



Bite-sized RPG material without all the bloat.

Five days until Christmas

by Mike Dukes

"What about this one?" It was hard to hear with the chainsaw running elsewhere in the lot. She yelled it again and this time saw her fiancée poke his head around one of the aisles of Christmas trees. Amy shoved her hands in her pockets to warm them as Michael came to stand next to her and stared up at the enormous tree she was gazing at. He nodded sagely, "It's perfect... except for one thing." She looked to him then back at the tree, trying to see the flaw he was alluding to. He smiled, "There's no way it will fit in the house. It's twice as tall as our ceiling." She turned to him, pouting her lips. Raising his hands in surrender, he couldn't help but laugh. "Okay, okay... we'll cut it to fit once we get it home." Squealing in glee, she pounced on him. They fell in the snow, surrounded by the forest of trees in the Christmas tree lot. They were giggling together when Amy noticed someone else lying in the snow in one of the other aisles of trees. She whispered at Michael to look and then realized the sound of the chainsaw had ceased. "Oh my God, oh my God...." Michael told her to stay calm as he got up and crept over to the body lying in the snow. It was Mr. Keaton, the owner of the Christmas tree lot. "Jeez!!!" Mr. Keaton was cut in half. His chainsaw was lying in his quickly pooling blood. Amy began screaming. So much for Christmas...

This adventure takes place in the final days before Christmas. If the characters are not vigilant and mindful, it could prove to be their last Noel. While Novice characters can be successful, this adventures is better suited for Seasoned characters. Combat skills will come in mighty handy at the end, but of equal importance are *Investigate* and *Knowledge: Occult* or a similar skill. If characters lack those skills, you may use *Common Knowledge* rolls at -2.

Background

Jesse Simmons is a junior at East Texas University. He is very much in love with a fellow student, Rachael Keaton. They broke up a week before Thanksgiving after dating for two years. Jesse hasn't been dealing with the breakup very well. It has been very stressful for him and he has contemplated suicide more than once.

One of his moments of contemplated suicide took place at Eli's Lost Pond. He saw a shooting star fly across the night sky and wished aloud that Rachael would love him and no one else. Eli wasn't

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the only one at the pond that night. Something else was as well. The wind suddenly whistled through the trees and the icy water of the pond broke through the ice and began to swirl. From the pond, a beautiful woman stepped out. Jesse fell to his knees, thinking he'd gone insane. The beautiful woman seemed to read his mind. She told him she could grant his wish. She could make Rachael love him and only him but there would be a price to be paid. Jesse didn't hesitate. He didn't even ask what the price would be. He agreed then and there, begging this beautiful water nymph to grant his most heartfelt wish. The deal was sealed with a kiss. She told him that on Christmas, Rachael would have no one but him.

Jesse opened his eyes and found himself lying at the edge of the pond. He must have dreamed it all. But why was there water on his face? He picked himself up and headed back to his truck. The next few days he was unable to find Rachael at her apartment. She had gone home for the holidays. He drove by her parent's house and noticed people coming and going. He stopped someone and asked what was going on and learned that her father, Jack Keaton, had died in an accident at his Christmas tree lot. Poor Rachael... she had loved her father a great deal.

Though he doesn't realize it, Jesse has made a deal with the same demon with whom Eli Crenshaw made a pact back in 1852 (see **Interview 5** of the *Jennifer Ridge Transcripts* on the 12 to Midnight website). Like Crenshaw, Jesse's happiness comes at a terrible price. The demon will kill Rachael's family, leaving her no one in life to love but Jesse. Then in one year, Jesse himself will die. Such is the nature of the beast.

It shouldn't take the characters long to realize that the Keaton family is being targeted by *something*. No doubt, Jesse will come under scrutiny due to his constant calling and stalking. With luck, the heroes will be able to get Jesse to admit his wish made at the pond. From there, the characters can research the pond and learn of Eli Crenshaw's fate. Once they learn of what befell Crenshaw, their course of

action should be obvious. They have to stop the spirit and try to protect Rachael's family. A binding spell or an exorcism must be performed at the pond. If the characters know nothing of exorcisms, the GM can introduce the aid of a local priest who knows the ritual. However, it should take some convincing on the part of the heroes.

