

ARKHAM HORROR

THE CARD GAME



THE BLOOD OF DRAKUL

CAMPAIGN GUIDE

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Fear The Night

"At night, when the objective world has slunk back into its cavern and left dreamers to their own, there come inspirations and capabilities impossible at any less magical and quiet hour..."

– H. P. Lovecraft

The Blood of Drakul is a non-profit fan-made campaign for 1-4 players designed by the Arkham.cards team to be compatible with *Arkham Horror: The Card Game*. *The Blood of Drakul* Campaign Expansion contains eight scenarios: "The Samaritan of Gotham," "The Hour of the Wolf," "The Red Widow," "Blood Omen," "The Castle Doctrine," "The Hushed Casket," "The Legacy of Drakul," and "Crimson Eclipse." These scenarios may be combined to form an eight-part campaign or played on their own in Standalone Mode.

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Additional Rules and Clarifications

Trespass

Trespass is a new keyword introduced in *The Blood of Drakul* cycle and is utilized on a number of location cards to represent the increased level of scrutiny investigators must endure at those locations.

Locations with the Trespass keyword may be collectively referred as 'trespassing locations' and typically bear the **Private** trait. After an investigator fails a skill test while at a trespassing location, that investigator must immediately resolve its printed Trespass effect.

Returning Keywords

This campaign utilizes keywords and mechanics introduced in other Arkham.cards cycles. Refer to the *Arkham.cards Taboo & Eratta* supplement to familiarize yourself with these mechanics. The latest version of this supplement can always be found online: <https://arkham.cards/taboo>



Expansion Icon

The cards in *The Blood of Drakul* cycle can be identified by this symbol before each card's collector number:



Adrian Tepesh

Unraveling the secrets of the *The Blood of Drakul* will put you into contact with many 'children of the blood'. One such individual is Adrian Tepesh; consequently, he may not be selected for use by any investigator during this campaign.

Campaign Setup

To set up *The Blood of Drakul* campaign, perform these steps:

1. Choose investigator(s).
2. Each player assembles their investigator deck.
3. Choose difficulty level.
4. Assemble the campaign chaos bag.

◆ Easy (*I want to experience the story*):

+1, +1, 0, 0, -1, -1, -2, -3, ♠, ♦, ♣, ♤, \$2, ☆

◆ Standard (*I want a challenge*):

+1, 0, -1, -1, -2, -2, -3, -3, -4, ♠, ♦, ♣, ♤, \$2, ☆

◆ Hard (*I want a true nightmare*):

0, 0, -1, -1, -2, -2, -3, -4, -5, ♠, ♦, ♣, ♤, \$2, ☆

◆ Expert (*I want bloody vengeance*):

0, -1, -1, -2, -2, -3, -3, -4, -5, ♠, ♦, ♣, ♤, \$2, ☆

5. Choose the lead investigator.

You are now ready to begin at the Prologue.

Prologue

Before you begin the campaign, you may optionally play the scenario included in the *Code Red at Bleeding Heart* scenario pack, which acts as a prologue to the events of the *The Blood of Drakul* Campaign Expansion, without paying its experience costs, then return here.

If you have already completed *Code Red at Bleeding Heart*, skip to **Scenario I: The Samaritan of Gotham**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Prologue 1**.

Arkham, October 30th, 1921

Prologue 1: "The blood omen rises as the wolver hour approaches."

That was the 'reading' you received from the 'fortune-teller' in Southside earlier this afternoon. At the time, you were hardly amused by it, and were more interested in interviewing her regarding a series of disappearances that have been plaguing Arkham, but she insisted the only guidance she had to offer you would come in the same form and at the same cost that she offers her other 'clients'. A pity, and to think she came highly recommended...

Since you left empty-handed, you've been running over the details of the case again and again in your mind, which is rather simple since the details are so few: seven women with no apparent connection to each other have all vanished without a trace over the past seven weeks, apparently snatched off the street in the dead of night without a single eyewitness.

Lately, every corner of the county haunts your face; you've crawled all over Arkham chasing down every promising lead you've encountered... and, like tonight, wasted your time on more than a few not-so-promising ones. People go missing every day, many on purpose; maybe there's no connection between these women at all, and you're just running yourself ragged trying to chase down people who don't want to be found...

