

### A fabulous motor car.

### Get out of debt.







#### A famous chef.

### Promote your o political interests. နို







### A publishing business.

### Hide the inadvisable actions of your youth.







### A strange and foreign curio.

### Marry your beloved, o someone from a different class.





### Win a golf tournament.







### Put on a local fete.









### Obtain a particular o valuable antique. 🎽





#### A beautiful pearl necklace.

ASSET

#### Reclaim an embarrassing document.







### Score and arrange o a musical.







#### A policeman's helmet.

### Shirk your responsibilities to your dependants.





### Cement your false identity.





ASSET

### Get over this hangover.





### An engagement ring.

### Renovate your ancestral home.







### A set of skeleton keys.

#### Break up an unfortunate engagement.







#### A precocious but badly behaved ward.

#### Improve your ward's moral character.





### A sealed letter from a government minister.

# Avoid a criminal conviction for an honest mistake.





#### A crate of fine wine.

#### Improve a particular o character's sense P of fashion.



### A favour due from a figure of questionable morals.

ASSE

## Find a home for on an annoying dog.






#### A marvellous if impractical invention.

# Recruit more staff.





#### A houseboat.

ASSET

#### Restore an expensive item (vehicle, art, furniture).







#### An exotic hat.

#### Finance an exploration party of to uncover a long of lost pyramid.





# Recover from a broken heart.





#### Help your old college win a boat race.



### A diverse and promising investment portfolio.

#### Provide for an elderly and sickly relative.





#### Deeds to a significant parcel of real estate.

**ASSE** 

#### Get the partygoers G ruining your house to leave - politely.





#### Become a world renowned famous singer.





A mine that produces a new, longer-burning kind of coal.

#### Turn an ancient collection of worthless junk into A fortune or fame.



## A clerical dog collar containing a message in invisible ink.

#### Organise your cousin's Grand Tour of Europe.

GOAI





#### Make sure your prize pig, Empress, O wins this year's Fat Pig contest.





Prevent an international incident from spiralling out of control.



# A LONDON TOWNHOUSE

#### A London Townhouse A modest flat where a gentleman or lady of leisure can live a life of luxury.

**REASONS TO GO HERE** Relax (and scheme) in luxury. Practice music, a speech, a magic trick. Throw a party.

PEOPLE TO PLAY A lodger. The concierge. Housekeeping. Plumbers, electricians or builders. EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN Someone's invited to a prestigious function. A neighbour complains about the noise.



A Country Manor A palatial estate in the country with sprawling rooms and gardens. **REASONS TO GO HERE** Host a ball or dinner party. Go for a romantic walk in the gardens. Steal an heirloom. Go to a House vs.Village cricket match. PEOPLE TO PLAY A gardener, butler, chef or other servant A descendant of the current owner. A visiting noble. **EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN** A letter announces the visit of a dignitary. An owner is discovered in a compromising position with a servant.



#### The Heart of the City The centre of London, showcasing the country's style, fortune and grime.

REASONS TO GO HERE Get a loan or investors. Research trendy fashions. Visit a museum. Watch a royal parade. PEOPLE TO PLAY

A street corner salesman. A busker. A pickpocket. A financial trader.

Events that might happen A newsstand has a startling headline. A foreign delegation arrives. Protestors gather outside parliament or an embassy.



#### At the Racetrack Whether it's horses, dogs, athletes or cars, a race is always popular.

REASONS TO GO HERE Attempt to win a fortune. Buy a horse. Cycle to victory. Con someone into betting on a dud. PEOPLE TO PLAY A bookmaker

> A jockey. An athlete. A refreshment seller.

**EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN** The favourite loses the race. Two bookmakers get in a fight. An athlete sprains a leg, needing a lastminute replacement.



# **THE THEATRE**

#### The Theatre Entertainment for the masses - music halls, films, the opera or a play.

REASONS TO GO HERE Put on a performance. Meet your idol. Get someone to stage your brainchild. Ruin a rival.