Jesse made his deal on the 17th of December. The Pond Devil didn't waste any time. Unknown to the rest of the Keaton family, Joyce Keaton (Rachael's mother) suffered a stroke and died during a near-riot at the AllMart in Jasper. She was trying to be one of the lucky few to get their hands on a new video game system that her 14 year old son Christopher desperately wanted. Unfortunately, a lot of other parents had the same idea and the store had already announced that it had only 20 of the game consoles. When the doors opened that morning, the crowds rushed in. Two people were hurt in the rush. Joyce Keaton died. The Pond Devil then possessed her body. That was the morning of the 18th. It returned home to Pinebox (with the video game!) and spent time observing its prey. The father, another daughter, and a son would have to die before the 25th. The Pond Devil would have a very merry Christmas, indeed.

A tree by any other name... Dec. 20

The adventure begins for the heroes on December 20th at the local Christmas tree lot ran by Jack Keaton, Rachael's father. As to why they are there, that's up to you. Possible ideas include the obvious: they're there to get a tree. Or perhaps they're friends of Jack Keaton and are there lending a hand. Maybe one of the heroes is on a date with Christie Keaton and decided to stop by and say hello to her father. Use whatever works best for your group.

The tree lot is on 20 acres of land owned by the Keatons and used every other Christmas. Trees are sold for \$30-\$50 depending on size. He also sells fresh wreathes on site as well. Buyers walk the aisles, choose their tree, then summon Keaton or one of his workers to cut the tree down and help load it into their vehicles. Strings of Christmas lights along the outer perimeter of the lot help it easily be seen from the road.

Allow the heroes to wander a bit. Be sure to point out little things like the number of empty spots in

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the lot since it is so close to Christmas, the small dog running around and the hapless owner chasing it, and the smattering of buyers getting their trees now in hopes of lower prices. Eventually, have the characters encounter Jack Keaton. Jack is a likeable guy of 47 years wearing a thick coat and a Santa hat. If his beard were white, he'd make a perfect Santa. Have him talk up the heroes, chatting about last minute Christmas shopping, expected snow, family during the holidays, and so on. The goal is to make Jack seem more like a real person, someone the characters could consider a friend in time. Build him up, because he's about to get cut down.

While the characters are talking with Jack or watching him, he begins cutting a tree with his chainsaw. Have the heroes make a *Notice* roll -2. If they succeed, they witness something that should not be... and something horrible. While the heroes watch (regardless of whether they succeeded on their roll), Jack begins to cut the tree and suddenly the chainsaw jerks back and he's unable to control it. It buries in his chest. His finger apparently is stuck on the throttle as the saw continues tearing into him. It's over in seconds but it seems like forever. Jack's dead hand falls from the saw and it shuts off. Jack Keaton is dead.

Any heroes who made their *Notice* roll did not just see the chainsaw jump back... they saw a misty form leap from the snow under the tree and push the saw back into Jack. A second *Notice* roll reveals that the front of Jack's coat and pants is soaking wet... and not just with blood. It is almost as though someone threw a bucket of water on him. Examining the chainsaw yields nothing. It appears to be in perfect working order. If the heroes examine the tree, a *Notice* roll -2 reveals a small, smooth stone in the snow. A *Common Knowledge* roll reveals that it is a stone worn smooth by water. No other such rocks are in the area.

Psst! The rock was slipped into Jack's pocket by the Pond Devil. It allowed the Devil to sense all Jack's actions and use its supernatural powers on him by transferring itself through the stone.

Regardless of the *Notice* roll, allow them to see that the chainsaw never actually touched the tree. The tree hasn't a mark on it.

By this point, someone should hopefully have called the police. The police arrive along with an ambulance from Carter Greystone Memorial Hospital. The police question everyone present but it seems pretty obvious that this was an accident. Yeah, right. The characters now have to decide their next move. If they saw the Pond Devil's form when it attacked, then they know this was no accident. If they didn't see it, then this indeed seems to be a horrible accident. Regardless, you should prompt them that if nothing else, they should visit the Keatons to offer their condolences and attend Mr. Keaton's funeral to pay their respects.

