53] • [KAT 231]

A violent and strange crime scene is discovered. Solid material seems to have been dissolved and turned to dust; electrical devices have gone haywire; or armor and walls have been pierced like cloth. What information can be discerned here, and can it be utilized for when these phantoms are encountered again?

- ▶ Corium, Naraka, Nullify, etc.
- ▶ [MOL 77-79, 217]

In the south, an AMSUMO suddenly emerges from the wasteland. Has one of Noret's steel men wandered off from its usual domain? Or is it one of the mythical Renegades? Regardless, now any number of Chroniclers, Enemoi, fortune seeking Scrapppers, and glory hungry Neolybians might be gunning for the formidable creature – and presumably clash over who gets the spoils. But why has it appeared now? Does it have a purpose, inscrutable as it may be?

- ▶ [TRF 107]



An immense explosion erupts somewhere in the city.
 ▶ [MOL 79, 89, 129]



The rising threat has made the people of the Protectorate mobilize for war: even Cathedral City and Liqua. Are there ulterior motives at work? Must the Judiciary accept desperate allies, even if it means autonomous troops in their lands and the resentment of the Cluster, the Jehammedans, and the Spital?



During a debate in the senate or a passionate speech, Arshot stutters, falters, and collapses. He is quickly carried away from the public eye, and the Judges try to suppress the frantic crowd. Will he be recovering? Either way the damage is done, and the rumors that the titan has fallen spread like wildfire.
 ▶ [MOL 93]

FRIEND OR FOE

A 235. The characters have been sent to observe the newly arrived convoy. What if they're also tasked with sabotaging the vehicles? The narrow causeway is not easy to hide on when surrounded by hostiles or a spreading fire. Or will the party find that the Clan are not the monsters they're portrayed to be?

▶ [TRF 14-15, 92, 262, 301-303]



Via an expendable intermediary, an imposing, shadowy figure coerces the characters to do its bidding. It does so without revealing its own identity, other than it seems to have incredible reach, means, and capabilities. What is worse: to resist or to comply?

▶ Triglaw, Nullify, Bosch, or the Mother of Ravens.
 ▶ [MOL 73, 77, 159, 231]



How would the Dust Riders react if they knew that their old bane still hunted them? Would some ache to disembowel Bejide and her Scourgers, or would they wish to flee again? And will Argus be discovered or betray them once more? Such discord is certainly what Bejide – and Hector – wants. During this turmoil, can Vulco keep his Flock together and prevail against the odds? Will they bide their time in Flotsam or brazenly hitting their foes where they live – with blades, poison, or a stolen Heavy Duty Harness? Can the characters help the broken family achieve some measure of katharsis? Or will they fracture from without and within?

▶ [MOL 85, 195, 221-229, 237]



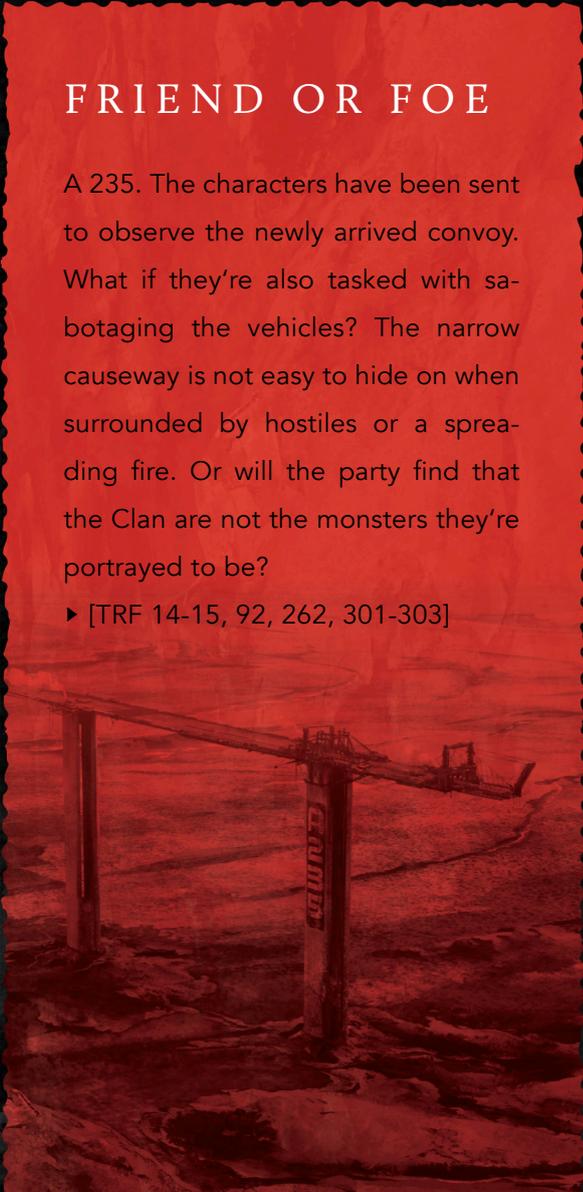
While analyzing statistics collected from the Observers or studying a piece of static stream found in an artifact, the screen flickers, and an anomaly emerges in the data. Long forgotten information embedded in the code, the borders of Nullify's hidden domain within the Cluster, or remains of the fractal loops of 216 – perhaps even with the glimpsed vestiges of a consciousness?