Proceed to **Scenario I: The Samaritan of Gotham**.



Read only if an investigator has the *Criminal* or *Drifter* trait:

It's no surprise that your feet brought you here while you were distracted. You know Gotham well; having spent more than a few nights precariously perched upon its cramped benches, huddling for warmth, you usually go out of your way to avoid the park for the sake of your pride, and yet, here you are...

Scenario I: The Samaritan of Gotham

Check the Campaign Log.

If *Bleeding Heart* was flatlined,

proceed to **Intro 1**.

If the investigators made a 'full recovery,'

skip to **Intro 2**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 3**.

Intro 1: Ever since the 'incident' at Bleeding Heart a few weeks ago, you've felt permanently on edge. You haven't spoken to anyone about your ordeal, in part because you can't bring yourself to voluntarily relive the bloodstained horrors of that fateful night, but also because even you have a hard time believing those events actually transpired... You feel a strong conviction that, whatever happened in that accursed place, it was merely a prelude of things to come...

② Each investigator begins this scenario with 1 additional resource.

Skip to **Intro 3**.

Intro 2: In the past, the encroaching darkness and bitter chill that characterizes the autumnal months in Arkham have typically been a reliable source of anxiety for you, but for the past several weeks, you've felt unusually tranquil and worry-free. You have chalked it up to simply getting older and hopefully wiser, but after several concerned associates recently remarked about your apparent change in demeanor, you can't help but wonder: what exactly has brought about this sudden change? And what other sorts of metamorphoses might you prove capable of...?

② Each investigator begins this scenario with 1 additional card in their starting hand.

Proceed to **Intro 3**.

Intro 3: Your distracted thoughts this evening have compromised your sense of direction; having meandered onto the 'scenic' route back to your residence, you've now forced to take an impromptu constitutional and cut through Gotham Park...

Sadly, Gotham Park has seen better days. Ever since the amusement faire that the park blocks were originally built around was shut down years ago, the blocks themselves have slowly succumbed to a similar decay. You recall hearing about an 'urban renewal' project that never got off the ground due to corruption and lack of funding and chuckle darkly to yourself; the untamed flora of the park now twists its gnarled roots and strangling vines into and over the crumbling stone walls that futilely attempt to contain the park blocks.

The street lamps flicker to life as you near the exit and prepare to make your way home, illuminating the old iron gate at the terminus of the footpath leading out of the park, but as you step onto the empty street corner a deafening bang draws your attention. From this distance, you can only discern vague shapes and blurs of movement in the recesses of a nearby alley... until a creature staggers backwards out of the darkness and becomes illuminated by a street light overhead...

It is a hulking beast, with the gait of a tall, muscular man, but covered in fur, which, combined with its protruding snout and foaming jowls, give it a distinctly lupine complexion. You also notice its torso is matted with what looks to be fresh blood...

Before you can even begin to process the danger of the situation, the beast emits a piercing wolven howl and then, using its clawed appendages, begins to scale the stonework of an adjacent building, eventually vaulting onto the rooftop, and disappearing into the night...

You cautiously creep toward the mouth of the alleyway; inside, you find the unconscious body of a red-haired woman, covered in crimson... and a panting man knelt beside her, dressed in a strange leather uniform and holding a smoking, golden revolver...

If an investigator has the *Shifter* or *Vampyr* trait,
proceed to **Intro 4**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 5**.

Intro 4: "I've got more than enough bullets to go around, fiend," the man with the golden gun sneers as he detects your presence and whorls around on you in one smooth motion, leveling his weapon directly at your heart. The clicking of the flintlock's hammer accentuates his point, "But it's your lucky day; I'm here for the girl, not you. Just turn around and walk away... Slowly."

Literally and figuratively under the gun, you meekly attempt to introduce yourself and explain that you're not really involved in whatever is going on here, and that you simply heard the commotion while walking by, and had naively hoped you might be able to catch the serial abductor behind the recent vanishings you've been investigating in flagrante delicto. The man's eyes narrow and he makes a motion with his extended arm that you hope means 'keep talking'...