There is not much to research immediately. Officially, the death will be ruled an accident due to stroke. If they have any connections in the police department, a successful *Persuasion* roll reveals that tests showed the chainsaw to be in perfect working order. Also, there was no initial cut mark on the tree. The chainsaw never touched it. The coroner claims death was caused by a stroke which, in turn, caused Keaton to lose control of the saw. The safety on the saw did not engage because Keaton never released the trigger. If the heroes wait, the same information is in the next day's newspaper.

Looking into Jack Keaton's background shows he was a chemical engineer at Borden Chemicals. Everyone in town liked him and his Christmas trees were always sought after. He had no ties to anything occult related.

Visiting the Keatons

At the Keaton household, the family is in obvious grief. Numerous friends arrive in the coming days to offer their condolences. If the characters choose to visit, they find Jack's two daughters Christie and Rachael both at the house, as well as his wife Joyce and son Christopher. Christie and Rachael try to keep their spirits up by talking about their fond memories of camping or fishing with their father, or his reactions to their boyfriends.

If the characters go to the Keaton household, have them make a *Notice* roll. If successful, they notice a car parked a couple of houses down from the Keaton's home with a man at the wheel. He appears to be intently watching the Keaton house with a cell phone to his ear. Should the characters choose to confront him, he explains that he is Jesse Simmons, Rachael Keaton's boyfriend. He claims

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to not want to disturb her but he wants to be there for her since all she has is him and her family.

Simmons requires a successful *Persuasion* roll to be convinced to go into the Keaton home with them. If the heroes try to interrogate Jesse about Jack Keaton's death or get further information about his breakup with Rachael, he is a dead end. Simmons does not yet realize he is the cause of the death. As for his break-up with Rachael, he has no clue since she wouldn't tell him why but he suspects another man may be in her life though he has no proof of this.

If the heroes visit the Keatons without Jesse, he calls the house while they are there. Christie answers the phone. A *Notice* roll allows the heroes to hear the following: "*No! She doesn't want to talk to you. Stop calling!*" She then hangs the phone up and when Rachael asks who it was Christie claims it was a wrong number. A hero with a successful *Persuasion* roll can get Christie to reveal that the caller was Jesse Simmons, Rachael's ex-boyfriend.

If the characters bring Jesse with them, a successful *Notice* roll allows them to see a definite unease in Rachael when Jesse walks in. Christie immediately tells him he is not welcome at the house. If asked why, she reveals that Jesse has been calling the house every day and stalking Rachael. Jesse begs Rachael to talk to him but before she can answer, Christie tells him to get out or she'll call the police. Jesse leaves to avoid trouble. If the characters ask, they are told of how Jesse and Rachael dated for two years before Rachael recently ended the relationship. If asked why, she'll say she needed space. See **The Breakup** (page 6) for the scoop.

Christopher, the sisters' little brother, walks through from time to time, going from the kitchen to his room. He is basically eating away his grief. He sits in his room and plays video games or reads comic books while munching away on whatever food well-wishers bring to the house. He is in shock about his father's death and not sure how to deal with it.

Observant characters notice that Mrs. Keaton is not seeing visitors. If the characters ask, Christie or Rachael can tell them that their mother was a nervous wreck so her doctor gave her something to calm her nerves. She has been in her bedroom the whole time. The girls are worried about their

mother, fearing she will never recover from the loss.

More stones

Sometime during their visit(s) make secret *Notice* rolls for the heroes. A success with a raise reveals stones in the house just like the one they (hopefully) found at the tree lot. There is one in each window sill. Further investigation reveals at least one in each room of the house. This is how the Pond Devil keeps track of its prey while it lays in the bedroom as Mrs. Keaton....

Neither Christie nor Rachael has any idea where the stones came from, but assume them to be something one of their parents put in the house. Rachael remembers being taken to Wilson Quarry by her father when she was younger. She will assume he placed the stones in the house and refuses to allow them to be removed.