▶ [MOL 77]



The beautiful beggar woman extends her hand for alms. Has she purposefully sought out one of the characters? If touched, a storm of past and future memories surges through the mind. What secrets are hers for the taking? Or is the character blissfully boring?

▶ [MOL 277]



Perhaps the way to reach the Cluster is not through the gauntlet of the Exit Level at all. Can Vesna instead get someone to „open the gates“ for them? A Chronicler that’s been subjected to coercion or memetics; someone whose desperation can be exploited, like Decoy 5; lithe Palers smuggled in via small, unassuming containers; or someone who can scale the awesome walls of Uptown to infiltrate from without.

▶ [TRF 271-281] • [MOL 67, 269]

Iwanov must prevent Dauphine from testifying at all costs. Can he discredit her with planted evidence? Will he hire thugs to reach her, the list of names, or Levantis’ case files in his stead? Will he resort to hitting the house with arson or explosives? Regardless, he’ll adapt and get it done. Can Levantis, his associates, or the characters follow the clues before it’s too late? And if the Black Judge, and his allies, are too cunning, perhaps Dauphine must be used as bait.

▶ [MOL III-III5, 123]

Something big is about to go down. Aello and Laika’s Pack are moving to apprehend Buto; the Carrion Birds are taking back the Flotsam; or Preservists and Protectors are moving to, unwisely, assault Bosch’s estate. But the Great Cleanse was a wake-up call for many, and they don’t intend to suffer the same fate as the East Wind Flock.

▶ [TRF 41-42, 182, 206-207] • [MOL 65, 99, 159, 161]

The Cluster has flagged someone as a public enemy, and now all of Uptown is hunting them. Has Impulse pulled strings to apprehend Chevanski or Lucia in order to weaken Triglaw, or did Nullify manipulate the records to get rid of Load, Steelbeam, or Decoy 5? Are other parties, like the characters, drawn in, and can the critical knowledge be retained while the noose tightens?

▶ [MOL 47, 67-69, 73, 77, 89, 169]

Lucia is relentlessly hunted by Naraka, and if cornered she might detonate the payload and devastate her enemies, the city around her, and even herself. Are the characters taking a side in the machinations of Ancients? Or can the Marauders’ pawns in fact be manipulated to take each other out?

▶ Orchestrated by Impulse, Nullify, Corium, or Trice.

▶ [MOL 73, 77, 79, 89, 217, 277]

Beryll’s fate will have far reaching consequences. If he were to be rid of the deadbolt and survive his attackers, who will follow him when venturing to the dispensers in the Stukov and beyond: Kreda, the Palers of Sinder, or the characters themselves whether memetically enslaved or by their own choice? And what will happen when he finds his kin – can the foundations of Project Tannhäuser be laid yet again?

