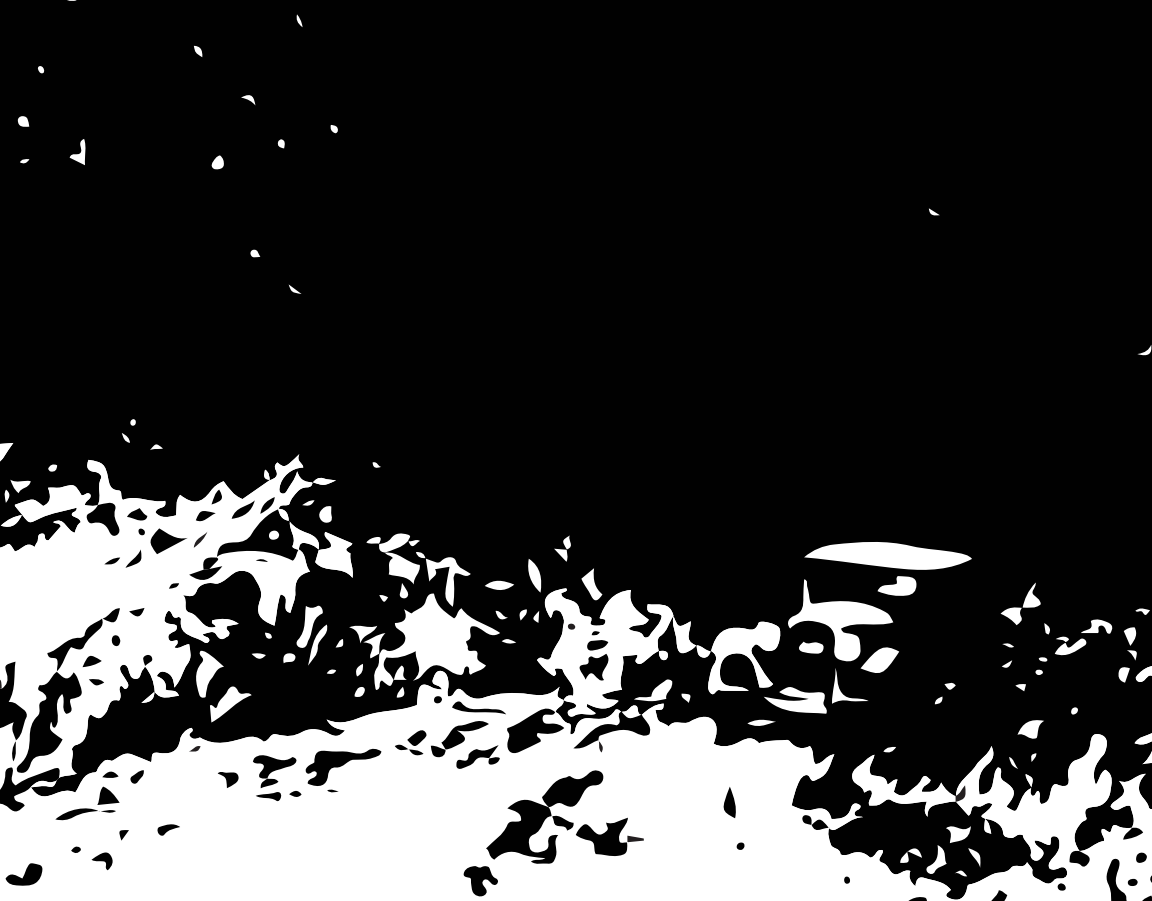


tremulus

the
orphanage

a playset expansion for *Ebon Eaves*



reality blurs presents

The Orphanage

(Ebon Eaves playset expansion IV)

writing, layout, and graphics

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The Orphanage (Ebon Eaves Expansion IV)

Folks can't always take care of their own and are sometimes unwilling to even take care of little ones of relatives, distant or near. Hence, the orphanage can be the proxy caretaker for the discarded and unloved. Whether run by the state, a private institution, or a charitable endeavor, the love and attention given to these children vary widely, with some communities openly embracing them, while others pretend they don't exist at all.

Using an Expansion

Any playset expansion is designed to give additional options to you, the Keeper, in creating the framework(s) for your group's story. Rather than crafting an entirely new set of questions and telegraphing to your players "this is important", a playset is something you can introduce at any time by already examining a particular key list of questions. This prevents revealing too much to your players and spending time with more questions, while ensuring the expansion ties into key elements already present in the established playset. As with the core playset, there is information that is player-facing and a separate section of information for the Keeper's eyes only. *The player facing information should be revealed over the course of play and not immediately presented, as is done with the basic playset information.*

Using the Orphanage

Following these design principles, the Keeper need look no further than the answers to the LOCAL COLOR questions provided in the EBON EAVES playset. The alphanumeric codes match up seamlessly and build upon the existing town structure. If you want to get more into the storytelling aspects of things, this introduces a third line into your existing game, and is suggested for creating a more complex, extended period of play (such as a small story arc of three to five sessions or a campaign of even greater duration).