> PEOPLE TO PLAY The director. A prima donna. A wealthy patron. A heckler.

Events that MIGHT HAPPEN A performer is temporarily incapacitated by a thrown object. A patron offers a gift in return for artistic control.



#### A Social Club Where people seek the company of their fellows and refuge from society.

REASONS TO GO HERE Trade secrets and gossip. Seek out business partners. Engage in impromptu wagers. Plot a prank.

PEOPLE TO PLAY Someone's rich idiot cousin. A dignified elder. Long-suffering staff.

Events that MIGHT HAPPEN Someone comes to you with an idea for a get-rich-quick scheme. Someone comes to you for help with an embarrassing matter.


#### The Countryside Pastoral, managed, wild or majestic; the countryside has it all. So long as you

like rain. **REASONS TO GO HERE** Propose marriage in the romantic wilds. Forage for rare mushrooms. Hunt deer or pheasant. Get inspired by the scenery.

> PEOPLE TO PLAY A landowner. A poacher. An obnoxiously healthy hiker. A livestock herder.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN An animal runs by, chased by its owner. A thunderstorm blows in. A herd of slow-moving animals blocks the path.



#### The Village Hall The centre of a rural community, hosting local events by local people.

**REASONS TO GO HERE** Practice a performance. Attend a village fete. Judge a baking competition. Chair a meeting of concerned citizens.

**PEOPLE TO PLAY** The village priest. A local busybody. A gang of trouble-making kids.

**EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN** An implausible collection of people arrive early for the hall's next booking. A noisy local custom starts up outside.



#### The Antique Shop A place where you can buy everything under the sun, if you can find it.

#### **R**EASONS TO GO HERE

Recover something pawned in haste. Find the perfect present for a collector. Get inspiration from something rare or exotic.

> PEOPLE TO PLAY A rogue selling ill-gotten goods. An elderly collector of spoons. The eccentric proprietor.

Events that might happen A curious item is delivered. Something valuable is accidentally smashed.



#### **The Nightclub** Hip, happening and only semi-legal, the nightclub is where it's at.

REASONS TO GO HERE Find love or new friends. Dance the night away. Perform a shady deal. Display secret musical talent.

PEOPLE TO PLAY A gangster. A flapper. A naive newcomer to modern nightlife. A musician or singer.

**Events that might happen** A celebrity and their entourage arrives. The club is raided by police!

# **Scene Framing**

# Refresh all discarded tokens. Then either trigger your **Trouble Move** and pass, or:

I. Decide an aim for your character.

2. Pick a Location.

3. Flesh out the scene and discuss characters. 4. Begin play!

When the aim is met or thwarted, the scene ends. Bank a \* token on any Goal you advanced with the help of an Asset.

### How to achieve a Goal:

- I. Declare it as your Aim for a scene.
- 2. Get its banked \* tokens for the scene.
- 3. Everyone else declares an obstacle in the way of you achieving the Goal.
- 4. Use moves to overcome all the obstacles!

Victory: gain the Goal as a new \* token and turn a token card to its move side. Failure: discard the Goal, draw another Asset/Goal card, and narrate its arrival.

# WHAT HO, WORLD!

#### The Basics

Whenever you're in a scene, you may spend:

😰 to delay, redirect or dodge the consequences of something that just happened.



lo introduce a new character with valuable skills or assets to the scene.



to ensure nobody notices something you're about to do.



to convince an audience two people are a good match in romance or business.

Work with other players to fill in any necessary details of what happens.

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# The Gadabout Flighty • Trendy • Easygoing



# The Gadabout Flighty • Trendy • Easygoing

# THE GADABOUT Creating your Gadabout

**First Name:** Percy, Arthur, Mildred, Tawny, Jim, Juliet, etc.

Nickname: Puffer, Kipper, Biffy, Bozo, Queenie, Rocky, Corker, etc.