[Skip to Intro 6.](#)

Intro 5: "Keep your distance," the man with the golden gun barks as he detects your presence and whorls around on you in one smooth motion, leveling his weapon directly at your heart, "Not many would be brave enough to wander into a Gotham alley in the middle of the night, stranger. Unless..." the man muses as he motions towards the unconscious woman laying at your feet, "...you're after her, as well. Do you know her? Who is she to you?"

[Proceed to Intro 6.](#)

Intro 6: You attempt to briefly bring the man up to speed on the case you've been working involving the women that have gone missing from Arkham over the past few months...

"Yes, we are aware of the... disappearances. Sounds like you know about as much as we do..." The man sighs and holsters his firearm before he licks his lips, considering you one last time before placing a gloved hand across his chest. "Apologies, my bed side manner still leaves much to be desired, I fear; Corporal Layton Hendricks, if it pleases you..."

Read only if an investigator has the Templar or Veteran trait:

You may not recognize the man's face, but you do recognize the insignia on his collar; the celtic cross is the sigil of the Templar. It looks to be the genuine article, but he could have just as easily stolen it, looted it, or bought it on the black market... Merely possessing one is no reason to trust anybody.

"I found Goreheart menacing the girl in Gotham not an hour ago... With all that blood on her, I thought she was dead, but when I tried to pick her up, I..." Hendricks trails off for a moment, lost in thought, before remembering himself, "Give me a hand with her, will you?"

Read only if an investigator has the Medic trait:

Even from a distance, you can tell that the girl is still alive, and the blood looks old, too dry, to be from a recent injury. There's no obvious wound or tear in her garments; the spray pattern looks almost like she was splattered with it by some sort of explosion that she tried to shield herself from using her hands...

You watch Hendricks peel one of his dark leather gloves from his hand with his teeth and place the forefingers of newly freed hand against the woman's pale neck. "It's faint, but there is a pulse... God, she's freezing. All this blood... It can't be hers, can it? I don't see any wounds..." Hendricks pulls the woman into a sitting posture and wraps his arms around her, cradling her gently as he continues, "I don't know what the Shifters are after, but they're growing more desperate. More beasts than men now, I say," Hendricks lifts his nose and begins to sniff the air furtively, "Do you smell... Rosemary?"

Read only if an investigator has the Templar, Shifter or Vampyr trait:

So the 'wolfman' was really a Shifter after all. You suspected as much. You are... familiar with such creatures; the Templar say they are capable of 'shifting' between human and beast forms, usually unwittingly, beneath the light of the moon. You know better; Shifters who don't learn to control their transformations tend not to survive very long...

"At any rate, the girl needs medical attention... We're not far from Sanctuary." Hendricks pulls a pocket watch from his jacket and examines it briefly before furtively peaking his head out of the alleyway. You sense hesitation in his voice when he continues, "I can carry her, but it'll be slow going... There's no telling what else might be out here tonight, so I'll have to rely on you to be my eyes and ears. I realize this is none of your affair, but you're involved now whether you like it or not. And Gerrard may want to question you about the vanishings..." You've seen stranger things in this city, but a healthy dose of skepticism tempers your enthusiasm, so you politely ask Hendricks to elaborate...

"Sanctuary... is a church, Our Lady of Mercy. You know it, yes? It does charitable works, performs mass, baptisms... and serves as the base of operations for the Arkham chapter of an order of monster hunters called the Templar..." Hendricks grunts as he lifts the girl's limp body from the ground and throws her arms around his neck. "Look, we don't have time for twenty questions - you're in over your head and she's fading fast. I am also taking a risk by bringing you into the fold... I won't force you, but it sounds like we want the same things." Bereft of alternatives, you creep out of the dark alleyway, into the exposing light of the street lamps, and scan up and down the vacant boulevard...

[Proceed to Setup.](#)



Setup

(P) Gather all cards from the following encounter sets: *The Samaritan of Gotham*, *Fear the Night*, *Seeing Red*, and *Chiroptera Colony*. These sets are indicated by the following icons:



(P) Put the Dreadful Alley and Gotham Park locations into play unrevealed, then read the **Location Adjacency** section on this page.