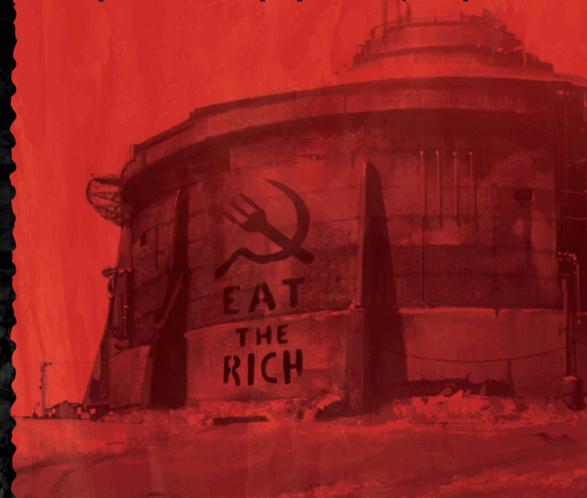
▶ [MOL 267, 273]

UPRISING

The Cooperative’s call for justice has steadily been replaced by the sentiment „eat the rich“, and they’ve gained many members and allies among the city’s downtrodden. Blood in the streets may soon follow, and Doctor Ramon’s clinic will turn into a field hospital. Is he the only one able to calm his peers and end the madness?

▶ Or was the rebellion in fact sparked by his death?

▶ [TRF 216-217] • [MOL 43, 133]



DESCENT

Far from the city – needing a long, hard journey to reach – a mysterious leader has become a thorn in the side of the ruling Cults. Yet those who've been sent to investigate, or terminate, the prophet were lost or swayed by their mad brilliance. Can the next one succeed, or will they, too, join the ever growing following?

▶ Callisto forever changed by her „brother“

▶ [TKG 96, 102, 179-181, 187]



The Splinter Hawks have grown powerful and are now ready to act. Broiled is sold everywhere, and networks with the Dust Riders, the Cartel, and Gram have been established. Will the Hawks be content in gutting the Carrion Birds financially, or will they also do it quite literally? Are the Birds simply too lumbering, too archaic to meet this threat without resorting to war and drawing the attention of Uptown? Would the Mother of Ravens send Jade or the Head Collector after the upstarts? Or would she recognize the weakness of her own Flock and embrace some needed change?

▶ [TRF 286] • [MOL 218, 231, 239, 249, 279]



You look sideways to the one next to you. Why do they suddenly seem so... wrong? Memetics worming their way into your mind? Has Jade or Trice donned a new face right at your side? Or has the paranoia finally taken root?

▶ [MOL 239, 277] • [ART 210-225]



The Pictons have come and may be led by Balor himself. They have penetrated deeply, following the scent of the Will. Whether they find it directly or not, their collision with one of Aries' Horned Nine and the carriers of the artifact is inevitable yet again.

▶ Do they also seek that which banished their God from these lands long ago?

▶ [TRF 51] • [MOL 217] • [BA 101] • [CotF 13-15]



Hundreds of troops from Siege or Justitian are sent to hold the line against the hordes, maybe to respond to the burning of the Rubble and therefore getting caught in a trap laid by Sissma's brood. Can they succeed against all odds? [MOL 143]



The Head Collector must be lured into a trap if he's to be stopped. Is Zander used as bait? Since Belmondo has seen the murderer's face, can he be tracked to a recurring location, like a sewer exit? Or could some form of memetic suggestion or signal be used to trigger him into action? Regardless, the characters will realize that they're not dealing with a simple butcher. The Head Collector uses the surroundings to stalk them, gets assistance from the Carrion Birds, and relentlessly pursues his target seemingly impervious to harm – an inhuman killer.

▶ [MOL 139, 189, 279]



To defeat Kriegsmaschine6 and reach the Cluster, the Palers of C-3 need e.g. Corium's molecule dissolving technology or Steelbeam's destructive capabilities to even stand a chance. But to do so, a brave force needs to engage the automaton headlong to distract it while the trap is sprung – but their fate is likely a foregone conclusion.

▶ [MOL 79, 169, 269]

Long lasting enemies need to bury the hatchet to defeat, or even just survive, a common threat growing on the horizon. All wounds don't heal so easily though, and some simply can't be convinced to suffer the yoke of peace. And if the parties can't unite, will the looming threat swallow them all?

- ▶ Atonke seeking aid from Preservists against Markurant, but Kranzler might still arrest him; Decoy 5 joins with Steelbeam and certain Chroniclers against Nullify.
- ▶ [MOL 33, 37, 67, 77, 169, 207, 159, 275]

While a, presumably Chronicler, character is in the Cluster, the power suddenly fluctuates, and Agents scramble through the halls. What's going on, and is the character important enough to be kept in the loop?

