# FIASCO'10 PLAYSET ANTHOLOGY VOL. 1

A SUPPLEMENT FOR FIASCO

KELLY FOREWORD BY





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"When you play, play hard."—Theodore Roosevelt

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This Playset Anthology is a supplement to *Fiasco* by Jason Morningstar and is not a complete game.

The playsets in this volume were each originally published as a "Playset of the Month" in 2010.

For more information about *Fiasco* or to download other playsets and materials, visit www.bullypulpitgames.com.

If you'd like to create your own playset or other *Fiasco*-related content, we'd like to help. Write us at info@bullypulpitgames.com.

Special thanks to Kelly Sue DeConnick and the many authors who wrote these playsets and agreed to let us feature them in this anthology. Their contributions and enthusiasm have helped to make *Fiasco* great!

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# FOREWORD

I should not enjoy FIASCO.

Like, if we were friends and you were shopping for a birthday present for me, say, and someone suggested FIASCO, you'd be all like, "oh hell no, she'd hate that!" Because if we were pals, you'd know my idea of Hell on Earth is pretty much embodied in the film TITANIC. I've never actually seen TITANIC—this is not a review, I'm sure the performances are stellar and all (I'm not sure, I'm lying, but whatever)-that's not the point. The point is that you know what's going to happen—that boat's going down. People gon'die. Horribly. It's the TITANIC. It's right there in the title! Why would I want to watch that? Yeah, yeah, triumph of the human spirit, whatever, I don't want to sit, powerless, for seven hours in squirmy anticipation of inevitable disaster (TITANIC's seven hours long, right? Pretty sure that's what I heard). I can't bear it. And "humor" that relies on that kind of nerve-wracking dread? The ones where you see the public humiliation coming from a mile away? Those are made by sadistic weirdos, you guys. Like, people who have fetishes that involve tickling you until you pee. I don't want to kink shame anybody, if that's your thing, consenting adults and all, but you stay over there, baby. That shit's the comedy version of TITANIC. Imagine a seven-hour long episode of THREE'S COMPANY that ends with Jack tickling Chrissy until she pees ice and freezes to death. That's me and TITANIC. Not into it.

TITANIC made a gabazillion dollars, set a bunch of records, won the Nobel Peace Prize and got declared a saint, so clearly I am alone in my character defect but my argument stands: something called FIASCO should not be for me.

And yet.

One time we played an Old West playset where I was a lady Pinkerton and I spoke a little too loud and a little too fast with non-rhotic Rs like Kate Hepburn for no discernible reason and I don't remember how that one ended, but I'm sure it wasn't 'happily ever after' and still it was the most fun ever. (True story: I pitched a TV show based on the character I played that night. Alas, it didn't go. Damned shame.) Oh, except for that time when I was a drug-addled roadie who ended up murdering a stadium full of people to get back at his creepy rock star brother because he never got credit for writing his brother's songs... That actually might've been the best.

The only time I remember a game of FIASCO that doesn't vie for 'the best' is the night Wil Wheaton, Ed Brubaker, Dan Curtis Johnson and Matt Fraction played Manna Hotel and I volunteered to watch because we're all old and lame and if we played with 5 people the game would take too long. That was the WORST. Oh, the story was fantastic— how could it not be with that crew?—but the experience was a giant drag. And that's it, isn't it? That's the crux of the thing: agency.

Bear with me now, I'm about to go deep:

Ain't none of us getting out of this world alive. And no matter how many people you've got with you at the time, everybody dies alone. It's part of the deal; it's in the title. But most of us are able to function outside a state of constant existential angst because even though we know we're going to die, between now and then, we get to write our own story. We are living, breathing playsets. We can't control everything— some shit's a roll of the dice— but we can control enough to make a difference. And that matters. I think, for me, there's a kind of non-Aristotelian catharsis in that active rehearsal of everything I fear and dread and also pine for; it's a chance to dance with Poe's Imp of the Perverse, to give in, to make the dangerous choice—it's the same thing release I get from the act of writing. But writing is a solitary discipline for the most part and FIASCO... FIASCO is so gloriously communal.

Plus, you know, if you're really hell-bent on peeing ice, there's a FIASCO playset called TRANSATLANTIC and as unlikely as this seems, it's really, really fun. And TITANIC, even with all those Pulitzers, is not.

So here you are at the edge of a sinking ship, my friends. I hope you succumb to the call of the void, and I hope you laugh your asses off the whole way down.

Bon voyage.

#### KELLY SUE DECONNICK

Writer of Captain Marvel, Pretty Deadly, and Bitch Planet

# TOURING ROCK BAND

#### "I AM A GOLDEN GOD!"

It's all about the music, man. It's about becoming famous. It's about the chicks, the drugs, the fans. It's about burning bright and dying young, leaving behind a legend!

Or maybe it's about paying for the hotel room once the stupid legend has left the building.

Touring Rock Band is an over-the-top collection of iconic rock and roll glories and unwholesome lunacy. It's about golden gods rising to fame and falling back into addiction, stupidity and squalid failure.

#### MOVIE NIGHT

Almost Famous, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains, Paanch,

#### CREDITS

Written by Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Touring Rock Band was Playset of the Month, January 2010.



# RELATIONSHIPS ...



1

#### FAMILY

- Brother and sister
- Brothers or sisters
- "Blood brothers"
- **::** Cousins
- **:** Twins
- **H** Faked family

#### 2 GOOD FRIENDS

- Best friends since grade school
- Best friends since yesterday
- ✤ Tour bus friends
- :: The collective soul of the band
- : Creative challengers
- **Friends** with benefits

#### 3 THE CRIND

- Boss / roadie
- Boss / wardrobe and merch
- ... Tour manager / dude under manager's thumb
- **::** Boss / off-stage session musician
- 😧 Tour assistant manager / guitar tech
- **II** Boss / weird guy with tool bag

#### 4 PARASITES

- Dealer / drug fiend
- **Sidekicks of The Great One**
- Reporter / tour personnel
- : Roadies
- **:** Local celebrity / tour personnel
- **Here :** Musician's teenager / tour personnel

#### 5 TROVBLE

- Undercover cop / tour personnel
- Protective parent / tour personnel
- Underage fan / tour personnel
- : Insane stalker / tour personnel
- : Tour personnel who violently hate each other
- **III** Former member of the band / tour personnel

#### 6 BAD FRIENDS

- You owe him your life
- He owes you his career
- Manipulator / victim
- **::** Public enemies, private friends
- Friends by court-ordered consent decree
- **II** Public friends, private enemies

#### ...IN A TOURING ROCK BAND

#### NEEDS...

1

#### TO GET FUCKED

- ...by a groupie, right the hell now
- ...to prove you are straight
- ...to win a bet
- :: ... in a new and unsavory way not even Led Zeppelin attempted
- :...by your estranged sweetheart
- **:::** ...by the one person who can refuse you

#### 2 TO GET WASTED

- ...because your promoter told you to get in the papers
- ...as a cry for help
- ...with some cool local teenagers
- :: ...just to make it through
- :...with a friendly drug dealer
- **:::** ...to handle the pressure of a TV interview

#### 3 TO GET PILES OF CASH

- ... by ripping off the rest of the band
- ...by signing a solo contract
- ...with the help of faith healer Tito Luna
- :: ... by following your cousin's advice
- ... by keeping the band together no matter what
- **::** ...with a sideline energy drink deal

#### 4 TO GET REVENCE

- ...on these toolbags that call themselves artists
- ... for the humiliation you endure every day
- ...on your fucking manager
- :: ...on that strutting primadonna
- : ... for ignoring your creative contributions forever
- **::** ... because nobody calls you a poser

#### 5 TO GET RESPECT

- ... by showing the world that you have no limits
- ...by winning an American Music Award
- ...from the band, because you deserve... respect
- ...from the crew, who laugh behind your back
- 🔝 ...from your family, who think you are a failure
- **:::** ...by bringing the light of Christ to the tour

#### 6 TO CET OUT

- ...of certain promises you made to certain dangerous people
- ...of a debt you owe and can't repay
- ....of your fuckin' contract
- : ... of your fuckin' marriage
- 🔝 ...of your menial role, and thereby thrust into greatness
- **III** ...of your responsibility—permanently

# ...IN A TOURING ROCK BAND

# LOCATIONS...

1

#### THE TOUR BUS

- Bathroom
- Bedroom
- → Driver's seat and door well
- **::** Video game lounge
- 🔀 The roof, in motion
- **::** The capacious but empty liquor cabinet

#### 2 THE ARENA

- Above the stage
- In the wings
- Beneath the stage with the pyro package
- : The green room, with snacks
- : On stage, before an angry crowd
- **I**n the mosh pit

#### **3 WHEREVER THE HELL WE ARE TODAY**

- Circle-K Cafeteria
- Dodgy truck stop
- Elementary school
- **Used CD store**
- : "Musician's Buddy" megastore
- **Industrial trash incinerator**

#### 4 DETROIT

- Greasy all-ages club in Ferndale
- Luxury suite above the Palace of Auburn Hills arena
- Shabby bungalow in Hamtramck
- **Studio of WRIF at five in the morning**
- Canadian 25 foot powerboat on Lake St. Clair
- **EXAMPLE** Cargo terminal at Detroit Metro Airport

#### **5 LOS ANGELES**

- Laundry room of the LA Airport Hilton
- American Music Awards ceremony
- Powered wheelchair showroom in Ventura
- **Crack house in East Los Angeles**
- Wilshire Community Police Station
- **EXAMPLE :** Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

#### 6 CHADWICK, IDAHO

- Cerulean Skies Studio
- Sucker Creek Spawning Channel
- Barn, on fire
- The bed of an F-150 pickup, underwater
- Dog-fighting ring behind a trailer park
- **Hi** Mayor's house on Plessy Street

#### ...IN A TOURING ROCK BAND

# OBJECTS...

#### 1 SICK AS HELL

- Crate of illegal blue-light lasers
- Sniper rifle
- ✤ Digital camera with a stuffed memory card
- :: Lyle Lovett
- 🐱 Minimally-trained grizzly bear
- **II** Spear-fishing gun

#### 2 Rockin'

- Scab-Man costume
- Extraordinarily precious guitar
- ✓ Trailer full of theatrical lights
- **::** Extra box shipped with the drum kit
- **E** Pyrotechnic bomb-pot
- **III** "Flight" rigging and angel wings

#### 3 ROLLIN'

- 20-gallon tub of porn DVDs
- Bong made out of a 13-year-old girls' skull
- **.** Heat-sealed Mylar sack of weed
- : Polyhedral dice made out of real rubies
- **::** Case of top shelf whiskey bottles
- **III** Unlabeled chemical paste in a locked Pelican box

#### 4 FUCKIN' AWESOME

- Ronnie James Dio's wristbands
- "Full body burn" stunt suit
- African dictator's Learjet 25
- **::** Mountain of cocaine
- : Bondage gear
- **Hi** Maserati Quatroporte III

#### 5 DUDE, NO WAY

- Somebody's heroin works
- District attorney's misplaced notes
- ✓ Threatening email message
- **Unfortunate X-Ray**
- ➢ Pit bull kennel with a wonky lock
- **iii** Advance copy of a scathing expose on the band

#### 6 FUCKIN' WEAK

- Restraining order
- Ford Fiesta
- ✓ Manager's true account books
- **E** Pager number of doom
- Scrapbook of Janet Jackson clippings
- **II** Truckload of telephone handsets

#### ...IN A TOURING ROCK BAND

# GANGSTER LONDON

#### A NASTY PIECE OF WORK

A dead body, a Cockney drug-dealer selling from the back of the kebab shop, three suitcases full of blue flake cocaine and an unexploded World War Two bomb—these are a few of the things that make for a proper East End flasco. This playset is for fans of films with a certain ugly, stylish sensibility.

Maybe you're just a working-class bloke looking to catch a break, and your mate from the pub knows a guy who has a sure thing. Only it's not a sure thing and then your mate's dodgy girlfriend gets involved, and then the Russians find out what you've done and it's all going to go tits-up, isn't it?

#### MOVIE NIGHT

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, The Bank Job, Sexy Beast.

#### CREDITS

Written by Graham Walmsley

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Gangster London was Playset of the Month, February 2010.

# IS OUR QUEEN EAST END KILLIN GANGSTER D CRET DIAMON D **YSIDE LONDON** O FAT FOR HER **GRAHAM OF C FERROR PLOT** TO **CH WALMSLEY**

# RELATIONSHIPS...

#### 1 WORK

- Me and this bloke I used to work with
- Me and my boss from work
- Me and this bloke from work
- :: Me and this bloke who fixed our car / plumbing / electrics
- 😧 Me and this bloke I bought something off of
- **III** Me and my doctor / lawyer / accountant

#### 2 FRIENDSHIP

- Former cellmates
- Army buddies
- . This bloke from down the pub
- **::** "I saved his life, you know"
- : "I've known him since school"
- **We're just mates**, we're not like shagging or anything."