Investigator Notes

[ABC] *The Emptiness Resides*

ON THE SURFACE: Brood Hall stands apart from the town proper. A stately manor where a handful of children are prepared for their entry into proper society, it is owned and operated by Mariah Finch, the mayor's wife, who wants to give back to the community.

KEEPER NOTES: [C1]

[ABD] *Home for the Hopeful*

ON THE SURFACE: The newly opened Amanda Clementine's Home for the Hopeful sits adjacent to the town's library on Main Street. Behind it is a lush, grassy expanse which serves as a simple playground. A few children with hollow eyes quietly play in the fresh air behind the spiky wrought iron fences.

KEEPER NOTES: [C2]

[ABE] *The Washburn Home for the Unwanted*

ON THE SURFACE: Not ones to sugarcoat things, The Home for the Unwanted was founded shortly after the Civil War, when many families were torn apart and children were largely abandoned. It is well-maintained and actively supported by the women's club.

KEEPER NOTES: [C3]

[ABF] *Lost Letters of Red*

ON THE SURFACE: Betty Lou's Orphanage is a small, privately run institution, located in the Lonely Hills. It is filled to bursting, as more babies are abandoned in Ebon Eaves than anywhere else in the county.

KEEPER NOTES: [C4]

[ABG] *For the Greater Good*

ON THE SURFACE: Daisy Estates is a home for wayward children owned by Daisy McGee and financed by the town. Daisy never married and had any children of her own, and folks say this is her way of giving back to the community. When she's not at her diner.

KEEPER NOTES: [C5]

[ACD] *Small Blessings*

ON THE SURFACE: Hermann House is about two miles north of town, near the hills. Home to over twenty children at any given time, it keeps Amanda Hermann and her Slavic staff quite busy.

KEEPER NOTES: [C6]

[ACE] *Deacon House*

ON THE SURFACE: The Deacon House was established by Deacon Jones only five years ago, but has already garnered quite a reputation for its progressive approach to child care and is fostering a newfound respect for the community. Outsiders frequently come to look at this model approach to what could be the future for the state, if not the nation.

KEEPER NOTES: [C7]

[ACF] *Winslett Retreat*

ON THE SURFACE: A sprawling estate adjacent to the old forest, The Winslett Retreat serves as both orphanage and private sanitarium, funded solely by the good will and deep pockets of the Winslett family. Few visitors seek out the place, and those who do get a sense of being closely watched, even when no one is around.

KEEPER NOTES: [C8]

[ACG] *Wards of the State*

ON THE SURFACE: Barbara Bishop administers the Felicity Crawford Memorial Center, better known as The Ward. Within its stone walls are twenty-two displaced children between the ages of thirteen and seventeen, all of them judged to be redeemable by Ms. Bishop, who is implementing progressive techniques she developed while in Munich.

KEEPER NOTES: [C9]

[ADE] *The Weeping Angel Home for Wayward Children*

ON THE SURFACE: A rickety old mansion may seem no place to raise children, but Susan Wilkes would beg to differ. She and her husband, Ricky, have spent the last fifteen years taking in children who would otherwise go homeless and hungry. The home is self-sufficient, growing crops, with many of the children who grew up in the home finding a place in the community and on the Wilkes' ranch adjacent to the state-funded institute.

KEEPER NOTES: [C10]

[ADF] *Ragged Tatters*

ON THE SURFACE: No one ever complained about the rise in orphaned children in the area until Manning pointed it out. A mere civil servant, he then pushed for construction of an orphanage, which was built a short time later. The Johnson boys were the first residents of the Johnson Memorial Orphanage, and over the years, a goodly number of children in the community have spent time in JMO as a result of folks having random accidents and the like.

KEEPER NOTES: [C11]

[ADG] *The Workhouse*

ON THE SURFACE: Simple Deeds State Home is a place for unfortunate children, with space offered to vagrants and others down on their luck from time to time. Donovan Monroe is a softhearted man, always willing to help out anyone in need, and has served as the primary administrator for the past seventeen years. The place is largely in disrepair as funding continues to diminish, and he seeks support from the community.

KEEPER NOTES: [C12]

[AEF] *Infinity Marches*

ON THE SURFACE: Megan Lively of the Sexton-Lively fortune returned to town as the prodigal daughter a dozen years ago. Finding it in such disrepair, she opened a home for the number of children left homeless after the community took a turn for the worse. Since then, it has stayed filled to capacity, taking in the overflow from the surrounding counties as well as its own.