- ▶ Membrane and Alias' virtual duel strains the system; the Reality Formula cascades; or the Exit Level is about to be breached, and the enemies are literally at the gates.
- ▶ [TRF 258-275, 280-281] • [MOL 71, 75]



FLASHBACK

If Markurant regains his lost memories, it could be the end. But what if someone else were to eat from the shell first? What would come from such an act, besides crippling insanity? Could some semblance of the memories be understood, however fleeting, and could that insight be used to defeat the young King? Or will his presence forever mold the inferior mind?

- ▶ [MOL 167, 275]

The counsel of the Mother of Ravens must be sought, perhaps to aid Masur. But how to convince her Flock of that without being killed on sight? And if Dejan were to find out, would he use the characters as scapegoats, decoys, or cat's-paws in his own plots against his family? Could the party descend the tunnels alone, without becoming swallowed by the depths? All this may be a moot point as the Mother of Ravens is fickle at best, and who knows how she will receive them – especially the message from Vasco and that which he represents.

- ▶ [MOL 45, 231-235]

New directions or information is disclosed regarding Mematic Walls, dispensers or a shipwreck adorned with a triangular symbol in the Stukov, or the chthonic ruins of the Bygones. However, the journey there is long and arduous through wastelands, hostile Clans, and other horrors. And what fate awaits the explorers if the dormant secrets are uncovered?

- ▶ The Cartographer, Palers of Sinder, Pictons, Beryll, Enceph, Black Atlantic's support fleet, Exalt, etc.
- ▶ [TRF 20-21, 64, 71] • [MOL 49, 69, 187, 273, 286-287] • [BA 101] • [CotF 13-15]

On Laakon's behalf, Advocates have contracted mercenaries to extract Archot's bastard in the Defiler Streets. However, if they can successfully acquire the boy, the Black Judges will likely descend on them before the target can be delivered. Will Protectors and Shutters then be sent in as a response too, clashing in the streets? And would Archot's mind finally break if the boy died in the crossfire? Is this where the Judiciary ultimately rips itself apart?

- ▶ [MOL 93-97, 141]

A Famulancer squad or Clanner merchant returns to Justitian carrying the Corpse Eater larvae. Is it kept in nutrient solvent to be delivered for research, or are one of the travelers infected? Regardless, its release in Justitian or Liqua could be catastrophic. And have some madmen planned for this to happen?

- ▶ Similarly, but far worse, perhaps Frankan refugees that have traversed the Gauntlet are infected with Black Water.
- ▶ [KAT 223] • [BA 271-275]



The ancient war is reaching its culmination, and resisting the creatures leading it is akin to suicide. The characters may thus have to resort to cunning and wits, but one must tread lightly when bargaining with monsters. And even if the characters were to succeed, they might have signed a devil's bargain with powers beyond their understanding.

- ▶ Establish a sense of outwitting, or merely surviving, old and terrible beings. Especially the Mother of Ravens, but with the Ancients in general. Perhaps appeal to the people they once were: Corium.
- ▶ [MOL 79, 217, 231]



These are dire times, and a summit is called to gather Justitian's giants. But how would the Chroniclers react if Kranzler invited Wakili or if Rutgar brought Bosch? Could Archot be reasonable if Laakon unveiled his close machinations with the Cluster? And what if Impulse brought on knowledge he's gained from the Mother of Ravens or Triglaw? Nevertheless, such a council will surely be an irresistible, and vulnerable, target for their enemies. Or will one of the gathered parties try to seize ultimate power once and for all?

- ▶ [MOL 33, 73, 93-97, 159, 193, 231]



Suffering from vivid nightmares; hearing the call of the Ether; feeling that one's thoughts are not one's own; or feeling inexplicable stress whenever hearing fingers drumming on a tabletop. One or more characters have an encounter with the other-worldly. Can they discover the origin and still retain their sanity?

- ▶ Apply supernatural elements relevant for the plot – akin to Ifrit's visions in Black Atlantic – or simply inflict psychedelic madness on the characters.
- ▶ [MOL 31] • [BA 249-251] • [ART 210-225]



Whether by sabotage, battle damage, or reckless tampering, the Fulgur is destabilizing and risks suffering a catastrophic chain reaction.

