

# INSPIRATION TABLE

## SETTINGS

Antarctica  
 Deep in the Sahara  
 Out on the Mongolian steppe  
 High in the Himalayas  
 In the belly of a rift valley  
 In the remote Amazon  
 On a small island far from  
 the mainland  
 On the Moon  
 In an asteroid field  
 Deep in space  
 Beneath the ocean

## WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE?

That door leads to nowhere  
 Strange geometry  
 Massive dimensions  
 Impossibly ancient

## LOCATIONS

A blasted heath  
 An uncharted cave network  
 An isolated village  
 A nomad camp  
 A settlement unseen by modern eyes  
 An almost-abandoned town  
 A crumbling castle  
 An abandoned mine  
 An old dungeon  
 A ghost town  
 In a rusting hulk  
 At the site of a shipwreck  
 Ancient catacombs  
 A disused metro station  
 A former asylum  
 A former prison  
 An archaeological dig  
 The base camp of an expedition  
 An oil rig  
 An isolated space station  
 A highly restricted research installation  
 The British Museum  
 An art gallery

## STRANGE ART

Statue  
 Mask  
 Musical instrument  
 Board game  
 Mirror  
 Clock  
 Jewellery  
 Painting

## WRITINGS

Scroll  
 Tome  
 Hieroglyphs  
 Carvings  
 Poem  
 Sheet music  
 Journal  
 Play

## SPECIMENS

A bloom  
 Preserved insects  
 A fossil  
 A mummified  
 body part  
 Bones  
 Footprints  
 Meteor fragments

## ARCANE ITEMS

Candles and incense  
 A knife or dagger  
 Oil, potion or powder  
 A crystal or gemstone

## WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT THIS OBJECT?

Clearly not made for humans  
 Made of an unknown material  
 Crafted from bone, obsidian, crystal  
 Unpleasant hue  
 Unusual smell  
 Gigantic or tiny  
 Hideous

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## SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

Concealing something  
Excessively friendly  
Wears oddly concealing clothing  
Unusual appetites  
Someone is followed or watched  
Aggressive or violent  
Secretive  
Turns up in expected places  
Unexplained gathering

## VIOLENT OR CRIMINAL

Spate of thefts  
Rash of vandalism  
Series of arson attacks  
Kidnappings/disappearances  
Mutilations  
Dissections

## MENTAL INFLUENCES

Sudden change of personality  
Partial or full amnesia  
Vivid or eerie dreams  
Visions or hallucinations  
Vacant stare, silent and unresponsive  
Comatose

## ARCANE BEHAVIOUR

A strange superstition  
Wears strange items e.g. jewellery  
Incoherent or cryptic utterances  
Chanting  
Ritual sacrifice  
Ritual mortification

## ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Predators behave like prey/vice versa  
Animals lose instinctive behaviour -  
e.g. birds unable to fly straight  
Animals lose fear of humans  
Animals terrified by something  
Animals avoid a specific location

## PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Strange sleep patterns  
Extreme body temperature  
Sickness  
Minor but ubiquitous physical  
characteristic e.g. everyone has six fingers  
Strange physique or gait

## SINISTER SOUNDS

The sound of hysterical laughter  
The sound of a sudden scream  
High pitched whistling or piping  
A grinding or juddering noise  
Whispering voices just out of earshot  
An eerily familiar melody

## WEIRD VISUALS

The angles are wrong  
The world's palette seems wrong - too  
bright/dark/colourful/muted  
Something moving just out of sight  
Something that's uncomfortable to look at

## STRANGE SMELLS AND TASTES

Rotting meat  
Burnt plastic  
Cloying perfume  
Moist, earthy smell  
Metallic tang  
Ammoniac stink  
This really shouldn't taste so good  
Food tastes foul

## SOMATIC

Something thrumming in the earth  
Texture is wrong - glass feels dry and paper  
thin, metal feels soft and moist  
Sudden and powerful heat or chill  
Air feels charged, electric  
Sensation of being watched  
Feeling of someone walking on your grave  
Sudden wave of melancholia  
Feeling of fatalism / inevitable doom

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## MONSTERS

### MONSTROUS FORMS

Chitinous (insectoid, arachnid, hairy, feelers, multifaceted eyes)  
Crustacean (exoskeleton, claws)  
Cephalopod (squid-like, octopoid, tentacles)  
Gastropod (mucous, oozing)  
Deep sea creature (gelatinous, polypous, fronds, pulsating)  
Xenoform (odd number of limbs, weird anatomy, radial symmetry)  
Fungoid (anatomically homogeneous, soft, musty-smelling)  
Choking plant-like growth (vines, vast, pervasive)  
Formless (amorphous, bubbling, liquid, vaporous)  
Immaterial (intangible, living shadow, exists in angles, a thought-form)  
Almost human (simulacrum, monstrous hybrid)

### COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

Massive  
Flying  
Voracious  
Carnivorous  
Insensate  
Mindless

### TYPES OF MONSTER

An intelligent race (a bloodline, a star-spanning empire, ancient forbears)  
A beast, predator or other monstrous species  
A unique entity (god, demon, alien intellect)

### SIGHTINGS

A distant or obscured view of the creature  
An account from another, readily discountable  
Rumours and stories

### TERRIBLE TRUTHS

You are one of them  
You shall become one of them  
The person you trusted is one of them  
People you trusted are colluding with them  
The authorities have known all along  
They live among us  
There are many more like this one  
The change is irreversible

You can never go back  
You are going to die here  
The rumours are true  
That story is not a work of fiction  
The dreams are real  
Everything has been a dream - one you will never wake up from  
The coming doom cannot be prevented  
Your actions meant nothing  
Your actions have only made things worse



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## LANGUAGE

### HORRORS ARE:

Blasphemous  
Abominations  
Alien  
Daemoniac  
Nameless  
Unknowable  
Eldritch  
Star-Spawned  
Star-Born  
Half-Seen or Unseen  
Numberless  
Unnatural  
Gigantic  
Interstellar  
Misshapen  
Hidden  
Membranous  
Convolved  
Web-Winged  
Fleshless

### LOCATIONS ARE:

Decaying  
Degenerate  
Crumbling  
Blackened  
Gothic  
Mildewed  
Disintegrating  
Blighted  
Forest-Threatened  
Anomalous  
Outcast  
Pitiful  
Abandoned  
Blasted  
Brittle  
Greying  
Disintegrating  
Encrusted  
Carrion  
Dimly-Lit  
Unpleasant

### ARCHITECTURE AND MISCELLANEOUS THINGS ARE:

Cyclopean  
Vast  
Half-Unknown  
Labyrinthine  
Interplanetary  
Intangible  
Irregular  
Strangely Angled

Limitless  
A Piece of Bizarrierie  
Horrible  
Strange  
Malign  
Star-Wind  
Night-Black  
Antiquarian