KEEPER NOTES: [C13]

[AEG] *Luna Bella*

ON THE SURFACE: Five years ago, Luna Bella Orphanage opened on the outskirts of town. Funded by an anonymous benefactor, the small organization takes care of the community's needs with the utmost discretion. Currently, there are thirty-seven children attended by a small staff of Italians.

KEEPER NOTES: [C14]

[AFG] *Dream House*

ON THE SURFACE: The Dream House sits on the outskirts of town. An unusual orphanage for its noticeably austere design, the squat brick building has no windows and a flat roof. There is a circular fence around the building inlaid with strange patterns, possibly of a Baroque influence. Wild roses and honeysuckle weave through the wrought iron fence in a beautiful display. The gates are kept closed and locked at all times, save for early morning when the staff comes and goes.

KEEPER NOTES: [C15]

[BCD] *Barrow Brook*

ON THE SURFACE: Barrow Brook is a small compound overseen by Sister Mercy Wells. A founding member of the Order of the Untended, a splinter group from the Holy Church of Coventry one county over, she believes in strict discipline and a daily dose of fire and brimstone administered through her outdoor sermons. The children are taught in the institution's main building, have a daily exercise regimen, and are kept largely isolated from the community.

KEEPER NOTES: [C16]

[BCE] *Starry, Starry Nights*

ON THE SURFACE: "Sheila never sleeps," whisper the children of Montague Watch amongst themselves. And the townsfolk largely echo this sentiment. The widow Sheila Montague took in the Banks children when their parents disappeared, and now her informal home takes care of a dozen or more. Her staff is less than thrilled with the additional workload.

KEEPER NOTES: [C17]

[BCF] *Experimentalism*

ON THE SURFACE: The Hadley Home is sequestered beneath massive oaks only one street over from Main. Formerly the YMCA, it was taken over by Roberta Hadley when the town fell into an economic decline. Though there are presently only a handful of children, there are enough to qualify for state funding, which enables others to take advantage of cheap room and board as well as fitness facilities and a small, private library.

KEEPER NOTES: [C18]

[BCG] *Sheltered Lives*

ON THE SURFACE: The Cabin is where the children are taken. Not that there are many nowadays, but that's where they go. The blind lady takes them in the dead of night, and no one dares follow for fear of the wrath of Tristan.

KEEPER NOTES: [C19]

[BDE] *Pious Souls*

ON THE SURFACE: The Shepard's Flock is a large, rambling two-story ranch owned and operated by Dale McClellan. The foundation gets the bulk of its support through private donations, the largest donor being the good pastor O'Sullivan, who drops in to check on things from time to time.

KEEPER NOTES: [C20]

[BDF] *New Beginnings*

ON THE SURFACE: Many folks don't like the fact that another Open Arms Orphanage has opened. It brings back too many memories, plus the old one still stands at the opposite end of town, as if the parentless children are supposed to define it in its entirety. Trace Williams may be trying to do some good for the community, though it's more likely survivor's guilt and a way for him to calm his own demons.

KEEPER NOTES: [C21]

[BDG] *Born Bad*

ON THE SURFACE: Tall Cotton is a private institution taking care of the homeless. Primarily a place for battered women and abandoned children, the church actively seeks to heal both body and spirit through the efforts of Gladys and Amanda Simmons.

KEEPER NOTES: [C22]

[BEF] *The Fenwick Foundation*

ON THE SURFACE: To allay some of the concerns of the community, the Fenwicks have personally started a charitable organization to deal with the rising homelessness in the county. Though it is an overt, self-serving act, the people are beginning to begrudgingly acknowledge the good such a place can do for the community. Already, five children are staying on the Fenwick Estate until the proper site for the orphanage is selected.

KEEPER NOTES: [C23]

[BEG] *Limbo*

ON THE SURFACE: Nicknamed Small Coffins by the locals, the real name of the community orphanage is Limbo, which is not much better. Many folks come to the town to die without thinking of where it'll leave their little ones. Limbo helps place children, aggressively seeking homes for them both in and around the community. The staff is friendly and nice, despite the grim décor and moody receptionist, Lillian Key.

KEEPER NOTES: [C24]

[BFG] *Calhoun Waters*

ON THE SURFACE: Located beside tranquil University Lake, Calhoun Waters is the state's answer to dealing with the rising homelessness in the county. With Ebon Eaves ranking highest in unwanted children in the region, it was selected to be the place to open the home. George Burnside appropriated some of the unused hospital property and constructed the quaint cottage with an adjacent large barracks-like structure for housing.

KEEPER NOTES: [C25]

[CDE] *The Last Mistress*

ON THE SURFACE: Many folks take advantage of the local girls, and the girls often can't look after their own children. So, Theodore Tree took one of his properties and converted the empty hotel into a home for wayward women and an orphanage of sorts. It might not be exactly how things are handled in the big city, but the locals like it just fine.