**Surname:** Denning, Smythe-Covington, Fittletop, Whittington, etc.

**Style:** the latest trend, eccentric and exotic clothes, obviously expensive tailoring, cardigan and slacks, etc.

**Personality:** nice but dim, party animal, debonair rake, feckless loafer, etc.

#### THE GADABOUT Trouble Move: Ties of Matrimony

Someone has the idea you're very much in love with them. When you frame a scene you may say they take you aside and propose marriage to you on the spot!

Ask the other players why this is both undesirable and impossible to refuse, gain a \* token, and pass focus on.

For later uses, choose why you're pulled aside and ask why it makes things worse:

They're breaking off the engagement! A friend, family member or ex-fiancee of theirs is incensed with your behaviour!

# THE GADABOUT Relationship: Old Chum

One character is someone you grew up with. You may always enter a scene where they're the focus, without needing an explanation.

When did you meet?

What trouble have you got them in?

What scrapes have you saved them from?

Decide together on answers to these questions, and pass them this card.

Relationship: Old friend of **The Gadabout** They may enter any scene you're the focus of, without needing an explanation.

# **Relationship: Purse Strings**

One character controls the resources that allow your life of leisure, and while they'd never cut you off entirely the mere threat of it fills you with dread.

They may spend a  $\checkmark$  token to subtly hint their disapproval, forcing you to hear out and seriously consider the next request they make of you this scene.

Choose who it is and pass them this card.

Relationship: Controls finances of **The Gadabout** Spend ¥ to hint at your displeasure and force them to hear out your request.

## Flout Convention

When you do something clearly against social mores (attend an illegal jazz club, wear a hideous plaid suit, court someone outside your class, etc) people may mutter and grouse but will take no direct action to stop you.







#### **Enthusiastic Amateur**

When you try to do something clearly outside your skills, you may spend 🗹 to succeed against all odds, but choose one:

You were a bit too enthusiastic, and created more problems.

A genuine expert is present and takes umbrage at your amateurishness.

You are taken in by your apparent skill and cannot use this move again until you fail spectacularly at this activity.



**Read Interactions** When you observe two characters interacting for more than a few minutes, pick one for each Ø you spend:

Reveal a way one feels indebted to the other.

Reveal an emotion one is hiding from the other.

Reveal one thing one character hopes happens to the other.

For player characters their controller reveals the secret; for minor characters, you do.



**Exceeding Wealth** Your finances far outstretch your ability to exhaust them.

If you're in a place where something can be bought, spend a token to obtain it immediately as a temporary Asset.

If not, you may telephone an order in, in which case it will be delivered at the end of the next scene.



#### Volunteer

You're always willing to chip in and lend a hand.

If you volunteer to perform a significant task for someone you may refresh a volunteer token every time the errand causes you trouble or misfortune.

## Example Errands:

Obtain an important item from a local village

Bear some important news

Look after a pampered terrier




# The Servant Solid • Dependable • Capable

# The Servant

Solid • Dependable • Capable

# Making your Servant

Title: Mr, Ms, Mrs, or nothing.

**Surname:** something simple and prosaic - Smith, Cooper, Hughes, Bates, Mason, etc.

**Personality:** stern, fussy, jovial, parental, etc.

**Style:** dour and pristine suit or dress, smudged apron and work-calloused hands, pastoral or practical wear, etc.

### THE SERVANT Trouble Move: But of course, Sir.

Someone has a job for you! When you frame a scene, you can ask the group for an errand from someone that will take all your attention.

Gain a new \* token, but choose one complication and ask the other players to fill in the details:

You had to pay a significant sum out of your own pocket.

You heard some troubling information from a friend.

Something more needs to be done to complete the task.

Then pass focus onwards.

# **Relationships: Employer**

One character is your employer. You may always enter a scene where they're the focus, without needing an explanation.

What jobs do you perform for them?

How long have you served them?

How much effort are you willing to spend improving their behavior?

Answer these questions together, then pass this card to them.