#### 3 **ODD**

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Salvation Army
- → Young Conservatives
- : Socialists
- Environmental campaigners
- **II** Probation officer and criminal



#### 4 ROMANCE

- Secret lovers
- Married
- ✓ Separated
- : On-again, off-again partners
- Stalker and stalkee
- **III** Don't like each other much, but can't stop shagging

#### 5 CRIME

- Criminal boss and underling
- Gamblers
- Small-time housebreakers
- **Con man and mark**
- : Drug dealers
- **Hoodies**

#### 6 FAMILY

- Siblings
- Cousins
- Distant relatives who have never met
- **::** Parent and child or stepchild
- 😧 Uncle / aunt and nephew / niece
- E Parent-in-law / son—or daughter-in-law

#### ...IN CANCSTER LONDON



#### 1 TO GET LAID

- ...to prove something
- ...to get something you want
- ...to forget about getting dumped
- :: ...to rekindle an old romance
- :...for the first time
- **II** ... for the last time

#### 2 TO GET SOME ANSWERS

- ...about Ned's "Four o'clock meeting in Brixton"
- ...about someone's infidelity
- ....to a question of parentage
- :: ... from the police, about an unsolved crime
- : ... about the accident that still haunts you
- **:::** ...about Shelley's commitment to the enterprise

#### 3 TO GET REVENCE

- ...on Steps and his crew
- ...on the Russians who humiliated you
- **.**..on a co-worker
- :: ...on a television personality
- :...on a family member
- **::** ... on a police detective

#### 4 TO GET RESPECT

- ... from the London criminal underground
- ...by showing everybody who the real boss is
- ...from your lover, by keeping an unfortunate promise
- ...from a family member, by backing their plan
- ...from yourself, by standing up to a bully
- **II** ... by going straight at last

#### 5 TO CET RICH

- ...by ripping off a dealer
- ...by running eastern European prostitutes
- ....by robbing a family business
- ...by working a political deal in the neighborhood
- :...by opening a kebab shop
- **:::** ...by finding a buyer for these diamonds you "found"

#### 6 TO CET OUT

- ...of London before the Russians find you
- ...of debt, through one last bold deal
- ...of a relationship gone dangerously sour
- :: ...of your interminable marriage
- :...of an obligation to a powerful criminal
- ::: ... of England before Scotland Yard catches up with you

#### ...IN CANCSTER LONDON

# LOCATIONS...

#### 1 RESIDENCES

- Flat 253, Broadwater House
- "The Rivings"
- **::** Raddeston Place
- 😧 Villa El Mariachi, Costa Del Sol
- **H** The Squat

#### 2 HOUSES

- Penthouse
- Auction House
- Whorehouse
- **::** Family house
- **:** Country house
- **H** Warehouse

#### **3 LANDMARKS**

- The British Library
- The Tower of London
- The River Thames
- **::** Canary Wharf
- : The Millennium Dome
- **H** Kew Gardens



#### 4 FOOD AND DRINK

- Ali's Cafe
- **.** The Crown and Anchor
- ✓ Grabber's Nightclub
- ∷ Stan Fish's Gentleman's Entertainment Club
- 🔀 The Ivy
- **III** The Royal India Tandoori

#### 5 WORKPLACES

- Reiman, Losser and Reiman, a large bank
- The pig farm
- Jacob Fein, jeweller
- Captain Comic, books and graphic novels
- Bulldog English's specialist bookstore
- **II** The Paper Recycling Plant

#### 6 ODDITIES

- Cat rescue home
- Royal Northern Hospital
- The Lodge Of the Masonic Order of the Stars
- **::** A synagogue
- **:** Locker 3867 At Waterloo Station
- \*You Do Not Ask What Goes On Back There

# ...IN CANCSTER LONDON

# OBJECTS...

#### 1 UNFORTUNATE

- Forty chickens in eighty cages
- Hydroponic cannabis-growing facility
- ✔ Collection of priceless stamps, ruined
- :: "Peckham Rolex" electronic ankle monitor
- **:** Dead body
- :: Ten thousand leaflets about Jesus

#### 2 TRANSPORTATION

- Motorbike
- . Nondescript white van
- ✓ Subaru Impreza 5-door wagon
- : Milk float
- Speedboat
- **EXAMPLE** Rolls Royce

#### **3 WEAPON**

- Sawn-off shotgun
- Jesus Christ, it's a fucking katana!"
- ✓ Unexploded World War Two bomb
- **::** Antique duelling pistols
- **:** Three hand grenades
- **!!** Water pistol that looks like a real gun



#### **4 INFORMATION**

- Angus' mysterious last words
- Conversation you shouldn't have been listening to
- Contract; maybe a legally binding one
- **Encrypted CD**
- **:** Property deeds
- **EXAMPLE :** Compromising photographs

#### 5 VALUABLES

- Ten thousand pounds in 5 pence pieces
- Arse-load of diamonds!
- ✓ Vintage car
- \*All you need to know is: what's in here is fucking valuable."
- Suitcase full of cash
- **H** Purebred cat

#### 6 EXTRA-LECAL

- The strongest weed you will ever smoke
- Three suitcases full of blue flake cocaine
- Five thousand fake passports
- **Six Romanian asylum-seekers**
- Floor plans of a Ministry of Defence establishment
- **"This is the most dangerous weapon you have ever laid your dirty little hands on."**

#### ...IN CANCSTER LONDON

# LAST FRONTIER

#### SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Adding some pitch black and blood red to the great white north... fishing villages and fishing village idiots, timber contracts and factory ships, State Troopers in floatplanes and the weird guys who hide when they fly over—set among the emerald forests of southeast Alaska's vast archipelago, this playset drags an offbeat but familiar setting into the crosshairs.



### MOVIE NICHT

Insomnia, Northern Exposure (TV), Timber Tramps.

#### CREDITS

Written by Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Last Frontier was Playset of the Month, March 2010.



# **RELATIONSHIPS**...

#### 1 FAMILY

- Unrelated but still family
- Siblings
- ... Parent and adopted child
- **::** Parent and son / daughter-in-law
- 😧 Distant relatives through obscure lineage
- **II** Grandparent / grandchild

#### 2 FRIENDSHIP

- Sourdough and a cheechako
- Old friends from back in Juneau
- Stoner pals
- **::** Cheerful competitors
- **:** Friends with benefits
- **II** Ruthless social rivals

#### 3 CRIME

- Smuggler and fence / broker
- Gambler and bookie
- Fishing outlaws (quota thieves, endangered species bycatch sellers)
- : Grifter and rube
- Hoodlums (thugs, hell-raisers, ass-kickers)
- **III** Drug people (grower, dealer, distributor, user)



#### 4 AROUND THE VILLAGE

- Officials (village manager, chief of police)
- Volunteers (Chamber, clubs, cultural heritage association)
- Church folk (deacon, Sunday school teacher, secretary)
- :: Alcoholics Anonymous / Narconon sponsor and participant
- Representative / citizen (Case worker, parole officer, native corporation official)
- **H** Athletes (recreation league, coach, pick-up games, minor league)

#### 5 ROMANCE

- Current spouses
- Former lovers
- One-time fling
- **::** Crush and object of crush
- **:** Lovers
- **Former spouses**

#### 6 WORK

- Former boat crew
- Co-workers in the village
- Current boat crew
- Skilled work barterers (plumber, carpenter, electrician)
- Salesman and customer
- **III** Professional and client (doctor, lawyer, dealer, wilderness guide)

# ...IN A SOUTHEAST ALASKAN FISHING VILLAGE



#### 1 TO GET EVEN

- ...with a rival
- ...with a state or federal agency
- ...with a State Trooper
- ...with this village, for what it has turned you into
- : ...with this village, and all the nosy, small people in it
- **:::** ...with a family member

#### 2 TO CET THE TRUTH

- ...about this village's dark past
- ...about the borough's political corruption
- ...about Jimmy May's medical records
- :: ...about someone's infidelity
- :...about your real parents
- ::: ...about the thing you saw in Kaku Inlet

#### 3 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from this town, by bringing down the fishing monopoly
- ...from this town, by teaching them to be afraid
- ...from your lover, by proving your devotion
- :: ... from the police, by turning in your own kin to the state troopers
- :...from a family member, by doing what they never could
- **...**from yourself, by solving the problem permanently



#### 4 TO GET LAID

- ...by that special someone who doesn't even know you exist
- ...in the middle of the Russian Orthodox church
- ...by an old lover, to see if sparks fly again
- :: ... in a drunken stupor, by whoever you end up with
- :...by someone who can really grease the wheels for your project
- **II** ...to prove you've still got it

#### 5 TO CET OUT

- ... of this town, because you have big dreams
- ...of this town, to escape family and tradition
- ... of a relationship
- :: ... of a business entanglement
- :...of an obligation to a dangerous outsider
- **::** ... of an obligation to your family

#### 6 TO GET RICH

- ...through stealing a drug stash
- ...through selling illegally-cleared timber
- ...through defrauding eco-tourists
- :: ...through the death of a native elder
- :...through ripping off the village emergency fund
- ::: ...through stealing a pile of fishing boat IFQ money

# ...IN A SOUTHEAST ALASKAN FISHING VILLAGE

# LOCATIONS...

#### 1 FIRST STREET

- First Street Church of Christ
- Morganson Plumbing and Heating
- 🕑 Chico's Pizza
- **::** Alaska Magic gifts and cards
- 😧 Southeast Federal Credit Union, the only bank in town
- **II** Tanner Marine Insurance

#### 2 TONCASS AVENUE

- Benny Benson Memorial K-12 school
- The Municipal building, police station, courthouse and city hall
- → Pacific Medical Clinic, the only doctor in town
- : Dagitgiyáa Native Cultural Center
- 😧 Chilkoot Gun and Knife
- **Sun** Chasers tanning salon and weight loss center

#### 3 THE HARBOR

- Aboard the purse seiner *MV Julie Autumn*
- . Neptune Aviation Services and state floatplane dock
- → Alaska Division of Fisheries office
- **::** VistaPoint processing plant
- 🕃 Rafter Marine, sales and repair
- **Holiday Lines cruise ship terminal and office**



#### 4 RESIDENCES

- Trailer at the end of Tongass Avenue
- Hermit's shack
- Eco-mansion on Kaku inlet
- : Houseboat
- Subsidized apartment
- **EXAMPLE** Cute clapboard house downtown

#### 5 THE BACKCOUNTRY

- KTA Telecommunications repeater and tower
- The logging camp
- 🖸 On top of Harriman Peak
- **::** Kelp Bay
- 🔀 Make Out Point, overlooking town
- **III** The four-wheeler track out to Kaku inlet

#### 6 KAKU INLET

- University of Alaska Southeast fisheries research station
- The abandoned cannery
- 🛃 Blue Raven Lodge
- : Pulp mill
- : Old cemetery
- **II** Skinny Dick dam and reservoir

# ...IN A SOUTHEAST ALASKAN FISHING VILLAGE
# OBJECTS...

# 1 UGLY

- Porn stash / sex gear
- Forged Permanent Fund check
- ✤ Priceless Tlingit artifacts
- **::** Candid videotape of a former Governor
- ☑ Drug smuggler's notebook
- **EX** Legal notice

## 2 TRANSPORTATION

- Old van
- Floatplane
- Skiff with fiddly outboard
- **Moped**
- 法 Ocean tug MV Mahassett
- **III** Mint 1967 Plymouth Barracuda notchback

## **3 BEAR INSURANCE**

- Shotgun
- Pepper spray
- Hunting rifle
- : .44 magnum revolver
- 😧 Pipe bomb
- **III** Lumberman's Pulaski tool



## 4 DIRT

- Confidential memo
- . Annotated USGS quadrangle map
- ✓ Medical billing records
- **::** Love letter
- 😧 Property deed
- **EXAMPLE :** Stack of photographs

#### 5 VALUABLES

- Massive water-tight drug stash
- Mason jar filled with pre-revolution Russian gold coins
- ✓ Statehood memorabilia collection
- :: Vintage Aeronca Sedan airplane
- **Purebred Weimeraner with an ear tattoo**
- **III** Aluminum suitcase full of cash

#### 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Newborn baby
- Novel written in longhand
- ✓ Old letters from a dead man
- **Trophy**
- 😧 Wedding ring
- **III** Family heirloom no longer in family possession

# ...IN A SOUTHEAST ALASKAN FISHING VILLAGE

# LUCKY STRIKE

## FRANCE, NOVEMBER 1944

This playset takes place at the United States Army's Camp Lucky Strike Replacement Depot, near Le Havre, France.

By the fall of 1944, the U.S. Army was losing infantrymen faster than it could train new recruits. Poor planning and German tenacity combined to create a deep manpower shortage on the front lines of the European theater. The ill-advised solution was the Replacement Depot, or "repple-depple". Nestled safely in the rear, the Replacement Depot was a temporary home for soldiers awaiting new units. Some were recovered from injuries, some were green troops directly for training known as "replacement increments", and some were "otherwise displaced" for various reasons, often dubious. They were sent to whatever unit had a need, often without regard for their specialty – anti-aircraft gunners and tank destroyers were thrown into infantry battalions and men who had never seen a tank were dropped into Shermans and told to learn fast. Men separated from comrades they had spent years training with were guaranteed never to see them again once they hit the repple-depple. Boredom and low morale led to crime and foolishness.

It was, in a word, a fiasco.

## MOVIE NIGHT

The Dirty Dozen, Band of Brothers (TV), 'Allo 'Allo! (TV), Les Honneurs de la Guerre.

#### CREDITS

Written by Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Lucky Strike was Playset of the Month, April 2010.