KEEPER NOTES: [C26]

[CDF] *Castaways*

ON THE SURFACE: Overlooking Huntsman's Reef is a large hut where unwanted offspring are raised. These island children, called rompers, are often set adrift in boats by tourists or young local women who cannot afford to take care of their own. The Hut is a community effort, with many of the old folks grateful to pitch in as best they're able.

KEEPER NOTES: [C27]

[CDG] *Unfinished Business*

ON THE SURFACE: The Half Round was established by Jesse Richmond to take care of the downtrodden shortly after the Mines shut down. People were prone to take advantage of that, so on his deathbed, he told his wife, Anastasia, to see to the children. The Half Round became a full-fledged orphanage, with some of the drifters hired and the rest sent on their way. Today, there aren't more than a half dozen children there at any given time, and a man can find a place to flop, if he's inclined to help out with a few chores.

KEEPER NOTES: [C28]

[CEF] *Broken Hearts*

ON THE SURFACE: In a factory town, accidents happen, and children lose their parents. It's a frequent occurrence in these parts, and the companies want to keep the workers happy and give folks peace of mind. To that end, the largest company, Maxwell Conglomerate United, has created a safe place for children to live and play and encourages the community to take advantage of its services gratis.

KEEPER NOTES: [C29]

[CEG] *Imperfections*

ON THE SURFACE: Despite its low population, orphans are abundant in the town. Folks leave them along the highway, and the tender-hearted locals refuse to leave them to fend for themselves. When Reverend Green was alive, things were going well and this was normal for everyone. Lately, the Pride of Heart Orphanage has become a burden, and the townsfolk are beginning to break under the strain their previous goodwill and generosity created.

KEEPER NOTES: [C30]

[CFG] *Empty Halls*

ON THE SURFACE: Westminster Hall has garnered a reputation as a place where city girls can leave their children and get on with their lives. It seems to be very popular among unwed college girls. The children don't stay orphans for long, as the locals are quick to snatch them up and welcome the fresh blood into the community. As this has been going on for over twenty years, there is a new generation of children who look nothing like the previous one.

KEEPER NOTES: [C31]

[DEF] *Undone*

ON THE SURFACE: Outside of Ebon Eaves, far enough away to be unassociated with the blacklisting the rest of the town endures, the Millstone is a massive, ornate manor house likened more to a posh boarding school than an institution for homeless children. Within its walls they are well cared for, and the estate has frequent wealthy visitors from across the nation wishing to adopt Lady Causewell's wards.

KEEPER NOTES: [C32]

[DEG] *A Quiet Rumbling*

ON THE SURFACE: The laughter of children is rarely heard coming from Daffodil Lane, a quaint cottage where numerous orphans reside. Most are abandoned, like adolescent dreams, and there is little hope any shall adopt them. Millicent Westbrook is a stern teacher and former child actress who lectures at length about the necessity of practicality in today's modern age.

KEEPER NOTES: [C33]

[DFG] *Unfounded Truths*

ON THE SURFACE: Folks call the orphans of Hanover House the Lightning Children, for many of them have had parents claimed by the storms. The conditions at the orphanage are so poor as to be criminal, and most of the children live less than a year. The town has bigger concerns, it seems, than the welfare of the innocent.

KEEPER NOTES: [C34]

[EFG] *Inheritance*

ON THE SURFACE: Landers House, the enormous log cabin resting beside Lake Wells, was built by the charitable organization, The Little Landers. It used to be well-kept, but as the lake became ruined, the idyllic orphanage became as stagnant as the newly formed swamp by which it stood. Soon, the staff all but abandoned it, and now the caretaker, Artemis Goods, looks over the children as well as the property.

KEEPER NOTES: [C35]

Keeper Notes

[C1] *The Emptiness Resides*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Mariah Finch, like so many others, had a child she couldn't keep, a child given over to the woods. She vowed it had to stop and opened this home in direct opposition to her husband and the wishes of many in the community. She's partially responsible for the darkness descending upon the town, as her painstakingly researched knowledge of the occult has enabled her to create the proper wards and sigils to make Brood Hall safe from the taint. Should any child leave; however, they quickly become twisted by the evil lurking just beyond. Cecelia Rutherford is nearing her eighteenth birthday and very much wishes to depart. She has already escaped from Brood Hall several times.

Hazards

WEIRD: Cecelia Rutherford

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ABC]

[C2] *Home for the Hopeful*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The orphaned children are those the librarian, Amanda Clementine, calls untouchables. Pure souls, the Dark Presence cannot affect them directly. However, it does influence the behavior of certain individuals, and Julia Cane, the home's administrator, is weak-willed and easily swayed. The blood of these children could be particularly powerful in certain rites and rituals.

