

FIASCO '11

PLAYSET ANTHOLOGY
VOL. 2



FOREWORD
BY KURTIS
WIEBE

A SUPPLEMENT FOR
FIASCO

FIASCO '11

PLAYSET ANTHOLOGY

VOL. 2



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Digital Edition

First Release December 2015



“When you play, play *hard*.”—Theodore Roosevelt

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BOILERPLATE

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

The playsets in this volume were each originally published as a “Playset of the Month” in 2011.

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

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

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

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FOREWORD

I rolled my first character in a roleplaying game at the age of thirteen. I was bewildered, as the concept of what an RPG was still hadn't become clear to me yet, but I was excited. That was a long time ago and I've played hundreds of games in that time.

And yet, there has only been one time since when I felt that equal mix of trepidation and excitement, about something feeling completely new and different but in a massively appealing way. It was when I sat down with friends, writers and filmmakers, all of us new to *Fiasco* and we began the character creation process.

We could all feel a story brewing. A small town with a hundred secrets. I was a local miscreant who dealt pot to the townspeople, a royal pain in the ass to the sheriff who'd long worn out his welcome. And in that town was a case loaded with \$50,000 that everyone had a vested interest in procuring. The narrative grew organically, scene after scene, with all the threads coming together perfectly to a fantastic finale; an armed showdown during a party in a house boat on the town's pond with Andrew Lloyd Webber guest starring and ultimately dying for reasons far beyond his control.

Yes. That is what *Fiasco* is.

We still talk about the story we created the first night we ever played, and we still laugh about every story we've played since.

And in all that, I was taken back to that same feeling of the first time I ever played an RPG. It is undoubtedly a roleplaying game, but its system isn't a traditional one, where a single person tells a story to a table and they react. With *Fiasco*, every player is the storyteller, and the narrative is a shared universe where the wants and needs of the characters drive conflict and lead to absolute insanity.

As both a gamer and a writer, *Fiasco* is a dream. I've used a session to break story, to design compelling characters or to inspire scenes in my own work. What I love about the system, one that is completely

backwards to anything I've ever played before, is how individual success is measured. Traditionally, players success in RPG's by surviving the session and gaining material goods. *Fiasco* throws that out the window because it offers more. Success is defined by players following their characters wants, needs and flaws in service to the story, regardless of the outcome, good or bad.

That is why *Fiasco* is my favourite narrative driven game of all time.

You're about to experience the madness of *Fiasco*. I can promise you one thing:

Your gaming life will never be the same.

And if you happen to find Andrew Lloyd Webber as a surprise guest on a houseboat party in the middle of the night, at least do him the kindness of explaining why he's about to be gunned down. His look of confusion in our game haunts me to this day.

Have fun, make mistakes, and for the love of god, sacrifice your character's life in service of the story.

Best,

KURTIS J. WIEBE

Writer of *Rat Queens*

OBJECTIVE ZEBRA

SILENT AND DEEP, BUT NOT RUNNING

All is quiet aboard the U.S. Navy submarine SS-495, the USS Saddleback. She's on reduced battery power, nestled in the soft mud of the North Sea somewhere off the coast of Lower Saxony.

It is the middle of World War II. You were specially selected for this mission. They made it sound like a great honor, to ferry a handful of civilians somewhere, in the greatest secrecy, so they could do something that would help win the war. It was called "Objective Zebra". It hasn't worked out so well.

You surfaced and took them, heavily guarded, to an island that wasn't on the Saddleback's charts. They did whatever it is they were supposed to do and came back in a tearing hurry, followed by German spotter aircraft, and E-Boats, and finally a depth-charge tossing Vorpostenboot from the mouth of the Elbe that nearly sunk you. Saddleback went deep and got quiet fast, diving for her life.

Saddleback's collapse depth was 200 meters. When you came to rest on the bottom, amid the screaming protest of over-stressed metal, the gage read 226. There is a meter of water in the pump room and the forward torpedo compartment is largely flooded. The horrible groaning of the tortured pressure hull has mixed with another sound—something stranger, more unearthly—from outside the Saddleback. Whatever it is, it is like nothing even the saltiest old timers has ever heard before. And it is getting closer. What the hell did those civilians do?

You're trapped in a stranded submarine and you have to get the hell out of here... before it comes in !

MOVIE NIGHT

Das Boot, U-571, Below, K-19: the Widowmaker

CREDITS

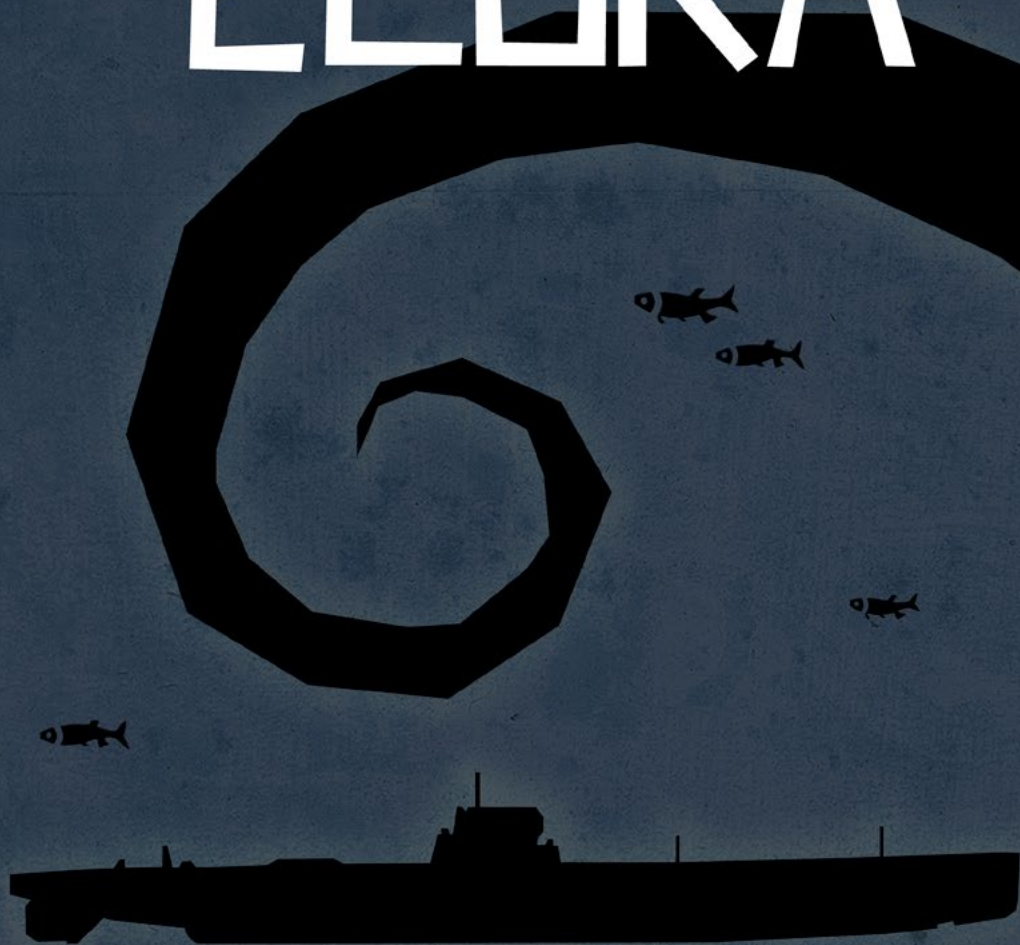
Written by Jérôme "Brand" Larré

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

Objective Zebra was Playset of the Month, January 2011.

OBJECTIVE ZEBRA



A FIASCO PLAYSET BY
JEROME LARRE

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 CHAIN OF COMMAND

- ◻ Friendly enemies
- ◻ Officer and the crewman who seduced his love
- ◻ Inspiring leader of men and his simpering toady
- ◻ Fought side by side in the *last* war
- ◻ Lazy fool and tough old veteran
- ◻ Hard-case and the one who demoted him

2 CREW

- ◻ Ignorant farm boys
- ◻ Gung-ho lunatics
- ◻ Up for the same promotion
- ◻ “You were both specially selected based on *unique* talents”
- ◻ Odd-men-out on a tight-knit boat
- ◻ Lovers

3 RE: OBJECTIVE ZEBRA

- ◻ Secret agent and Navy intelligence operative
- ◻ Occultist and Navy cameraman
- ◻ “Doctor” and Navy handler
- ◻ Secret agent and double agent
- ◻ Cultists
- ◻ Physicist and Navy liaison

4 OLD BONDS

- ◻ Shipboard enemies, shore leave friends
- ◻ Rivals in love
- ◻ We killed a man and he haunts us
- ◻ We saved a life and lived to regret it
- ◻ Through “coincidence” always paired
- ◻ One shot the other, over something silly

5 CRIMINAL PAST

- ◻ Bad boys, roughnecks, and roustabouts
- ◻ His criminal past would get him booted from the navy; only I know
- ◻ Bully and weak sister
- ◻ Leaders of rival shipboard gangs
- ◻ Murderer and the guy he thought he killed
- ◻ Victims of the boat’s master grifter

6 FAMILY

- ◻ Brothers
- ◻ Competitive cousins
- ◻ Father and son, despite regulations
- ◻ Blood brothers
- ◻ Brothers-in-law
- ◻ Mutual orphans who volunteered together

...ABOARD USS SADDLEBACK

NEEDS...

1 TO GET THE TRUTH ABOUT

- ◻ ...what happened to the Captain's quarters that night
- ◻◦ ...the scratching on the hull
- ◻◦◦ ...Objective Zebra's real objective
- ◻◦◦◦ ...the sudden illness sweeping the crew
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...the thing that happened on the island
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...what's in the fucking box

2 TO GET RESPECT FROM

- ◻ ...the Captain of USS Saddleback
- ◻◦ ...the crew
- ◻◦◦ ...your dark master
- ◻◦◦◦ ...your overbearing father, may he rest in peace
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...yourself
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...your secret ex-lover aboard the Saddleback

3 TO HIDE THAT

- ◻ ...you didn't exactly follow orders regarding Objective Zebra
- ◻◦ ...there is a German agent aboard
- ◻◦◦ ...you just killed a fellow sailor
- ◻◦◦◦ ...drunk men sometimes don't do all the safety checks
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...you are responsible for this mess—all of it
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...you know far more about the mission than anyone guesses

4 TO FINALLY TAKE CARE OF

- ◻ ...those lousy Kraut bastards waiting for us up there
- ◻◦ ...your stupid brother, the family golden boy
- ◻◦◦ ...yourself for a change
- ◻◻◦ ...Lieutenant Joshua Sheppard
- ◻◻◻◦ ...George, who else?
- ◻◻◻◻ ...your own terror and loneliness

5 TO GET AWAY

- ◻ ...to Cuxhaven, Lower Saxony, your ancestral home
- ◻◦ ...to your family farm, to marry your pregnant girlfriend
- ◻◦◦ ...from this steam pipe you're unfortunately handcuffed to
- ◻◻◦ ...from this stinking air and these stinking people
- ◻◻◻◦ ...from whatever is out there lurking in the depths
- ◻◻◻◻ ...with the ritual

6 TO TELL

- ◻ ...the Captain what he did to your dad, right before you kill him
- ◻◦ ...the Navy what happened with Objective Zebra
- ◻◦◦ ...everybody about the ghosts, and what they want
- ◻◻◦ ...the Chosen One he must prepare
- ◻◻◻◦ ...your superior officer to fuck off
- ◻◻◻◻ ...the scientist what you added to his bag back on the island

...ABOARD USS SADDLEBACK

LOCATIONS...

1 THE MISSION – FLASHBACK

- ◻ Chart table of USS Saddleback, an unusual chart on display
- ◻ Deck of a Cannon-class Destroyer Escort USS Eldridge
- ◻ Hunted, depth-charged, leaking, sinking
- ◻ On the surface, an island on the horizon, dinghies on deck
- ◻ Hell itself, or a reasonable facsimile
- ◻ Sunken wreck of a German E-Boat

2 GROTON NAVAL BASE – FLASHBACK

- ◻ Franklin Delano Roosevelt's motorcade
- ◻ The Five Fathom Club, a Groton dive bar
- ◻ Heavily guarded concrete bunker labeled ZEBRA PRIME
- ◻ Research pressure chamber #1
- ◻ In an alley, with an Admiral
- ◻ Temporary duty barracks, heavy with dread

3 THE ISLAND – FLASHBACK

- ◻ Ruins of an ancient temple
- ◻ Underground, with guns blazing
- ◻ German facility
- ◻ Strange pinnacle
- ◻ Driftwood shelter awash in blood
- ◻ Above a mass grave

4 WHERE WE DO THINGS

- ◻ The surreal, silent engine room
- ◻◦ Crammed inside a blood-stained torpedo tube
- ◻◦ Partially-flooded pump room
- ◻◻ Officers' mess, now living up to its name
- ◻◻◻ Radio operator's station, from which creepy noises emanate
- ◻◻◻ The should-be-empty-now conning tower

5 WHERE WE KEEP THINGS

- ◻ Torpedo room, with a primed "fish" rolling on the deck
- ◻◦ Under a filthy rack
- ◻◦ Fresh water tank, where this *thing* should not be floating
- ◻◻ Ship's pantry, curiously empty
- ◻◻◻ Improvised sick bay in officer's country
- ◻◻◻ Inside the leaking oil sump

6 WHERE WE CURRENTLY AVOID

- ◻ The now burnt-out Captain's quarters
- ◻◦ Outside, in crushing deep water
- ◻◦ In the black water tank
- ◻◻ In the forward torpedo tube, forcibly jammed shut
- ◻◻◻ Ancient-looking steamer trunk with all the padlocks
- ◻◻◻ Battery room crawlspace

...ABOARD USS SADDLEBACK

OBJECTS...

1 WEAPONS

- ◻ Colt M1911 pistol
- ◻ M3A1 "grease gun"
- ◻ Big old galley knife
- ◻ Signal flare
- ◻ Marlin spike
- ◻ Aluminum pan of battery acid

2 TOOLS

- ◻ Over-used and damaged electrical saw
- ◻ Weirdly clean hammer
- ◻ Gigantic pipefitter's wrench
- ◻ "Momsen lung" submarine escape system
- ◻ Depth gage
- ◻ Unusual surgical instruments

3 MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED FOR

- ◻ Cockwheel for torpedo tube #3
- ◻ Radio's microphone
- ◻ Captain's uniform
- ◻ Pills, lots of pills
- ◻ Half the boat's food supply
- ◻ Keys to the weapon locker

4 STRANGE COMFORT

- ◻ Unreliable compass with shattered glass
- ◻◦ Oil-stained and generally dog-eared bible
- ◻◦ Signed Art Tatum record with a personal note
- ◻◻ Straight razor, flecks of dried blood on the blade
- ◻◻◻ Diary written in a dead language
- ◻◻◻ Carefully concealed bottle of whiskey

5 MEMORIES

- ◻ Photo of a woman and two kids, “München, 1932” handwritten
- ◻◦ Photograph of a ghost aboard a submarine, marked SECRET
- ◻◦ Oil painting of the Saddlebacks’ previous officers
- ◻◻ Erotic magazine, annotated in code
- ◻◻◻ Set of instructions for demon summoning
- ◻◻◻ Navy Cross in a velvet-lined box

6 DISTURBING

- ◻ Strange idol, bathed in deep sea muck
- ◻◦ List of 13 names, including the recently killed, some crossed off
- ◻◦ Broken hatch door with marks of fists in the metal
- ◻◻ Sealed orders
- ◻◻◻ The Shroud of Turin
- ◻◻◻ Diary of the cook, explaining that he poisoned everybody on board

...ABOARD USS SADDLEBACK

JERSEY SIDE

IN NEW YORK'S SHADOW

The Jersey Side is about a city on the other side of the river. Jersey City likes to call itself Wall Street West, but there is an air of desperate envy in the town that faces Manhattan across the Hudson. It will never match up. The Jersey Side is about a town too big for its britches, a place where rabbis run organ-legging rings, politicians are massively corrupt, and brokers who can't make it on Wall Street run dodgy deals.