# **RELATIONSHIPS**...

## 1 BROTHERS IN ARMS

- Medical evacuees
- **Foxhole buddies**
- **⋰** The only survivors
- **::** Separated from their unit
- 😧 New guy and veteran
- **E** Secret murderers

## 2 REPLACEMENT INCREMENTS

- Pair of shirkers
- Pair of gung-ho patriots
- Fish out of water farm boys
- **::** Officer's aide and supply clerk
- **:** Poker buddies
- **II** American PW and green recruit

#### **3 ANTISOCIAL**

- Lunatic and minder
- Unrequited lust
- Sexual competitors
- **::** Lovers
- **:** Violent rivals
- **Bully and victim**



## 4 CRIME

- Loan shark and debtor
- Pimps
- Hell-raising ne'er-do-well thugs
- : Gamblers
- **EXAMPLE** Con artist and mark

#### 5 THE BLACK MARKET

- Army CID investigator and informant
- Supply clerk and fixer
- Truck drivers
- **::** Provost Marshal inspector and kingpin
- 😧 Procurer and client
- **II** Drug dealer and addict

#### 6 SPECIAL CASES (USE WITH CARE)

- German PW and guard
- French criminal and Army liaison
- Officer and enlisted man
- **Stars and Stripes reporter and source**
- **Wurse and soldier**
- **EXAMPLE :** Conscientious Objector and Doctor

## ...IN CAMP LUCKY STRIKE



## 1 TO GET OUT

- ... of a work detail that is killing you
- ...of a relationship that's turned weird
- ...of responsibility for an accident
- :: ... of intense scrutiny, so you can finish what you started
- :...of Lucky Strike, where everybody knows your game
- **:::** ...of the war, which is driving you insane

## 2 TO GET EVEN WITH

- ...your platoon sergeant
- ...the Colonel
- 🛃 ...a Frenchie
- **::** ...a snitch
- :...the God-damned Krauts
- **II** ...your squad

#### **3 TO GET READY**

- ...to confess your love
- ...to confront your worst fear
- ...to rat him out to CID
- :: ...to take what you deserve
- ...to send someone home in a box
- **II** ...to debauch yourself

## 4 TO GET RESPECT FROM

- ...the old squad, by earning a medal
- ...God, by atoning for your mistake
- ...your lover, by proving your devotion
- :: ...an insubordinate soldier
- :...a friend, by rescuing them from ruin
- **:::** ...yourself, by punishing your persecutors

#### 5 TO CET THE TRUTH ABOUT

- ...how they died
- ...the secret project
- : ... the Colonel's trips to Rouen
- :...the smuggling operation in Janville
- **::** ...the locked box in map room

#### 6 TO GET RICH THROUGH

- ...ripping off the locals
- ... cooking the books
- ... smuggling valuables
- :: ....selling morphine and amphetamines
- : ...blackmail
- **::** ...rigging a card game

## ...IN CAMP LUCKY STRIKE

# LOCATIONS...

## **1 REST AND RECREATION**

- "Java Junction" Red Cross coffee tent
- Nurse's bunkhouse
- Red Cross shower hut
- Contraction Contra
- 😧 Special rec tent for recovering American PWs
- **EXAMPLE :** Beneath the auditorium stage

## 2 89TH DIVISION OPERATIONS

- 89th Division Map room, Anglesqueville Chateau
- 迁 Military tribunal chamber, Anglesqueville Chateau
- 🛃 Camp VD clinic
- **::** First Brigade Colonel's office
- 😧 Displaced Persons processing center
- **III** Military "prison", an unheated tent with a guard shack

## 3 D-SECTOR

- Dairy (and ice cream factory)
- Measles quarantine tent
- ✤ Motor Pool and repair garage
- **::** Carpentry shop, staffed by German PWs
- : Ammo loading work site and supply dump
- **EXAMP** Camp laundry, run by French civilians

## 4 BEYOND THE WIRE

- Unmarked grave in the woods south of the camp
- Shack occupied by Displaced Persons
- 🕑 Paris
- **::** Durdent river camp water intake
- Smuggler's rendezvous beach outside St. Sylvain
- **Farmhouse put to new uses**

#### 5 JANVILLE

- Brothel above the town hall
- Open-air black market
- ✓ Burned-out German bunker
- Home of Pierre Desmarais, a gangster
- 😧 Chapel of the Virgin
- **II** Le Cygne, a tavern

#### 6 LE HAVRE AND ROVEN

- Hotel Metropole, where money buys anything
- Prisoner of War cage
- Embarkation point for the States
- **Boxing ring on the deck of the SS Argentina**
- **295th Heavy Maintenance Company billet**
- **E** Le Roi et l'Ancre bar

# ...IN CAMP LUCKY STRIKE

# OBJECTS...

## 1 **DI**RTY

- Truckload of soap, blankets, shirts, shoes, and chocolate
- **Sack full of onions hiding something**
- Service Rating Card with forged "go home" points
- :: Gonorrhea
- 法 Corpse of a German PW
- **II** Ratfucked Red Cross packages

## 2 CONTRABAND

- Footlocker full of Nazi gold
- Crate of top-grade cognac, Calvados and Benedictine
- Scrawny mutt
- **::** Letter written in German
- Cigarettes packaged and bound for front-line units
- **II** Grisly war trophy

## 3 MOBILITY

- Tanker truck full of gasoline
- . Inert shell of a Tiger tank
- → Piper L4A two-seater aircraft
- Colonel's jeep
- 🕃 German motorcycle with sidecar
- **II** Smuggler's motor launch



#### 4 **FIREPOWER**

- One pound of Amatol with a British pencil detonator
- M8 armored scout car with 37mm gun
- SS dagger
- Contraction Contra
- 😧 Mark fragmentation grenade
- **H** Poisoned apple

#### 5 INTELLIGENCE

- Whispered confession of a German PW
- Orders listing soldiers to return to the front
- Soldier's medical evaluation
- List of soldiers to be sent to the States
- : Map to a cache of stolen supplies
- **II** Pleading on the telephone

#### 6 PERSONAL

- Colonel's war booty, secured in an oddly heavy crate
- Sack of V-Mail from the States
- Candid" photos from the invasion of Italy
- : Military life insurance policy
- 😧 Dear John letter
- **Hill** Address scrawled on a fine linen napkin

## ...IN CAMP LUCKY STRIKE

# **FLYOVE**R

## THE BUCKLE ON THE BIBLE BELT

Flyover is all about Middle America—hard-working agribusiness professionals, construction contractors, Mexican drug mules and the people who love them. It's the God-and-country heartland, where high school football is the best bet for a Friday night date and everybody knows everybody.

With corn and soybean fields stretching for miles in every direction, the endless sky punctuated only by enormous grain elevators, things can get a little squirrelly.

#### MOVIE NIGHT

A Simple Plan, Fargo, A History of Violence.

## CREDITS

Written by Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Flyover was Playset of the Month, May 2010.



# **RELATIONSHIPS**...

## 1 FRIENDSHIP

- Grew up on neighboring farms
- Mutual outcasts
- Best friends
- **Extremely unlikely friends**
- **:** Keepers of a dark secret
- **EXAMPLE :** Church friends (social enemies)

#### 2 FAMILY

- You think you're kin, but you aren't
- Siblings
- Parent and child
- **::** Cousins
- 😧 Parent and son or daughter-in-law
- **III** You don't think you're kin, but you are

#### 3 CRIME

- Cooking the books on a building contract
- Farm machinery thief and fence
- :: Methamphetamine entrepreneurs
- 😧 Marijuana importer and dealer
- **III** Farm subsidy fraud perpetrator and government official

## 4 OUT AND ABOUT

- Athletes (touring bicyclists, runners, rec league team sports)
- Church folk (youth group, outreach, lay minister, secretary)
- ✔ Civil Air Patrol members
- Centro de la Justicia Social volunteers
- **:** Town part-time staff
- **EXAMPLE** Police officer and paid informant

#### 5 ROMANCE

- Married, to each other
- High school sweethearts who parted ways
- This one time, drunk, in a soybean field
- **Unhealthy** obsession
- 😧 Passionate lovers
- **Weird romance**

#### 6 WORK

- Part-time farm hands
- Construction, out at the county airport
- Wealthy farmer and OSHA inspector
- **:** Commuters with jobs in town
- 🐱 Salesman and customer
- **III** Professional and client (doctor, lawyer, banker, dealer, dentist)

## ...IN FLYOVER COUNTRY



## 1 TO GET EVEN

- ...with the guy who humiliated you
- ...with a neighbor
- **⋰** …with a cop
- ...with the whole county, which brought you to this point
- :...with the scum who are dealing drugs in your town
- **::** ...with that bitch Marcie Lowell

#### 2 TO GET OUT

- ... of a huge fucking obligation
- ...of paying taxes on 500 acres of rotting soybeans
- **.**..of a relationship
- ... of a deal out at the airport that's gone sour
- :...of your ill-chosen words to the cartel representative
- **:::** ...of this county, to escape family and tradition

#### 3 TO GET IN

- ...good with your rich, sick uncle
- ...shape, so you can impress Marcie Lowell
- :...the door at Centro de la Justicia Social, for a meal and a cot
- ...bed with the cops, by dropping a dime on someone
- 🔝 ...deep with the serious guys in the Escalade up from Juárez
- ::: ...trouble like you used to, with your buddies, back in the day

#### 4 TO GET IT ON

- ...with the incomparable Marcie Lowell
- ...and prove you are finally free
- ...because the alternative is real bad
- :: ...with a freaky Mexican
- :...to seal the deal
- **!!** ...and make a baby, for real this time

#### 5 TO GET RICH

- ...through building a runway out of shit materials
- ...through selling a baby
- ...through harvesting another farmer's crop
- **::** ...through forging a document
- :...through stealing farm machinery
- **II** ...through shorting a drug dealer

#### 6 TO CET THE TRUTH

- ...about Centro de la Justicia Social's agenda
- ...about the dirty contract for the new runway
- ....about Marcie Lowell
- :: ...about the weird guy who is harassing your mom
- : ...about your real parents
- ...about what goes on behind the grain elevators some nights

## ...IN FLYOVER COUNTRY

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 EAST BRANCH ROAD

- Community Health Clinic
- Crandall's Seed Cleaner Service
- Windmill Diner
- **::** Parts Plus
- 😧 Centro de la Justicia Social
- **EXAMPLE :** Clipper Bank and Trust

## 2 WEST BRANCH ROAD

- Old ConAgra grain elevator
- ✓ Victory Electrical Cooperative
- Farmer's Tool and Equipment
- :: West Branch IGA grocery
- 🐱 Brand-new Progress Ethanol plant
- 🔢 Shab's Bar

#### **3 SUCKER CREEK**

- Drainage ditch "party cave"
- Abandoned farmstead, dishes still on the table
- . Dog-fighting ring at the end of a long dirt road
- **::** Deer-hunting swamp
- Swimming hole
- **::** Shallow grave in a neglected sunflower field

## 4 COUNTY ROAD SIXTEEN

- Fireworks stand at the Jaguar Road intersection
- · Olsen place, 700 acres in corn
- Roads and the skeletons of houses; a sign saying "Starfield Acres"
- **E.A.** Hutchinson High School
- Split-level ranch with twenty cars parked in the front yard
- **III** Byrd place, foreclosed, crops tended by neighbors

#### 5 GATEWAY COUNTY AIRPORT

- Freight hangar and FAA/TSA offices
- Terminal building and airport offices
- Control tower above the terminal
- :: Maintenance hangar and power plant overhaul facility
- Construction trailer at the end of Runway Two
- **III** Fire Department garage at the end of Runway One

#### 6 THE LOWELL FARM

- Chicken coop, converted into a studio apartment
- Thractor garage and tool shed
- One hundred acre cornfield
- **Six bedroom house with swimming pool**
- : Trailers out back where the migrant workers live
- **EXAMPLE :** Garbage dump leaking chemicals into Sucker Creek

## ...IN FLYOVER COUNTRY

# OBJECTS...

# 1 JUICY

- Insulated organ transport bag
- Love letter written in broken Spanish
- → Printouts of an Internet conversation
- **::** Crime scene photographs
- **Newspaper story from twenty years ago**
- **Weird** chemical apparatus tucked away in a barn

## 2 TRANSPORTATION

- Tricked out late model SUV
- Big block pickup with a lift kit
- Ford Taurus with government plates
- **::** Farm-All tractor with a hay wagon
- **::** Broken down old corn truck
- **II** Mexican tour bus

## 3 WEAPONS

- Cattle prod
- .22 hunting rifle
- Jar of home-canned peaches laced with Atrazine
- **::** Antique sled cutter blade
- 🔝 100 gallon tank of anhydrous ammonia
- **II** Chinese-made AKM assault rifle

#### 4 TRAUMATIC

- Rabid raccoon
- . ∙ Unforeseen prosthetic limb
- Blazing crop fire
- :: Unopened legal notice
- 150 mile-per-hour category F-2 tornado
- **!!** Pieces of a car's brake system in a trash can

#### 5 VALUABLES

- Wedding ring with a big fucking rock
- ⋰ Brand new John Deere 9870 STS combine with corn row header
- Pickup truck loaded with drugs
- **55,000** bushels of soybeans
- **X** ATM card with the PIN number written on the back
- **Impounded cargo at gateway County Airport**

#### 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Note from father to son
- Antique grandfather clock with a hidden compartment
- Adoption certificate
- :: Live hand grenade brought back from Vietnam
- Child's treasure map
- **H** Family Bible

# ...IN FLYOVER COUNTRY

# ASSHOLES...

# JANET MORALES

## FAA SUPERVISORY PROGRAM ANALYST

Janet Morales has the best job in town as a Federal employee with a vague title and even vaguer responsibilities out at the Gateway County Airport. She does very little and does it very well.

The Morales family settled here in the 1920s, and Janet is stridently American in her habits and attitudes. This extends from her preferred ride (late-model, leased, from Detroit) to her politics (Republican, antiimmigrant) to her fashion choices (unfortunate).

She speaks fluent Spanish but never in public.