Hazards

ELDERS: Julia Cane

TOWNIES: The Hopeful Staff

LANDSCAPE: The Playground

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ABD]

[C3] *The Washburn Home for the Unwanted*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The Washburn Society uses the orphanage as a place to indoctrinate their future members and encourage proper obedience from community members who wish to deviate from accepted behavior. Any who cross Millie Brooks can rest assured their children shall soon be found situated in the home to be carefully looked after.

Hazards

ELDERS: Millie Brooks

TOWNIES: The Orderlies

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ABE]

[C4] *Lost Letters of Red*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Mayor Hink's mistress, Jackie, runs a brothel, and her brother, Jeremy, is a pastor and former doctor (who found a new career after a botched abortion killed his patient). As atonement for his past sins, he provides free medical care to Jackie's girls, provided they take their babies to term and turn them over to Betty Lou, his wife, who cares for them without a shred of knowledge about her husband's doings.

Hazards

ELDERS: Jackie Stewart, Pastor Jeremy Stewart

WEIRD: Betty Lou Stewart

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ABF]

[C5] *For the Greater Good*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Daisy McGee has promised a vessel for the thing in the hills and established the orphanage in order to prepare one for it. The rites and rituals have already claimed over a half dozen lives, but Daisy is certain she is very close. Already, two children, a boy and a girl, show signs of growing darkness in their hearts and have already begun to transform. Daisy has been slowly starving them, hoping the stronger of the two shall eat the weaker. Her staff is comprised of her most unwavering followers, willing to do anything to protect her secret and the children from outsiders.

Hazards

TOWNIES: Daisy McGee's staff

DOOM: The child awakens

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ABG]

[C6] *Small Blessings*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Amanda Hermann discourages adoptions. The children are kept under poor conditions, with most being locked and chained up most of the day in the cellars, while one boy and one girl are kept in pristine condition should any officials come snooping around. Hermann uses the blood of innocents as one of the secret ingredients in preserving her youth.

Hazards

TOWNIES: Slavic staff

LANDSCAPE: The cellar

WEIRD: The Folio

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ACD]

[C7] *Deacon House*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: While Deacon House promotes a sound mind and healthy body, the reward structure in place reinforces and encourages unwavering loyalty to The Fraternal Lodge of Life and Liberty and Deacon Jones himself. In essence, the Deacon is preparing the next generation to wage his war for him. Already, some of the older children are learning to fight and shoot firearms under the tutelage of the House's headmaster, Everett Wilkins.

Hazards

ELDERS: Everett Wilkins

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ACE]

[C8] *Winslett Retreat*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The Winsletts originally opened the orphanage after taking in people who survived going into the Dark Woods unprotected. Many had their minds shattered or worse, and the children are largely those who were rescued by the Winslett clan itself. Randall Winslett, next in line to be head of the coven, is already marking certain children with protective tattoos, to serve him in his rise to power and show his favor. He needs a seventh, whereupon he can perform the Ritual of Ascendance, revealing his supremacy to his family.

Hazards

ELDERS: Randall Winslett

LANDSCAPE: Winslett Retreat

WEIRD: The Tattooed Brood

DOOM: Ritual of Ascendance

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ACF]

[C9] *Wards of the State*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The Ward is little more than an expensive cover for the Wisdom family. The institution was established two years ago after their son, Kidney, killed fourteen-year-old Felicity Crawford. Ms. Bishop is an extremist and cares little about the source of the money as long as she has free reign within her domain, and she does. Her enforcer, Mr. Bloch, and his aides, Merriweather and Tumble, see that the kids keep in line. Some of the electroshock therapy has turned five of the most violent ones, dubbed the Misfits by the staff, into predatory monsters, receptive to the telepathic influence of Kidney Wisdom.

Hazards

ELDERS: Barbara Bishop, Mr. Bloch

WEIRD: The Misfits

DOOM: The Rampage

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ACG]

[C10] *The Weeping Angel Home for Wayward Children*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Shortly after Jessica Wayne killed their parents, the Wilkes took Gossamer in. At that point, they realized how lucrative taking care of children could be. As they were her only living relatives, the Wilkes managed to divest her of her family fortune quickly, and when the money ran out, pushed her over the edge and claimed they could not handle the stress of raising such an errant child. They turned her over to the pastor of the Seven Sons Nondenominational Church. Whether it was something about Gossamer's past or what they did to her that drove her down the path she took is a thought that rarely crosses the Wilkes' minds, as now they continue to bring in children and indoctrinate them into the family way, demanding loyalty and parsing out love miserly.

Hazards

ELDERS: Susan Wilkes, Ricky Wilkes

LANDSCAPE: The Wilkes Ranch

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ADE]

[C11] *Ragged Tatters*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Manning is one to hold a grudge. He demands unwavering loyalty from his followers, and should they fail him, they pay the price. Each year, a parent is given over to the dark gods, providing a steady source of fear which feeds his power and appeases his masters. Needless to say, the orphanage is never left wanting residents.

