APPENDIX: HANDOUTS

Honored Mother,

Fear not the safety of your child. She goes to a greater purpose than you can ever imagine. The Mother of Life and Death will honor your great sacrifice when she returns to bless and purify this world. You will receive a place of honor by her holy side in return for the child you lose this night. Thank you, and may the Goddess bless you in all that you do.



CRIME SCENE I RUNES:

Her thousand children spring forth From the blood of the Seven.

CRIME SCENE 2 RUNES:

A fortnight hence the Baptism of Blood

CRIME SCENE 3 RUNES:

And from the darkened Waters Life shall grow anew.

CRIME SCENE 4 RUNES:

To cleanse the world

CRIME SCENE 5 RUNES:

The Fire will leap forth From the Second Mouth of the Beast

CRIME SCENE 6 RUNES:

At the birth of the season of life The Black Mother will rise Soon shall the forces of the Outer Dark be upon me. I am all that remains of my intrepid band of warriors, for in our shortsightedness we became complacent, convinced that the gates to the Beyond had been forever shackled and barred. Even when we sensed a new rise of mystical energy did we fail to take proper precautions. So long as we guarded the portal, we knew that our safety, and the safety of the region, would be secured.

What fools we were not to see.

The black-hearted Prince of Wallachia, the dark Impaler, called together the blackest magicians in Europe to drive us from his forests. In their black visions, they uncovered something none of us in our wildest nightmares would've imagined, but that makes perfect, terrifying sense.

The convergence is not limited to one spot. Hell springs forth from elsewhere, now; the Beast has a second mouth.

The demons came at us in the night, an army that even the chosen one and her intrepid band of Knights Templar could not ward away. They came from the rear, having spilled forth from the second Mouth of the Beast even as we guarded the seal upon the first.

The battle quickly became a slaughter.

I am all that remains.

But not for long. I hide this tome in the walls of a ruined castle in the hope that some future generation will find and remember our valiant struggle, and that our experiences may save others from the same fate.

Adair, Keeper of Law and Wisdom Month of Cuithe 1532, Gregorian Calendar October 20

I swear, ít's so easy ít's crímínal. That's funny when I thínk about ít because, you know, ít kínd íf ís crímínal. But they all just bow to my every whím. Soon I'll run thís organízatíon, and then they'll all see the glory of Annís.

Mother be praised,

Brigit

November 30

It's happened. I'm the High Priestess, now, and all the boys in the fraternity are falling over themselves for my attention.

I own them.

They'll make wonderful food for the Goddess when she arises.

But first, the ritual. I'll need seven children. Convincing the dupes to kidnap them for me won't be a problem. A few sexual favors should do the trick.

Goddess be praísed Brígít January 18

The police are involved. I guess I should've expected that would happen, what with bits of the prophecy needing to be left at each site. The boys were so nice to hand over pints of their blood every few weeks to make that happen.

It's no matter. Soon we'll have the seven we need, and their blood will baptize the Bower so that Black Annis can be free to cleanse this world of the filth of men. February 15

Police are covered. I've managed to use my special gifts to seduce some of the Sisterhood assassins to assist me. With enough conditioning, they'll be as devout as I myself am.

And I've been working on the backup plan. If this falls through, Annis can always rise through me. It has to be me. No one else is worthy. I am worthy. The Goddess is in me already. I will be the Goddess. Rítual notes:



- 1. Draw strength from the Mother through the portal.
- 2. Kill the goat and bathe in blood. Begin the recitation of the Rites of Annis.
- 3. Sacrífice the offerings, one by one.
- 4. Collect their blood in the sacred vessel.
- 5. Backup: If ritual interrupted, summon Sisters from Assassins. Their blood will baptize me that I can begin the Ascension when the time is right. Then, enlarge portal and leap through to the Sacred Place, where the children's blood I have already harvested hides beneath the water. Drink blood to sanctify the baptism.