Fully urban and bounded by the New Jersey Turnpike on one side and the Hudson River on the other, Jersey City is a cramped microcosm of big city business and big city blight.

MOVIE NIGHT

Holy Rollers, Boiler Room, Dog Day Afternoon, A Stranger Among Us

CREDITS

Written by Brennan Taylor

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Jersey Side was Playset of the Month, February 2011.



A FIASCO PLAYSET BY BRENNAN TAYLOR

THE JERSEY SIDE

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FRIENDSHIP

- ◻ Grew up on the same block
- ◻◻ Mutual outcasts
- ◻◻◻ Best friends
- ◻◻◻◻ Extremely unlikely friends
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Keepers of a dark secret
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Regulars at the corner bar

2 FAMILY

- ◻ Grandparent and grandchild
- ◻◻ Siblings from a large family
- ◻◻◻ Parent and child
- ◻◻◻◻ Cousins
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Parent and son—or daughter-in-law
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Distant relations

3 CRIME

- ◻ Creator of dodgy financial deals and the hustler who sells them
- ◻◻ Organ-legging mule and fence
- ◻◻◻ Crooked politicians
- ◻◻◻◻ Organ thieves
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Government regulator on the take and shady broker
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Federal investigator and informant

4 RELIGION

- • Rabbi and his wife
- ◦ Catholic priest and parishioner
- ◦ Rival cantors at the synagogue
- ◦◦ Young Hasidic Jews
- ◦◦ Orthodox Jew and an atheist
- ◦◦◦ Two from a strict upbringing who've turned away from the faith

5 ROMANCE

- • Married, to each other
- ◦ Friends with benefits
- ◦ One time, drunk, in the men's room of the dance club
- ◦◦ Unhealthy obsession
- ◦◦ Passionate lovers
- ◦◦◦ Forbidden romance

6 WORK

- • Nurses at City Hospital
- ◦ Rabbi and clerk at the synagogue
- ◦ Doctor and cancer patient
- ◦◦ Stockbrokers
- ◦◦ Boss and subordinate
- ◦◦◦ Lawyer and client

...ON THE JERSEY SIDE

NEEDS...

JERSEY
SIDE

1 TO GET EVEN

- ...with the guy who ripped you off
- ...with a neighbor
- ...with your father
- ...with the matchmaker for setting you up with your spouse-to-be
- ...with the son of a bitch who denied your spouse a transplant
- ...with the whole fucking world

2 TO GET OUT

- ...of a huge fucking obligation
- ...of this crappy investment
- ...of a relationship
- ...of this fleabag apartment
- ...of your dead-end job
- ...of your father's house with his strict rules

3 TO GET IN

- ...to the experimental treatment course at City Hospital
- ...with the guy running the night shift at Essex County Morgue
- ...to your cousin's pants
- ...to the City Council
- ...on this hot investment deal before it's too late
- ...to New Jersey City University

4 TO GET IT ON

- ☐ ...with the neighbor's spouse
- ☐.☐ ...and prove to your father you're no good
- ☐.☐.☐ ...and make a baby since your spouse isn't up to the job
- ☐.☐.☐.☐ ...with that guy/girl at the dance club
- ☐.☐.☐.☐.☐ ...and have a good time for a change
- ☐.☐.☐.☐.☐.☐ ...and prove you're homosexual

5 TO SCORE BIG

- ☐ ...through selling this crap investment deal
- ☐.☐ ...through stealing organs from the hospital morgue
- ☐.☐.☐ ...and let this sucker take the fall
- ☐.☐.☐.☐ ...through forging a document
- ☐.☐.☐.☐.☐ ...through this campaign donor
- ☐.☐.☐.☐.☐.☐ ...through smuggling this box across the Hudson

6 TO GET THE TRUTH

- ☐ ...about what the City Councilman/woman is up to
- ☐.☐ ...about your diagnosis
- ☐.☐.☐ ...about your mother's mortal remains
- ☐.☐.☐.☐ ...about the rabbi
- ☐.☐.☐.☐.☐ ...about your real parents
- ☐.☐.☐.☐.☐.☐ ...about where all this blood came from

...ON THE JERSEY SIDE

LOCATIONS...

1 JOURNAL SQUARE

- ◻ New York-bound platform of the PATH train station
- ◻◦ Inside Loew's Jersey Theater
- ◻◦ Hudson County Courthouse
- ◻◻ Stockroom of a bodega
- ◻◻◦ Jehovah's Witness Meeting Hall
- ◻◻◻ Under the statue of Jackie Robinson

2 GREENVILLE

- ◻ Roach-infested apartment
- ◻◦ Dive bar
- ◻◦ Behind the dumpster in a dimly lit alley
- ◻◻ Greenville Park after sundown
- ◻◻ The dockyards
- ◻◻◻ Bathtub full of ice

3 THE MEADOWLANDS

- ◻ Thigh-deep in the mud of Kearny Marsh
- ◻◦ Isolated Amtrak switching shack
- ◻◦ The Pulaski Skyway over the Hackensack River
- ◻◻ Shallow grave in the tall reeds
- ◻◻ Trash barge on the Hackensack River
- ◻◻◻ Betting office at the Meadowlands Racetrack

4 THE JERSEY TURNPIKE

- Entrance to the Holland Tunnel
- ◻ Exit 14B toll plaza
- ◻ Parking garage at Secaucus Junction train station
- ◻ Breakdown lane between Exits 15 and 16
- ◻ Southbound out of town
- ◻ Under the Newark Avenue overpass

5 CITY HOSPITAL

- The morgue
- ◻ Room in the cancer ward
- ◻ Emergency waiting room
- ◻ In the hall outside Radiology
- ◻ Hospital Administrator's office
- ◻ Hospital gift shop

6 EXCHANGE PLACE

- Junior executive's office in the Goldman Sachs Tower
- ◻ 15th floor balcony overlooking the Hudson
- ◻ Million dollar townhouse
- ◻ Vast room full of low-walled cubicles
- ◻ Hasidic synagogue
- ◻ Office of the City Councilman/woman

...ON THE JERSEY SIDE

4 INFORMATION

- • Long list of dead people's names
- • Post-It with the identity of a federal informant
- • Internal memo that names names
- • Napkin with the name of a guy who can hook you up
- • The location of an illegal high stakes poker game
- • Business card with a phone number written on the back

5 VALUABLES

- • Briefcase filled with cash
- • Gold Rolex watch
- • Bundle of 50-dollar bills that reek of formaldehyde
- • Antique rolltop desk
- • Hoard of collectible gold coins
- • Swiss bank account number

6 SENTIMENTAL

- • Photo of a deceased loved one
- • Silver Star of David pendant
- • Bundle of old love letters
- • Child's action figure
- • Wedding ring
- • Your grandmother's pearl necklace

...ON THE JERSEY SIDE

QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN PANDA

A TIME OF MYTH

In the world of mythic China, the elders told tales in great detail about dragons and pandas, fighting and love, fortunes and fables to the children of the villages. In these mystical times anything could happen and everything could be a sign from the ancestors. One such myth was the tale of the Golden Panda. You loved it as a child—but now you have come to find that is true. Will you seek the Golden Panda? Are you up to the task?

GOLDEN
PANDA

You live in interesting times. One must be ever wary of Shaolin monks or errant swordsman dashing through bamboo screens to attack you. This secret is too important to be left by the wayside—a course of action that would bring you shame and the disdain of your ancestors. Never give up and stay true to who you are. Let the spirits guide you in your quest for the Golden Panda.

MOVIE NIGHT

Kung Fu Panda, Avatar: Last Airbender, Mulan, The Emperor's New Groove, Five Deadly Venoms, 36 Chambers, Crippled Avenger, Ong Bak 1, Master of the Flying Guillotine, Six String Samurai, Legend of the Drunken Master, Legend of the Seven Golden Vampires, Hero

CREDITS

Written by Jennifer Wong

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

Quest for the Golden Panda was Playset of the Month, March 2011.

QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN PANDA

金熊猫

A FIASCO PLAYSET BY JENN WONG

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 CLAN

- ◻ In-law and son or daughter-in-law
- ◻◻ Twins born under an inauspicious star
- ◻◻◻ Parent and child
- ◻◻◻◻ Cousins
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Grandparent and unwanted grandchild
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Astrologically-linked distant relatives

2 FRIENDSHIP

- ◻ Bitter enemies forced to maintain a veneer of friendship
- ◻◻ Hunting buddies
- ◻◻◻ Benefactor and concubine
- ◻◻◻◻ Manipulator and victim
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Friendly rivals in all things
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Best friends and loyal compatriots

3 VILLAGE

- ◻ Outdoorsman and city-dwelling tenderfoot
- ◻◻ Old wise elder and curious child
- ◻◻◻ Warrior returning from war and spouse/child
- ◻◻◻◻ Social adversaries
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Village head and lowly peasant
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Guardian and temple sweeper

4 ROMANCE

- Divorced by Imperial edict
- ◻ Youthful sweethearts
- ◻ Lovers from opposing clans
- ◻ Incestuous family members
- ◻ Current spouses
- ◻ Unhealthy obsession

5 WORK

- Farmers
- ◻ Artisan and patron
- ◻ Monk and disciple
- ◻ Clandestine collaborators
- ◻ Master and apprentice
- ◻ Merchant and customer

6 THE PAST

- Village rivals
- ◻ Grew up together as competitors—and more
- ◻ Descendants from the same hallowed ancestor
- ◻ Mutual keepers of an ominous secret
- ◻ Neighbors once, now again
- ◻ Trained warriors

...IN MYTHIC CHINA

NEEDS...

1 TO GET RICH

- ...through blackmail
- ◻◻ ...through the theft of something—or someone—precious
- ◻◻◻ ...through murder
- ◻◻◻◻ ...through a misplaced treasure map
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...through fraud and trickery
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...through the written bequest of a long-lost ancestor

2 TO GET AWAY

- ...from the mysterious villains who pursue you
- ◻◻ ...from a debt, before the clock strikes midnight
- ◻◻◻ ...from those who'd take your share of the prize
- ◻◻◻◻ ...from a crappy job
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...from an obligation you cannot honor
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...from the ritual

3 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from your peers, by finally fulfilling your sacred oath
- ◻◻ ...from your would-be lover, by proving yourself
- ◻◻◻ ...from your honored ancestors
- ◻◻◻◻ ...from your ex-best-friend, who doesn't believe you any more
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...from an overbearing master
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...from the world, by showing the world who you really are

4 TO GET EVEN

- ◻ ...with those backstabbing liars
- ◻◦ ...with a rival you hate—and love
- ◻◦◦ ...with a family member
- ◻◻◦ ...with the Celestial Emperor's delegate
- ◻◻◦◦ ...with your "friend"
- ◻◻◻◦ ...with this stupid village and everyone in it

5 TO GET THE TRUTH ABOUT

- ◻ ...your past, and the secret your father kept from you
- ◻◦ ...the curse that was cast upon your family
- ◻◦◦ ...the golden poppy flower that was left on your doorstep
- ◻◻◦ ...the map that was ripped in half
- ◻◻◦◦ ...the object that changed all of your friends
- ◻◻◻◦ ...the disappearance of the missing panda

6 TO DISCOVER

- ◻ ...the meaning of life
- ◻◦ ...the one you are destined to be with forever
- ◻◦◦ ...a new and better life
- ◻◻◦ ...why she was murdered
- ◻◻◦◦ ...the true object you are seeking
- ◻◻◻◦ ...what the mystic ritual really entails

...IN MYTHIC CHINA

LOCATIONS...

1 PRIVATE PLACES

- ◻ Meng Yo's private pagoda
- ◻◻ Feng shui koi ponds
- ◻◻◻ Bench in the sheltered bamboo gardens
- ◻◻◻◻ Kin Xi suspended silt house—with a trap door
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Atop the drum tower that warns of invaders
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Chamber in the Dragon Temple

2 PUBLIC PLACES

- ◻ Ancient temple hewn out of solid rock
- ◻◻ Expensive and discrete tea house
- ◻◻◻ Imperial panda reserve, off limits to all
- ◻◻◻◻ Ba Se Inn, among brocade silk pillows
- ◻◻◻◻ Green Market Place
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Dragon Temple training field

3 THE WILDERNESS

- ◻ Clearing in the Malao Forest
- ◻◻ Secluded hut near Ying Creek
- ◻◻◻ Dock on the river skirting the village
- ◻◻◻◻ Long-abandoned shrine haunted by a ghost
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Falling Lotus Waterfall
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Abandoned rice patty field where the Demon Snake lives

4 HANGING COFFIN GORGE

- Freshly dug grave in the Lost Soul Cemetery
- ◻ Deserted camp left by rampaging barbarians
- ◻ Yang Rope Bridge crossing over the gorge
- ◻ Dirt road along The Niao River
- ◻ Spiked rocks lining the edge of the gorge cliff
- ◻ Bronze Shang sword stuck in hardened rock

5 THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS

- Secret cave with a hidden wooden box
- ◻ Lone tree on the highest peak
- ◻ Deserted town within the rock
- ◻ Remote ridge overlooking the gorge
- ◻ Tall temple nestled within the trees on the face of the mountain
- ◻ Goat farm at the base of the mountain

6 THE ESTATE OF SHANG LEE

- Vintage armor room
- ◻ Small powder room with a secret passage
- ◻ Inside the private bed chambers
- ◻ Prayer room with burning incense sticks
- ◻ Long hallway lined with water-ink paintings
- ◻ Kitchen with a wood burning stove in the corner

...IN MYTHIC CHINA

OBJECTS...

1 TRANSPORTATION

- ◻ Horse named Dreamer
- ◻◦ Wagon with a broken wheel
- ◻◦ Two-wheeled bamboo bicycle contraption
- ◻◻◦ Carved walking stick
- ◻◻◦ Battered old rickshaw
- ◻◻◻ Luxurious river boat

2 NECESSITIES

- ◻ Fifty feet of silk rope, a hammer and spikes, and a lantern
- ◻◦ Mysteriously glowing orb
- ◻◦ Magical ever-full bottle
- ◻◻◦ Pair of noteworthy chopsticks
- ◻◻◦ Red silk scarf
- ◻◻◻ Square box decorated with symbols and filled with dumplings

3 INFORMATION

- ◻ Half a note with burned edges
- ◻◦ Fortune cookie
- ◻◦ Folded parchment map
- ◻◻◦ Whispered secret in the tea room
- ◻◻◦ Reading from tea leaves with ominous foretellings
- ◻◻◻ Set of stone tablets with mystical symbols

OPTIONAL RULE

STUNT DICE: GOLDEN PANDA STYLE

This variant was first suggested by Jenn Wong and is included in the *Fiasco Companion*. The idea here is to apply a little extra structure to your Act One and Act Two dice—they become not just positive or negative outcomes, but also suggest specific attributes for the scenes in which they are invoked. Confused yet? Hold on.

GOLDEN
PANDA

Let's say you're in a four-player game. Instead of eight white and eight black dice, you've got six white, six black, two golden panda and two shadow panda dice (of course you can also vary the number of panda dice to taste). A panda die is a positive or negative scene outcome as usual, but when it is chosen the player whose scene it is immediately initiates some special effect.

The stock special effect is the confessional—the player initiates a confessional monologue for their character, interrupting the scene and having a moment in the spotlight, reality TV style.

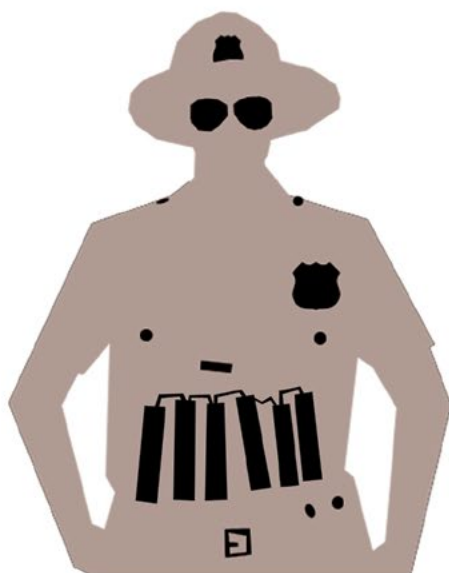
In this playset, Jenn suggests that if you pick the dark special dice, someone dies in the scene. If you pick the light special one, someone is born or reincarnated.