Having unfettered access to FAA computers and a lack of personal integrity has been a very profitable match for Morales. She's made connections with a variety of unscrupulous people interested in using the Gateway County Airport for purposes she can only guess at. Drug smuggling? Organ-legging? Falsifying maintenance records on commercial aircraft? Morales doesn't know, exactly, she just does what she's told and enjoys the money that shows up on her back porch.

Her relative prosperity, combined with a big dollop of self-loathing atop a steady diet of AM talk radio, has pushed Janet Morales into local politics. She's on the City Commission, the Economic Development Board, and the Gateway County Airport Marketing and Revitalization Task Force. She ran for her Commission seat on a one-item platform running Centro de la Justicia out of town.

She is a total asshole.



# PAUL PFAFF

## COACH, HUTCHINSON HIGH SCHOOL

Possibly the worst person in the county, Paul Pfaff (pronounced, as he is quick to point out, "poff") combines the worst features of neighborhood bully and nouveau riche dickhead.

A thick-necked, perpetually red-faced tool, Coach Pfaff came into some money after his wife Ariel was killed in an unpleasant accident at the Gateway County Airport. He quit his job teaching freshman English but stayed on, gratis, as coach. Since Ariel's death his split-level ranch has become an informal hangout for high school athletes and Pfaff's old fraternity brothers.

Pfaff is built like the wrestler he once was, but his once powerful body has gone to fat. After Ariel's death he began affecting a powerfully ugly Fu-Manchu and let his military flat top grow out into something clearly inspired by the cover of the Hardy Boys Detective Handbook. It is a bad combination and he is a lonely man.

After a string of DUI convictions, Pfaff was forced to perform community service at Centro de la Justicia Social, a position that gave him access to hundreds of vulnerable immigrants that, as a racist opportunist, he was happy to exploit. By the time his state-mandated service was over, he had cemented a network of extortion and fear that still buys him a lot of flat screen televisions.

Pfaff can be seen riding around town on his long-suffering moped, his weirdly shellacked hair stiff at any speed, his eyes hidden behind mirrored sunglasses.

He is a total asshole.

# ...IN FLYOVER COUNTRY

# RECONSTRUCTION

## WAR IS OVER, HURRAH

It is 1867. The American Civil War is over and the South is in ashes. She must be restored to the Union, and the process by which she will be rebuilt and embraced by the victors—well, it is not a smooth one.

In southern Virginia, amid the still-smoldering ruins of latewar battlefields, newly freed slaves mingle with former owners. Carpetbaggers and scallywags look for quick profits. Corruption is the coin of the realm, and the desperate, despicable and insane all look for an angle.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Birth of a Nation, Gone With the Wind, The Outlaw Josey Wales

#### CREDITS

Written by Tom Gurganus

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

Reconstruction was Playset of the Month, June 2010.



# RECONSTRUCTION A FIASCO PLAYSET BY TOM GURGANUS

ZOWAH

# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FAMILY

- Father and son
- Brothers
- "Unspoken relationship" between former master and slave
- **:** Betrothed couple
- Husband and wife
- **III** Uncle and nephew or niece

#### 2 WORK

- Former property owners
- Landowner and sharecropper
- Merchant and hired hand
- **::** Former soldiers on opposite sides of during the war
- : Carpetbagger and devastated landowner
- **II** Doctor and patient

#### 3 CRIME

- Ku Klux Klan member and target
- Blackmailer and victim
- Former overseer and slave
- : Thieves
- Gamblers
- **II** Snake oil salesman and sucker



#### 4 FRIENDSHIP

- Neighbors
- Lifelong friends, long separated
- Hated rivals
- **:** Political opponents
- 🐱 Manipulator and victim
- **Social adversaries**

#### 5 ROMANCE

- Secret lovers
- Unrequited love
- Jealous lovers
- **::** Couple in an arranged marriage
- 记 Dead romance
- **II** A respectably courting couple

#### 6 COMMUNITY

- Freedman's Bureau official and ex-slave
- Community organizer and prime example of injustice
- Wealthy gentleman and his wealthier wife
- **Community patriarch and matriarch**
- 😧 Radical Republican and Redeemer
- **II** Notorious local ne'er-do-wells

## ...DURING RECONSTRUCTION



## 1 TO GET OUT

- ... of the South, fast
- ... of the Army
- **.**..of this dangerous relationship
- :: ... of this new kind of slavery
- : ... of a heavy obligation and matter of honor
- **::** ... of a humiliating debt about to come due

#### 2 TO GET EVEN

- ...with a talkative former lover
- ...with a sibling
- ....with a businessman
- :: ...with a military officer
- : ...with Benjamin Maynard, your former master
- **...**with the striped banner and all its prideful little men

## 3 TO GET RICH

- ...through outrageous theft
- ...through an advantageous marriage
- 🛃 ...through blackmail
- **::** ...through smuggling
- :...through the murder of kin
- **:::** ...through sound investments and hard work



## 4 RESPECT

- ...from kin
- ... from superiors and officers of justice and arbitration
- ...from your own battered and broken self
- ...from your old friends who have discounted you
- :...from your many feckless lovers
- **II** ... from Ned Parson

#### 5 THE TRUTH

- ...about your brother's actions at Chancellorsville
- ...about the mistake that haunts you
- **.**..about the money **.**...
- **::** ...about the baby
- :...about the business deal and the papers you signed
- ::: ...about that night in Atlanta and what came of it

#### 6 SOME SEX

- ...from the one you admire from afar
- ...to seal the deal, fair and square
- ...because you don't want to be a virgin no more
- **...**for revenge
- :...because it is all you have to offer
- **II** ...that is wrong, all wrong

# ...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 THE MAYNARD PLANTATION

- Main house
- Stables
- ✓ Old Smithwick place, gone to ruin
- **::** River fields
- Cld slave's quarters
- **Whipping tree**

## 2 RICHMOND, VIRCINIA

- 💽 Kanawha Canal
- Former Confederate capitol building
- 🛃 Libby Hill
- **::** Freedman's Bureau office
- Hollywood Cemetery
- **II** Ruins along Carey Street

## **3 NEAR MECHANICSVILLE**

- Sharecroppers' shanty town
- Ned Parson's mill
- ✤ Tangled banks of the Chickahominy River
- :: Old Williams homestead, meeting place of the KKK
- **:** Prosperous WynneFarm
- **III** Ancient Chickahominy indian village and burial ground



## 4 THE WILDERNESS

- Wilderness Tavern
- Woodville Mine
- → Ruins of Higgerson Farm
- **Scrub** oak thicket with a skeleton in it
- 😧 Wilderness Run
- **II** Unfinished railroad

#### 5 SPOTSYLVANIA

- General store
- Circus tent whorehouse
- Mount Zion Baptist Church
- Cld schoolhouse
- : Dr. Jaldon's office
- **Woodpile behind the smithy**

#### 6 THE JAMES RIVER

- Drewry's Bluff
- Wilson's Wharf
- Fort Powhatan
- **::** Rockett's Shipyard, or what's left of it
- : The Locks
- **III** Tredegar Iron Works

## ...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

# OBJECTS...

## 1 WEAPON

- 1891 Springfield rifle, well used
- **.** 12-pounder Napoleon cannon
- ✓ Cast iron frying pan
- **::** Cavalry saber with a missing tip
- : Le Mat revolver
- **II** Fire-hardened pointed stick

## 2 SHAMEFUL

- Corpse in the altogether
- . Naked photographs of women and men
- Brothel token with a name scratched on it
- **Unlucky** horseshoe
- 🐱 Ku Klux Klan hood and cloak
- **EXAMPLE** Chastity belt

## 3 VALUABLE

- Deed to Lionel Thibodeaux's plantation on the James River
- Twenty two pounds of gold nuggets from a forgotten local mine
- Fifty thousand dollars in U.S. currency
- :: Four hundred bales of premium cotton
- Silver tea set made by Paul Revere
- **II** Your grandmother's engagement ring



## 4 NOTEWORTHY

- Enrollment list for the Richmond Klan
- ➡ Documents concerning Mr. Lincoln's assassination
- → Miss Millie's little black book of customers and their desires
- :: General Sherman's illegitimate child
- Strangely accurate almanac
- **III** True family history of your neighbor

## **5 TRANSPORTATION**

- The fastest horse in Chesterfield County
- Fancy carriage beyond all station and means
- **⋰** Sharecropper's buckboard
- **::** Beautifully appointed train car
- Flat-bottomed river barge
- **II** Busted old blockade-runner

#### 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Letter from a dead soldier
- ↓ Lock of a child's hair tied with black ribbon
- Flowers from a wedding long past
- : Family Bible
- 😧 Old Shep, faithful companion and loyal friend
- **EXAMPLE** Rabbit's foot that saved your life

# ...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

# THE MANNA HOTEL

## AN OASIS FOR WEARY TRAVELERS

The Manna Hotel is three miles north of Manna, Kansas, population 1,200.

The Manna Hotel is a twenty-room motor lodge with its own in-ground swimming pool, now unused. The hotel burned down and was rebuilt in the fifties. Wood paneling and window-unit air conditioners were installed in the seventies, and it looks like that's the last maintenance anyone did to the place.

Business has been slow ever since they moved the Interstate, so ten of the rooms are closed all the time now. The other ten rooms are rented and cleaned by a manager who lives on the premises.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Bottle Rocket, The Big Lebowski, Twin Peaks (TV)



Written by Dan Puckett

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Manna Hotel was Playset of the Month, July 2010.



# A FIASCO PLAYSET BY DAN PUCKETT

VACANCY Several Pool
# RELATIONSHIPS ...

## 1 FRIENDSHIP

- Friends with benefits
- Went to high school together
- "You let me down when I needed it most!"
- **::** Fought side by side in the war
- 😧 Friendship ended after one humiliated the other
- **II** Spiritual advisor / truth-seeker

## 2 FAMILY

- Husband and wife
- Ex-husband and ex-wife
- ✓ Siblings
- : Identical twins
- : Stepchildren
- **E** Parent and child

## 3 CRIME

- Blood brothers in the Kansas City Mafia
- Mortal enemies in the Kansas City Mafia
- ✓ Together, planned and executed a daring, drunken theft of the badger from its pen in Manna's tiny zoo
- ∷ Watched June Alexander's murder and did nothing to stop it
- Got caught setting a fire
- **III** Did three years together in Lansing Correctional Facility

## 4 COMMUNITY

- Neighbors
- VFW Post 1161
- 🛃 Manna First Baptist Church
- **::** Manna high school football
- ★ National Pony Express Association, "an all-volunteer, non-profit historical organization for the purpose of identifying, reestablishing, and marking the original pony express trail"
- **Bingo!**

#### 5 ROMANCE

- Forbidden love
- Infatuation
- 🛃 Romantic bliss
- : On the rocks
- : Insane jealousy
- **E** Loathing

#### 6 WORK

- Manager and employee
- Sergeant and private
- ✓ Innkeeper and guest
- Seventh Degree Master of Fell Secrets and Initiate
- : Lawyer and client
- **Doctor and patient**

## ...AT THE MANNA HOTEL



## 1 TO GET EVEN

- ...by taking what is rightfully yours
- ...by destroying what she never should have had in the first place
- ....by humiliating him
- :: ...but no one can know it was you
- :...and everyone has to know it was you
- **II** ...for the good of America

## 2 TO GET OUT

- ... of these handcuffs
- ... of sight for a while
- ....of your "relationship"
- :: ...of a promise you made
- :...of your marriage
- **II** ... of your contract

## **3 TO GET RESPECT**

- ...by making everyone afraid of you
- ...by making everyone mad at you
- ...through the exercise of subtle mystical powers
- **::** ...from the one you love
- :...from the one you hate
- **...**by living an epic story that will make you a hero forever



## 4 TO GET LAID

- ...because she can protect me
- ...because I can use him to get what I really want
- ...because that's what you do when you are deeply in love
- :: ...because I want to hurt someone else
- ...to propagate your superior bloodline
- **iii** ...to prove you are not the slightest bit gay

#### 5 TO CET RICH

- ...and you don't care who you have to hurt to get it
- ...but no one can know it was you
- ...and everyone has to know it was you
- **::** ...right now!
- :...but the money isn't for you. It's for somebody who needs it bad.
- **II** ...enough to buy your safety

#### 6 TO CET THE TRUTH

- ...for the good of America
- ...about what really happened to him
- ...about the cover-up in Manna
- :: ...about what happened to the loot
- 🔝 ...about why they did what they did to you
- **II** ...about who you *really* are

# ...AT THE MANNA HOTEL

# LOCATIONS...

# 1 OUT FRONT

- In the dry swimming pool, currently filled with dead leaves
- . The flagpole, flying a crisp American flag
- → Trunk of a car
- Cout by the road, where you can see who's coming half a mile away
- Dumpster—vandals have spray-painted "USA #1" on it
- **III** Under the old, spreading oak tree. This tree must have been alive for at least a hundred years.