Relationship: Employs The Servant They can enter any scene where you're the focus, with no explanation needed.

# THE SERVANT Relationship: Mischief

One character has a habit of accidentally, teasingly or possibly even maliciously interfering with your duties.

They may spend a  $\clubsuit$  token to send your tools, preparations or uniform into disarray, disrupting your ability to concentrate or remain composed until you fix them.

Choose who they are and pass this card to them.



### **Restorative Draught**

With access to a drinks cabinet, some of the powders you keep on you, a few minutes' work and the spend of a token, you can put together a special cocktail.

Whoever drinks it is immediately cleansed of any lingering tiredness, stress or embarrassment, and will be energetic and cheerful until the end of their next scene.



# **Big Book of Secrets**

Your peers maintain a confidential ledger of their masters' and mistresses' embarrassing secrets for their own amusement.

When you consult the book, state who you're looking for information on. Everyone else suggests a secret, and you choose one to be the secret in the book.

The first use of this in a game is free, but each additional use costs a **¥** token.



# Wise Advice

When someone comes to you with a problem and asks for your advice you may propose a simple plan of action (no more than three steps) that is garunteed to get them the result they desire.

If anyone at the table questions the feasibility of your plan, you may spend a stoken to add an additional step to deal with their objections.

Feel free to invent extra details about characters, locations and objects when making your plan!



**Surprising Knowledge** 

In a crisis situation you can unearth skills left fallow since you entered your current employment. Commit a Ø token to this move and choose one field of knowledge:

Medicine and field surgery. Self defence and combat. Smuggling and criminal enterprise. Circus tricks and acrobatics.

So long as the token remains committed you may demonstrate world-class competence within that field.



# Grooming

If you give someone suggestions on how to improve their attire or their behaviour and they accept your advice, their next \$\vec{s}\$ spend is free.

If they do not take your advice, you may spend in later scenes to subtly highlight their poor taste and disrupt a move of theirs that would gain them favour, status or respect.





# **The Aged Relative** Eccentric • Domineering • Scheming



# **The Aged Relative** Eccentric • Domineering • Scheming

# THE AGED RELATIVE Making your Relative

**Title:** Great-aunt/uncle, Lady, Sir, Mr, Mrs, etc.

**First Name:** Wilfred, Maude, Atticus, Tabitha, Arthur, Constance, etc.

**Surname:** The name of the first street you lived on, hyphenated with your first headmaster/ principal's name.

**Style:** Fancy silks and lace, landowner tweed, subtly expensive fashions, etc.

**Personality:** social climber, cheerful retiree, pushy family manager, etc.

### THE AGED RELATIVE Trouble Move: Wheels Within Wheels

You and your co-conspirators have a scheme going. Keep its goal secret, but before play begins ask the other players what obstacle it's currently facing.

When you frame a scene you may declare one of your actions has solved the issue and leave to plot the next step. Gain a new # token and ask what new issue the plot's facing. Then pass the focus on.

At the end of the game, reveal the goal all those problems and solutions were leading up to!

# THE AGED RELATIVE Relationships: Family

One character is one of your descendants, though some steps removed. You may always enter a scene where they are the focus without needing an explanation.

Which of your other descendants do you prefer over them? Why do you enjoy visiting them? In what way are they falling short of your expectations?

Answer these questions together and pass this card to them.

Relationship: Family of **The Aged Relative** They can enter any scene where you're the focus, with no explanation needed.

# THE AGED RELATIVE Relationship: Debt

You have an embarrassing obligation to another character, as much as you'd prefer to pretend it never happened.

They may spend a  $\square$  token to discreetly raise the topic of the obligation and force you to lend them the use of one of your possessions or servants.

Choose a character and pass them this card.



### Inconvenience

When you want to stop somebody in their tracks, spend a  $\clubsuit$  token and start rambling at them. They may either:

Brush you off and rudely leave, refreshing one of your  $\forall$  tokens.