◆ Investigators begin play at Dreadful Alley.

(P) Shuffle the remaining encounter cards to form the encounter deck.

(P) You are ready to begin.

Location Adjacency

In this scenario, the encounter deck contains single-sided location cards which will enter play via their printed **Revelation** effect when drawn. Since the order these locations will be drawn in is randomized, these locations have no connection icons and instruct you to put them into play adjacent only to whichever location is furthest from the starting location.

At first, this will be the Gotham Park location. Once the first location from the encounter deck is put into play, its printed ability will establish a connection only to the Gotham Park location via adjacency. Each subsequent location that is put into play will be connected only to the last location that was put into play, and for the purpose of this scenario, locations are considered adjacent (*and therefore connected*) when placed orthogonally, but not diagonally.

**DO NOT READ
until the end of the scenario**

If no resolution was reached because each investigator was defeated: Read **Resolution 1**.

Resolution 1: "There is no escape..." The Shifter's gravely voice rumbles from within its grizzly maw as it slowly advances on your position, corralling you into a dead end alley like a flock of helpless sheep. Layton shoots you a meaningful glance as he attempts to shift the girl's weight to his other shoulder...

"On my mark... Close your eyes," he mutters, almost inaudible beneath the sound of Goreheart's bestial breath. You brace as you sense the beast about to bare down upon you and squeeze your eyes shut tight... But, in an instant, you hear the crashing of glass as something hits the ground in front of you, immediately followed by a pained howl from the menacing Shifter. "Go!" Layton barks, and you lurch into a dash, narrowly avoiding an errant swipe from Goreheart's clawed grasp as he swings blindly for you with one paw while cradling his snout with the other. You only catch a glimpse of a silvery puddle on the ground beneath him; phosphorous, maybe? Nirate? Whatever caustic ace Layton had up his sleeve, it seems to have done the trick... "This isn't over...!" Goreheart howls somewhere behind you, but you don't stop running long enough to look back. Fortunately, by the time your legs give out, you've reached Our Lady of Mercy...

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *You haven't seen the last of Goreheart.*

(P) Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X value of all cards in the victory display.

(P) Each investigator earns 1 additional experience as their insight into the mythos deepens.

(P) Proceed immediately to **Interlude I: The Bloody Gambit**.

Resolution 2: Despite several close calls, you manage to throw the Shifter off your trail long enough to make it to Our Lady of Mercy in one piece. The warm glow of the church lights does a little to restore your spirits, as does Layton's praise, "You handled yourself well... Not your first rodeo, I take it?"

Sure, you've seen your fair share of dangerous nights in this city, but this was something else entirely... You know better than to complain, however; you weren't the one lugging around another person's proverbial 'dead weight'...

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: *The investigators gave Goreheart the run around.*

(C) Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X value of all cards in the victory display.

(C) Each investigator earns 2 additional experience as their insight into the mythos deepens.

(C) Proceed immediately to **Interlude I: The Bloody Gambit.**

Interlude I: The Bloody Gambit

Interlude 1: "I can feel her breathing down my neck..." Layton says, as he exhales a deep breath of his own and rearranges his grasp on the woman's legs, pulling her into a sort of 'piggy-back' position, "How does she look?" You take a moment to stare at the girl's red hair and porcelain face; there's something familiar about her, but you can't quite place it... "We'd better get her inside... Come on," Layton eventually breaks the uncomfortable silence resulting from your furtive glances, but as he ascends the first stone stair towards the church's entrance, something falls from the rosemary-scented girl's gown, bouncing down the stair, and coming to rest at your feet: a small, metallic sphere of some kind, like an oversized ball-bearing...

Check the Campaign Log.
If the bloody gambit is in motion,
proceed to **Interlude 2**.
Otherwise, skip to **Interlude 3**.

Interlude 2: Your blood goes cold as you realize you've seen the mysterious orb before, that night at Bleeding Heart... And it cannot be a coincidence that the girl's complexion bears a striking resemblance to Julia, the nurse you met there. Despite your best efforts to convince yourself it was just a bad dream, there's now no question in your mind that everything you thought you saw at the hospital was real. Did the girl find the sphere after you lost it? Or did the sphere find her? And what sorts of hellish magicks might it be capable of unleashing...?