The same special effect property of the panda dice could work to create spontaneous flashbacks (or flash-forwards, if you are feeling adventurous), smash cuts to parallel scenes, or whatever your group thinks would be interesting and fun. Perhaps you could decide in advance on certain events that are triggered by the selection of a panda die. For example, “when the final panda die is chosen, Big Jack dies”. Since the dice are a finite pacing mechanism, you know this is going to happen, and as players you can collectively control when the signature event happens.

If you lack panda dice, there are other ways to make this work. You could use two new colors, or mark some black and white dice with paint markers, or just keep the special dice separate on the table.



RAPISCAN 2300



NEWS CHANNEL SIX

WHEN THE NEWS BREAKS, WE'RE THERE TO FIX IT!

Times are tough at Action Six News. We're last place in an already small market and losing ground all the time. It's not like much news-worthy stuff happens in this crappy little town anyway, and those bastards over at Action News Eleven always seem to be one step ahead of us! With advertising revenue drying up and people turning more and more to that blasted internet, sometimes you've got to get a little creative in reporting the news.

The Action Six News team could be from any small city around the United States, filled with people who desperately seek notoriety, fame or— just occasionally— a better world.

CHANNEL
SIX

MOVIE NIGHT

Anchorman, Network, WKRP in Cincinnati (TV), News Radio (TV), Broadcast News, The Mary Tyler Moore Show (TV), the local news team from your hometown (TV)

CREDITS

Written by Ken Coble, Tom Gurganus, and Chris Norwood

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy and Jason Morningstar

News Channel Six was Playset of the Month, April 2011.



**NEWS
CHANNEL
SIX**

**A FIASCO PLAYSET
BY CHRIS NORWOOD**



RELATIONSHIPS...

1 ACTION SIX NEWS TEAM

- Work partners (co-anchors, cameraman/reporter, etc)
- You and the dude who got fired last week
- On-air talent/support person (writer, makeup, etc)
- Management/talent
- Tired mentor/ambitious protégé
- Work rivals

2 FAMILY

- Ex-spouses, current parents
- Currently married
- Siblings, at each other's throats
- You and your parent's hot new spouse, who's younger than you
- You and your good-for-nothing in-law
- Faked family

3 FOOLING AROUND

- Secret lovers
- "Secret" lovers only to yourselves
- Friends with benefits
- Did it once at the office Christmas party...you think
- Don't like each other much, but keep having sex anyway
- Not having sex, but everybody thinks that you are

4 WE'VE GOT HISTORY

- ◻ "I know a secret about you"
- ◻◻ Odd couple room-mates
- ◻◻◻ "We've been through Hell and high water together"
- ◻◻◻ One of you cost the other one his last job
- ◻◻◻◻ "The restraining order is still in place, you know"
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Went to journalism school together

5 UP TO NO GOOD

- ◻ Coke-head and supplier
- ◻◻ Robbing the station blind together
- ◻◻◻ Plotting the downfall of the Big Anchorman together
- ◻◻◻◻ Shooting an "art film" after hours using the station's equipment
- ◻◻◻◻ Blackmailer/victim
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Moonlighting as thieves

6 US VS THEM *Use judiciously*

- ◻ News team member and source/witness/subject of the big story
- ◻◻ News team member and a major advertiser
- ◻◻◻ You and your counterpart from Action News Eleven
- ◻◻◻◻ News team member and Local bigwig (mayor, chief of police, etc)
- ◻◻◻◻◻ You and the star of another locally-produced show on Channel Six
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ You and your friend from the Peabody Awards Committee

...AT NEWS CHANNEL SIX

NEEDS...

1 TO GET LAID

- ☐ ...by the local celebrity or politician
- ...constantly
- ◡ ...by a work partner
- ◢ ...so I can have a baby before I'm fifty
- ◣ ...by the Big Anchorman's trophy wife
- ◤ ...for the very first time

2 TO GET FAMOUS

- ☐ ...by making it to a bigger market
- ...by breaking into acting
- ◡ ...by finally getting your own signature human interest segment
- ◢ ...by winning a Local News Peabody Award
- ◣ ...by getting the weekday six PM chair
- ◤ ...by going out with a bang

3 TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ☐ ...by blowing the lid off the whole story
- ...by bringing honor and respect back to the local news
- ◡ ...by finally making it to see my kid do that thing
- ◢ ...by getting your own recurring exposé-style news segment
- ◣ ...by saving a life
- ◤ ...by bringing down God's wrath on this wicked, heathen society

4 TO GET RICH

- ◻ ...through a secret I learned at work
- ◻◻ ...by stealing something
- ◻◻◻ ...by securing book and movie rights
- ◻◻◻◻ ...by fabricating a story
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...by blackmailing the Big Anchorman
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...by scamming all my co-workers and then skipping town

5 TO SETTLE THINGS

- ◻ ...by getting even with that douchebag who stole my story
- ◻◻ ...by putting those bastards at Action News Eleven in their place
- ◻◻◻ ...by getting that Big Anchorman fired
- ◻◻◻◻ ...with that suit who doesn't get your "vision" for the news
- ◻◻◻◻ ...with our mutual ex
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...with that dude who landed me in jail

6 TO COVER OUR ASSES

- ◻ ...by being a willing tool for powerful, corrupt forces
- ◻◻ ...by covering up a major conflict of interest
- ◻◻◻ ...by "taking care of" a witness
- ◻◻◻◻ ...by destroying that freaking file/tape. So, so stupid!
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...by framing a co-worker
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...by hiding the fact that I'm illiterate

...AT NEWS CHANNEL SIX

LOCATIONS...

1 HARD NEWS

- ◻ At the scene of a grisly murder/suicide
- ◻◻ In the trailer park just after the tornado hit
- ◻◻◻ At the crime scene the police don't know about yet
- ◻◻◻◻ In the big sinkhole behind Buddy's garage
- ◻◻◻◻◻ In the pointless live coverage of that severe weather event
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ At what will be the biggest drug bust of the decade

2 HUMAN INTEREST

- ◻ At the home of Elmer Jenkins
- ◻◻ At the high school football game
- ◻◻◻ At the St. Agnes Rescue Mission
- ◻◻◻◻ At the hospital for a live on-the-air colonoscopy
- ◻◻◻◻ At the civil war reenactment
- ◻◻◻◻◻ At Grandma Whittaker's 102nd birthday party

3 ON THE AIR

- ◻ On Six Today's friendly morning show set
- ◻◻ Under the news desk
- ◻◻◻ In the control room
- ◻◻◻◻ On Six Investigates' angry exposé set
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Behind the set, during the broadcast
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ In the kitchen set for Chef Ron's cooking segment

4 OFF THE AIR

- ◻ In the janitor's closet
- ◻◦ On the roof, right behind the big satellite dish
- ◻◦ In the Big Anchorman's dressing room
- ◻◻ In the "executive washroom"
- ◻◻ In the transmitter tower equipment shack
- ◻◻◻ At the donut table

5 FACE TIME

- ◻ Peabody Award for Excellence in Local News banquet
- ◻◦ Groundbreaking ceremony for the local community college
- ◻◦ Book signing for your recently-published memoir/cookbook
- ◻◻ Benefit concert to pay for Little Billy's medical expenses
- ◻◻ Breast cancer awareness screening
- ◻◻◻ Drinking it up at a local bar

6 OFF LIMITS

- ◻ Sleazy hotel room with a hidden camera
- ◻◦ Action News Eleven studio/editing room
- ◻◦ In the evidence room at the police station
- ◻◻ Official Peabody Award for Excellence in Local News ballot box
- ◻◻ Local underground, high-stakes poker game
- ◻◻◻ The Governor's bedroom

...AT NEWS CHANNEL SIX

OBJECTS...

1 SECRETS

- ◻ Positive pregnancy test
- ◻ Evidence that you tampered with a crime scene
- ◻ The contract someone just signed to jump ship and head to Action News Eleven
- ◻ Flash drive containing leaked U.S. military secrets
- ◻ The sex tape to end all sex tapes
- ◻ Channel Six's real account books

2 CONTRABAND

- ◻ Waaaay too much Pseudoephedrine
- ◻ Bottle of whiskey under the news desk
- ◻ List of sponsors not to piss off or report negatively about
- ◻ Company laptop stuffed with porn
- ◻ Big Anchorman's coke stash
- ◻ Illegal alien

3 TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- ◻ Sky Chopper Six!
- ◻ Little clicker that makes the weatherman's blue screen work
- ◻ Buggy and/or hacked teleprompter
- ◻ Ancient news van held together by prayer and old videotape
- ◻ Action Six Purse-Cam
- ◻ Ol' Blinky, the camera that all the cameramen say is cursed

4 WHERE'S THE WARNING LABEL?

- .22 rifle the building manager uses to keep birds off the satellite dish
- Bag of peanuts and someone's well-known peanut allergy
- Fire axe from backstage
- Exotic animal, exotically out of control
- Tainted cookies sent to the station by a disgruntled viewer
- Carefully loosened 100 lb stage light right above someone's chair

5 PERSONAL

- Six Today anchor's coffee cup collection
- New tits
- Homeless dude who lives out back
- The Big Anchor's Peabody Award for Excellence in Local News
- Love letter
- Lucky couch

6 PROPS

- High-powered model rocket
- Giant pot of boiling soup
- Box of fan mail/hate mail
- "Happy Bear" costume
- Golden shovel from community college ground-breaking
- "Condom demonstrator"

...AT NEWS CHANNEL SIX

TOWN AND GOWN

LOWER EDUCATION

Universities are strange places, and small town universities even more so. Faculty fight viciously with each other because the stakes are so low. Students grub for grades, or give up and drift through school. Townies hate the school, but it's the only thing keeping the town alive, and many of them go to school part-time.

Given the pressure and the fault lines that run deep beneath, it's no wonder that sometimes cracks appear.

MOVIE NIGHT

PCU, the third season of *Veronica Mars* (TV), *Wonder Boys*, *Dead Man on Campus*.

CREDITS

Written by Stephen Granade

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Town and Gown was Playset of the Month, May 2011



TOWN AND GOWN

A FIASCO PLAYSET

BY STEPHEN GRANADE

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 SCHOOL

- ◻ Grader and class member
- ◻◻ Classmates
- ◻◻◻ ROTC cadets
- ◻◻◻◻ Tutor and tutee
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Sports star and groupie
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Activities council (bringing in bands, planning campus parties)

2 WORK

- ◻ Shitty on-campus job (library, cafeteria, history department)
- ◻◻ Bar manager and bartender
- ◻◻◻ Campus maintenance, repair, and grounds-keeping
- ◻◻◻◻ Tattoo artist and client
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Shitty off-campus job (probably fast food)
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Campus Security

3 FRIENDSHIP

- ◻ Roomies
- ◻◻ Freaks and geeks
- ◻◻◻ Fraternity/sorority
- ◻◻◻◻ Drinking buddies
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Neophyte Marxist revolutionaries
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻◻◻ Online friends (MMORPG, forums)

TOWN +
GOWN

4 ROMANCE

- ◻ Married
- ◻.◦ Fuck buddies
- ◻.◦ Crazy exes
- ◻.◻.◻ Passionate lovers
- ◻.◻.◻ This one time, drunk, after the big game
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ Open relationship/poly

5 CRIME

- ◻ Grade fixers
- ◻.◦ Petty thief and fence
- ◻.◦ Drug supplier and on-campus dealer
- ◻.◻.◻ Doing the university's dirty work
- ◻.◻.◻ Providers of fine Mary Jane
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ Bookie and game fixer

6 AROUND TOWN

- ◻ Church members
- ◻.◦ "Keep Our Town Clean!" litter pick-up group
- ◻.◦ Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- ◻.◻.◻ City advisory council on school/town relations
- ◻.◻.◻ YMCA volunteers
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ Rec league

...AT A SMALL-TOWN UNIVERSITY

NEEDS...

1 TO GET EVEN

- ◻ ...with an ex who fucked you over
- ◻◦ ...with your bitterest rival
- ◻◦◦ ...more fucked up tonight than last night
- ◻◻◦ ...with a faculty member
- ◻◻◦◦ ...fewer class hours than last semester
- ◻◻◻◦ ...with that rat bastard the mayor

2 TO GET OUT

- ◻ ...of town before metaphorical chickens come home to roost
- ◻◦ ...of a hastily-made promise that's going to come back to bite you
- ◻◦◦ ...of that one class you totally shouldn't have signed up for
- ◻◻◦ ...of tomorrow night's shift, because it's party time
- ◻◻◦◦ ...from under all of this student debt
- ◻◻◻◦ ...of responsibility for a terrible mistake

3 TO GET IN

- ◻ ...to a fraternity/sorority
- ◻◦ ...good with a faculty member
- ◻◦◦ ...trouble one last time before you leave
- ◻◻◦ ...bed with the town's corrupt mayor
- ◻◻◦◦ ...to the university, even if it kills you
- ◻◻◻◦ ...on whatever the YMCA's got going on

4 TO GET LAID

- ◻ ...because it's time you popped your cherry
- ◻◦ ...by that smokin' hot girl you're always seeing around
- ◻◦◦ ...because revenge is best served cold
- ◻◻◦ ...to relive better times
- ◻◻◦◦ ...by as many people as possible
- ◻◻◻◦ ...to hold up your end of the bargain

5 TO GET RICH

- ◻ ...by embezzling school funds
- ◻◦ ...by stealing some totally sick stuff
- ◻◦◦ ...by killing someone old
- ◻◻◦ ...by cheating a drug dealer
- ◻◻◦◦ ...by beating the shit out of someone
- ◻◻◻◦ ...by becoming an Internet millionaire

6 TO GET THE TRUTH

- ◻ ...about what happened down by the gravel pit
- ◻◦ ...about what the school is hiding
- ◻◦◦ ...about the accident
- ◻◻◦ ...about what happened to the vanished students
- ◻◻◦◦ ...about someone's cheating ways
- ◻◻◻◦ ...about what the YMCA people are really up to

...AT A SMALL-TOWN UNIVERSITY

LOCATIONS...

1 EAST CAMPUS

- ◻ Geoffrey Morris Library
- ◻ Barnham Student Union
- ◻ Lewis Building (history, English, and poly sci)
- ◻ Old Main clock tower
- ◻ Lamarck Science Building
- ◻ Cooper Administration Building

2 WEST CAMPUS

- ◻ McKay Sports Complex
- ◻ Student health building
- ◻ Bridge across the ravine to East Campus
- ◻ Vickery Field
- ◻ Campus maintenance building
- ◻ Cafeteria and coffee shop

3 ELM STREET NEAR CAMPUS

- ◻ Sammy's, a dive bar
- ◻ Twice Read used bookstore and textbook reseller
- ◻ Pizza Shack ("We Deliver!")
- ◻ Gas 'n Sip
- ◻ Brown Sack liquor store
- ◻ Chicken Hut

4 DOWN BY THE RIVER

- ◻ Gravel pit
- ◻◦ Old double-wide trailer (abandoned)
- ◻◦ Inked In tattoo parlor
- ◻◻ Town junkyard
- ◻◻ Pleasures strip club
- ◻◻◻ Back forty (ponds and densely-packed trees)

5 TOWN PROPER

- ◻ YMCA
- ◻◦ County Courthouse
- ◻◦ First Christian Church
- ◻◻ National Guard Armory
- ◻◻ Ned's Auto Repair and Parts
- ◻◻◻ Footloose sub shop

6 HOUSING

- ◻ Fraternity and sorority row
- ◻◦ Clark House for foreign exchange students
- ◻◦ Geoffrey Morris Student Housing (shiny and new)
- ◻◻ Lewis Dorm (old and run-down)
- ◻◻ Starlight Apartments
- ◻◻◻ Cheap vinyl-sided houses down County Road 12

...AT A SMALL-TOWN UNIVERSITY

OBJECTS...