# THE AGED RELATIVE Upbraid

If you lecture someone on their moral failings, duty to society, or lack of etiquette, you may spend:

to learn one of their hidden shames, for use as blackmail if they fail you again.

to browbeat them into yielding to your argument. The next time they try to do something that opposes your lecture, they must spend \$\overline{T}\$ or backpedal.



# Cosh

When someone is unaware of your presence, you may spend to incapacitate them with a hidden blackjack.

Player characters must spend (in addition to any other costs) in order to do anything more than lie there unconscious for the rest of the scene.

Minor characters are knocked out for the scene's duration.



### Throw an Event

Once per scene you may make preparations for an upcoming event and bank a token on this move.

When it's your scene to frame you can begin your event. For its duration you may spend a committed token to:

Announce the arrival of a famous celebrity.

Dazzle guests with an amazing centerpiece or surprising skill.

Highlight the desirability of one of your possessions.

Shut down a move that would disrupt things.



**Have you met Auguste?** When you need the skills of a particular member of your staff you may bank an appropriate token on this card and introduce that servant to the scene.

ኞ A scholar, accountant or artist.

A chef, groundskeeper or driver.

A valet, tailor or dance instructor.

A thug, gossipmonger or investigator.

For as long as the token remains committed, you may call on them once per scene to perform a function appropriate to their role.

Servant role lists are not exhaustive!




# The Highbrow Peculiar • Artistic • Brilliant



# THE HIGHBROW Making your Highbrow

First Name: Artemis, Alfred, Tabitha, Barclay, Belinda, Howard, etc.

**Nickname:** Nobby, Puffer, Corky, Barmy, Tuppy, Bingo, Soapy, etc.

**Surname:** Coddlesworth, du Barry, Featherstonehaugh, Haddock, etc.

**Style:** Overalls stained with paint or muck, pockets stuffed with documents and books, chunky high-power spectacles, scruffy and unkempt, etc.

**Personality:** Scatterbrained and bookish, teasing and provocative, curious and investigative, etc.

#### THE HIGHBROW Trouble Move: A Dysfunctional Function

The locals see you as a cultural authority and constantly ask you to present works, judge entries, and make speeches at their functions.

When you frame a scene you can say you've gone to one of these functions. Gain a \* token but choose one:

You go too out-there and offend someone. A rival appears and challenges you. A patron offers you an opportunity that you can't currently accept.

Ask the other players to fill in the details, then pass the focus on.

### THE HIGHBROW Relationships: Muse

One character has agreed to be a model or case study for your work. You may always enter any scene where they're the focus, without needing an explanation.

What about them inspires you?

What are you working on?

What creative block have you run into?

Answer these questions together, then pass this card to them.

### Relationship: Model for The Highbrow They can enter any scene where you're

the focus, with no explanation needed.

### THE HIGHBROW Relationship: Inferiority

One character has a favourite artist, scholar or theologian they constantly compare you unfavourably with.

They may spend  $\clubsuit$  to bring up one way you fall short of their idol, causing everyone else present to view your work as second-rate for a scene.

Choose who they are and pass this card to them.

Relationship: Dismissive of **The Highbrow** Spend to raise one way they fall short of your idol and devalue their works for a scene.

#### THE HIGHBROW

### A Classic Enigma

Spend to utter one of the age-old philosophical questions: "Is truth beauty? Is beauty truth?" for example, or "Can God make a rock he can't lift?"

Everyone present is forced to ponder this question and won't pay attention to you until they agree on an answer (or the scene ends).



#### THE HIGHBROW

**Field of Interest** Choose a particular field of interest within your profession.

Once per scene, you can ignore the cost of a move that relates to your field. Introducing a fellow academic to the scene, becoming engrossed in an aspect of your field, or relating an interesting piece of trivia from it would all count.

#### Example fields:

Newts Classical

Sculpture

Astrophysics

Heretical Theology



#### THE HIGHBROW Oblivious Aegis

Focus on one particular subject of interest to you: a sunset, a book, a particular flower, etc.