Hazards

LANDSCAPE: Johnson Memorial Orphanage

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ADF]

[C12] *The Workhouse*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Despite his outward demeanor, Donovan Monroe is a hard, hard man who battles with alcoholism and drug abuse. Funds have not been cut back from the state; Monroe is funneling more and more of the money to support his debilitating habits. Unable to confront his own demons, he's begun using the kids as a workforce, offering them up to do odd and hazardous jobs for a pittance. Lorenzo Valentine, reporter for the local rag, is on to him and has threatened to expose his dirty little secrets should he not cut Lorenzo in for a piece of the take. This, in turn, has caused Monroe to fall even further into a drug-addled spiral.

Hazards

ELDER: Donovan Monroe, Lorenzo Valentine

LANDSCAPE: Monroe's hideaway

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [ADG]

[C13] *Infinity Marches*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Megan Lively is the illegitimate daughter of McKenzie Baker and felt a pull back to the town “she vowed to never see again.” She initially came just to settle some affairs related to her late mother’s passing, but the discovery of her mother’s journal changed all that. Megan has learned of the Silver Circlet, the true identity of her father, and the maddening hints of immortality. She lusts for the latter, as she is excessively vain, despite her stunning looks.

Hazards

ELDERS: Megan Lively

WEIRD: The Journal of Trisha Sexton

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [AEF]

[C14] *Luna Bella*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Forester Stern, drawn to the community’s energies, founded the orphanage to look after what he terms the campfire children. He brought in Freddy Valentine and other acolytes to look after the children and prepare them for future servitude.*Hazards*

ELDERS: Freddy Valentine

TOWNIES: The Luna Bella staff

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [AEG]

[C15] *Dream House*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Regal Dearth believes children are the key to understanding. Two years ago, he invested heavily in opening the orphanage and hired Shelly Brooks, an unstable local he could easily control, to run things. He hopes to latch onto the children's dreams and find a path back into the Dreamlands. Thaddeus Simmons, a local inventor, has bought into his madness and already has created contraptions to study the children and allow waking subjects to see the subject's dreams. Both Simmons and Dearth have gone on the dream excursions, and it's already causing them to grow groggy and dissipated. Simmons is close to a breakthrough, though he doesn't know the long-term side effects his experiments will have on either the sleeper or the piggy-backer.

Hazards

ELDERS: Thaddeus Simmons, Shelly Brooks

LANDSCAPE: The Dream House, The Lab

WEIRD: The Dream Machine

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [AFG]

[C16] *Barrow Brook*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Sister Wells is a pious woman full of deep religious conviction with a rare lack of hubris who truly believes she is a vessel for a greater power. She is unaware the power moving her down this path is not divine, but an awful abomination that burrowed into her skull and is manipulating her into a confrontation with the Rain twins to force them to actualize their power.

Hazards

ELDERS: Sister Mercy Wells

TOWNIES: The Order of the Untended devotees

LANDSCAPE: The Compound

MYTHOS: The Abomination

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BCD]

[C17] *Starry, Starry Nights*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Sheila Montague's husband, Robert, disappeared five years ago while in the company of Fred and Jessica Banks. She thinks Robert had unsavory dealings with the pair, while the townsfolk suspect she convinced Fred to shoot the adulterous couple, and that he fled soon thereafter to avoid prosecution. There is no doubt that Sheila takes care of the children with a loving heart and unending compassion. Yet, she wanders the hills on moonless nights, singing a song out to Robert, hoping he shall return from the cold empty spaces where she lost him. Ms. Frump, the head of the Montague staff, is concerned about her mistress' sanity and well-being.

Hazards

ELDERS: Ms. Frump

WEIRD: Sheila Montague

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BCE]

[C18] *Experimentalism*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Roberta Hadley, one of the Triage, thought youth might prove more resilient to the group's experimentation and decided operating an orphanage could provide them with a steady stream of guinea pigs. She's been happy with the results, as one of the children is responding quite well to the serums. Summer should be ready to undergo the teleportation testing within a fortnight. The serum has been expanding his mind, and he's taken to reading the very odd books found in the old library.

Hazards

ELDERS: Roberta Hadley

LANDSCAPE: The Hadley House Library

WEIRD: Summer

DOOM: The transformation of Summer

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BCF]

[C19] *Sheltered Lives*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Tristan Woods loved Faith Hunter as much as any madman could. That's why he escaped. He wanted to decorate her face in permanent ways with the sharp end of a knife and pluck her eyes out, so the last thing she'd see was him. He did it too, and immediately lamented his action. This gave him a state of clarity he'd been lacking, and he kept her from bleeding out. She gained a sense of inner purpose as well. Once healthy enough to escape Tristan, she stumbled through the woods and fell into an old mine shaft where she lay for three days. On the third day, the Deep Ones spared her, gave her an inner vision by which to navigate, and agreed to have her raise their brood until they reach maturity and transform. She spread the rumor of the Cabin, so no one would hunt the sea tunnels for her location, especially Tristan (whom she does not trust).