1 TROUBLESOME

- Fetish gear/furry costume
- List of students' Social Security numbers
- ◐ Poorly-made fake ID
- ◑ Incriminating chat logs
- ◒ Thirty unpaid campus parking tickets
- ◓ Private list of donors to the mayor

2 TRANSPORTATION

- Segway
- Shiny red Audi convertible
- ◐ Bicycle with a bike lock whose keys are lost
- ◑ Often-patched canoe
- ◒ Old beat-up Buick LeSabre
- ◓ VW Microbus with expired tags

3 WEAPONS

- Piano wire garrote
- Home-made nitroglycerine from chem lab
- ◐ Five foot pole with a litter spike
- ◑ Thirty-ought-six rifle
- ◒ Pepper spray and rape whistle
- ◓ Pure grain alcohol in a full two-liter bottle

4 TRULY UNFORTUNATE

- Roommate who died
- ◡ Deep budget cuts for the university
- ◢ Failing grade that could cost a scholarship
- ◣ Town petition to curtail the university's expansion
- ◤ Tire fire
- ◥ Errors in a school transcript

5 VALUABLES

- \$100,000 in non-sequential bills
- ◡ Deed to property near the school
- ◢ Rare maps from the library's collection
- ◣ Pile of completed term papers (just add an author's name)
- ◤ YMCA payroll checks
- ◥ Bricks of hash hidden inside five large hay bales

6 PERSONAL

- Mis-addressed love note
- ◡ Tattoo
- ◢ The only copy of a senior thesis on a thumb drive
- ◣ Dad's Purple Heart
- ◤ Tarnished silver wedding ring
- ◥ STD test results

...AT A SMALL-TOWN UNIVERSITY

BREAK A LEG

ALL THE WORLD'S A FRICKIN' STAGE

The director slept with half the cast, your lighting designer is homicidal and that bastard from the Daily News just panned the show in his column. You'll be lucky on opening night if the cast remembers their lines, nobody mentions the Scottish Play and the scenery doesn't fall down mid-performance. But hey, the art is all that's important, right?

Break A Leg! is a tribute to the grand traditions and superstitions of the Theatre—from the casting couch to the Great White Way.

MOVIE NIGHT

Waiting for Guffman, Slings & Arrows, Extras, Noises Off, An Awfully Big Adventure

A SPECIAL NOTE

Special thanks to all the theatres we have worked at over the years that have given us inspiration for this Playset. Almost everything in here may have actually happened to one or both of us during our time working onstage and backstage, including the big box of swords with no lock on it and the severed finger.

Also thanks to one particular production of Uncle Vanya and to the theater departments at Columbia College and Northwestern University for twisting us into the thespians we are today.

CREDITS

Written by Megan Pedersen and John Kelly

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

Break A Leg was Playset of the Month, June 2011



BREAK A LEG

A FIASCO PLAYSET BY
JOHN KELLY & MEGAN PEDERSEN

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FAMILY

- "We are show people!"
- ◻◻ "Apparently they're cousins but don't mention it."
- ◻◻◻ Current semi-legal partners
- ◻◻◻◻ Not-so-current spouses
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Might as well be family
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Parent and child

2 WORK

- "We're both wearing black and wearing headsets. So no, we're not actors, but thanks for asking."
- ◻◻ Actor and inferior actor
- ◻◻◻ Artistes
- ◻◻◻◻ Director and functionary (playwright, cast, crew, designer)
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Co-producers
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ "Volunteers"

3 FRIENDSHIP

- For the good of the production
- ◻◻ Drinking buddies
- ◻◻◻ Best worst friends
- ◻◻◻◻ 'Til the bitter end
- ◻◻◻◻◻ User and used
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ "We're friends? News to me, but if she says so..."

4 ROMANCE

- Showmance!
- ◻ Director and most recent conquest
- ◻ Thespian and non-thespian
- ◻ “It’s just a crush. Nothing serious.”
- ◻ Secret lovers
- ◻ One night stand

5 HISTORY

- Went to school together
- ◻ Bad (stage) blood
- ◻ Former theatrical business partners
- ◻ Former child actors
- ◻ “We’ve never met, but our reputations precede us.”
- ◻ “You’ll remember me when I’m famous, bitches!”

6 COMMUNITY

- Alcoholic and sponsor
- ◻ Dubious side project
- ◻ Diva and ingénue
- ◻ Bitter rivals
- ◻ Community theatre/summer stock players
- ◻ Mentor and protégé

...IN THE THEATRE

NEEDS...

1 TO GET LAID

- ...once a show, every show
- ...to show everyone who is boss
- ◡ ...to get the part
- ◢ ...to maintain your reputation
- ◣ ...for the first time
- ⋮ ...to come out of the closet

2 TO GET REVENGE

- ...for being passed over
- ...by sabotaging the show
- ◡ ...for the humiliation you suffer daily
- ◢ ...on the one who broke your heart
- ◣ ...for your misspelled name in the fucking program
- ⋮ ...on the director

3 TO GET MORE REVENGE

- ...on the actor who can never find her light
- ...on the playwright that keeps cutting your scenes
- ◡ ...on that wealthy patron who thinks they call the shots
- ◢ ...on that one particular reviewer
- ◣ ...on the bastards who won't cut your check
- ⋮ ...on the small-minded people who don't appreciate innovative, quality theatre when they see it

4 TO GET FAMOUS

- ...because this is your moment and you deserve it
- ...and prove the doubters wrong
- ◡ ...so you can finally make real art
- ◢ ...so your parents will accept you
- ◣ ...so that everyone knows your name – Fame!
- ⋮ ...to be just like [insert famous person here]

5 TO GET OUT

- ...of this terrible show
- ...of this terrible career
- ◡ ...of this terrible town
- ◢ ...of this terrible contract
- ◣ ...of this terrible relationship
- ⋮ ...of this terrible costume

6 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from everyone, by doing this role justice
- ...from everyone, by atoning for a dreadful mistake
- ◡ ...for yourself, by finally treading the boards
- ◢ ...from the press, by getting a good review
- ◣ ...or not, either way, this is art so who cares?
- ⋮ ...because you'll die without it

...IN THE THEATRE

LOCATIONS...

1 FRONT OF HOUSE

- ◻ Box office
- ◻ Cash bar
- ◻ Lobby
- ◻ Atop the marquee
- ◻ Bathroom
- ◻ General admission seating

2 BACKSTAGE

- ◻ The grid (rafters above the stage)
- ◻ Dressing rooms
- ◻ Tech booth
- ◻ Prop room
- ◻ Green room
- ◻ Director's office

3 THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- ◻ Parking lot and valet stand
- ◻ Convenience store
- ◻ Back alley, marked with a warning
- ◻ Smoky stairwell
- ◻ Thrift shop
- ◻ The dealer's house

4 PLACE TO CRASH

- Tiny studio apartment
- ◡ Van parked behind the theatre
- ◢ Your parent's house
- ◣ Four bedrooms, seven people, no problem
- ◤ A greasy couch
- ◥ "How did you afford this place?"

5 MICHELLE'S TAVERN

- Out front with the smokers
- ◡ Under a table, accidentally or on purpose
- ◢ Bathroom, with or without sex currently happening
- ◣ Behind the Golden Tee machine
- ◤ "Holy shit, there's more tequila back here!"
- ◥ The techie table

6 CAST PARTY

- The director's loft apartment
- ◡ High end nightclub called KNOLL
- ◢ At the Chicken Hut
- ◣ Muddy field off County Road Sixteen
- ◤ Grover Cleveland High School
- ◥ Somebody's too-small apartment

...IN THE THEATRE

OBJECTS...

1 PROPS

- ◻ Antique wheelchair
- ◻◦ Porcelain Buddha statue that must be smashed on stage nightly
- ◻◦ Alcohol—lots and lots of alcohol
- ◻◻ Live animal
- ◻◻ Human skull
- ◻◻◻ Two hundred highly flammable Christmas trees

2 WEAPONS

- ◻ A revolver loaded with blanks
- ◻◦ A big box of swords with no lock on it
- ◻◦ A totally safe grenade
- ◻◻ Gloves with claws, stolen from a touring production of *Cats*
- ◻◻ Nunchucks
- ◻◻◻ Anti-aircraft gun left over from a production of *Mister Roberts*

3 TECHNICAL

- ◻ Poorly-wired lighting instrument
- ◻◦ Sandbag
- ◻◦ Glow tape—lots and lots of glow tape
- ◻◻ Trap door
- ◻◻ Rain machine
- ◻◻◻ Giant red fire-retardant teaser curtain

4 DUBIOUS

- The community marijuana stash
- ◻ A sex DVD starring someone in the cast
- ◻ A severed finger
- ◻ PUBLIC SAFETY – CONDEMNED notice
- ◻ Pregnancy test
- ◻ Secret shrine to Julie Taymor

5 VALUABLE

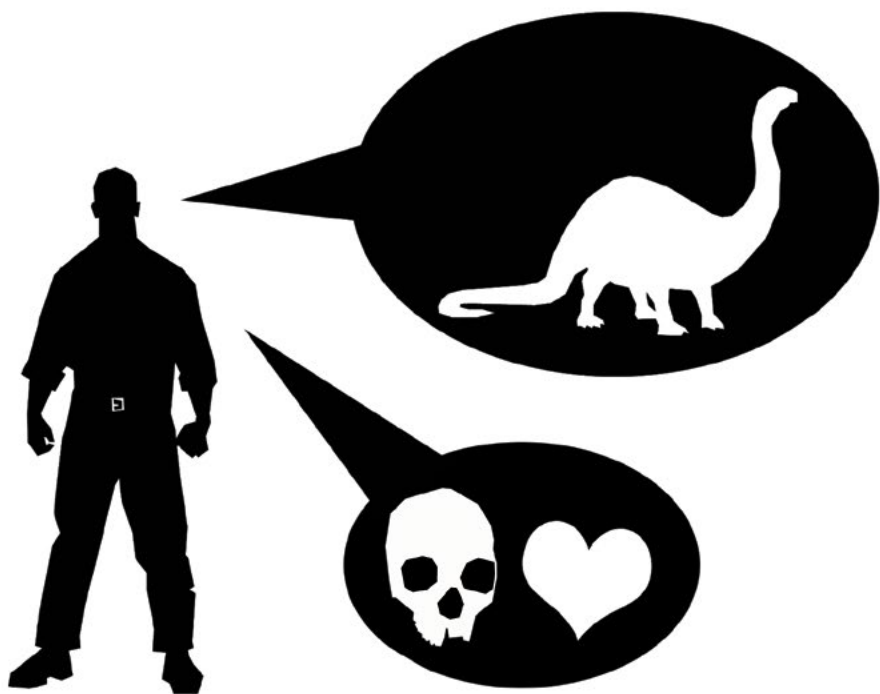
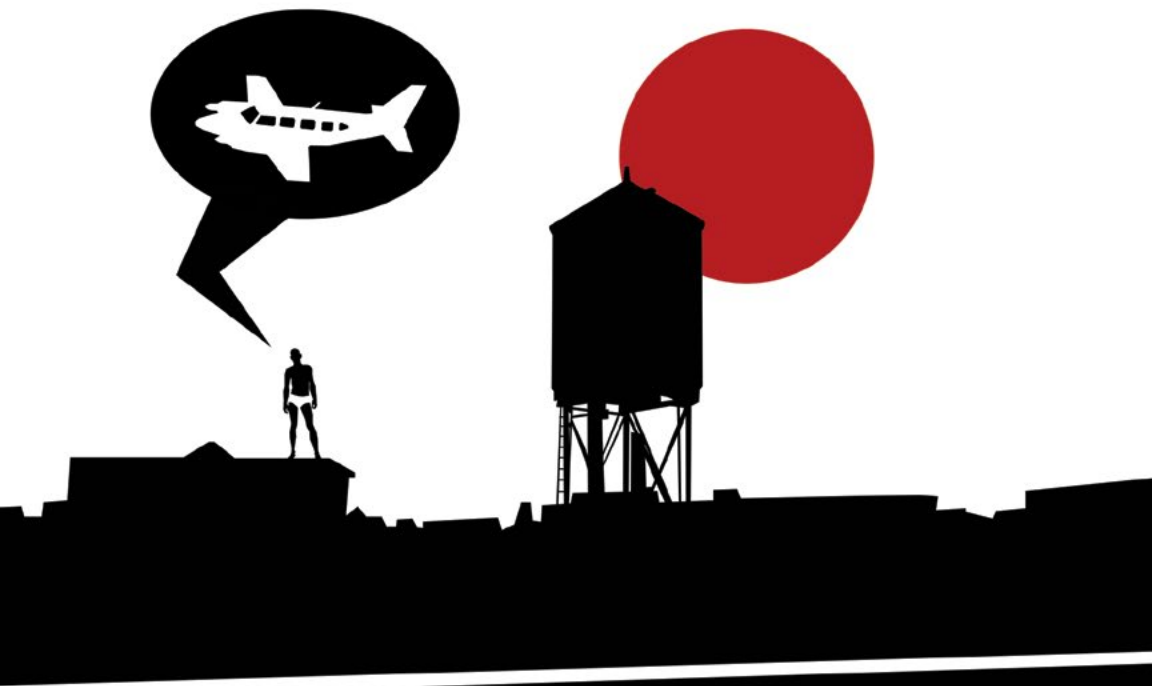
- The next show's unreleased cast list
- ◻ Keys to the theatre
- ◻ Director's mobile phone number
- ◻ Stage manager's prompt book
- ◻ Bad review, as yet unpublished
- ◻ The real reason the last actor quit

6 SENTIMENTAL

- Stephen Sondheim's autograph
- ◻ Tear-stained love letter
- ◻ Security blanket
- ◻ A director's moment of kindness, captured on film
- ◻ Flowers from opening night
- ◻ Somebody else's Tony award

...IN THE THEATRE





THE PENTHOUSE

"CALL ME SAL"

Salman bin Nasser al Saud is a Saudi prince, he's twenty-four years old, and he is heir to one of the biggest fortunes on the planet.

Sal's pride and joy is his penthouse. It's the most expensive penthouse he and his people could find. It's in the heart of downtown, has a breathtaking 360-degree view that encompasses the entire city skyline and harbor, and has been the site of some of the most extravagant parties in living memory.

In some respects, tonight is no different than any other night at Sal's place. The world's most moneyed, famous, talented, ruthless, intelligent, and charismatic people—plus those who profit from them—have packed themselves into Sal's penthouse, and the beats are bumping.

And here comes Sal at the stroke of midnight: drunk, not a care in the world, with a crowd of shrieking underage girls trailing behind him.

But what Sal doesn't know is that this is the last party he'll ever host at his penthouse. After tonight, everything changes... one way or the other.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Great Gatsby, American Psycho, Match Point, The Devil's Double

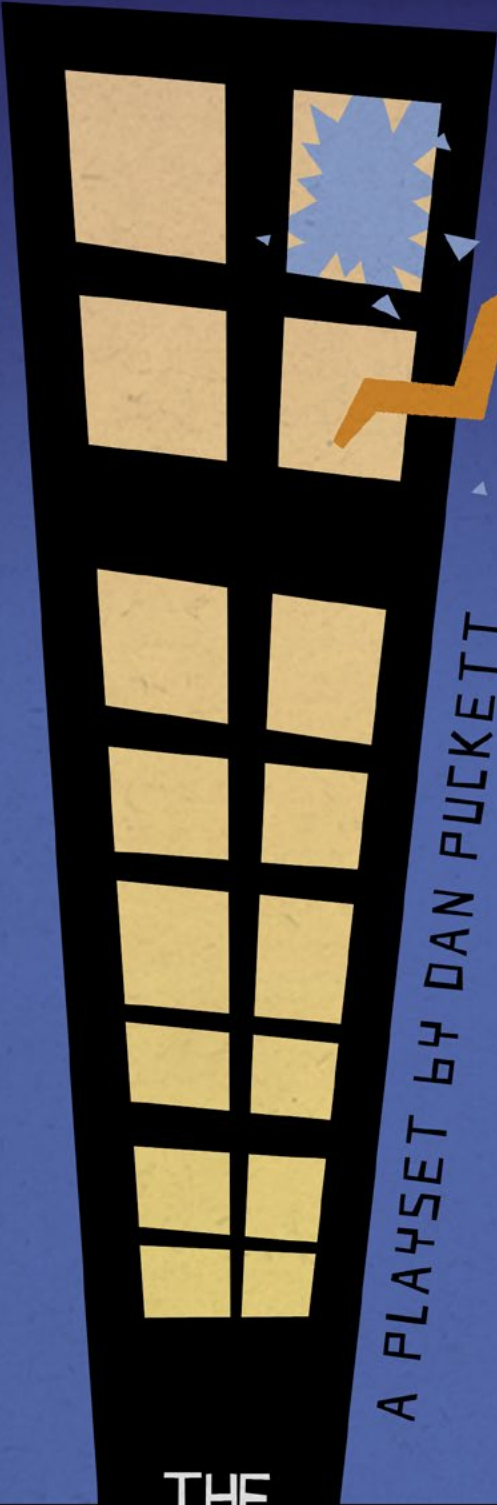
CREDITS

Written by Dan Puckett

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Jason Morningstar and Steve Segedy

The Penthouse was Playset of the Month for July 2011.