- ▶ [MOL 73]

REBIRTH

The Head Collector is no more. Did Trice or Enceph finally reach him; could an artifact successfully dispel the memetic lattice; was the Mother of Ravens really defeated; or needed his broken mind to shatter before it could be reforged? It matters little – for Cultrin has returned.

- ▶ [TRF 71] • [MOL 277-279]





A rare celestial phenomenon is seen in the heavens: an eclipse, comet, exploding orbiter, etc. What does it mean, or rather what do people think it does? Or is the burning sky together with the other calamities the ultimate sign of the End Times?



The air is heavy, and instinctual fear blooms in response to an unseen presence – monsters stalk the night. Follow their trail? Or are they already on someone else's... or yours?

- ▶ Corium, Naraka, Jade, Trice, the Head Collector, etc. or any conflict between or combination of the above.
- ▶ [MOL 79, 217, 239, 277-279]



Siege has failed, and the barbarians are at the gates!



The King is reborn; his spore field and swarm is growing. Anyone even descending the tunnels to localize him risks losing their free will. So how to smoke him out? Spitalian tech and compounds? Marduk oil and the rituals of the Anubians? Perhaps the Anabaptists of Briton and Bassham could tell the tales of how the Kings were slain before? Does the solution lie in an alliance to combine all of the above? Or is the answer simply lots and lots of explosives?

- ▶ [TRF 51-53] • [MOL 37, 207, 255, 275] • [BA 10-11]