# 2 INSIDE

- Ransacked guest room with holes in the walls and ceiling
- Guest room sealed off since forever
- ✓ Next door
- **::** Flyspecked windowsill
- : Taped under a rug in one of the guest rooms
- **In the tank of the toilet**

# 3 OUT BACK

- Fuse box—a pair of wires runs from the box into the woods
- Tornado shelter, its steel door rusted thin
- → There's just enough room for one person to squeeze between the fuel-oil tank and the outside wall of the office
- **Gully leading down to Sumida Creek**
- Laundry line with two sheets and a pair of men's boxer shorts clipped to it
- **II** Out by the long-neglected lawnmower

# 4 EMPLOYEES ONLY

- The safe
- Manager's office
- **.** Room where the manager lives, formerly a guest room
- :: Desk drawers in the office
- **:** Up on the roof
- **Supply closet, containing a jug of ammonia and a nest of snakes**

## 5 NEARBY

- Dirt road to town
- Railroad tracks
- 记 Sumida Creek Lake
- Clearing in the woods, with a fire pit and a makeshift altar
- Ed Keith's buffalo ranch
- **II** Old cemetery, unused since the Fifties

## 6 IN TOWN

- 🖸 Manna High School
- ⋰ The Tyrell & Janes Bank
- → Abandoned Manna railroad station
- : Manna First Baptist Church
- **:** Padlocked entrance to the underground walkways
- **Tiny zoo—no larger than a city block—run for some reason by the local power utility**

# ...AT THE MANNA HOTEL

# OBJECTS...

## 1 UNTOWARD

- Detailed diagram of the interior of the Tyrell & Janes Bank
- Peephole
- Five photos held together by a rubber band. Each photo features a different disemboweled corpse surrounded by hooded figures.
- **::** Long, blond wig, matted with blood
- 🔀 Wrong gun
- **EXAMPLE** Seven dried ears on a dirty string

## 2 INFORMATION

- WPA mural from 1940 in the lobby of the post office downtown
- Map showing the 19th-century maze of walkways and passages beneath the streets of Manna.
- Clipped from a magazine and carefully pressed in a book, an article about "Brother John" Lazia, crime boss in the Kansas City Mafia
- ∷ Photo of the 1931 all-Asian Manna High School football team
- ₿ Polaroid of Sumida Creek Lake with a penciled "X"
- **II** A medal. The front side shows two men on horseback in mid-gallop exchanging a mailbag. One of the men is Caucasian; the other has distinctly Asian features. Motto: "Duty drives us -—We stop for none." The back side has the inscription, "1931".

# 3 WEAPONS

- Dagger with a bone handle and a wavy blade. The blade has the inscription, E PLURIBUS UNUM.
- **T**wo gallons of gasoline
- ✓ Spiked pit
- **Smith & Wesson Model 10 government-issue revolver, dating from World War II, fully loaded with vintage ammo**
- 🔃 Disassembled Tommy gun, carefully wrapped in oily rags
- **H** A shovel



## 4 TRANSPORTATION

- Tractor
- Two-ton flatbed truck with an arc welder strapped to its bed
- → Pickup truck, dented and dirty
- : Mercedes with a rotten smell
- : Ambulance
- **Empty boxcar on a forgotten siding**

## 5 VALUABLES

- Tiara, hammered flat, jewels removed
- 🗜 Broken-down 18-wheeler loaded with buffalo jerky
- Bag containing \$50,000 of raw gold dust and nuggets, reportedly buried somewhere around Sumida Creek Lake in the 19th century
  ■
- Black bear, recently housed at the local zoo
- Samurai sword with an engraving at the base of its blade
- **Box of gold teeth**

## 6 SENTIMENTAL

- U.S. Navy sea bag full of broken padlocks, all violently torn apart
- Unsigned postcard from Niagara Falls, postmarked 1934, addressed to "Johnny" care of the Manna post office. Inscription: "You can count on me."
- Death mask of President McKinley
- **::** Fossil of a fish with red candle wax dripped all over it
- Deer's head, stuffed and mounted, mouth agape, glass eyes wild with terror. It is impossible for anyone to sleep with this thing in the same room with them.
- **Photo of five U.S. soldiers in Vietnam-era uniforms, arms around each-others' shoulders.**



# 1913 NEW YORK

## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Fin de siècle New York, 1913—a city perched on the edge of the abyss. Modernity is at war with tradition, and automobiles uneasily share the roads with horse-drawn carriages. Change—sweeping, terrible change is in the air, and all of Europe is about to be thrown under the bus, dragging the world down after it. But tonight? For now? Cars that can go forty miles an hour, women not ashamed to show off a little ankle, and as much opium as you care to smoke. In the dirty places labor is organizing, anarchists are murdering plutocrats, and children are going hungry. But it's a pretty good world if you are on top of it, so find a way to get on top, fast...

This playset draws heavily on real New York history, and includes an additional section of notes to provide more detail about some of the more colorful locations and organizations.

## MOVIE NIGHT

City Lights, Pink Tights, The Saphead, The Purple Lady

## CREDITS

Written by Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

1913 New York was Playset of the Month, August 2010.



# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FAMILY

- Godparent and child
- Parent and stepchild
- ✓ Siblings
- **::** Cousins
- : Grandparent and grandchild
- **EXAMPLE :** Relatives in the Old Country

#### 2 WORK

- Former co-workers
- Current co-workers
- Supervisor / employee
- **Working stiff / client (mechanic, plumber, gardener, groomsman)**
- Salesman and customer
- **III** Professional and client (pastor, lawyer, accountant, prostitute)

## **3 FRIENDSHIP**

- Manipulator and victim
- Old friends
- Jisreputable friends (criminal, opium addict, gambling, whoring)
- **::** Friendly sporting rivals
- Club / society friends
- **EXE** Social adversaries

## 4 ROMANCE

- Spouses in name only
- Current spouses
- Stalker and obsession
- **::** Broken engagement or one-time fling
- **:** Lovers
- **Former lovers**

#### 5 CRIME

- Graft giver and receiver
- **G**amblers
- Thieves (shoplifters, burglars, purse snatchers)
- **Con man and mark**
- Hoodlums (gangsters, knuckleheads, delinquents)
- **II** Drug people (sellers, distributors, users)

#### 6 COMMUNITY

- Appointed officials (Sanitation or commerce board, judges)
- Volunteers (Neighborhood committee, election officials)
- Church (Lay reader, deacon, sexton, temperance society)
- **Ethnic group (Clubs and societies, education or relief society)**
- Vigilantes (Vigilance committee, ethnic gang)
- **III** Radicals (Organizers, anarchists, Wobblies)

## ...IN 1913 NEW YORK

# NEEDS....

# 1 TO FREE YOUR BODY AND SOUL

- ...from the slums, before they eat you alive
- ...from your oppressive family
- ....from your spouse
- :: ... from an unwanted lover
- :: ... from a heavy obligation to a family member
- **::** ... from a crushing debt coming due

## 2 TO AVENCE A GREAT WRONG

- ...perpetrated by the New York political machine
- ...caused by America, which has turned you into a monster
- ...committed by a police officer
- :: ...covered up by your own family
- : ... arrogantly enacted by a business rival
- **...**corrupting the very heart of industrial capitalism

# **3 TO GAIN THE WEALTH OF CROESUS**

- ...through stealing from the Chinese
- ...through robbing a business unlikely to notice
- 🛃 ...through simple but bold fraud
- ...through the death of an elderly person
- : ...through political graft
- **...**through a sudden windfall that does not belong to you

## 4 TO EARN UNIVERSAL RESPECT

- ...from New York, by bringing that politician down
- ...from the city, by demonstrating your power and reach
- ...from your lover, by proving yourself in the most grave extreme
- :: ... from the police, by assisting them at dire personal danger
- :...from a family member, by rescuing them from ruin
- **III** ...from yourself, by ending the long wait and pulling the trigger

#### 5 TO DISCOVER THE DARK TRUTH

- ...about the family's shameful past
- ...about New York's political corruption
- ...about a loved one's criminal history
- : ... about someone's infidelity
- : ...about what happened on the S.S. Tuscania
- **:::** ...about the woman's face that haunts you still

#### 6 TO ENGAGE IN IMMORAL CONGRESS

- ...with anyone, anywhere, to dull the pain
- ...with a flash bit of ankle down at Macy's
- ...with an exotic foreigner ....
- : ... and rekindle a dormant romance
- :...as a means to a very terrible end
- **:::** ...with the best of them, to prove you are a man

## ...IN 1913 NEW YORK

# LOCATIONS...

# 1 POSH NEW YORK

- H. Kauffman & Sons Harness Company, Park Avenue South at East 24th street (See Notes)
- The United States Mortgage and Trust Company, 5Cedar Street
- → Tiffany and Company, at Fifth Avenue and 37th Street
- :: The Arnold-Constable department store, Broadway and E. 19th St
- 😧 Association for Befriending Children and Young Girls, 132nd Ave
- **III** Union League Club, Fifth Avenue and 39th Street

## 2 WORKING NEW YORK

- Yonah Shimmel's Bakery, 137 East Houston Street (try the knishes)
- **KALEM Moving Picture Studios**, 131 Seventh Avenue (See Notes)
- → The American Bank Note Company, Broad and Beaver Streets
- Columbia Warehouses, 149 Columbus Avenue
- : Lee Machine Works, Mott and Hester Streets
- **III** New York Court of Common Pleas, City Hall Park

## 3 YEGG NEW YORK

- Segal's, the restaurant of choice among working criminals, Second Avenue and First Street
- 迁 Burned out shell of the Asch Building on Washington Place
- Block Drugs, 101 East Sixth Street (See Notes)
- Bismark Hall, Second Avenue and 13th Street, the epicenter of the criminal underworld
- Saint Marks-in-the-Bowery Church, at Second Avenue West and East Tenth Street
- III New York County Workhouse, Blackwell's Island

## 4 CHINESE NEW YORK

- Low stakes Fran-Tan parlor on Pell Street
- On Leong Merchant's Association Building on Pell Street
- → Dr. Hum Mun Tau's Apothecary on Doyer Street
- **::** Canton Club, Fifth Avenue and Mulberry (See Notes)
- Bing Ching Union gambling hall
- **High-class brothel on Mott Street**

## **5 ENTERTAINING NEW YORK**

- Metropolitan Roller Skating Rink at Broadway and 52nd Street
- Wallack's Theater, Broadway and East 13th Street
- Houston Athletic Club, 143 East Houston Street
- Holland Brothers' Kinetoscope Parlor, at 1157 West 27th Street
- John Delmonico's restaurant, arguably New York's finest, at Fifth Avenue and 44th Street
- Hadley Hall, at 293 East First Street and the Bowery (See notes)

## 6 **RESIDENCES**

- Squalid tenement apartment in the lower East Side
- Posh "bachelor apartment" in the Sherry building, Fifth Avenue and 44th Street
- Family apartment in The Mitchell, 123 West 15th street
- Secure top floor suite of the St. Denis hotel, Broadway and East 11th
- Weekly room in the Liberty Hotel, 295 East First Street and Bowery (see Notes)
- **Elegant townhouse overlooking Tompkins Square**

# ...IN 1913 NEW YORK

# OBJECTS...

# 1 UNWHOLESOME

- Purple velvet Brooks Brothers ladies flying suit
- ↓ Lock-box from Tammany Hall, Park Avenue and East 17th Street
- ▶ Prodigious brick of cocaine in a Block Drugs bag (see Notes)
- :: Pickled head of a murderer in a jar
- : Aborted fetus wrapped in an old copy of the New York Journal
- **II** Opium fiend's monogrammed kit

# 2 WEAPONS

- Fowling piece, still in the box from the Abercrombie and Fitch Company, 57 Reade Street
- Trained Leopard
- **⋰** Dynamite bomb with timer
- :: Ladies' pistol, dainty as you please
- 🐱 Beaker of hydrofluoric acid
- **iii** Lacquered basswood airplane strut

## **3 TRANSPORTATION**

- Gaggenau 7-ton gasoline truck
- Alco "anti-fatigue" motorcar, 2-time winner of the Vanderbilt Cup
- ✓ Studebaker hansom horse-drawn carriage
- Curtiss Model 1911-D aeroplane
- :: I.R.T. elevated train car
- **Freight lighter moored at the East River docks**

## 4 INFORMATION

- List of all 67,000 New York telephone subscribers with certain names underlined
- Blueprint of the H. Wolff Book Bindery, Tenth Avenue and West 6th Street, one of the few poured concrete buildings in New York
- ✓ Threatening note addressed to Adams Dry Goods, Sixth Avenue and West 26nd Street (See Notes)
- :: Annotated copy of the Report of the Exhibition and Tests of Street Cleaning
- : Treasure map
- **Curious letter penned by an inmate of the Riverside Rest Association**, Second Avenue & East 26th Street (See Notes)

#### 5 VALUABLE

- Envelope containing Hamburg-American Line tickets to Europe
- Key to a deposit box at the Chase Bank, 200 Park Avenue South
- **.** Turkish rug from Ferdossi Rugs, Broadway and East 1st Street
- Camera and tripod from E & T Anthony and Co., 591 Broadway
- Chemicals misplaced from the New York Lying-In Hospital
- **iii** Gold Hip Sing tong "Dragon Head" necklace

#### 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Gentleman's tasteful moonstone tie-tack
- Soldier's diary from the Spanish-American War
- Wedding ring
- **Budgie in a cage**
- Family bible stuffed with correspondence
- **Tattered Daguerreotype of the Engine Company Eleven crew, at the** 437 Columbia St. firehouse

## ...IN 1913 NEW YORK

# NOTES

# ADAMS' DRY GOODS

An upscale provisioner of both patrician pantries and African expeditions.

## **RIVERSIDE REST ASSOCIATION**

The Riverside Rest Association cares for "women who are addicted to alcohol, or victims of the opium habit, or immoral" who have been discharged from Blackwell's Island.