A PLAYSET BY DAN PUCKETT

THE PENTHOUSE

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FRIENDSHIP

- ◻ Went to private school together
- ◻ Friends with benefits
- ◻ Friendship ended after one humiliated the other
- ◻ “We met once at a gallery opening or the opera or some shit.”
- ◻ Owes the other one a big favor
- ◻ Bromance

2 FAMILY

- ◻ Cousins
- ◻ Parent and child
- ◻ Siblings
- ◻ In-laws
- ◻ Step-parent and step-child
- ◻ Husband and wife

3 CRIME

- ◻ Drug dealer and drug manufacturer
- ◻ Grave robber and dealer in antiquities
- ◻ Serial killer and admirer
- ◻ Together, successfully stole from a Swiss diamond merchant
- ◻ Cop and “a person of interest in an ongoing investigation”
- ◻ “We just love setting fires. Don’t we, honey?”

4 COMMUNITY

- Celebrity and celebrity impersonator
- ◻ Olympic luge bronze-medalist and obsessive fan
- ◻ Opera soloist and conductor
- ◻ Professor of rainforest psychopharmacology and student
- ◻ Professor of kite-boarding and student
- ◻ VIP and bodyguard

5 ROMANCE

- Infatuation
- ◻ First date
- ◻ Revulsion
- ◻ Lust
- ◻ Jealousy
- ◻ Heartbreak

6 MONEY

- Trust fund manager and beneficiary
- ◻ Inventor and potential investor
- ◻ Wealthy relative and inheritor
- ◻ Debtor and repo man
- ◻ CEO and stunningly attractive personal assistant
- ◻ Salesperson and potential lead

...IN SAL'S PENTHOUSE

NEEDS...

1 TO GET EVEN

- ◻ ...but no one can know you did it
- ◻◦ ...and everyone must know you did it
- ◻◦◦ ...for the insult
- ◻◻◻ ...for turning stool pigeon
- ◻◻◻◻ ...for acting so superior all the time
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...for being richer

2 TO GET OUT

- ◻ ...of my wasted life and into something really meaningful for a change
- ◻◦ ...of this Ponzi scheme
- ◻◦◦ ...of a contract
- ◻◻◻ ...of this fire
- ◻◻◻◻ ...from under the thumb of controlling relatives
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...of the country, before certain crimes come to light

3 TO ENHANCE A REPUTATION

- ◻ ...by robbing from the rich and giving to the poor
- ◻◦ ...by destroying the incriminating evidence
- ◻◦◦ ...by my savagery
- ◻◻◻ ...as the smartest person in the room
- ◻◻◻◻ ...enough to become famous
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...as the person who can fix *any* situation

4 TO GET LAID

- • ...in a threesome
- ◦ ...so I can finally get control
- ◦◦ ...and find true love
- ◦◦◦ ...and fan the flames of jealousy
- ◦◦◦◦ ...with someone my relatives will hate
- ◦◦◦◦◦ ...with a relative

5 TO GET RICHER

- • ...richer than that guy, at least
- ◦ ...and pay off some debts
- ◦◦ ...at her expense
- ◦◦◦ ...by getting my name put back in the will again
- ◦◦◦◦ ...in the next fifteen minutes
- ◦◦◦◦◦ ...and have enough to win him back

6 TO GET THE TRUTH

- • ...about how to make these fantastic drugs
- ◦ ...about why these people are following me
- ◦◦ ...about where the money comes from
- ◦◦◦ ...about what people think of me
- ◦◦◦◦ ...about who that person really is
- ◦◦◦◦◦ ...about next year's modelz

...IN SAL'S PENTHOUSE

LOCATIONS...

1 ABOVE

- ◻ Helicopter pad with a helicopter fueled and ready to fly
- ◻◻ Infinity pool
- ◻◻◻ Balcony with a superb view (and a telescope)
- ◻◻◻◻ Jacuzzi, currently full of supermodels
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Ten-foot-high champagne and chocolate fountain
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Inflatable ball-pit filled with tulip buds

2 INSIDE

- ◻ Open bar, serving alcohol, hashish, opium, and cocaine
- ◻◻ Solarium—the source of the wrist-thick vines that have been trained to grow into every room
- ◻◻◻ Bathroom—gold, mirrors, black marble, and halogen lights
- ◻◻◻◻ Bedroom—orange silk sheets on a bed the size of a lawn
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Lemur habitat
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Panic room

3 DOWNSTAIRS

- ◻ Passenger elevator, a festival of teakwood and brass
- ◻◻ The unit below—also owned by Salman, but he keeps it empty
- ◻◻◻ Private underground parking garage—absolutely pristine
- ◻◻◻◻ Stairwell, littered with bird poop and discarded half-bricks
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Supply closet—rusting barrels are stacked to the ceiling
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Boiler room—the dirt floor in the corner has been dug up

4 EMPLOYEES ONLY

- ◻ Kitchen, full of harried cooks prepare plate after plate of shrimp
- ◻◦ Electrical closet—huge cables feed into giant, humming breakers. There is much more power available here than seems necessary.
- ◻◦◦ Staff quarters—cramped and dark
- ◻◻◦◦ Service elevator—busy bringing supplies to the kitchen
- ◻◻◻◦◦ Walk-in freezer, chock-full of smoked sablefish
- ◻◻◻◻◦◦◦ Wine cellar—1,200 bottles in stock, right off the kitchen

5 NEARBY

- ◻ Harbor—just jammed full of yachts
- ◻◦ Carthage Racetrack—some bad rumors about this place
- ◻◦◦ “This guy I know. He’s the real shit! What was his name?”
- ◻◻◦◦ Down by the fountain, where the kids hang out
- ◻◻◻◦◦ In one of the organ pipes at the Cathedral
- ◻◻◻◻◦◦◦ “Le Doigt Degoutant”—don’t go there alone or after dark

6 NIGHTLIFE

- ◻ Natural Sevens Casino—straight out of a Bond movie
- ◻◦ Karé(ment), a bar popular with celebrities and the jet set
- ◻◦◦ Moods, a nightclub with a tradition of senseless violence
- ◻◻◦◦ Black Legend, a dark, smoky bar featuring American soul music
- ◻◻◻◦◦ Mme. Sheffield’s flat—high-end prostitutes since 1996
- ◻◻◻◻◦◦◦ Antonio’s place—for all intents and purposes, an opium den

...IN SAL'S PENTHOUSE

OBJECTS...

1 UNTOWARD

- ◻ Furious Russian prostitute with an impenetrable accent
- ◻◦ Wood plane—its blade is matted with blood and human hair
- ◻◦◦ DVD video of a U.S. diplomat tripping his balls off
- ◻◦◦◦ Glass jug of Vietnamese snake wine—a cobra floats inside
- ◻◦◦◦◦ Thomas Kinkade painting of a sad-faced clown beating a child
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ Donald Trump, naked and unconscious

2 INFORMATION

- ◻ 26 very large numbers neatly written on hotel stationery
- ◻◦ Passports for Switzerland, Panama, and St. Kitts
- ◻◦◦ GPS coordinates of a spot within Buckingham Palace
- ◻◦◦◦ Clever forgery of a Monaco Urban Police Division badge
- ◻◦◦◦◦ Codes providing full access to INTERPOL's crime databases
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ Irrefutable evidence of trafficking in endangered lemurs

3 WEAPONS

- ◻ French cavalry sabre (c. 1804)—sharper than hell
- ◻◦ Huge box of professional-grade fireworks
- ◻◦◦ Seven-foot single-fluke harpoon
- ◻◦◦◦ Nickel-plated steel guillotine, brilliantly burnished
- ◻◦◦◦◦ Shellfish allergy
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ An entourage

4 TRANSPORTATION

- ◻ Formula racing hovercraft. \$50,000. Top speed: 80 mph.
- ◻◻ MTT Turbine motorcycle. \$185,000. Top speed: 242 mph.
- ◻◻◻ Phoenix 1000 submarine. \$78M. Living space: 5,000 sq. ft.
- ◻◻◻◻ The yacht Calamine IV. \$210M. Length: 457 ft.
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Bicycle Lance Armstrong rode for his first Tour win
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Porsche 550 Spyder that James Dean died in, fully restored

5 VALUABLES

- ◻ 1,600 lbs. of illicit ivory
- ◻◻ 36 doses of “Cel”—a new drug that triples pleasure and pain
- ◻◻◻ Infallible system for winning at roulette
- ◻◻◻◻ Zsa Zsa Gabor’s plastinated corpse
- ◻◻◻◻◻ TLN device—can synthesize small amounts of any compound
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ One-of-a-kind nude self-portrait of Picasso

6 SENTIMENTAL

- ◻ Pornographic ice sculpture
- ◻◻ Exquisitely uncomfortable couch covered with real lemur skin
- ◻◻◻ Photo of Salman embracing Barack Obama and Lindsay Lohan
- ◻◻◻◻ Honorary PhD certificate from Yale
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Life-sized pink marble statue of Superman
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Child’s sled with “Rosebud” printed on it (certified authentic prop from the movie Citizen Kane)

...IN SAL'S PENTHOUSE

HORSE FEVER

BACKING THE WRONG HORSE

Horseburg is a foul city, grey like the dust you breathe in the Boss' racetrack. One breath is enough to fill your lungs with corruption, greed, and filthy lies.

Before nightfall, all kinds of ne'er-do-wells crowd the bleachers, cursing at the horses they spent all their savings on—but when the sun vanishes behind the city hall, you can see the rotten heart of this town. A grim fog rises to hide the elusive, shady types scheming to decide the winning horse for tomorrow.

O'Brian, the Irishman, passes bribes on Pier 7, and down at old Daniels' pub they never stop whispering. Once, I had the luck of being invited to the bridge table of inspector Recherche.

It's always best to mind your own business, grasp information here and there and use it to bet heavily tomorrow. See, in this city, luck won't be enough to make you filthy rich. There's people out there who'd sell their own mothers for a reliable tip.

Some say you just need to know "the right people", but then "the right people" will want favors in return; many of these geniuses are down at the docks, wearing fashionable cement shoes.

Myself, I'm for natural remedies: I'll just stick to a worn out nag named Bosson nobody would bet a dime on, and make my money by grabbing a mexican jalapeno and sticking it up the right place at the right time.

MOVIE NIGHT

A Day at the Races, A Fine Mess, Dead Heat (2002), Febbre da Cavallo, National Velvet, On the Nose, Secretariat, Seabiscuit, Some Like it Hot, The Sting.

CREDITS

Written by Ariele Agostini, Flavio Mortarino, Lorenzo Silva, Lorenzo Tucci Sorrentino

Edited by Giulia Barbano, Renato Ramonda; Translated by Giulia Barbano

Illustrations by Giulia Ghigini; Graphics by Anna Federica Ferrara, Giulia Ghigini, Paola Guarneri, Luca Ricci

Horse Fever was Playset of the Month for August 2011 and is based on the boardgame of the same name by Cranio Creations.



H O R S E F E V E R

A FIASCO
PLAYSET



RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FAMILY

- Siblings
- Cousins and lovers
- Distant relatives who have never met
- Parent and child or step-child
- Godparent and godchild
- Parent-in-law and child-in-law

2 AT THE RACES

- Jockey and stable owner
- Loan shark and victim
- Betting buddies
- Bookie and customer
- Racetrack workers
- Racetrack bartender and regular

3 FRIENDSHIP

- Enemies of an enemy
- Drinking buddies
- Sworn enemies
- Friendly rivals
- Former cellmates
- Friends of a friend

HORSE
FEVER



4 ROMANCE

- Secret lovers
- Married
- Separated
- Stalker and victim
- One-night stand
- Former lovers

5 CRIME

- Boss and goon
- Drug dealer and customer
- Cop and informant
- Con man and mark
- Fences
- Prostitute and pimp

6 FROM THE PAST

- He/she knows what I did in the past
- Grew up together in another town
- A debt never paid
- Rivals from way back
- Former business partners
- Old family grudges



**... ON JUST ANOTHER DAY
IN HORSEBURG**

NEEDS...



1 TO GET AWAY

- ...from your family
- ...from your debtors
- ...from this relationship you can't stand anymore
- ...from a charge for murder
- ...before they find out what you did
- ...from your past

2 TO GET LAID

- ...one last time
- ...to prove something
- ...to get what you want
- ...to rekindle an old flame
- ...to hurt someone (even yourself)
- ...to win a bet

3 TO WIN

- ...your last race
- ...the respect of your family
- ...thanks to a good tip
- ...by finally betting on the right horse
- ...over your fears
- ...over the boredom of your life

4 TO GET RICH

- ...at the expense of your family
- ...through a profitable deal
- ...by committing a grisly crime
- ...through a deal with the mob
- ...by selling what you know
- ...by fixing a race



5 TO GET EVEN

- ...with that bastard that ran away with the money
- ...with your rival
- ...with someone you think is lying to you
- ...with your bookie
- ...with the mob
- ...with someone who owes you, big time

6 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from your family, by doing something unexpected
- ...from your superiors, by seizing the initiative
- ...from your love, by keeping a promise
- ...from the mob, by doing something you would have never done
- ...from everyone down at the racetrack, by cheating
- ...from yourself, by doing what is right

**... ON JUST ANOTHER DAY
IN HORSEBURG**

LOCATIONS...

1 WHERE THE MONEY IS

- ☐ Branch #11 of the First National Bank
- The biennial horse show
- ◐ The opera theatre
- ◑ The international expo
- ◒ The imperial suite of the Von Halt Hotel
- ◓ The French fashion boutique

2 UPTOWN

- ☐ Central Plaza, at 12 o' clock
- The villa of Cràneo Cervantes, owner of the stable El Frigor Rojo
- ◐ The parlour of Adalbert Diplomatitsch
- ◑ The botanical garden
- ◒ An antiques shop
- ◓ The mansion of Adrien Justice, the judge

3 THE SLUMS

- ☐ Michele Cuorlione's illegal gambling den
- The dark alley behind the opera theatre
- ◐ Pier 17
- ◑ A warehouse full of stolen goods
- ◒ The room of Miss Paris, the boss' girl
- ◓ The office of Philippe Justice, brother of the judge



4 THE RACETRACK

- ◻ The paddock, before the fifth race
- ◻◻ The betting office
- ◻◻◻ A private suite in the VIP stands
- ◻◻◻◻ The stalls assigned to the stable L'Ardor Giallo
- ◻◻◻◻◻ The restaurant on the first floor
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ The jockeys' locker room

5 OUT OF TOWN

- ◻ Highway 37, a few miles from the border
- ◻◻ The training track of the stable Virtus Alba
- ◻◻◻ The shore of the artificial lake
- ◻◻◻◻ The summer residence of Cranio Mercanti
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Little Cesar's diner
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ The oil wells of Oliver Oil

6 PUBLIC

- ◻ Platform Eight at the train station
- ◻◻ The mayor's office
- ◻◻◻ The veterinarian's waiting room
- ◻◻◻◻ The catholic church in the Italian neighborhood
- ◻◻◻◻◻ The police station
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ The Horseburg zoo



... ON JUST ANOTHER DAY
IN HORSEBURG

OBJECTS...