Hazards

LANDSCAPE: The Mines

WEIRD: Faith Hunter (The Blind Lady)

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BCG]

[C20] *Pious Souls*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Dale McClellan was one of the Silver Saints, who truly found salvation and freed himself from the Beast's wrath. He sees the children as a chance for redemption, not just for himself, but also for the town. He cares for a dozen or so and has a precarious relationship with O'Sullivan. He takes the man's money, for he fears his wrath and knows he's putting it to good use. The Fallen Angels, a splinter group of the Silver Saints, hang out in the old red barn on the outer edge of the ranch. Should O'Sullivan learn of this, there shall certainly be more than hell to pay.

Hazards

ELDERS: Dale McClellan

TOWNIES: The Fallen Angels

LANDSCAPE: The dilapidated barn

DOOM: The Confrontation

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BDE]

[C21] *New Beginnings*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Trace Williams survived the fire that destroyed his only friends, his only family. He is haunted by their memories, despite having moved to the big city and achieving much success as a novelist. He returned to the town upon hearing of the death of Emily Haverford, the lady who raised him. He has decided to stay, and has opened an all new Open Arms Orphanage. The brain burrower calls to him in the empty hours of the night.

Hazards

ELDERS: Trace Williams

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BDF]

[C22] *Born Bad*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The shadow of the Hanging Tree stretches far, even through time, carrying memories of the dark deeds once committed and staining even the unborn of Ebon Eaves. There is a high mortality among young couples. If one were to research things, they'd find some of the deaths were of the descendants of those guilty of lynching outsiders. The ghosts of the dead outsiders are exacting their revenge, slipping their souls into the children, and little by little taking over the town.

Hazards

ELDERS: Gladys Simmons, Amanda Simmons

WEIRD: The orphans

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BDG]

[C23] *The Fenwick Foundation*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The search for an orphanage site has given the Fenwicks access to areas money would not buy them. Madeline Rook's vision indicates the relic is likely somewhere on the Morse property. Robert and Katie Morse, an older couple, took in several children themselves and are allowing their acreage to be considered as a possible location for the home.

Hazards

ELDERS: Robert and Katie Morse

WEIRD: The Morse marshland

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BEF]

[C24] *Limbo*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Susan Hemsworth, Amanda's younger sister, truly believes in her cause and has no idea her sister is a high priestess of a death cult. She works diligently to find homes for the children and is a true beacon of light in the community. For her part, Amanda realizes Susan shall no doubt become a thorn in her side, just as Susan's predecessor, Ms. Green was until her untimely passing.

Hazards

ELDERS: Susan Hemsworth

WEIRD: Lillian Key

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BEG]

[C25] *Calhoun Waters*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: George Burnside, Malcolm Coffin's cousin, worked for the former senator and pushed to get the "analysis of orphans" not only drafted, but slanted to make Ebon Eaves a natural location for the home. Malcolm Coffin hopes having children nearby shall provide some useful energy for the research team at the Daniel T. Justice Memorial hospital.

Hazards

ELDERS: George Burnside

LANDSCAPE: The lake

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [BFG]

[C26] *The Last Mistress*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Half the children in *The Last Mistress* are Trees, and the other half belong to important community leaders who want their indiscretions attended to as quietly as possible. In return for their complicity in keeping Ebon Eaves as the only watering hole in the area, lips are sealed. Tabitha Brook, who runs *The Last Mistress*, knows all the dirty little secrets and has kept a few of the girls on as helpers and entertainers.

Hazards

ELDERS: Tabitha Brook

TOWNIES: The Wayward Women

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [CDE]

[C27] *Castaways*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Mayor White doesn't work, thanks to the arrangement he has with the mainland. Each week they send off unwanted children, and he gets a small stipend per child. He assures they are looked after, supplying one full-time girl and plenty of fruits and grains. His broad smile is a result of his large profits.

Hazards

LANDSCAPE: The Hut

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [CDF]

[C28] *Unfinished Business*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Susan Port inherited the business when no living relative stepped forward to take it, and she got the place up and running. Suddenly, however, Ansel Richmond has stepped into the picture, and the orphanage and estate reverted over to him. She's contesting the whole affair, and it's likely to be a drawn out ordeal. Until such time, she's been forced to move into the Half Round while Ansel takes over the rickety old house. He has made no claims against the orphanage and would prefer to divest it, and his distant cousin, from his portfolio.