(C) If any investigator's deck contains the Fringe Tourniquet (*Plume of Samael*) story asset, they may start the next scenario with that asset in play.

Proceed to **Interlude 3**.

Interlude 3: You reach down and grab the polished sphere, which feels lukewarm to the touch despite the evening chill. It remains inert in your palm for a few moments, but then a glowing band of crimson runes skitters across its darkened surface as you feel your grasp involuntarily tighten around it...

It's significance having eluded you, you glance up at Hendricks, who continues to climb the staircase, completely unaware; perhaps you should ask him about it?

The investigators must decide (choose one):

(C) Reveal the Gothic Orb to Hendricks. Skip to **Interlude 5**.

(C) Keep it to yourself for now. Proceed to **Interlude 4**.

Interlude 4: You don't fully trust Hendricks yet – there's more to his concern for the rosemary-scented girl than he is letting on – and he may even be leading you into a trap as we speak, so you decide to keep the sphere concealed for now. At least, until you can figure out what the damned thing is...

(C) Each investigator begins the next scenario with 1 additional resource.

Proceed to **Scenario II: The Hour of the Wolf**.



Interlude 6: Layton seems trustworthy enough; there's no sense in keeping secrets from him – particularly ones you don't even understand – so you call out to him, and watch him laboriously turn towards you. His irises immediately grow wide as they drink in the reflected red light of sphere's glowing glyphs...

"That..." Hendricks replies breathlessly, "Where did you get that...?"

You explain that the young woman had it on her and was jostled loose by his effort, but when you ask if he knows anything he about it, Hendricks just shakes his head in frustration.

"Whatever it is, it must have something to do with why the Shifters are after the girl. All the more reason to get her to Sanctuary as quickly as possible... If we can't get any answers from her, then perhaps Gerrard will know what to make of that... thing."

Read only if an investigator has the Clairvoyant or Templar trait: You detect no subterfuge in Layton's words; he truly has no idea what the sphere is or where it came from. You can only hope that making him aware of it won't put you in harm's way... or him.

A moment of tension passes. You sense that Layton wants to ask you to hand it over for safe keeping, but his hands are too full to carry it and you don't have time to argue about it now...

② In the Campaign Log, record: Hendricks knows of the Gothic Orb.

Proceed to **Scenario II: The Hour of the Wolf**.

Scenario II: The Hour of the Wolf

Intro 1: "Welcome back, Brother Layton—" The priest greeting you as you step inside the doors of Our Lady of Mercy immediately falls silent when he notices the unconscious woman in Hendricks's arms. "Call a hospice," Hendricks replies curtly as he laboriously unloads the woman's body onto a nearby cart, "I'm taking them to the undercroft." You follow Hendricks down the aisle, past pews filled with a smattering of nocturnal congregants, into an antechamber hidden behind the pulpit, and watch with rapt attention as he yanks the insignia from his collar and inserts it into a hollowed recess in a nearby wall panel. The platform you are standing on lurches downward rather suddenly, causing you to lose your balance, but Hendricks deftly maneuvers to your side and reaches down to steady you. "What you are about to see does not leave these halls..." As if on cue, the platform grinds to a halt and a large blast door slides open, filling the dim shaft with light... revealing a sprawling compound hidden beneath the church's catacombs. "... welcome to Sanctuary." A pair of young medics near the entrance rush over and seize the cart bearing your comatose cargo from Hendrick's hands. You step into the off the platform and into the light, and, behind you, the elevator squeals as its aperture reseals itself and it lurches back up to the surface. "We've done all we can for now," Hendricks sighs, "I might as well give you the grand tour..."

As Hendricks guides you around the circumference of the compound, you feel that Sanctuary resembles a military barracks more than a place of worship. Beyond the entrance hall, you can spy Templar cadets supping in a large mess hall and warming their weary bones by the hearth, while armored warriors land practice strikes with silver weapons against straw mannequins at the end of a long hallway. As you walk, Hendricks explains that Our Lady of Mercy's Templar chapter is run by a three-person council called the 'Trivium' – composed of 'Paragon' Gerrard Renault, 'Confessor' Mackenzie Albright, and a 'Proctor' known as Seraph the Advocate. Collectively, these three officers are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the chapter. Presumably, they report to someone higher up the chain of command, but to whom or what that might be remains shrouded in secrets... at least to the rank and file members like Hendricks.