1 VALUABLE

- ◻ Ownership certificate for the purebred “Napoléon”
- ◻◦ Formula of the drug that no test can identify... yet
- ◻◦◦ Winning ticket for the third race
- ◻◻◻ Diamond necklace
- ◻◻◻◻ Bearer bonds worth half a million dollars
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Leather briefcase full of dollar bills

2 WEAPON

- ◻ Violin case
- ◻◦ Starter’s gun
- ◻◦◦ Jockey’s whip
- ◻◻◻ .22 handgun, small enough to fit in a purse
- ◻◻◻◻ Tommy gun
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Blacksmith’s hammer

3 INFORMATION

- ◻ Phone call overheard by accident
- ◻◦ Combination of a security box
- ◻◦◦ “El Guapo” winning the third race
- ◻◻◻ Conversations heard in a VIP stand at the racetrack
- ◻◻◻◻ Password for that exclusive club
- ◻◻◻◻◻ “Biscuit de Mer” placed in the first race

HORSE
FEVER



4 UNTOWARD

- ◻ Corpse in the wardrobe
- ◻ Pouch stuffed with drugs
- ◻ Bottle of horse poison
- ◻ Shirt stained with blood
- ◻ Two stereotypes for 100 \$ bills
- ◻ Jacket with the perfume of another woman / another man



5 SENTIMENTAL

- ◻ Trot derby cup from 15 years ago
- ◻ Medallion with a portrait inside
- ◻ Trappings of the old "Varonne", unforgotten champion
- ◻ Engagement ring
- ◻ Lucky horseshoe
- ◻ Signed love letter

6 TRANSPORTATION

- ◻ Trailer for horse transport
- ◻ Tractor
- ◻ Bicycle
- ◻ Horse that looks exactly like the most promising champion of the last 10 years
- ◻ Tourist hot-air balloon near the racetrack
- ◻ Racing Bugatti

**... ON JUST ANOTHER DAY
IN HORSEBURG**

RED FRONT

GERMAN AUTUMN

If one sets a car on fire, that is a criminal offence. If one sets hundreds of cars on fire, that is political action.—Ulrike Meinhof

Romance, violence, and idealism collide as the world looks on. Since Munich in '72, the world has been transfixed by political violence. Some would call it terrorism, others might hail the brave fighters for freedom.

It's the autumn of '77 in Germany and stories of kidnap, murder, and hijacking are front page news. A disparate group of avant-garde academics, youthful political activists, and workers at the end of their tether plot to make the world sit up and take notice.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Baader Meinhof Complex (film & book), *Munich*, *See You at Regis Debray*, *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*, *Four Lions* (not set in the 70s, but very much in the spirit of *Fiasco*)

CREDITS

Written by Malcolm Craig and Per Fischer

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy and Jason Morningstar

Red Front was Playset of the Month for September 2011.

RED FRONT



RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FRIENDSHIP

- ◻ Former university flatmates
- ◻◦ Did national service together
- ◻◦ Grew up together
- ◻◻ Met at anti-nuclear demo
- ◻◻ Did time together
- ◻◻◻ Co-founders of a cell

2 ROMANCE

- ◻ Secret lovers
- ◻◦ Divorced
- ◻◦ Married
- ◻◻ Illicit relationship
- ◻◻ Siblings
- ◻◻◻ Love triangle

3 WORK

- ◻ Doctor and patient
- ◻◦ Lecturer and student
- ◻◦ Shop steward and factory worker
- ◻◻ Steelworkers
- ◻◻ Unemployed
- ◻◻◻ Customer and salesperson

4 TERROR

- The last cell all died, but we survived
- ◻ Splinter faction
- ◻ Guerilla-trained abroad
- ◻ Former hostage and captor
- ◻ Responsible for an atrocity
- ◻ Assassins

5 POLITICS

- Union officials
- ◻ Communist Party members
- ◻ Anarchists
- ◻ Syndicalists
- ◻ Peace movement activists
- ◻ Pundits

6 SUB-CULTURE

- Painters
- ◻ Poets
- ◻ Novelists
- ◻ Rock musicians
- ◻ Underground publishers
- ◻ Radical politicians

...IN THE RED FRONT

NEEDS...

1 TO GET REVENGE

- ...on the Foreign Ministry
- ◻◻ ...on the Americans
- ◻◻◻ ...on a police officer
- ◻◻◻◻ ...on one of your mates who fucked your friend
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...on society
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...on your parents

2 TO GAIN PUBLICITY

- ...through a hijacking
- ◻◻ ...through a kidnapping
- ◻◻◻ ...through an assassination
- ◻◻◻◻ ...through a bombing
- ◻◻◻◻ ...through a media stunt
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...through a suicide mission

3 TO GET OUT

- ...before you're killed
- ◻◻ ...before the Big Event
- ◻◻◻ ...of a dangerous relationship
- ◻◻◻◻ ...to lead a normal life
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...before someone gets killed
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...before you're exposed as an informant

4 TO GET FUNDING

- ...from organised crime
- ◻ ...from a national government
- ◻ ...from Big Business
- ◻ ...through blackmail/extortion
- ◻ ...through robbery
- ◻ ...through forgery

5 TO CHANGE SOCIETY

- ...by puncturing Western complacency
- ◻ ...by standing up for the weak
- ◻ ...by direct violent action
- ◻ ...by resistance
- ◻ ...by exposing their lies
- ◻ ...by sacrificing your mates

6 TO BE AVANT-GARDE

- ...by being the first
- ◻ ...by being transgressive
- ◻ ...by action not talk
- ◻ ...by talk not action
- ◻ ...by changing history
- ◻ ...by not giving a shit

...IN THE RED FRONT

LOCATIONS...

1 TRAVEL

- ◻ Airport departure lounge
- ◻ Autobahn petrol station
- ◻ The Central Station
- ◻ U-Bahn station
- ◻ Multi-storey carpark
- ◻ Aboard a river boat

2 RESIDENCES

- ◻ Squat in Neukölln, Berlin
- ◻ One bedroom apartment in a high-rise block
- ◻ Historical townhouse in Lübeck
- ◻ Treehouse
- ◻ Suburban house
- ◻ Designer villa of Stefan's parents

3 MILITARY

- ◻ Sennelager British Army base
- ◻ Bitburg US airbase
- ◻ Abandoned rocketry test range
- ◻ Checkpoint Charlie
- ◻ German Army depot
- ◻ A neglected bunker

4 TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- ◻ Berlin TV tower
- ◻◦ The Black Forest
- ◻◦ Hamburg's red light district
- ◻◻ Hofbräuhaus Munich
- ◻◻ Neuschwanstein Castle
- ◻◻◻ Kölner Dom cathedral in Cologne

5 ABROAD

- ◻ Paris, for an arms deal
- ◻◦ Beirut, to make contacts
- ◻◦ New York, to meet "The Colonel"
- ◻◻ Copenhagen, for a romantic liaison
- ◻◻ Moscow, to receive "special training"
- ◻◻◻ Prague, to record a message on tape

6 RANDOM

- ◻ The Libyan Embassy
- ◻◦ Forest near the border
- ◻◦ An Aldi supermarket
- ◻◻ University lecture theatre
- ◻◻ Sewage treatment plant
- ◻◻◻ Biblis Nuclear Power Station

...IN THE RED FRONT

OBJECTS...

1 WEAPONS

- ◻ A couple of MP5s
- ◻◦ Some hand grenades
- ◻◦ U.S. M-6 bayonet
- ◻◻◻ AK-47
- ◻◻◻ Czechoslovak explosives and timer
- ◻◻◻ Anthrax cultures

2 VALUABLES

- ◻ 100,000 Ostmarks
- ◻◦ Six fake passports
- ◻◦ \$1m in traveler's cheques
- ◻◻◻ Four 400 oz gold bars
- ◻◻◻ Rolex Cosmograph Daytona watch
- ◻◻◻ One kg of uncut cocaine

3 INFORMATION

- ◻ Address of the Foreign Minister's holiday home in Gstaad
- ◻◦ C60 tape holding a secretly recorded conversation
- ◻◦ Brown leather bag with "Top Secret" documents
- ◻◻◻ Piece of microfilm
- ◻◻◻ Name of a traitor within the group
- ◻◻◻ Blueprint of the Bundeskanzler's residence

4 TRANSPORT

- ◻ Beat up VW Kombi van
- ◻◦ Black bulletproof Mercedes-Benz 600
- ◻◦◦ Luxury yacht
- ◻◻◦ Vespa scooter
- ◻◻◻ Public transport
- ◻◻◻◻ Volkswagen Golf GTI

5 GEAR

- ◻ Nagra IV-S portable professional audio recorder
- ◻◦ Linn Sondek Turntable
- ◻◦◦ Atari Pong game
- ◻◻◦ Three-piece suit
- ◻◻◻◻ Sony Betamax SL-7200 video cassette recorder
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Heidelberg printing press

6 STRANGE

- ◻ The briefcase that everyone seems to want
- ◻◦ Yellowcake uranium from Nigeria
- ◻◦◦ Piece of moonstone
- ◻◻◦ Signed Tangerine Dream t-shirt
- ◻◻◻◻ Apollo space suit
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Apple I user manual

...IN THE RED FRONT

CAMP DEATH

KL.. KL.. KL.. MA... MA... MA...

So, here's the deal. Camp Clearwater's been abandoned since some grisly, "unsolved" murders 20 years ago. Or whatever. The new owner probably made that up as some creepy story to tell the campers and scare up business.

What I know is that we've got a couple weeks to get this place set up before any campers arrive, and most of the hard work is already done. We've got enough booze, pot, and distance from authority to make this the greatest summer ever.

What could go wrong?

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday the 13th Parts I and II, *Sleepaway Camp*, *The Burning*, *Madman*, and *Just Before Dawn*. Just about any slasher flick from the '70s or '80s is good inspiration. Wikipedia has a good list at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slasher_film.

READ THIS! SERIOUSLY. READ IT.

Slasher films are notorious for late-movie revelations and plot twists, and Camp Death is no exception. The Who Is The Killer? section at the end of this Playset includes a few options for determining the identity of the killer. Before starting the game, take a look at the options and decide which you want to use.

One final note: take care when choosing Relationships in this Playset. Many of the elements, such as those under "Local," assume that only one character will be a camp counselor, and this may result in difficult or impossible combinations.

CREDITS

Written by James Gabrielsen

Cover and interior art by James Gabrielsen

Edited by Steve Segedy

Camp Death was Playset of the Month for October 2011.

CAMP DEATH



A FIASCO PLAYSET
BY JAMES GABRIELSEN

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FRIENDS

- ◻ Friends since grade school
- ◻ Unlikely friends
- ◻ Old friends reunited
- ◻ Alpha male/queen bee and sycophant
- ◻ Members of the “In Crowd”
- ◻ Fellow social outcasts

2 FAMILY

- ◻ Older sibling and “baby” sister/brother
- ◻ Identical twins
- ◻ Step-siblings
- ◻ Ex-spouses
- ◻ Cousins
- ◻ Parent and child

3 WORK

- ◻ Fellow camp counselors
- ◻ Head counselor and underling
- ◻ Forest ranger and camp counselor
- ◻ Gas station attendant and customer
- ◻ Bus driver and camp counselor
- ◻ Dealer and pot head

4 ROMANCE

- ◻ Obnoxious public displays of affection
- ◻◻ Once, while drunk, at some stupid party...
- ◻◻◻ Happily engaged
- ◻◻◻◻ Fuck buddies
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Once mutual lust, now mutual disgust
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Promiscuous partner and desperate virgin

5 SECRET

- ◻ Admiring from afar
- ◻◻ Lovers behind others' backs
- ◻◻◻ Stalker and object of sick obsession
- ◻◻◻◻ Bound by a dark secret
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Peeping tom and eye candy
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Not who they appear to be

6 LOCAL

- ◻ Fisherman and camp counselor
- ◻◻ Lost hunter and camp counselor
- ◻◻◻ Old hermit and camp counselor
- ◻◻◻◻ Crazy drunk and camp counselor
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Paranoid survivalist and camp counselor
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Passing motorist and hitchhiking camper

...AT CAMP CLEARWATER

NEEDS...

1 TO GET LAID

- ...by every girl/guy here
- ...by your ex
- ◐ ...to prove that you're straight
- ◑ ...to win a bet
- ◒ ...one last time before the end
- ◓ ...to finally lose your virginity

2 TO GET AWAY

- ...from your old life
- ...with the money before anyone realizes it's gone
- ◐ ...from these losers
- ◑ ...with the lie you've been telling
- ◒ ...with murder
- ◓ ...from the cops

3 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from the camp owner by running things well
- ...from the voice in your head
- ◐ ...by sleeping alone in Cabin 13
- ◑ ...as a result of your sexual prowess
- ◒ ...by showing them they shouldn't have fucked with you
- ◓ ...by turning your life around

4 TO GET EVEN

- ...with the guy/girl who spurned your advances
- ...by embarrassing him/her in front of everyone
- ...because why should they be so happy?
- ...for what they did last year
- ...with every last one of these motherfuckers
- ...by stealing him/her back from that backstabber

5 TO GET IN

- ...to his/her pants
- ...tight with this new group of friends
- ...to their heads
- ...to the administration office
- ...to the lock box
- ...to a committed relationship

6 TO GET OUT

- ...of a stifling relationship
- ...of town and lay low for a while, to let things calm down
- ...of the way
- ...of your mind, to get totally blazed
- ...of the downward spiral your life has been in
- ...alive

...AT CAMP CLEARWATER

LOCATIONS...

1 THE LODGE

- Big fireplace in the common area
- ◻ Upstairs bedrooms
- ◻ Camp administration office
- ◻ Locked boiler room
- ◻ Gun safe
- ◻ Attic with a pull-down stairway

2 THE CABINS

- Twisting, muddy paths to the cabins
- ◻ Cabin 1, the cabin closest to the lodge
- ◻ Cabin 13, haunted according to camp legend
- ◻ Cabin 20, the cabin closest to the lake
- ◻ Supply shed
- ◻ Big fire pit with log benches

3 THE LAKE

- Rickety lifeguard tower
- ◻ Docks and boathouse
- ◻ Trails around the lake
- ◻ Small island
- ◻ Secluded cove
- ◻ Marshy east shore

4 WEATHER

- Thunderstorm
- Thick fog
- Moonless night
- Heat wave
- Cold snap
- Wind storm

5 THE WOODS

- Lost
- Secluded cave
- Mounds of freshly dug earth
- Small clearing with the remnants of several campfires
- Hidden, seemingly abandoned shack
- Dense trees well off the trail

6 THE WAY OUT OF CAMP

- Muddy road to the highway
- Someone's secret stash by the welcome sign
- Power lines running to the lodge
- Highway several miles down the road
- Gas station on the edge of the nearby town
- Rusted-out car sunk in the mud on the side of the road

...AT CAMP CLEARWATER

OBJECTS...

1 USEFUL

- Keys to the camp bus
- Master key to the lodge and cabins
- Map of the area and compass
- Large flashlight
- Hatchet
- Ham radio

2 WEAPONS

- Well-used wood ax
- Unlicensed revolver
- Rusty machete
- Old, taped-up oar
- Hunting shotgun and box of shells
- Hedge clippers

3 SMUGGLED GOODS

- Couple bottles of liquor
- Several ounces of high-quality weed
- Porno mags
- Enough condoms to last the summer
- Illegal fireworks
- Carton of cigarettes

4 EMBARRASSING

- Sappy, undelivered love letter
- ◻ Unluckily shaped birthmark
- ◻ Exotic vibrator
- ◻ Fungal cream
- ◻ Virginity (and everyone knows it)
- ◻ Unsavory reputation

5 OMINOUS FINDINGS

- Corpses of tortured animals
- ◻ “The master key to the lodge and cabins is missing!”
- ◻ Roughly carved occult symbols
- ◻ Dark stains
- ◻ Bleached human skull just off the trail
- ◻ “The power lines have been deliberately cut!”

6 INFORMATION

- Ridiculous, creepy camp legends
- ◻ Medical case files
- ◻ Crazy drunk’s incoherent warning
- ◻ Dusty old video reel and projector
- ◻ Map with one location clearly marked
- ◻ Dark secrets

...AT CAMP CLEARWATER

SPECIAL RULES

STUNT DICE

Before starting, remove two white dice and two black dice from the dice pool, and replace them with four red stunt dice. Then roll them all to kick off the game as normal.