*If the heroes decide to research the stones, either an **Investigation** roll -6 or a **Knowledge: Occult** roll -4 is required to learn that such stones were often carried by Indian shamans to better commune with water spirits.*

Away in a manger

If the heroes decide to visit Jesse, they find that he rents a house just off the ETU campus. There is nothing extraordinary about the place other than the near worship he seems to feel toward Rachael. Pictures of her are everywhere. If you want to push the crazy ex-boyfriend angle, have some personal items of Rachael's hidden in a box (underwear, hair, whatever you can think of).

If questioned, he honestly admits his love for his ex-girlfriend. If questioned prior to Christie's death, he has no idea that he is responsible. After her death, he suspects that he is responsible and "breaks" if questioned. If the heroes do not get to him, he goes to Rachael to admit what he has done... all for love, of course. If things are going slow and you want to pick up the pace, have Jesse reveal (after an *Intimidation* test of Wills or *Persuasion* roll) that he had come close to suicide many times since his break-up. He feels better now

though... since he had his vision. Let him spill the beans about his deal.

Light up the tree! Dec. 22

On the 22nd of December, the Pond Demon strikes again—this time, while Rachael is in the shower and Christopher is in his room. “Mrs. Keaton” is lying on the couch and asks Christie to turn on the Christmas tree lights. If you choose for this murder to happen while the heroes are not present, it happens as follows. As Christie goes to plug in the lights, the demon leaves Mrs. Keaton’s body and, grabbing Christie, act as a conductor between the wall outlet and Christie. Using its powers, it draws forth more electricity from the normally 120v outlet and kills Christie. The lights go out in the house, and Christie’s siblings come into the living room to find their mother passed out on the couch and Christie burnt to a crisp and lying in a pool of water.

If the characters are at the house when you choose to do this, to avoid detection the demon resorts to focusing its power through a stone on the floor by the Christmas tree. A successful *Notice* check -2 allows the characters to see Christie’s clothes become transparent with water the instant before she is electrocuted. Draw initiative cards for any heroes who made the roll and for the devil. If a hero wins initiative, he or she can pull Christie to safety with a successful *Agility* roll. The Pond Devil’s watery form then bursts up from the stone on the ground and howls in fury before disappearing. Mrs. Keaton appears to have passed out from fright. If a hero wins initiative but fails the *Agility* roll, he suffers 3d6 damage from electrocution.

I don’t feel very merry

If the heroes were present when Christie died, they may have a pretty certain idea this is the work of the supernatural. Even if they weren’t, the coincidence is too great to ignore. Unfortunately, they still have little to go on. Luckily, when Jesse learns of Christie’s death (or near-death) he puts two and two together. Fearing what he has done, he goes to Rachael and tries to warn her. If the heroes are known as the type who deal with the supernatural or have given him the impression that they could

help, he contacts them. If he does not contact them, Rachael might. It all depends on how well the heroes know the Keatons and how much they have ingratiated themselves to the family.

Jesse still does not want to believe this is real. Unless the heroes stop him, he drives to the pond and attempts to get the “beautiful woman” with whom he made the deal to take it back. If no one is with him, he walks into the icy water to offer himself instead of the Keatons. The Devil drowns him and takes his soul now instead of later, but still hunts down the Keatons to finish the bargain.

Wise men with a purpose

Once they know of Jesse’s deal, the heroes can do some research on the Pond. A small sign on the walking trail bordering the woods claims that the pond nature preserve was named for early Pinebox settler Eli Shaw.

If the characters visit the library, they can learn the following with a successful *Investigation* roll.

Roll	Result
Success	During a drought, Eli found the Lost Pond and it saved the community. He died one year later.
1 Raise	Legend says he made a deal with the Devil and the pond was his prize but the price was his life one year later.

Research at the Pond itself can yield some interesting results as well.

If the heroes think to take a digital recorder to the pond to attempt catching some EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomena), have them roll *Smarts*. A success allows them to catch some vague whispers that sound like someone begging for help. A Raise allows them to make out Jack and Christie’s voices begging for help.