## H. KAUFFMAN AND SONS

The shrinking tack-and-harness district known as Stable Row, which includes businesses like Miller's Harness Company and H. Kauffman & Sons, is growing more anachronistic by the day. Kauffman proudly displays cabriolet the he built for General Tom Thumb. Dickel's Riding School at 124 West 56th street can provide horses to let by the hour (starting at \$2.50)

## KALEM MOVING PICTURE STUDIOS

KALEM is New York's only motion picture production company. George Kleine, Samuel Long and Frank Marion operate their studio in direct competition with Mr. Edison's better-funded moving picture enterprise in West Orange, New Jersey. What the trio lack in cash they make up in scrappy determination—they recently lured Edison starlet Annabelle Whitford to New York to appear in their no-budget films. Currently in production: RETURN OF THE AERIAL ANARCHIST.

## BLOCK'S DRUGS

Old man Block will cheerfully sell carbolic acid, cocaine, nitroglycerin, or all three – provided you are paying with cash. Mr. Hamilton Wright, Federal Opium Commissioner, has said that "at least one druggist out of every ten exists by means of profits from the sale of habit-forming drugs, of which, of course, opium and its derivatives are most important." Block Drugs is that one in ten.

# NOTES

# THE CANTON CLUB

Founded by Chong Sing, a Chinese businessman who has begun organizing independent Chinese businesses who were not interested in tithing to the Hip Sing or On Leong tongs.

## HADLEY HALL

Hadley Hall is next door to the notorious Liberty Hotel. Once a German social club called the Volksgarten, today Hadley Hall is rented out to religious societies bent on saving the Bowery's fallen, who come to jeer and eat free food. The elderly Samuel Hadley, a one-legged Civil War veteran, has a soft spot for organized labor—when the hall isn't claimed by prim Presbyterians, it is packed to the rafters with Wobblies and agitators of every stripe.

## THE LIBERTY HOTEL

Formerly McGurk's Suicide Hall. Life was so horrific for the teenage prostitutes pimped by John McGurk that they took to drinking carbolic acid to end their misery—a tragic distinction McGurk cheerfully used to promote his drinking and gambling establishment. The dive closed in 1902, but its replacement, the Liberty Hotel, merely moved the most shocking vice upstairs and behind closed doors. Men do take rooms here, typically by the week, but only the lowest sort of men. Malnourished, underage soiled doves still work the street-level saloon, amidst busy tables of gamblers playing stuss and policy under the patronage of the Eastman Organization. John McGurk, once a Tammany Hall stalwart, was ruined by a corruption investigation and now tends bar in the business he once owned.



# TRANSATLANTIC

# MID-ATLANTIC, LATE DECEMBER 1932

To be read aloud by the most aristocratic person at the table...

You are a week out of Southampton en route to New York. Your 42,000ton vessel, Morning Star Lines' new flagship *Leviathan*, ploughs through these frigid waters at 29 knots. On this luxury cruiser's maiden voyage, the Captain has been directed to quietly contend for the glorious Blue Riband— the accolade awarded to the fastest crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

Topside, you enjoy a salty Gibson while pulling the heavy double wool of your coat closer to your body. Friends make merry with lively talk amongst themselves— it's a din barely overheard above the hammering engine and thresh of the ship's mighty propellers. Spray from the bow's cleave manages to catch your cheek even this far aft. You smile, playing the cocktail's onion lightly on your tongue. Your gaze draws across the dull, slate waters wondering at the marvel of it all: New beginnings? Maybe this time things will be different? Perhaps your dreams are within reach? What could possibly go wrong?

## MOVIE NIGHT

Bitter Moon, Legend of 1900, Titanic, Duck Soup (or The Impostors), the Love Boat (TV), Poseidon Adventure, Deep Rising

## CREDITS

Written by E. Tage Larsen

Cover art by E. Tage Larsen

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

Transatlantic was Playset of the Month, September 2010.



# A FIASCO PLAYSET 64 E. TAGE LARSEN

# RELATIONSHIPS ...

# 1 FAMILY

- Parent and adopted orphan
- Newly married
- Eccentric uncle and nephew/niece
- **Warring siblings**
- : In-laws
- **II** Old married couple

## 2 FRIENDS

- Affable tramps with an eye for mischief
- Pen pals just united
- Society gadfly and hanger-on
- **::** From the Great War
- : Inseparable, simply inseparable
- **EXA** Built on a lie

## **3 INTRICUE**

- Foreigners
- **Saboteur and fellow traveler**



• Mutinous



- Sworn oath
- "Who are you and why are you in my closet?"
- **E** Cultists

## 4 ON BOARD

- Wealthy invalid and voracious ingénue
- "We appear to be sharing a cabin"
- Entertainers
- **::** Dedicated bon vivants
- 😧 Mutual impostors, stowaways, and criminals
- **First class and steerage**

## 5 COURTING

- Confirmed bachelor and his bachelor companion
- Ships passing in the night
- **...** Estranged honeymooners
- : Unrequited love
- 😧 A rake, an innocent, a promenade deck
- **Former lovers**
- 6 **SPECIAL** (Use with care)
- Heiress and cat burglar
- Ship's doctor and patient
- ✓ Ship's purser and rescued whaler
- :: Captain and Chief Engineer
- **Rival stewards**
- **II** Detective and criminal

# ...ABOARD RMS LEVIATHAN

# NEEDS...

# 1 REVENCE

- ...because she humiliated you and now she's rooming across the hall
- ...on your rival once and for all
- ...on all landlubbers for what they don't know about the sea
- :: ... because your family was destroyed by Capitalists
- :...for what happened that one night off the Labrador Coast
- **:::** ...on the Captain, because it's now or never

# 2 TRUTH

- ...about the secret your father took with him to the grave
- ...about a missing lifeboat
- ...about uncomfortable family history
- "Why are we so very, very off course?"
- :...about the unmarked crate that was loaded in the still of night
- **III** ...about the forged safety inspection certificates

# 3 RESPECT

- ...from shipmates about a haunting error
- ...for yourself because the ridicule is too great
- ...by recovering your fortune ....
- :: ... from your in-laws, no matter the cost
- :...from those who doubt your righteous cause, and the strength of your sword
- **...**from your lover, who must accept that it'll never happen again.

## 4 RECOVERY

- ...from libelous accusations to restore your family's honor
- ...from financial ruin to get even with that confidence man
- :...from amnesia and the inevitable deluge of your former life
- ...from mounting gambling losses before it's too late
- :...from the beating you took to find those who dealt it
- **::** ... from years of abuse by a manipulative employer

## 5 ESCAPE - BON VOYAGE!

- ...from an arranged marriage
- ...to avoid a scandalous newspaper headline
- ...to immigrate because of your beliefs
- :: ...from a terrible family responsibility
- :...from prying eyes
- **...**the Royal Navy, who would like a word about a recent "minor misunderstanding"

## 6 SURVIVING

- ...the disaster, aboard the last lifeboat
- ...the duel, because that's not how things were done back home
- ...the flooded forward compartments, and your fear of water
- :: ...the whirlpool, powered by your desire to pay them back
- :...the fire, to claim your true love
- **:::** ...the sacrifice that will stop the Deep God from rising

# ...ABOARD RMS LEVIATHAN

# LOCATIONS...

# 1 ELSEWHERE VIA FLASHBACK

- Sweethearts first meeting
- Your face is the same as the man in the shadows
- Pemberton University, way back when
- **::** Palatial mansion, servant's quarters
- Dimly lit, smoke-choked seaside saloon
- **II** Brothel near Calcutta

## 2 ON BOARD LEVIATHAN

- Private, first-class stateroom
- Captain's quarters
- Steerage, crammed with destitute immigrants
- **The brig**
- 😧 Captain's Ball, Lido Deck
- **II** Aboard another vessel

## 3 MAYHEM

- Flooded companionway in the eye of the storm
- . Truly unfortunate juxtaposition of hull and iceberg
- TRANS-
- Boarded and ravaged
- Capsized
- Collapsed bulkhead taking on water
- **H** Adrift and on fire

## 4 ON DECK AND OFF

- Observation Deck
- Fog-shrouded aft deck
- Clutching the starboard rail, sick as a dog
- :: Overboard
- **:** Drenched and tangled in the lifelines
- **II** Tournament on the Lido Deck

## 5 "BE OVR CVEST"

- Dining at the Captain's table on lamb with mint sauce, roast squab, pâté de foie gras, and peaches in Chartreuse jelly
- Bawdy repurposed luggage room in steerage
- ✔ Captured by pirates... or worse
- : Umbrella drinks in deck chairs
- **Passed out in the Grand Ballroom**
- **In the orchestra pit, with the band**

#### 6 THE BOWELS OF LEVIATHAN

- Aft cargo hold
- B Deck, in a dimly lit chain locker
- ✓ Walk-in galley freezer
- **::** Open porthole or hatch
- : Bridge
- **II** Behind a triple-expansion steam engine

# ...ABOARD RMS LEVIATHAN

# OBJECTS...

# 1 UNMENTIONABLE

- "About that body in your stateroom..."
- Rogue wave
- Misplaced infant
- :: Sacrificial dagger with engravings of the loathsome Sea God
- : Turbine operating pressure gauge
- **Eye** patch

## 2 NAUTICAL

- Lifeboat
- Master key
- ✓ Life belt
- : Short-wave radio
- Ship's safe
- **E** Logbook

## **3 VIOLENT**

- Ticking time bomb
- Distress rockets
- ✓ Engraved sword cane



- Coal shovel
- **Grand piano on casters**
- **Block and tackle, with longshoreman's cargo hook**

## 4 PRURIENT

- Scandalous cable received just this moment
- Personal baggage delivered to the wrong room
- Scrawled note slipped in someone's pocket
- :: Overheard conversation between Fascists
- E Falsified divorce papers
- **Indiscrete** photographs

## 5 PRECIOUS

- Notorious diamond the size of your fist
- **.** The Shroud of Turin
- 🛃 A tiara
- **::** Bars of Spanish gold
- 😧 Prized poodle of a Madison Avenue socialite
- **iii** Alternate draft of the United States Bill of Rights

## 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Scented kerchief with an embroidered monogram
- Gramophone with unreleased pressings
- "Dear diary, today has been such a busy day!"
- 😧 Moonlight, dancing on the waves
- **II** Filigreed urn, heavy with ashes

# ...ABOARD RMS LEVIATHAN

# DALLAS 1963

#### "MR. PRESIDENT, YOU CAN'T SAY DALLAS DOESN'T LOVE YOU"

Dallas, 1963. The President is coming, although he really shouldn't.

The city is on edge, and all the players are busy playing—John Birch patriots and pro-Castro lunatics, Teamsters, mobsters and assorted other entrepreneurs in the burgeoning fields of sex, death, and race war. A lot of very serious people are doing a lot of very serious things. A smart guy can really get ahead in times like these, looking for the angles, making connections.

And you know what? Guys like that have more important things to do than worry about the President speaking at a Dallas Trade Mart luncheon.

## MOVIE NICHT

JFK, Love Field, Four Days in November, Executive Action

## CREDITS

Written by Chris Bennett

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Dallas 1963 was Playset of the Month, October 2010.





# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 COMMUNITY

- Federal law enforcement
- · Agitators, zealots, nut-cases
- → Professional associates
- **:** Church volunteers
- **:** Civic volunteers
- **Local law enforcement**

## 2 CRIME

- Dirty cop and corrupt businessman
- Pimp and prostitute
- Hustler and mark
- **::** Crime boss and bag man
- **:** Outlaws on the run
- **F** Professional killers

## **3 ROMANCE**

- Young lovers
- Frozen marriage
- One-time fling
- :: Incest is never romantic
- **::** It's all ancient history now





## 4 WORK

- Boss and Federal inspector
- Lawyer and client
- ✓ Tradesman and client
- :: Insurance salesman and client
- **:** Night shift workmates
- **II** Supervisor and employee

#### 5 FAMILY

- Aunt/uncle and nephew/niece
- Estranged husband and wife
- Parent and child/step-child
- **::** Cousins
- Parent-in-law/son or daughter-in-law
- **Siblings**

#### 6 SHIPS IN THE NICHT

- Sports figure and manager
- Old fraternity or sorority friends
- Nightclub owner and entertainer
- **Tramps passing through town**
- 😧 Army buddies from the Korean War
- **II** Office workers with a secret

## ...IN DALLAS, NOVEMBER 1963

# NEEDS...

# 1 TO GET LAID

- ...by anyone, anywhere, to dull the pain
- ...by that sexy thing you've had your eye on
- ...by an exotic foreigner
- ...by an old lover, rekindling an old romance
- :...by an old lover, to further your agenda
- **:::** ...to end your terrible self-doubt one way or another

## 2 TO CET THE TRUTH

- ...about someone's infidelity
- ...about your real parents
- ...about the mistake that haunts you
- :: ...about corrupt Dallas politics
- :...about someone's criminal past
- **...**about someone's associations and intentions

# 3 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from Dallas, by crushing the Communists
- ...from yourself, by finally pulling the trigger
- ...from a family member, by rescuing them from ruin
- :: ... from Dallas, by standing tall for white people
- :...from the police, by informing on your buddies
- **::** ... from your lover, by proving yourself



## 4 TO GET RICH

- ...through Texas politics
- ...through doing a favor for the mob
- :...through pure, unadulterated blackmail
- ...through defending America's ideals
- : ... through supporting global Communism
- **II** ...through murder

#### 5 TO GET EVEN

- ...with the cop who burned you
- ...with the Kennedy family
- ...with your old boss
- :: ...with the Establishment
- : ...with a rival
- **…**with the ideological opposition

#### 6 TO CET OUT

- ... of town—tonight
- ...from under their thumbs
- **.**..of a dangerous gambling debt
- ...before somebody finds out about what you did
- :...of a relationship with a lover
- **!!** ...of an obligation you can't keep