Whenever a stunt die is picked to resolve a scene, someone dies. Usually this will be an NPC, but don't be afraid to kill a PC this way. Just don't kill the character; do the deed "off-camera" to leave a bit of uncertainty. You never know when someone might make an unexpected reappearance.

Whichever player picks the stunt die to resolve the scene gets to decide whether that die is white or black for that scene.

During the Aftermath, don't roll any of the stunt dice. They won't affect your final outcome. However, they might help determine just who is killing people at Camp Clearwater.

WHO IS THE KILLER?

Slasher films are notorious for late-movie revelations and plot twists, and Camp Death is no exception. Before starting the game, choose one of the following three ways to identify the killer:

1. "I always knew there was something wrong with that one."

Just play the game as usual. The stunt dice will assure that people are dying, but let the fiction organically determine the identity of the killer. The identity of the killer will probably become obvious as the game winds down.

2. "Everyone is a suspect."

During play, any player who receives a stunt die may no longer appear "on-camera" in any scene with the killer. During the Aftermath, each player with stunt dice should roll them separately. Whoever has the highest total is the killer. If anyone ties, then they were both killers and were working together.

**FINISHING SECOND IN THE OLYMPICS
GETS YOU SILVER. FINISHING SECOND
IN POLITICS GETS YOU OBLIVION.**

—RICHARD M. NIXON

With a war in Southeast Asia, unrest at home, and the evidence in the Watergate scandal reaching closer and closer to the goddamn President of the United States, the political landscape in Washington D.C. buckles and shifts daily. It's a good time to be young and hungry. It's a good time to be ruthless. And it's a good time to know some secrets.

Deals are made on both sides of the Iron Curtain, and Capitol Hill insiders are willing to risk anything—from public disgrace to nuclear Armageddon—for a big payout or a State Department gig. So in the name of Nixon or Brezhnev or Abbie Hoffman or John Wayne, make the system work for you or tear it the hell down.

MOVIE NIGHT

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, Burn After Reading

CREDITS

Written by Logan Bonner

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy and Jason Morningstar

DC73 was Playset of the Month, November 2011



A PLAYSET BY LOGAN BONNER

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FAMILY

- ◻ Parent / child
- ◻ Cousins
- ◻ Bastard relation
- ◻ Aunt or uncle / niece or nephew
- ◻ Siblings
- ◻ Distant / unusual / unofficial relatives

2 POLITICS

- ◻ Majority party member / opposition party member
- ◻ Visiting dignitary / host
- ◻ Politician / advisor
- ◻ Communists or communist sympathizers
- ◻ Activists
- ◻ Elder statesman / young turk

3 MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL

- ◻ Military officers (current and/or former)
- ◻ In the lobbyist game
- ◻ Corporate donor / beneficiary (legal or illegal)
- ◻ Hawk / dove
- ◻ Officer / war profiteer
- ◻ Veterans

4 LAW OR OUTLAW

- Bribery
- Blackmail
- Federal marshal / name on the arrest warrant
- Named in the same report
- Spies (same side or not)
- Revolutionaries (same side or not)

5 ROMANCE

- Current spouses
- Estranged spouses
- John / high-class prostitute
- One-time fling
- Lovers
- Former lovers

6 ON THE OUTSIDE

- Boss / employee
- Stewardess / frequent flyer
- Client / translator
- Experts on nuclear weapons
- Custodial or secretarial staff
- Reporter / source

...IN COLD WAR D.C.

NEEDS...

1 TO SERVE THE MOTHER COUNTRY

- ...by finding infiltrators
- ...by quashing dissent
- ◐ ...by going to war / starting a new war
- ◑ ...by toppling a corrupt system
- ◒ ...by helping the little people
- ◓ ...by preventing nuclear annihilation

2 TO GET RICH

- ...off the American people
- ...by selling state secrets
- ◐ ...by lying through your teeth
- ◑ ...by landing a job in high finance
- ◒ ...by stealing from the Man
- ◓ ...by securing a government contract

3 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from your superiors, by advancing their goals
- ...from constituents, by using pork-barrel politics
- ◐ ...from the counterculture, by sticking it to the Man
- ◑ ...after a major fuckup, by making things right
- ◒ ...from a family member, by living up to the legacy
- ◓ ...from yourself, by upholding your nation's ideals

4 TO GET THE TRUTH

- ...that will bring down the President
- ◻ ...that will lead to the nukes being dismantled / deployed
- ◻ ...to change the course of the war in Vietnam
- ◻ ...to lead all people to enlightenment
- ◻ ...during a communication breakdown
- ◻ ...and reveal a superpower's dirty laundry to its subjects

5 TO GET EVEN

- ...with somebody you think is lying to you
- ◻ ...with the country that betrayed you
- ◻ ...with your old boss
- ◻ ...with someone who used you as a political tool
- ◻ ...with the enemies of your culture
- ◻ ...with the rival who got all the breaks

6 TO GET OUT

- ...by defecting
- ◻ ...by escaping with the money
- ◻ ...of a relationship
- ◻ ...of crushing responsibilities
- ◻ ...of the lose-lose political game
- ◻ ...of this square trip, man

...IN COLD WAR D.C.

LOCATIONS...

1 CAPITOL HILL

- ◻ Walkway inside the Capitol Dome
- ◻◻ Senator or representative's office
- ◻◻◻ Supreme Court chambers
- ◻◻◻ Senate or House chambers
- ◻◻◻ The stacks of the Library of Congress
- ◻◻◻ Broom closet 3B of the Capitol Building

2 NEAR THE MALL

- ◻ Park bench near the Reflecting Pool
- ◻◻ Arlington National Cemetery
- ◻◻◻ Ford's Theatre
- ◻◻◻ White House Press Corps offices
- ◻◻◻ National Air & Space Museum (under construction)
- ◻◻◻ Public restroom near the Lincoln Memorial

3 RESIDENCES

- ◻ Pit Stop Motel (hourly rates)
- ◻◻ Posh apartment
- ◻◻◻ The Lincoln bedroom
- ◻◻◻ Condemned apartment
- ◻◻◻ VA Hospital
- ◻◻◻ Watergate Hotel

4 ENTERTAINMENT

- ◻ Eastern Market
- ◻ Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- ◻ The fishing boat “Boondoggle”
- ◻ Carpenters concert
- ◻ Special exhibit at the National Gallery of Art
- ◻ Washington Capitals hockey game

5 UNDERGROUND

- ◻ Well-stocked fallout shelter
- ◻ Unfinished subway tunnel
- ◻ Armed forces war room
- ◻ Militants’ lair
- ◻ The Pentagon basement, Ring G
- ◻ Parking garage

6 ABROAD: BACK THEN, NOW, OR SOON

- ◻ Red Square
- ◻ East Berlin
- ◻ U.S.S. Midway aircraft carrier, near Vietnam
- ◻ Whistle-stop tour train
- ◻ Siberian gulag
- ◻ Havana

...IN COLD WAR D.C.

OBJECTS...

1 CLASSIFIED

- ◻ Dossier about foreign spies working on U.S. soil
- ◻◻ Key to secure offices
- ◻◻◻ Combination to a safe
- ◻◻◻ The truth about Area 51
- ◻◻◻ Cracked codes
- ◻◻◻◻ Audio tapes from the White House

2 INFORMATION

- ◻ Name and number of a politician's mistress
- ◻◻ Poorly researched report
- ◻◻◻ Incriminating photos
- ◻◻◻ Number of the red telephone
- ◻◻◻ Propaganda
- ◻◻◻◻ Names and addresses of counterculture leaders

3 VALUABLES

- ◻ Government contract with a major corporation
- ◻◻ Suitcase full of rubles
- ◻◻◻ Stolen page of the Constitution
- ◻◻◻ 30 minutes of airtime on national TV
- ◻◻◻ Nazi bullion
- ◻◻◻◻ A whole lot of LSD

4 TRANSPORTATION

- • Limousine
- ◦ Roller skates
- ◦ Covert surveillance van
- ◦◦ Motor scooter
- ◦◦ Private jet
- ◦◦◦ Taxi

5 SENTIMENTAL

- • Family Bible
- ◦ American flag
- ◦ Letters from back home
- ◦◦ Cufflinks owned by FDR / Lenin
- ◦◦ Box of Cuban cigars
- ◦◦◦ Pen used to sign important legislation

6 WEAPON

- • Revolver
- ◦ The nuclear “football” briefcase
- ◦ Tear gas canister
- ◦◦ Sword cane
- ◦◦ AK-47
- ◦◦◦ Bowling ball

...IN COLD WAR D.C.

THE ZOO

GO TO THE ZOO

The Brookmarket Zoo was a world-class institution, visited by locals and travelers alike. In the late 20th century, it was an iconic zoo, admired and beloved. Its animals were content, its visitors happy, its staff respected. Chairman of the Zoo Board, D.E. Hitchcock IV, welcomed people to the grounds with beaming pride, as his father had for a generation before.

Now, D.E. Hitchcock is dead. The community takes the zoo for granted. Attendance is down. The zoo withers.

The zoo keepers grow desperate. Money is tight. Other, more successful zoos in other cities sniff around the place, looking to take away animals and staff. A proposed expansion project might drum up new interest in the zoo... if the city approves the new zoning plan. But rumors persist that a multiplex is offering more money to buy up a chunk of the zoo land, displacing animals and staff forever.

Are these the last days of the Brookmarket Zoo? Or can someone with powerful ambition change things for the better?

CREDITS

Written by Will Hindmarch

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

The Zoo was Playset of the Month, December 2011.

THE



A Fiasco playset
by Will Hindmarch

ZOO

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 KEEPERS

- ◻ Small Mammals keeper and Reptile House keeper
- ◻◻ Dolphin trainer and seal trainer
- ◻◻◻ Pachyderm Habitat keeper and Great Cats! Keeper
- ◻◻◻◻ Ape Escape keeper and Monkeyland Keeper
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Wolf Den keeper and Australian Excursion keeper
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Rain Forest Adventure keeper and Safari Adventure keeper

2 ZOO HIERARCHY

- ◻ Board chairman and zoo custodian
- ◻◻ Head of the department and former head of the department
- ◻◻◻ Passed over for promotions today
- ◻◻◻◻ Senior Veterinarian and the new hire
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Spokesperson and intern
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Volunteers hired as scapegoats

3 COMMUNITY

- ◻ Animal-rights activists or sympathizers
- ◻◻ Just elected to positions in the city's Parks Department
- ◻◻◻ Neighbors to the zoo property
- ◻◻◻◻ Voting members of the Zoo Community Board
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Losing property in the new zoo-expansion project
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Zoo lover and zoo hater

4 ROMANCE

- Spouses
- ◻◻ The nerd and the crush
- ◻◻◻ Just a simple flirtation, right?
- ◻◻◻◻ Want to get back together but don't want to say so
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Just broke up
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ Divorced

5 ILLICIT

- The would-be thief and the one with the plan
- ◻◻ Betrayed by a common foe
- ◻◻◻ The last two who know what really happened
- ◻◻◻◻ Partners in a fraud
- ◻◻◻◻ The liar and the one with the evidence
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Animal smugglers

6 THE PAST

- Estranged siblings
- ◻◻ Haven't really spoken since the case was closed
- ◻◻◻ Spotlited in the same local newspaper article
- ◻◻◻◻ Last two reminders of the old zoo, before the renovations
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Went to high school together
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ One rescued the other from the fire

...IN THE ZOO

NEEDS...

1 TO GET IN

- ...with the crew of the coolest exhibit in the zoo.
- ...to the Rain Forest Adventure after hours.
- ◐ ...on the trip that's being planned.
- ◑ ...with the looker on the rival exhibit staff.
- ◒ ...before it's too late to save the zoo.
- ◓ ...to the Nocturnal House before anyone finds what's in there.

2 TO GET OUT

- ...of the country with your prize.
- ...from under your debt to the zoo.
- ◐ ...from under the zoo's considerable debts.
- ◑ ...with your pride intact.
- ◒ ...before anyone else gets wise.
- ◓ ...once your favorite animal is secure.

3 TO GET AWAY

- ...with cutting corners.
- ...to a foreign country, where you can do real good.
- ◐ ...just for a few days, maybe a week. Or even a month.
- ◑ ...with your power play, in the long run.
- ◒ ...by taking your show on tour.
- ◓ ...to join another, better zoo.

4 TO GET RESPECT

- ◻ ...from the community, for a job well done.
- ◻◦ ...from the board, despite the mistakes.
- ◻◦◦ ...from the International Zoological Society, who will understand.
- ◻◻ ...from the one who left.
- ◻◻◦ ...from D.E. Hitchcock IV, even though he's dead.
- ◻◻◻ ...from an animal, lest it turn on you.

5 TO GET EVEN

- ◻ ...with the board, for what they did.
- ◻◦ ...with the city, after all these years.
- ◻◦◦ ...with an animal, whether it understands or not.
- ◻◻ ...with a zoo keeper, who should've known better.
- ◻◻◦ ...with those monsters who let poor Buttons die.
- ◻◻◻ ...in a way that the whole city will appreciate.

6 TO GET CONTROL

- ◻ ...over the exhibit.
- ◻◦ ...over yourself, for everyone's sake.
- ◻◦◦ ...before everyone finds out you don't have it.
- ◻◻ ...for just one day.
- ◻◻◦ ...over an animal that refuses to be tamed.
- ◻◻◻ ...over the whole zoo, at last.

...IN THE ZOO

LOCATIONS...

1 HABITATS

- ◻ Reptile House
- ◻. Australian Excursion exhibit
- ◻. Ocean World exhibit
- ◻. Penguin habitat
- ◻. Bat cave
- ◻. Grizzly habitat

2 GROUNDS

- ◻ Funnel-cake stand
- ◻. Peacock Park
- ◻. Fish Pond
- ◻. East Gate, locked
- ◻. Under the broken security camera
- ◻. Statue of zoo founder, Douglas E. Hitchcock III

3 AROUND TOWN

- ◻ City comptroller's office
- ◻. Train tunnel that runs behind the zoo
- ◻. Town Hall meeting
- ◻. Pre-dawn parking lot
- ◻. Rat-trap motel in Redbud Court
- ◻. Jail cell

4 THE WILD

- Australian outback
- South American rainforest
- The veldt
- Canadian Rockies
- Underwater with the fishes
- A desert, miles from anywhere

5 AT HOME

- Chairperson's house during a dinner party
- Whatever's left after the fire
- Attic, behind the bookcase
- Basement habitat nobody's supposed to know about
- Ill-kept, in-ground pool
- Inside the old RV behind the garage

6 BEHIND THE SCENES

- Inside the zoo's veterinary clinic
- Walk-in refrigerator full of lion food
- Steam tunnels under the zoo grounds
- ...of the Rain Forest Adventure exhibit
- ...at the Small Mammal House
- ...of the House of Birds

...IN THE ZOO

OBJECTS...

1 ANIMALS

- ◻ Underfed male lion
- ◻ Peacock, poisoned
- ◻ Star dolphin of the show
- ◻ Gorilla who knows sign language
- ◻ One pissed-off ostrich
- ◻ “It’s a crocodile, not an alligator.”