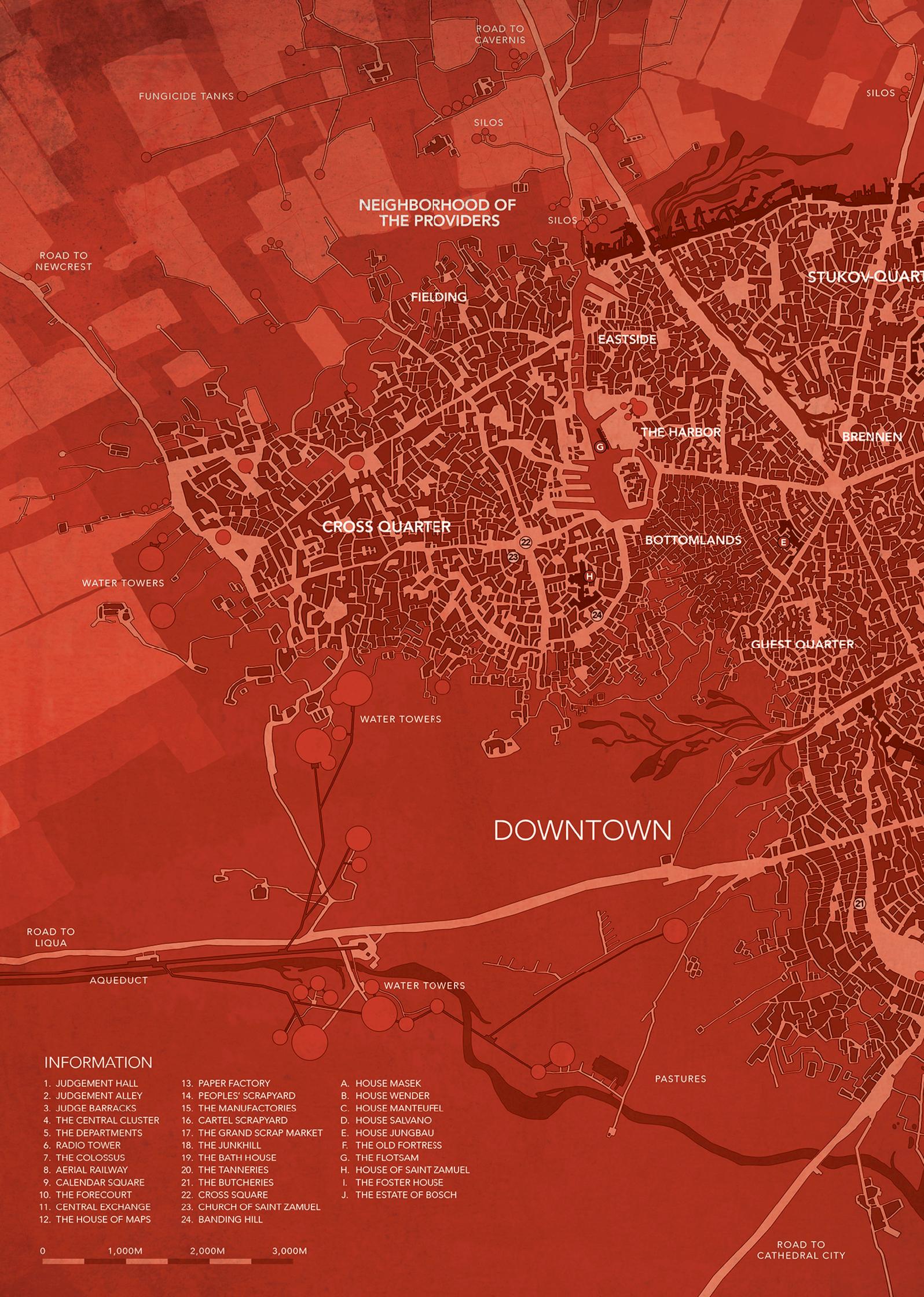




THE CITY BURNS

If chaos reigns, simply traversing the streets will be a monumental task as the Moloch's many factions put their plans in motion. Can something, anything, be saved? Or is there only survival left as the rabid dogs fight over the bleeding carcass?

- ▶ Archot dies; Cinnamon succeeds; the Cluster is attacked; Markurant grows too strong; the Clans invade in force...
- ▶ [MOL 93, 129, 275]



NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE PROVIDERS

CROSS QUARTER

DOWNTOWN

STUKOV QUARTER

FIELDING

EASTSIDE

THE HARBOR

BRENEN

BOTTOMLANDS

GUEST QUARTER

WATER TOWERS

WATER TOWERS

WATER TOWERS

PASTURES

INFORMATION

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. JUDGEMENT HALL | 13. PAPER FACTORY | A. HOUSE MASEK |
| 2. JUDGEMENT ALLEY | 14. PEOPLES' SCRAPYARD | B. HOUSE WENDER |
| 3. JUDGE BARRACKS | 15. THE MANUFACTORIES | C. HOUSE MANTEUFEL |
| 4. THE CENTRAL CLUSTER | 16. CARTEL SCRAPYARD | D. HOUSE SALVANO |
| 5. THE DEPARTMENTS | 17. THE GRAND SCRAP MARKET | E. HOUSE JUNGBAU |
| 6. RADIO TOWER | 18. THE JUNKHILL | F. THE OLD FORTRESS |
| 7. THE COLOSSUS | 19. THE BATH HOUSE | G. THE FLOTSAM |
| 8. AERIAL RAILWAY | 20. THE TANNERIES | H. HOUSE OF SAINT ZAMUEL |
| 9. CALENDAR SQUARE | 21. THE BUTCHERIES | I. THE FOSTER HOUSE |
| 10. THE FORECOURT | 22. CROSS SQUARE | J. THE ESTATE OF BOSCH |
| 11. CENTRAL EXCHANGE | 23. CHURCH OF SAINT ZAMUEL | |
| 12. THE HOUSE OF MAPS | 24. BANDING HILL | |

0 1,000M 2,000M 3,000M

ROAD TO CATHEDRAL CITY

JUSTITIAN I

THE RIGHTEOUS FIST
2598 AD



ROAD TO HARM

CEMETARY OF THE JUDGES

THE GREAT NORTHERN WALL

AMBASSADOR QUARTER

UPTOWN

UPTOWN WALLS

THE CRACK

STEEL MONOLITH

THE CLEFT

TECH-CENTRAL

ROAD TO CHALKBREACH

OUTSKIRTS

POLLEN SCRAPPERS' CAMP

ROAD TO THE SPITAL

PURGAN SCRAPPERS' CAMP

JEHAMMEDAN QUARTER

AFRICAN SCRAPPERS' CAMP

PASTURES



BELLUM
OMNIUM
CONTRA
OMNES

[THOMAS HOBBS]

LIES IN EVERY VOICE
STRIFE IN EVERY BREATH