## ...IN DALLAS, NOVEMBER 1963
# LOCATIONS...

### 1 THE OUTSKIRTS

- Overpass along the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike
- ✓ Modern home in prestigious Preston Hollow neighborhood
- ✓ Southland Hotel's coffee shop
- **::** Cabin on Lake Texoma
- : Love Field, where daily flights to Europe have just been started
- **II** Cutie Pie's Roadhouse

### 2 DOWNTOWN

- Booking room of the Dallas Central Police Station
- Boiler room of the Kirby Building
- → Abe Weinstein's Colony Club on Commerce Street
- **::** Studios of KLIF-FM
- Cramped jail cell in the Dallas County Criminal Courts Building
- **II** An alley behind the Capri Theater

#### 3 DEEP ELLUM

- Roof of Grover C. Chambers barber shop
- Basement tenement apartment
- 🛃 Continental Gin Company building, shuttered in '62
- :: Honest Joe's, pawn shop at 2524 Elm, run by Rubin Goldstein
- 😧 Freedmen's Cemetery, beneath the Central Expressway
- **Storm sewer stuffed with plastic bags**



#### 4 MAIN STREET DISTRICT

- Dallas Times-Herald newspaper office
- "Take Her, She's Mine!" at the Palace Theater
- Joe Campisi's Egyptian Restaurant
- **::** Jack Ruby's Carousel Club VIP Room
- **Projection room of the Texas Theatre**
- **II** Parkland Hospital emergency room

#### 5 SKETCHY PLACES

- Illegal card room behind Bucky's Bowling Alley
- Boarding house in Oak Cliff
- Central Congregational Church, 5600 Royal Lane, North Dallas
- Sports book inside a cigar store on Belmont
- Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse BBQ on Inwood Road
- **III** Parking lot of the Cotton Bowl, home of the Dallas Cowboys

#### 6 WEST END

- Grassy knoll overlooking Dealey Plaza
- Swampy ground next to the Trinity River beneath the Commerce Street overpass
- ✔ Reflecting pool opposite the Book Depository
- : Dal-Tex building
- Sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository
- **ii** Abandoned railroad car on a side track

### ...IN DALLAS, NOVEMBER 1963

# OBJECTS...

### 1 INFORMATION

- Handwritten route of JFK motorcade through downtown Dallas
- "I'm For Nixon" button from 1960 presidential campaign
- Jog-eared copy of the Russian newspaper, Krokodil
- :: pro-Castro "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" organization letterhead
- 😧 Stamped visa slip from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City
- **III** Transcript of a domestic abuse emergency call to the Dallas PD

### 2 VALUABLES

- Handful of \$1000 chips from the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas
- Amateur reel from an 8mm movie camera
- ↓ Lighting equipment for the "Naughty Dallas" production, being filmed at the Colony Club and around town
- ∷ Two Trans-Texas Airline tickets to Veracruz, Mexico
- 😧 Abandoned baby girl in swaddling clothes
- **EXAMPLE :** Set of near-perfect counterfeit \$100 bill plates

#### **3 IDENTIFICATION**

- Calling card of a New Orleans private investigator
- Selective Service card with the name "Alex J. Hidell"
- ✓ Teamsters Union ID badge
- **::** Vegas PD cop badge
- 😧 Regalia from the Black Knights of Pythias
- **Work ID for the Texas School Book Depository**



#### 4 WEAPON

- Blood-spattered necktie
- .45 automatic pistol with mother-of-pearl grip
- Bureau-issue .38 snub-nose revolver in hideaway holster
- :: Italian Carcano M91/38 bolt-action rifle
- Sawed-off 12-Gauge double-barrel shotgun with pistol grip
- **II** Broken Dr. Pepper bottle

#### **5 TRANSPORTATION**

- Quickie Taxi Service taxicab, #4523
- Late-model black Ford limousine
- 🛃 Railroad handcar
- **::** Dallas Police Indian motorcycle
- Columbia Fire Arrow girls bicycle with broken headlight
- **Huge 1959** Chevy station wagon with fins

#### 6 UNTOWARD

- Two kilos of pure heroin stuffed into a gaudy cowboy boot
- Bottle of Preludin stimulant pills, name on label is 'P. McCartney'
- → Wire recording of local mobsters discussing JFK's upcoming visit
- Syringes of quack anti-cancer "vaccine"
- Signed topless picture of local burlesque dancer Marilyn Pope
- Annotated copy of Billy James Hargiss' book, "for Christ and against Communism"

### ...IN DALLAS, NOVEMBER 1963





# LONDON, 1593

### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Elizabeth, Queen of England, has enemies everywhere.

If you can read and write, if you can tell lies with quill or voice, you might have a place as a peddler of bombast, as a player of parts, as a nefarious practitioner of the business of show... or as a spy. For all the world is a stage and the great lords of England and abroad are writing the parts that lackeys, liars, agents, and actors shall play.

Show business and skulduggery are tangled together—here like lovers, there like brawlers—and all those within reach of politics and art must balance their secrets against their ambitions. Love and lust and loyalty are all called into question as poets seek the literature of the age and spymasters seek the enemies of the crown.

Yet for all that the strife of the age claims to be about crowns and kingdoms, so much comes down to the common quagmires of coins and cons, jealousy and greed, love and spite. Petty gripes and dirty designs conspire to determine the fate of England. Some folk may hang or burn and some may slip away smelling of roses.

But, for sure, a reckoning draws nigh.

### MOVIE NIGHT

*Elizabeth, Romeo and Juliet* (any), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Shakespeare in Love* 

#### CREDITS

Written by Will Hindmarch and Kenneth Hite

Cover Art by Will Hindmarch

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

London, 1593 was Playset of the Month, November 2010.



A FIASCO PLAYSET BY WILL HINDMARCH AND KENNETH HITE

# RELATIONSHIPS ...

### 1 FAMILY

- Siblings
- You think you're kin, but you aren't
- Bastards, both
- **Twins**, separated by storm or subterfuge
- 😧 You think you aren't kin, but you are
- **E** Cousins

#### 2 ROMANCE

- Betrothed by someone else's design
- Secret lovers
- ✓ Old flames, estranged
- : One-sided devotion
- ₩ Would be lovers, except...
- **Star-crossed lovers**

#### **3 SHOW BUSINESS**

- Writer and player
- Patron and artist
- Poet and muse
- **:** Clown and fan
- 😧 Wannabe and has-been
- **II** Devoted groundlings



#### 4 FRIENDSHIP

- Rivals for the part
- Share a common foe
- Partners in failure
- : Shared a room in the Tower
- Former servants of the same master
- **II** Drinking fellows

#### 5 ESPIONAGE

- Sir Walter Raleigh's men: scholars or bravos
- Keepers of a dark secret
- Co-conspirators
- **:** Agents of a foreign crown
- Spymaster Sir Robert Cecil's agents: informers or intelligencers
- **III** The Earl of Essex's servants: conspirators or provocateurs

#### 6 CRIME

- The thief and the fence
- Crooked apothecaries
- Brutes for hire
- Forgers or counterfeiters
- E Peddlers of witchcraft
- **Smugglers** of contraband

#### ...IN LONDON, 1593



#### 1 TO GET OUT

- ... of show business
- ... of the intelligence service
- ...from the shadow of the gallows
- :: ... from under your lord's thumb
- :...of this arranged marriage
- **II** ...of the blame, for what you did

#### 2 TO GET EVEN

- ...with the spy you took the fall for
- ...with the one who wrongly (or rightly) accused you
- ...with the one who gained preferment that should be yours
- :: ...with the duplicitous Earl of Essex
- ...with the one who stole your work
- **II** ...with England

#### 3 TO GET IN

- ...from the proverbial cold
- ...with her parents
- :: ...with the Lord Chamberlain's Men troupe
- :...to the employ of the spymaster, Sir Robert Cecil
- **::** ...to that locked box beneath the stage



### 4 TO GET THE TRUTH

- ...about a secret plot
- ...about why she lied
- ...about the murder
- **::** ...about the spy from Paris
- : ... about where the contraband is hidden
- **::** ...about the locked box beneath the stage

#### 5 TO GET PAID

- ...for your silence in Antwerp
- ...without your master finding out
- **.**..for your art
- : ... by the Crown
- :...in forgiveness
- **II** ... in information

#### 6 TO LAY WITH

- ...your one true love
- ...your spouse, to produce an heir
- ...someone to prove you're that sort
- :: ....someone before it's too late
- :: ...someone who'll understand
- **III** ...someone to restore your art

### ...IN LONDON, 1593

# LOCATIONS...

### 1 PROPER LONDON

- Palace at Whitehall
- Tranquil park, just outside the hustle of London
- Earl of Essex's great hall, for dancing
- : Thoroughfare, in broad daylight
- 🔀 Tennis court
- **II** Balcony of a well-to-do House

#### 2 SOUTHWARK

- Muddy back alley
- Dirty abattoir
- Crows' cages
- :: On the creaky second floor of a house of ill repute
- Common room at the Dog and Dove tavern
- **EXAMPLE STATE** Clink Prison

#### **3 THE THAMES**

- Riverside garden grotto
- On a cozy ferry across the river
- ✓ Sir Walter Raleigh's ship
- **::** Docks by lantern light
- 😧 Ramshackle house on the bridge
- **II** Knee-deep in river water



### 4 CHURCHES

- Westminster Abbey
- Bell-tower overlooking the city
- Chapel at the Earl of Essex's townhouse
- :: Chapel of the Old Faith, hidden beneath the tavern
- Burned-out remains of a Southwark church
- **St.** Paul's Yard, full of rumours and libels printed and whispered

#### 5 THE STAGE

- On stage at the Rose
- Jongleurs' stage at the Dog and Dove tavern
- Private stage of a great House
- **::** John Grimes' printing house
- Backstage at the Curtain
- **Hell (the space below the stage)**

#### 6 THE UNDERWORLD

- Safe house in Deptford
- Secret attic
- Crooked apothecary's lab
- Subterranean torture chamber
- **H** The Tower

### ...IN LONDON, 1593

# OBJECTS...

### 1 SORDID

- Bloody dirk
- **.** Raven with clipped wings and a bloody beak
- **⊡** Lascivious painting
- **::** Book of pagan prayers
- **:** Lwd horoscope
- **II** Tract of atheism

### 2 SECRET

- Signed confession
- Ciphered letter, or the cipher key
- → Proof of a secret marriage
- **Scented letter of love**
- **:** Damning list of names
- **EXAMPLE 1** Costume disguising your gender

### 3 OFFICIAL

- Official pardon with the name left blank
- Letter of credit from the Earl of Essex
- ✤ Rich monopoly on imported French wines
- Letter for the spymaster, Sir Robert Cecil, stamped and sealed
- : Letter from the ambassador, its seal broken
- **EXAMPLE** Severed finger, with a ring, sent as proof



### 4 PERSONAL

- Locket from your true love
- Locket from someone else's true love
- ✓ The coat he died in
- **::** Bangle given by Sir Walter Raleigh
- Birthmark proving your identity
- **H** Wedding band, engraved

#### 5 THEATRICAL

- Jester's scepter
- Sword with a button on its point
- Convincing costume for the opposite sex
- **::** Phial marked "poison"
- **:** Pirated copy of the hit play
- **II** New pages, meant for the stage

#### 6 DANGEROUS

- Two swords—one a prop, one real
- Treasonous poetry in a recognizable style
- Phial of a poison that counterfeits death
- Several barrels of unstable corned gunpowder
- **E** Love potion
- **H** Pistol, ready to fire

### ...IN LONDON, 1593

# DRAGON SLAYERS

# IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THOSE HANDS, CET THEM OFF MY MACIC CLOAK."

The bumpkins in this pissant mountain town could never have taken down that dragon. Their biggest hero hasn't seen battle since Drozzek rode down from the Smoking Mountains three wars-to-end-all-wars ago. That old fuck they call their town wizard fried his brain with one too many "elixirs of awareness" and can't even light a campfire with all his spells combined.

So yeah, we rode into town, a bunch of outsiders ready to solve that problem. Solve a motherfucking dragon. And no, we don't care what they think. And yes, we're fucking heroes. These yokels should worship at our feet. They didn't blast those mummies to dust or make a deathtrap built with technology lost centuries ago their bitch. And they sure as hell didn't slay that dragon.

That's our dragon, and its gold is our gold. So unless you're bringing us ale and whores, get the fuck out before we transform you into a turkey and serve you for dinner.

### MOVIE NIGHT

Army of Darkness, Conan the Barbarian, The Gamers: Dorkness Rising

### TIPS

This playset focuses on the fallout after a group of gung-ho adventurers wipes out a mythical monster. It contains details that point toward the town the characters "saved" and the dungeon where they fought. You can start after the victory (maybe dropping in some flashbacks to the adventure), or make the first act take place in the dungeon beforehand.

### CREDITS

Written by Logan Bonner

Cover art by Logan Bonner

Edited by Steve Segedy

Dragon Slayers was Playset of the Month, December 2010.