A séance held at the pond (successful *Knowledge: Occult*) results in the wind blowing stronger and the ice cracking on the pond. If a Ouija board is used, two words are spelled out: Joyce Dead. What the heroes make of that is up to them.

A *Knowledge: Occult* roll reveals the best ways for stopping the Pond Devil.

Roll	Result
Success	Fire harms this Devil
Raise	An exorcism at the Pond is the only way to permanently destroy the Pond Devil

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The pond must be blessed through an Exorcism. If none of the heroes have access to the Exorcism ritual (*Knowledge: Occult and the rites of exorcism required, a contested Spirit roll between Caster and the Devil on final round of casting. +1 to Caster for each person assisting*) a local priest might be convinced to lend his aid. The ritual takes 10 rounds to complete, during which time the Pond Devil attempts to finish off the Keatons and slay the heroes as well. It uses Mrs. Keaton's body to its advantage, striking the heroes when they least expect it. Once Joyce Keaton's body is destroyed, the Pond Devil manifests physically at the pond in 1d4 rounds. This thing has been around for centuries... it does not go quietly.

Sugar plums dancing... Dec. 24

If the heroes do nothing or are slow to act, the Pond Devil kills Christopher on the 24th. It drowns him while he is in the shower. It sneaks in as Mrs. Keaton if possible and drown him so as to create more fear and confusion when he sees his mother drowning him. If the heroes are present, this is an opposed Strength test between the possessed Joyce and her son. Assuming she is winning, use the standard drowning rules in Savage Worlds. If it succeeds, it leaves Joyce Keaton's body there atop her son and returns to the pond. Rachael will have no one left, and will find herself clinging to Jesse for support... no one left to love but him.

A long winter's nap

The climax comes when the heroes (hopefully) learn what they can of the Devil and take the fight to it at the Pond. If Joyce Keaton has not been destroyed, it does its best to kill the rest of the Keatons (except Rachael) to fulfill the bargain. If the Keatons are dead, it has Joyce drive to the pond and pretend to be there to help. It attacks whoever is performing the Exorcism. If Joyce's body is destroyed, the Pond Devil manifests in 1d4 rounds and tries its best to destroy its enemies before the exorcism can be completed.

Joy to the world

If the heroes succeed in finishing the exorcism, the Devil screams out as the water hisses and steams.

As the devil slowly loses cohesion and become normal water, the spirits of all those it has tricked or killed walk out of the water. Each one looks to the sky upon exiting the water and in a flash of light are gone. The Keatons, as a family, rise out and thank the heroes before vanishing in a blinding light. All is right in the world. If Jesse lives, he has a hard time getting Rachael to forgive him. But, she is carrying his child. What happens next is up to you. Merry Christmas!

The Breakup

Curious as to why Rachael left Jesse? She found out she's pregnant. She just wanted time to think and consider her options without Jesse pressuring her. If the heroes fail to destroy the Pond Devil, in one year she will be a single mother with little left of her sanity. What about the baby? Is her child normal after this? Like I said, the Pond Devil has been around for a long time... but that's a tale for another day.

Cast of Characters

Jesse Simmons

Strength: D6, **Agility** D6, **Smarts** D6, **Spirit** D6, **Vigor** D6

Pace: 6 **Parry:** 4 **Toughness:** 5

Skills: *Driving* d4, *Fighting* d4, *Gambling* d4, *Investigation* d6, *Knowledge: Art* d6, *Language: Spanish* d6, *Notice* d8+2, *Persuasion* d6

Edges: Alertness

Profile:

Jesse is a young man with a bright future. He's an Art major in his Junior year at ETU who has already landed some freelance work with some comic book companies. Jesse is madly in love with Rachael Keaton. He had planned on asking her to marry him on Christmas Day but then she broke up with him just before Thanksgiving. She claimed that she needed space but Jesse fears that another man has entered the picture.

Jesse calls Rachael at least six times a day (though she never seems to be home) and follows her home from the campus when his schedule allows. He is so torn up over the break up that on more than one occasion he has thought about ending his life. The last such time, he had been drinking out at the Lost Pond.