Hazards

ELDERS: Susan Port

DOOM: The Legal Confrontation

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [CDG]

[C29] *Broken Hearts*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Paul Neighbors manages Maxwell Conglomerate, the factory beside the largest toxic pool, and was the first to fall under the sway of the Entity. The Entity has developed a deep telepathic link with Paul and can even see through his eyes for short periods of time, though this results in the whites of his eyes becoming completely black, as well as short term memory loss. The orphanage is completely legitimate, but the entire staff consists of mere drones. The Entity is using it to perfect control over Paul and then the entire town.

Hazards

ELDERS: Paul Neighbors

TOWNIES: Parents

LANDSCAPE: The orphanage basement

DOOM: The Entity ascends

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [CEF]

[C30] *Imperfections*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The Darkness encourages happy but weak-willed families to abandon their children along the road. It has long sown the seeds of discontent where it could, knowing Green couldn't live forever. Years ago, one of the orphans, Mark, was taken by the Darkness and corrupted in the wee hours. Folks look upon the Trio – Mark, Adam, and Fray – former roadside boys now in their early twenties, with fear and dread.

Hazards

WEIRD: The Trio

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [CEG]

[C31] *Empty Halls*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: The Westminster Women's League saw the rise of teen pregnancy in the late 1800s and blamed the college. In 1899, they began picketing for the college's closure, citing strange lights over the campus and weird activities in the quadrangle. Current League president, Holly Wisdom, managed to push through the Westminster Hall proposal when she was merely a concerned citizen, and has run unopposed for the past twenty-five years. A heated election is coming up, with Madeline Strauss, one of the adopted children, rumored to be in the running. Madeline has different ideas of what education and learning should be like for young women.

Hazards

ELDERS: Holly Wisdom

TOWNIES: The Westminster Women's League

LANDSCAPE: The Quadrangle

WEIRD: Madeline Strauss

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [CFG]

[C32] *Undone*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Lady Causewell is one of Tiffany Miller's personas—the identity which manifested to cope with trauma. The memories the two share grow fuzzier and reality grows more distant each day. The locals never see Tiffany in Causewell's conservative garb and affectations, which are reserved for out of town visitors. Lady Causewell is a malicious occultist who traffics with dark spirits while maintaining a public façade as a true benefactor and saint to children in need. In her quest for vengeance, she bargained for spirit eggs and implants them in her children's stomachs while they sleep. Each child has a small scar across their lower abdomen from the incision, but no knowledge of how it got there. Causewell has no idea what happens when the eggs hatch, save her vengeance shall be had.

Hazards

ELDERS: Lady Causewell

LANDSCAPE: The Millstone

DOOM: Eggs hatch early, Lady Causewell wins the inner struggle

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [DEF]

[C33] *A Quiet Rumbling*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Daffodil Lane gets its name from Millicent's childhood stage name, Daffodil Morris. She was a national sensation until an awkward growth spurt suddenly made her shun the limelight. Soon thereafter, a tragic accident took her parents' lives, and having no other family, Millie was left in her agent's care. When her money ran out, he left her alongside a road, one which as it turns out, was just outside of Ebon Eaves. She was taken in by a family and grew up in relative anonymity, became a teacher in the city, and has returned to the only place she truly calls home. Recently her former agent, Nick Hazard, has been poking around the town, hoping to bring her back into the limelight and cash in on her once more.

Hazards

ELDERS: Nick Hazard, Millicent Westbrook (formerly Morris)

LANDSCAPE: Daffodil House

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [DEG]

[C34] *Unfounded Truths*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Hanover House used to care for the widows and children of those lost to the mine. When the mines closed down, the things dwelling below grew angry at the cessation of the surface sacrifices and retaliated, calling down storms from the sky to remind the surface dwellers that they must pay tribute. But those who once treated with the Underdwellers had long since died, and no one knew or understood. None save Pruitt Makepeace, who learned of the things in his youth from a grandfather prone to ramble when he drank. He took over Hanover House five years ago, and there have been no storms in four years. Makepeace throws a child to the mines with the change of each season, not knowing he need but do it twice a year. Should he stop his dark work, the storms will be the least of the town's worries.

Hazards

WEIRD: Pruitt Makepeace

MYTHOS: The Underdwellers

DOOM: An End to Sacrifice

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [DFG]

[C35] *Inheritance*

BENEATH THE SURFACE: Artemis Goods is an acolyte of the Church of the Outer Forces and a willing servant of Alan Seemly. He takes good care of the children. In fact, they are softening his heart and making him realize he may well have made a big mistake in allying himself with dark forces. This doubt is all Hazel Rosen needs. Publicly a social worker, she is secretly the leader of a nature cult with knowledge of the lake's untapped power. She wants to manipulate Goods into revealing his master and betraying the Outer Forces, so she can claim said power for her circle.

Hazards

ELDERS: Hazel Rosen

LANDSCAPE: The Seven Stones

WEIRD: Artemis Goods

SEE ALSO: INVESTIGATOR NOTES: [EFG]