So long as you maintain this focus you can spend a and relate a fact about your subject to ignore the effects of any move aimed at you.



### THE HIGHBROW

#### Avant-Garde

You have some license from society to push boundaries. When you present a shocking new production to an audience, it may cause outrage but no negative repercussions from the audience.

In addition, for every  $\clubsuit$  spent choose one effect on the audience:

They temporarily change their behaviour to fit the work's values. They're inspired to create similar works.

The work remains in their mind, disrupting their productivity.



### THE HIGHBROW

### Mass Media

You have the contacts or infrastructure needed to send a message out into the wider population.

The next scene, broadcast of the message (no more complex than a single phrase) will begin through radio, newspapers, or public performances.



The message cannot be traced back to you.

You remain in control of the message, and can adjust it once ber scene.





**The Pillar of Society** Powerful • Prestigious • Responsible



**The Pillar of Society** Powerful • Prestigious • Responsible

# THE PILLAR OF SOCIETY Making Your Pillar

**Title:** Judge, Lady, Bishop, Dame, General, etc.

First Name: Margaret, Jackson, George, Liam, Cecilia, Victoria, etc.

**Surname:** Carstairs, Stoker, Fairfax, Worple, Pershaw, Bittlesham, Weatherbee, etc.

**Style:** dress uniform, immaculate formal wear, comfortable mufti, etc.

**Personality:** dour and humourless, debonair with hidden steel, brusque and efficient, suspicious and disdainful, etc.

#### THE PILLAR OF SOCIETY Trouble Move: An Inspector Calls

When you frame a scene, you can say a member of your organisation arrives - gain a # token.

They take you away to privately discuss an urgent matter. Say what crime, heresy or scandal the messenger was bringing news of, and ask why it's so important you're the one to resolve it. Then pass focus on.

Further uses of this in a session can introduce new wrinkles to the crisis, or create a new one.

# THE PILLAR OF SOCIETY Relationship: Judgement

One character has been previously brought before you for a stern talking-to. You may narrate arriving in a scene where they're the focus without needing an explanation.

What was the charge? What punishment did you levy on them? How do you expect their behaviour to have changed?

Answer these questions with them and pass this card to them.

# Relationship: Judged by The Pillar of Society They can enter any scene where you're the focus, with no explanation needed.

# THE PILLAR OF SOCIETY Relationship: Blackmail

One character knows а shameful secret of yours. It's not necessarily criminal, but ruinous to your social standing. They can spend a 🌳 token to threaten to reveal the secret, preventing you from threatening or browbeating them this scene.

Choose a character and pass this card to them.

### Relationship: Knows a secret of The Pillar of Society

Spend & to threaten to reveal the secret and shut down their intimidations.

#### THE PILLAR OF SOCIETY Steely Glare

When you fix someone with your glare and spend 🗐, they must choose one:

Stumble their words and reveal a secret motive or plan.

Flee the scene.

Offer to perform a task for you.



### War Story

When you launch into an extensive and spine-tingling anecdote about some escapade of your past, spend **\***.

Whatever was happening beforehand stops as everyone listens, enraptured or horrified. When you finish, listeners will be dumbfounded and unable to recall what they were doing beforehand.



#### Imperative

When you declare a particular action taboo, commit a token to this card. For as long as that token remains committed, whenever someone performs that action:

You will hear of it unless they spend  $\Phi$ .

They will face consequences for doing it if found out, unless they spend  $\clubsuit$ .



Make a Toast When you make a public speech lauding another character, others will unquestioningly believe they possess the virtues described.

The next time they act against you, they must spend ♥ to avoid having people believe their character is the complete opposite of the described virtue: greedy instead of thrifty, vain instead of modest, etc.



### Commandeer

When urgency requires it, you may take possession of an asset belonging to another player.

So long as you keep possession of it, they may spend your tokens as if they were their own.