He was strongly considering walking out onto the ice in hopes of it breaking under him. The cold would numb his pain. Before he could act on his impulse, he saw a shooting star fly across the sky. Jesse never considered himself superstitious but he was desperate so he wished aloud that Rachael would love him and no one else. That is when the wind picked up and the trees seemed to bend unnaturally. The ice of the pond cracked and the water began to pool like blood. Soon there was no ice, just swirling water. That's when the lady of the water stepped out. She was so beautiful. Jesse was both thrilled and terrified. Cupping his face in her hands, she whispered that she had heard his wish and could grant it. She asked if that was what he wanted and Jesse answered, "Yes!" without thinking to ask what price he might have to pay. The

beautiful woman kissed him on the lips and told him that on Christmas Day, Rachael would have no one but him.

Jesse woke up later, chilled to the bone. He lay at the edge of the iced over pond, his clothes drenched in freezing water. Thinking it the work of the alcohol, he went to his car and drove home. The deal he made was real. The beautiful woman was the Pond Devil and it will keep its end of the bargain. It will kill all of Rachael Keaton's family so she will have no one to love but Jesse. Then in one year, it will kill Jesse. Careful what you wish for...

Rachael Keaton

Strength: d6, **Agility:** d6, **Smarts:** d8, **Spirit** d6, **Vigor:** d6

Pace: 6 **Parry:** 4 **Toughness:** 5 **Charisma:** 2

Skills: *Boating* d4, *Driving* d4, *Fighting* d4, *Guts* d4, *Investigation* d6, *Knowledge: Law* d6, *Notice* d6, *Persuasion* d6, *Streetwise* d6, *Swimming* d4

Hindrances: Cautious, Loyal

Edges: Attractive

Profile:

Rachael Keaton is a Criminal Justice major at ETU in her Junior year. Her goal is to be a crime scene investigator like she sees on TV. For the past two years, she has been dating Jesse Simmons. She loves Jesse but when she learned that she was pregnant back in November she decided that she needed to distance herself from him so she could decide if she wanted to spend the rest of her life with him. She wanted to think things through before telling Jesse and having him pressuring her to marry him out of some sense of obligation.

Since she broke up with him, Jesse has called her non-stop and followed her around campus. Rachael's sister, Christie, says Jesse is a stalker and shut be in jail but Rachael knows better. Jesse is in love and confused. Rachael will wait until after the

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holidays and then tell Jesse the truth. Until then, she'll try to keep Christie from calling the police.

Rachael is loyal to both her family and to Jesse. The deaths of her family members will be an incredible blow to her but she is a strong young woman.

Christie Keaton

Strength: d6, **Agility:** d8, **Smarts:** d6, **Spirit:** d6,
Vigor: d6

Pace: 6 **Parry:** 3 **Toughness:** 5 **Charisma:** 2

Skills: *Boating* d4, *Drive* d4, *Guts* d4, *Healing* d6,
Intimidation d4, *Investigation* d6, *Knowledge:*
Medicine d6, *Notice* d6, *Persuasion* d6, *Swim-*
ming d4

Hindrances: Bad eyes (minor), Heroic, Loyal

Edges: Acrobat, Attractive

Profile:

Christie Keaton is every man's dream. She is a senior at ETU as a pre-med major. She is also the star of the ETU gymnastics team. She is a very strong person and lets no one push her around. She is particularly protective of her little sister Rachael. She takes the role of "big sister" quite seriously and it is this that has her angry at Jesse Simmons. Rachael has not told her why she broke up with Jesse, so Christie assumes he must have done something bad to her. Christie will do whatever she can to keep the creep away from her baby sister. While both Christie and Rachael could be called "daddy's girls", Christie is also extremely close to her mother Joyce. The death of Jack Keaton is horrible thing but Christie is determined to see that her family gets through the ordeal.