2 ADMINISTRATIVE

- ◻ The *real* plans for the new zoo expansion
- ◻ Lease to the original zoo grounds
- ◻ D.E. Hitchcock IV’s Last Will
- ◻ Flash drive with copies of the zoo’s financial records
- ◻ Bad photocopy of a lawsuit against the zoo
- ◻ Smudged receipt

3 MORE ANIMALS

- ◻ Second-oldest koala in North America
- ◻ Lioness that seems to be sleeping
- ◻ Polar bear with an electronic tag
- ◻ Biggest python in the tri-state area
- ◻ Betsy, an elephant with a paintbrush
- ◻ Half-a-dozen monkeys, all riled up

4 SECRET

- ◻ Forged credentials
- ◻.◻ Drunken voicemail message
- ◻.◻ Endangered animal, not where it should be
- ◻◻ One animal passed off as another
- ◻◻ Video of an expedition that didn't go as planned
- ◻◻◻ Ruined uniform

5 LOST AND FOUND

- ◻ Wallet with a fake ID
- ◻.◻ Large wax sculpture of a leaping dolphin
- ◻.◻ Animal's toy, not where it should be
- ◻◻ Camera full of incriminating photos
- ◻◻ Keys on a broken chain
- ◻◻◻ An empty cage

6 STILL MORE ANIMALS

- ◻ Dennis, a king cobra
- ◻.◻ Ill-trained raptor without its hood
- ◻.◻ Beloved kangaroo, promised to a different zoo
- ◻◻ A fish worth \$120,000
- ◻◻ Live mice meant for the Reptile House
- ◻◻◻ Lenny and Marcus, giraffes on loan

...IN THE ZOO

PEN SHOW

PEN
SHOW

A STORM IS BREWING

The earth groans as plates collide. Overhead, the sky darkens as thick clouds, heavy with rain, roll in. The air is charged. The pressure is dropping.

On the horizon, silhouetted against a lead-colored sky, is a line of men and women. Among them are kings and queens, warriors and poets. Some come to do battle, some to gain untold riches. Some would betray their beliefs for silver, others would die defending theirs against impossible odds.

The storm is here. Great armies will clash.

It's time for the pen show.

MOVIE NIGHT

There aren't a lot of movies about pen shows, but there are plenty of movies about obsessive nerdery. It matters not how you nerd out, merely that you nerd well and often.

Best in Show, Cedar Rapids

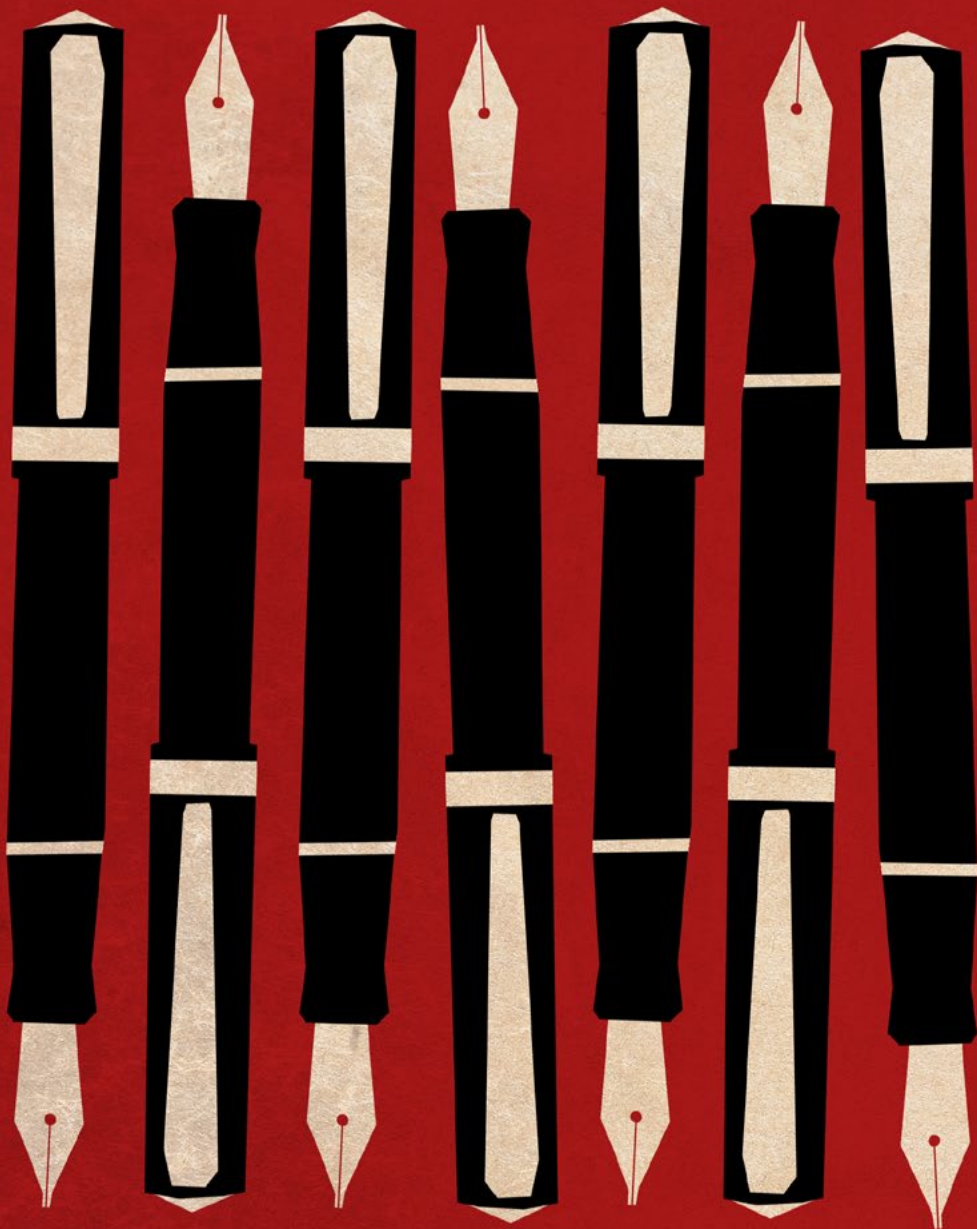
CREDITS

Written by Jason Morningstar

Cover art by Jason Morningstar

Edited by Steve Segedy

Thanks to Rob Donaghue, pen nerd.



Pen Show

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 MONARCHS

- ◻ Reigning and incoming Poppleton Pen Queen
- ◻◦ Co-chairs of the Poppleton Pen Show Guest Committee
- ◻◦◦ Candidates for Vice President of the Poppleton Pen Club
- ◻◻◦ Millionaire collector and hundredaire collector
- ◻◻◦◦ Current president and Treasurer of the Poppleton Pen Club
- ◻◻◻◦ Rival anchors of the dealer's hall

2 WARRIORS

- ◻ "Our room is the party room"
- ◻◦ Divorced and filled with hatred
- ◻◦◦ Selling the same line of ink from adjacent stalls
- ◻◻◦ Burglary Division cop and reformed burglar
- ◻◻◦◦ Pro-Mont Blanc and anti-Mont Blanc zealots
- ◻◻◻◦ Entrants in the "Best Pen" competition

3 PHILOSOPHERS

- ◻ Handwriting analyst and anxious client
- ◻◦ Writers for rival pen enthusiast publications, one print, one digital
- ◻◦◦ "I write the checks, you do the work"
- ◻◻◦ Drug dealer and client
- ◻◻◦◦ Retired astronaut and paving contractor
- ◻◻◻◦ Pen Witch and craven admirer

4 LOVERS

- Two girls, one pen
- ◻ Divorced and remarried but still in love
- ◻ Parents of a newborn baby named Lamy
- ◻◻ Weird, ink-stained love
- ◻◻ Shy sweethearts
- ◻◻ Spouses, only one of whom is way into pens

5 TERRORS

- Alan Clark and an idiot minion
- ◻ Pen salesman and ex-convict who really likes pens
- ◻ “The dorks who come to these things are loaded, honey”
- ◻◻ Counterfeiters
- ◻◻ Professional dog breeder and real estate magnate
- ◻◻ Television’s Rico “The Manhunter” Sanchez and a fan

6 POETS

- The only two who really get the genius of a Vacumatic fill mechanism
- ◻ Calligraphers by day, drunk calligraphers by night
- ◻◻ Critic and impresario
- ◻◻ News Channel Six reporter and producer
- ◻◻ Seriously, poets
- ◻◻◻ Hotel worker really into pens, pen worker really into hotel workers

...AT THE PEN SHOW

NEEDS...

1 TO GET THE PEN

- ...you can't afford
- ...before she gets the pen
- ◐ ...to write properly, so you can unload it as "mint"
- ◑ ...and thereby get the boy
- ◒ ...and break the curse
- ◓ ...before they realize what it is actually worth

2 TO GET REVENGE

- ...on the monster who stole your life
- ...on the monster who stole your pen
- ◐ ...on the Poppleton Pen Show Guest Committee
- ◑ ...by publicly destroying a Towa Mannenhitsu Seisakusho Alpha
- ◒ ...on Alan Clark
- ◓ ...without really considering the collateral damage

3 TO GET IN ROOM 404

- ...where the hand-off is supposed to take place
- ...and leave a little "message" on the bed
- ◐ ...by impressing the judges
- ◑ ...where the orgy is
- ◒ ...with Alan Clark, alone
- ◓ ...and commit a little grand larceny

4 TO GET HONORED

- ◻ ...as Poppleton Pen Queen, whatever it takes
- ◻◻ ...by the Pen Witch
- ◻◻◻ ...by the evil cabal that has kept you down
- ◻◻◻◻ ...or was that “hammered”?
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...with the coveted “Best Pen of Show” award
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...by shaking hands with Alan Clark

5 TO GET RICH

- ◻ ...by selling a dead relatives giant collection of pens
- ◻◻ ...by ruining the competition
- ◻◻◻ ...well, spiritually rich at least
- ◻◻◻◻ ...Zawadzki to sell you his Shaeffer 46 Special
- ◻◻◻◻ ...like your dad, repairing one pen at a time
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...by persuading a big spender to buy your Parker “Esparto”

6 TO GET A LITTLE

- ◻ ...pen-themed gift for someone very special
- ◻◻ ...respect
- ◻◻◻ ...gold flex nib with a beautiful left-handed oblique
- ◻◻◻◻ ...money for the bus ride home
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...dirty with the low-down collectors
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...high

...AT THE PEN SHOW

LOCATIONS...

1 DEALER'S HALL, NEAR THE DOOR

- "Precision Writing Tool Importers LLC"
- ◻ "Gill Antiques and Auctions"
- ◐ "Peppering's Pen Repair and Sharpening"
- ◑ "Alan Clark Ltd"
- ◒ Poptleton Pen Show registration (Information and badges)
- ◓ "Modern Ink, Inc"

2 INSIDE THE HOTEL

- On the roof
- ◻ Staff elevator
- ◐ Gridiron Champions Sports Bar
- ◑ In the Jacuzzi
- ◒ Room 403, with a party raging next door
- ◓ Lobby, amidst a pen collector's turf war

3 LECTURES IN THE ORCHARD ROOM

- "How To Buy A Pen"
- ◻ "Secrets of the Parker Swastika"
- ◐ "Sacred Blood, Sacred Ink: The Andorra Connection"
- ◑ "A Brief History of the 1909 Turban Top"
- ◒ "Mightier Than The Sword? Pen-Based Self Defense Techniques"
- ◓ "An Evening With The Pen Witch"

4 DEALER'S HALL, NEAR THE TRASH

- "Pen Witch Sees All"
- ◻ "J. Nussbaum's House of Ink"
- ◻ "Stationery and More"
- ◻ "Handwriting Analysis and Nib Recommendations"
- ◻ Poppleton Pen Club voting table (Best Pen of Show and officers)
- ◻ "Ye Olde Penn Shoppe"

5 ROOM 404

- Taped beneath the bed
- ◻ Slipped into the Gideon bible
- ◻ On the shelf in the closet
- ◻ In the bath tub
- ◻ On the fold-out cot
- ◻ Under a pile of blood-stained towels

6 OUTSIDE THE HOTEL

- Michelle's Tavern
- ◻ Trunk of a Jaguar XKE
- ◻ Beneath a dyng apple tree in the moonlight
- ◻ Behind the industrial grease bin
- ◻ In Alan Clark's RV
- ◻ Law Offices of Cockburn and Lilley, LLC

...AT THE PEN SHOW

OBJECTS...

1 ...OF SCORN

- ◻ Giant crate filled with broken fountain pens
- ◻ Cheap ink
- ◻ Mass market ball point pen
- ◻ Obvious fake fountain pen rarities
- ◻ Cowboy hat
- ◻ A third-tier pre-1910 Welty hump-filler pen

2 ...OF DESTRUCTION

- ◻ Garbage can filled with tritium tubes pulled from exit signs
- ◻ Sheaffer Snorkel pen filled with hydrochloric acid
- ◻ Rusty shovel
- ◻ Remington 870 shotgun
- ◻ Hot dog chili infected with botulism
- ◻ Rottweiler named Clara Petacci

3 ...OF LUST

- ◻ Vice Presidency of the Poppleton Pen Club
- ◻ Alan Clark
- ◻ Room key
- ◻ Nakaya Skeleton in blue Urushi with silver Maki-e
- ◻ Condom with a pinprick hole in it
- ◻ Bottle of hand-made ink imported from Andorra

4 ...OF PRIDE

- ◻ Mont Blanc Meisterstück Solitaire Tribute ball point pen
- ◻ Congressional Medal of Honor
- ◻◻ “Best Pen of Show” award from the Poppleton Pen Club
- ◻◻ Certificate of Authenticity
- ◻◻◻ Baby bump
- ◻◻◻ Pen Queen nib-tiara

5 ...OF MYSTERY

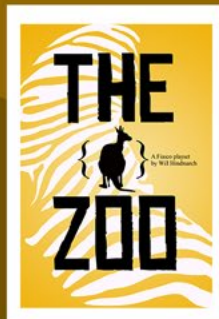
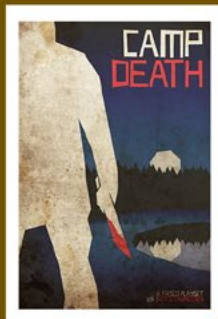
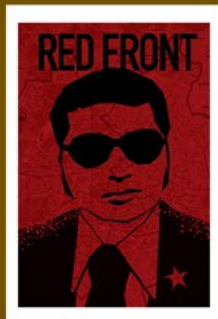
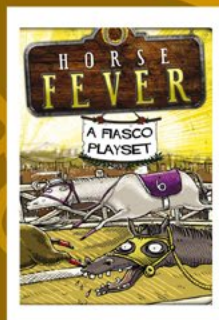
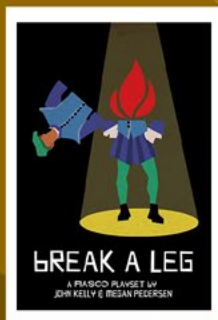
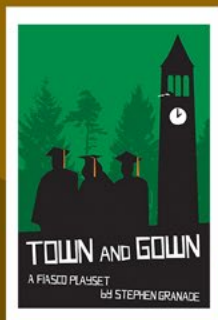
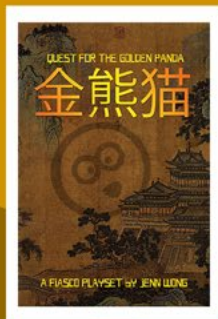
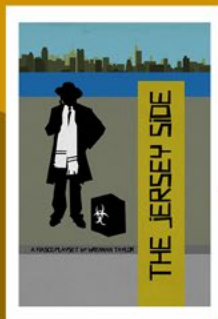
- ◻ Subtly fake fountain pen rarities
- ◻◻ Grimy photograph of an SS officer holding a pen
- ◻◻ Pile of high end office supplies, soaked in urine
- ◻◻ Taser and flexi-cuffs
- ◻◻◻ Yup’ik nepcetaq mask from Toksook Bay, Alaska
- ◻◻◻ The Pen With No Name

6 ...OF CURIOSITY

- ◻ “Best Pen of Show” ballot box
- ◻◻ Hotel security camera footage
- ◻◻◻ Parker 71 with a familiar name engraved on the barrel
- ◻◻◻ Detailed blueprints of the hotel
- ◻◻◻ Police report field after last year’s Poppleton Pen Show
- ◻◻◻ Alan Clark’s wallet

...AT THE PEN SHOW

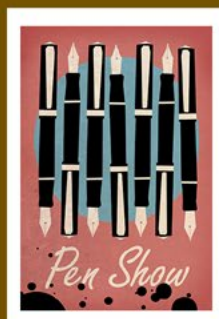




You hold in your hands the second volume of the Fiasco Playset Anthology! Inside, you'll find a lucky thirteen playsets—twelve that were good enough to be a Fiasco Playset of the Month, and a thirteenth custom-written by Fiasco designer Jason Morningstar just for this volume.



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BONUS!

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