# RELATIONSHIPS ...

### 1 FAMILY AND ROMANCE

- Siblings
- Parent / child who was raised by others
- Unrequited lovers
- **::** Spouses in an arranged marriage
- :: Linked by blood ritual
- **II** Orphan / caretaker

#### 2 ADVENTURE

- Assassin / target
- Rescuer / rescuee
- **.** Employer / henchman
- **::** Former cellmates
- 🐱 Master / defeated foe turned into servant
- **Bounty hunter / bounty**

#### 3 MAGIC

- Creator / golem
- Master / thrall
- Sorcerer / apprentice
- ∷ Diabolist / intended sacrificial victim
- Simulacrum / real person
- **iii** Werewolf in human form / werewolf in wolf form



### 4 CULTURE

- Same non-human race (elf, dwarf, etc.)
- Tribemates
- → Worshipers of the same god
- **::** Bound by a blood ritual
- 记 Outcasts
- **II** Members of the same guild

#### 5 FELLOWSHIP

- Longtime adventuring companions
- Drinking buddies
- ✔ Reluctant allies
- **::** New blood / veteran adventurer
- : Leader / wannabe leader
- **II** Vicious scoundrel / pacifist healer

#### 6 WAR

- Same battalion
- . Mercenaries
- Fought for different sides
- You each have a scar the other gave you
- 🔀 Fighter / coward
- **!!** "You killed my father"

### ...IN A LAND OF MYTH



### 1 TO BE A HERO

- ... by defending the little guy
- ...to that one special person
- ...in a mentor's eyes
- :: ...so you can lord over everybody else
- :...who nobody will fuck with
- **:::** ...in the public's eyes, even if you really aren't

### 2 TO CRUSH YOUR ENEMIES

- ...because they ruined your life
- ...and enslave them
- ...and they're all enemies
- ...and use them for necromantic experiments
- **::** ...slowly and painfully
- **II** ... just to get a moment's peace

### 3 TO AMASS A HOARD

- ...by killing every monster you see
- ...through shady dealings
- ...even if it means nobody else gets a share ...
- : ... of forbidden lore
- :...to fund a private army
- **!!** ...so you never have to adventure again



### 4 TO FLY

- ...with everybody else's treasure
- ...after one last quest
- ...before they realize who you really work for
- :: ...once you've used up this town
- ...to follow rumors to your next adventure
- **:::** ...literally, using a spell or maybe a catapult

#### 5 TO RULE

- ... by marrying a royal heir
- ...on a throne of your enemies' skulls
- ...forever
- : ... an army of undead
- :...and impose your type of justice
- **::** ...and make others do the work for you

#### 6 TO OVERINDULGE

- ...with wenches
- ⋰ …in drink
- ...in rampant thievery
- : ... in forbidden rituals
- :...in bloodshed
- **II** ...in tavern brawls

### ...IN A LAND OF MYTH

# LOCATIONS...

### 1 IN THE TOWN

- Buxom Wench Inn & Tavern
- Lord Trammel's Keep
- Temple of Peace
- **::** Secret headquarters of the Split Penny thieves' guild
- 🔀 Market Square
- **II** Forge of Tzory, the blacksmith

### 2 ON THE OUTSKIRTS

- Tower of Flixnord the wizard
- The troll's bridge
- Boggy Barrow
- : The crossroads
- :: Abandoned farmstead
- **II** Magic gate to the dungeon

#### 3 IN THE WILD

- Witch's hut
- Faerie circle
- ✓ Wood elf camp
- :: Ogres' den
- **:** Cave of Visions
- **Hekrabar**, the mad druid's grove



#### 4 DUNGEON-UPPER LEVEL

- Tunnel entrance
- Orc den
- Slave pens
- **::** Altar to dark gods
- : Refuse pit
- **Secret room**

#### 5 DUNGEON-LOWER LEVEL

- Pool of Souls
- Trapped corridor
- **::** Arcane library
- 🔀 Maze of caverns
- **II** Dragon's lair

#### 6 FROM THE PAST

- Small village (now a burnt ruin)
- Military academy (massacred in a major war)
- Wizard mentor's cottage (looted after his death)
- **::** Cave holding hidden treasure (if you still have the map)
- **:** Your first dungeon (now collapsed and full of corpses)
- **III** Town where people called you heroes (until you got them killed)

### ...IN A LAND OF MYTH

# ARMS AND ARCANA...

### 1 WEAPONS

- Flaming sword (sword of cataclysmic combustion)
- Poisoned dagger (dirk of vicious viper's venom)
- → Big-ass iron warhammer
- **:** Ancient elven bow
- : Dragonbane blade (broadsword of scaly slaughter)
- **E** Catapult

### 2 MORE WEAPONS

- Soul-stealing scepter (scepter of severed souls)
- Sentient spear (longspear of wise council, or Arthur)
- Cursed blade (cutlass of cruel calamity)
- Seeking arrow (arrow of absolutely accurate archery)
- Betrayer's axe (greataxe of pliant perfidy)
- **III** Staff of resurrection with one charge left

### 3 SPELLS

- Enchanting Charm
- Transformative Polymorph
- Spectral Ward
- **::** Demonic Summoning
- **:** Trapping Paralysis
- **Exploding Lightning**



#### 4 MAGIC ITEMS

- Invisibility cloak
- Crystal ball of future sight
- → Crown of fearlessness
- **Wystery potion (nobody knows what it does)**
- 😧 Impervious chain shirt
- **II** Pocket magic doorway

#### 5 TROPHIES

- Mounted troll's head
- Genie bottle
- ✓ Dragon's flame sac
- **:** Tome of dark rituals
- Gold ring on a mummy's severed finger
- **Hereford Hereford Hereford**

#### 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Strange charm left with a founding (maybe one of the characters)
- Invitation to a prestigious order
- Statue of a deity (with a hidden compartment)
- Cld ally polymorphed into a toad
- Cask of 800-year-old dwarven booze
- **EXAMPLE** Royal lady's garter

### ...IN A LAND OF MYTH

# NUT PEOPLE



### CRANK DAT PECAN

Quigley is a poor but friendly little town just off Interstate 75 in southern Georgia. It's known for its ambitious effort to reinvent itself as a destination for well-heeled locavore tourists from Atlanta and beyond. Quaint bed-and-breakfast inns and high end restaurants are beginning to pop up among the pecan orchards, bringing... new people to Quigley.

Combine this influx of rich tourists and the people eager to absorb their dollars with an impoverished farming community, add in a sudden spike in the price of pecans that makes them worth a nickel a pop, and you have a recipe for a delicious Fiasco.

### MOVIE NICHT

No one in Hollywood has caught on to this true crime fantasia just yet. Give it time. Until then:

Hawkdogg's Crack Dat Pecan video: http://youtu.be/-8r28ZcsQak

*New York Times coverage:* http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/20/us/in-georgia-pecan-thieves-find-windfall-at-1-50-a-pound.html

*New York Times slide show:* http://www.nytimes.com/ slideshow/2011/12/19/us/pecans.html

### CREDITS

Written by Autumn Winters and Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy



# **RELATIONSHIPS**...



#### **1 ROMANCE**

- Bromance
- Unrequited love
- Had a kid together but it didn't work out
- **Ex-spouses**
- Clumsy lovers
- **II** Minion and clueless alpha

#### 2 HONEYSUCKLE

- Prep cook and sous chef
- **D**rug dealer and hostess
- Dishwashers
- : Owners
- : Head chef and Tarberry Farms pecan grower
- **II** Regular customer and waiter

### 3 FAMILY

- Resettled Atlanta-dweller and local
- Contentious siblings
- Black sheep (Gay cousin and disgraced uncle, etc)
- **:** Parent and child
- : Distant kin
- **EXAMPLE** Closer than blood; sworn to secrecy

### 4 THE ORIGINAL GEORGIA NUT HOUSE

- Truck driver and cashier
- Nut roaster and trainee
- ✓ Internet order packers
- **::** Food safety inspector and informant
- 😧 Pecan expert and Yankee
- **II** Owner and debt-holder

#### 5 THEY ARE JUST YARD NUTS, OFFICER

- Nut thief and middleman/fence
- Nut thief and Tarberry Farms employee
- Rival nut thieves
- **::** Nut thief and clueless ex-con
- Nut thief and Honeysuckle employee
- **E** Career nut thieves

#### 6 DARREN SADLEY JUNIOR

- ...and sometime-girlfriend Destiny Oglethorpe
- ...and Parole Officer J.C. Braswell
- ...and the Reverend Darren Sadley Senior
- ...and Miss Southwest Georgia 2007 Lamb MacNair
- : ...and minor meth kingpin B.M. Slaughter
- **::** ...and pecan visionary Chris Quick

### ...IN NUT COUNTRY

### NEEDS...



#### 1 TO GET LAID

- ...by Destiny Oglethorpe
- ...before it's too late
- ...for old time's sake
- :: ...out by the swimming hole, drunk as a lord
- :...or rather, to make love and rekindle the passion
- **...**so you can brag about it at the fireworks stand

### 2 TO GET IN

- ...to the Original Georgia Nut House warehouse
- ...with the guys calling all the shots
- ...to a chef's apron at last
- :: ... the good graces of the pecan theft ring
- :...to a diversion program rather than go to jail this time
- **...**to the mule shed at Tarberry's, for illegal purposes

### 3 TO GET NUTS

- ...to pay off a debt coming due
- ...to prove to the kingpin that you are serious
- ...by ripping off some nut thieves
- ...back from the jackholes who stole them
- 🔝 ...so Momma can make her holiday pies
- **II** ...to buy toys for the kids

#### 4 TO GET EVEN

- ...with Tarberry Farms
- ...with the fancy people from Atlanta
- ...with Darren Sadly Junior
- :: ...more pecans than you thought possible
- :...for what they did to you
- **II** ...with a certain parole officer

#### 5 TO CET OUT

- ...of the pecan theft racket, after one last score
- ...of Quigley, after one last act of heroism
- ...of a complicated romantic situation
- : ... of debt
- 🐱 ... of your mind on magic mushrooms
- **III** ...of the Friday night poker game with a fortune

#### 6 TO CET OVER

- ...the loss of the family farm
- ...the bad breakup
- ...her death
- : ... the electrified fence
- : ...a kilo of crystal meth hidden in the walk-in freezer
- **II** ...your pride, to do the right thing

#### ...IN NUT COUNTRY

# LOCATIONS...



### 1 THE BOONDOCKS

- Migrant vidalia onion picker's camp
- . Treadwell Creek swimming hole
- Family cemetary at the edge of Backlick Swamp
- :: Unexpected grove of wild pecan trees
- 🕄 Indian burial mound on Federal land
- **III** The remains of a burned-down pecan orchard

#### 2 EXIT 129

- Original Georgia Nut House warehouse
- Quigley Chicken Hut
- → Hobo camp behind the tire shop
- **::** Atom Smashers Fireworks stand
- 😧 Original Georgia Nut House employee break room
- **III** Bust-A-Nut Gentleman's Club

#### 3 TARBERRY FARMS

- Mule pen
- Pecan orchard along Georgia Highway 41
- ✓ Old Tarberry mansion
- **::** Back orchard by Treadwell creek
- 🔀 Main gate and packing house
- **II** New Tarberry mansion

#### 4 DOWNTOWN QUICLEY

- Netherland's Junk and Antiques
- Pecan Sandy's Bed and Breakfast
- City Hall and police station
- **DAR** Memorial Garden
- 法 Liu Haocai's tree nut brokerage
- **II** Original Georgia Nut House commercial kitchen

#### 5 RESIDENCES

- Trailer down by Treadwell Creek
- Split level ranch in town
- Crappy apartment above Netherland's Junk and Antiques
- : Orchard Village Behavioral Health Center
- Station wagon parked behind Atom Smashers Fireworks
- **!!** Ultra-modern home atop Tarberry Hill

#### 6 HONEYSUCKLE

- The ham house
- Corner table in front dining room
- Sculpture garden
- **::** Crawlspace under the kitchen
- ₩ Walk-in freezer with broken lock
- Head chef's office

### ...IN NUT COUNTRY

## OBJECTS...

### 1 DANGEROUS

- Smith and Wesson .38 with pink grips
- AGMAC tree-shaker with HVS head, mounted on pickup truck
- ✓ Squirrel poison
- :: Chef's knife
- 😟 Pecan pie
- **II** Tube sock full of pecans

#### 2 VALUABLE

- Check for \$15,000 from Tarberry Farms
- Promise of a favorable restaurant review
- Seven twenty dollar bills and a joint
- : Pecan pie
- 🔀 A hand-drawn map
- **III** Government school lunch agricultural supplier contract

### 3 DRUG

- Oxycontin pills (5)
- Epi-pen for nut-related allergies
- Butter pecan bourbon
- Hallucinogenic mushrooms mixed into a bag of shelled pecans
- : Tiny meth lab
- **II** Oxycontin pills (too many to count)

### 4 PECAN-ORIENTED

- One hundred pound sack of pecans
- A single perfect pecan
- One thousand hundred-pound sacks of pecans
- **::** Fake pecan with RFID tracking device inside it
- : Tarberry family's prize pecan tree
- **II** Pecan pie

#### 5 SENTIMENTAL

- Acceptance letter from Georgia Tech
- Photo of Sadley family orchard, now a subdivision
- ✓ Miss Southwest Georgia pageant tiara
- **::** Framed and signed first dollar
- : Pecan pie
- **Bronzed** baby shoes

#### 6 TRANSPORT

- Jacked-up 4WD monster dune buggy
- Tractor-trailer full of pecans
- ✓ Lop-eared mule
- : Nearly-totaled 1988 Ford Taurus, still running
- Hot air balloon
- **Hill** Mysterious white can

### ...IN NUT COUNTRY





The playset is the still-beating-but-stolen-by-organleggers heart of Fiasco, and inside this first Anthology volume you'll find thirteen sterling examples of the form-twelve that held a place of honor as a Playset of the Month, and an extra one written by Fiasco designer Jason Morningstar specifically to accompany them here. PRESENTED BY

BULLY PULPIT CAMES



This is not a complete game! You need a copy of Fiasco to enjoy these playsets.