Christopher Keaton

Strength: d4, **Agility:** d6, **Smarts:** d6, **Spirit:** d4,
Vigor: d6

Pace: 6 **Parry:** 4 **Toughness:** 5

Skills: *Fighting* d4, *Guts* d4, *Investigation* d4, *Knowl-*
edge: Video Games d6, *Notice* d4+2, *Shooting* d4,
Swimming d4, *Throwing* d4, *Taunt* d4

Hindrances: Young

Edges: Alertness, Quick

Profile:

Christopher (Chris to his friends) is your average kid. He loves video games and comic books and movies. His favorite food is pizza and energy drinks are his friend. Being the only son, Christopher got to do things his sisters never did like go hunting. His father took him hunting often. It didn't matter if he was using a bow or a gun, Chris loved being out there with his father. Now that Jack Keaton is dead, Christopher is at a loss of what to do. He's never had anyone he knew die before. He doesn't know how to react. For this adventure, Christopher mostly remains in his room, so unless the heroes make an effort they rarely see him.

Joyce Keaton

(AKA the Pond Devil puppet) **WILD-CARD**

Strength: d12, **Agility:** d6, **Smarts:** d10, **Spirit:** d12, **Vigor:** d8

Pace: 6 **Parry:** 5 **Toughness:** 8

Skills: *Boating* d6, *Fighting* d6, *Intimidation* d8,
Notice d10, *Persuasion* d10, *Stealth* d8

Special Abilities:

Undead: +2 Toughness, +2 to recover from being Shaken, Called shots do no extra damage (except to the head), does not suffer from Wound modifiers

Weakness: Head shots are +2 to damage

Profile:

This is not the real Joyce Keaton, just her body. The Pond Devil has possession of her body and her memories. Destroying Joyce Keaton's body does not destroy the Pond Devil, but it does stun the thing for 1d4 rounds as it draws the part of itself controlling Joyce Keaton's body back to its home: the Pond.

Pond Devil WILDCARD

Strength: d10, **Agility:**d8, **Smarts:** d10, **Spirit:** d10, **Vigor:** d10

Pace:6 **Parry:** 6 **Toughness:** 7

Skills: *Fighting* d6, *Intimidate* d12, *Notice* d12, *Taunt* d10, *Stealth* d12, *Throwing* d10

Special Abilities:

Devilish Stream: The Pond Devil can project a torrent of rushing water. This automatically puts out any normal fires. Any characters caught in the cone must make a Strength roll -2 or be Shaken.

Demon Elemental:, No additional damage from called shots; Fearless; Immune to Disease and Poison

Fear: The Devil causes Guts checks -2 if it reveals its true form.

Illusion: The Devil can make itself appear as either a beautiful woman or a handsome man to lure in potential victims

Invulnerability: The Pond Devil is immune to non-magical attacks except fire. A torch or lantern causes 1d6 damage on contact but instantly extinguishes.

Pond Stones: The Devil can use the Pond Stones as its eyes and ears, knowing whatever occurs around the stones as if it were actually there. It can also use the stones to move, as well. It uses the stones as teleportation portals, allowing it to be anywhere one of the stones are. This is a move action.

Ooze: The Pond Devil can fit squeeze through any porous gap as if it were Difficult ground.

Slam: Str+1d6 non-lethal damage

Watery Grave: If destroyed by fire or magical means, the Pond Devil returns at the next moon cycle. An Exorcism at the pond is the only way to truly destroy it.

Profile:

The Pond Devil is ancient, timeless... it is forever. It is hate personified, but with a touch of the sadistic. It won't kill people outright unless that is part of a bargain it makes. No, it likes to corrupt the human soul and devour it. Back when Eli Crenshaw stumbled through the woods, it appeared to him as a beautiful woman offering hope in the form of water for the community. Its price was his life. But he would be given one year to live, to help his community prosper and watch his family grow. Eli was desperate so he took the deal and sealed it with a kiss. Eli thought he could back out of the deal and escape his fate... he was wrong.

This thing likes to watch its prey. It loves to wallow in the despair it creates. Humans are weak little things. They jump at the chance to have their wishes granted and never think of the price until it's too late. Those souls it takes are forever bound in the Pond... forever damned.