"I need to report to the Trivium..." Hendricks seems unusually anxious about it, like he hasn't figured out what he's actually going to say to them yet. "... and they'll want to speak with you." You nod and gather your wits as you follow Hendricks back to the entrance hall. "I suggest you be forthright and courteous with them... and whatever you do, don't ask Gerrard about the mask."

At the far end of the atrium, across a high table, you catch a glimpse of the trio of officers, and as you approach them their silhouettes begin to take shape; the largest, the woman wears a suit of ebony armor decorated with scraps of white cloth. She is joined by a spectacled older man in a dark cloak, bedecked with jewelery and ornaments. Behind them, in a large chair, a masked man draped in pure white robes silently sits, listening to the other two bicker amongst themselves. Their conversation hushes as you approach the long table before them...



"What is the meaning of this, Layton?" The graybearded man in the cloak croaks, "This is Sanctuary, not the Clover Club; dispose of your 'courtesans' elsewhere." You sense bad blood behind his venomous words. "I am unfamiliar with the young lady's 'profession', Proctor... All I know is that Goreheart was chasing her through Gotham while we stood down here and did nothing." The gauntleted hand of the blonde woman with broad shoulders, who must be Confessor Albright, clenches into a fist and slams down upon surface of the high table; the indignation in her voice is seething. "That mangy beast dares to turn our backyard into his hunting grounds?! We should have put him down long ago... I trust you made an example of him." "I gave him a scar he won't soon forget and made a 'friend' in the process. Not many civilians can face down a rabid Shifter and live to tell the tale; I thought they might be able to help us..." Hendricks looks to you expectantly, and the man in the platinum mask nods and rises to his feet.

"Welcome, friend, to our 'hallowed' halls," The masked man remarks darkly. You presume this must be the 'Paragon' that Hendricks had mentioned earlier. His voice is hollow, echoing from behind the silver mask covering his face, but strangely soft and comforting... "I thank you for your efforts to assist my men," Gerrard continues, "In truth, we have long suspected there is some greater scheme at work here. The timings of the recent vanishings are too exact, the victims too similar to be a coincidence... But I wouldn't have guessed the Shifters would be to blame; abduction is not their style..."

"Amelia's agents have categorically denied any involvement each time we have interrogated them..." the Confessor interjects, "Perhaps the bloodsuckers were telling the truth for once?"

"Whomever is the culprit is playing a dangerous game; we are all in jeopardy if this continues..." Seraph the Advocate adds, ominously...

Check the Campaign Log.

If Hendricks knows of the Gothic Orb, proceed to **Intro 2**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 3**.

Intro 2: "That's... not all," Hendricks says nervously, as his eyes fall to your waist. Grasping his meaning, you produce the metallic sphere and set it gently down on the edge of the wooden table. You watch the faces of each member of the Trivium carefully to gauge their reactions, which you would describe as 'utterly unfazed'... until a band of crimson runes skitters across its face for the briefest of moments, causing the trio to draw back, as if wounded.

"What on earth...?" Confessor Albright mutters as she picks up the sphere and rolls it around in her palm, feeling its weight.

"We don't know," Hendricks sighs, "I was hoping you would know what to make of it. The girl had it on her when we found her... Do you think Goreheart—"

"Get it out of my sight," Gerrard snaps, becoming visibly agitated for a moment before remembering himself, "Whatever it is, it does not belong here." Seraph's face goes pale, but he remains perfectly silent. The Confessor just hands the sphere back to you, her eyes narrowing in suspicion, and it finds its way back into the safety of your pocket once again...

Intro 3: "... It seems we have no choice but to wait for the girl to recover if we are to unravel this mystery," Gerrard adds, before turning back to you, "Fear not; she is safe in our care, you have my word... and Sanctuary's hospitality is yours, should you require it. Corporal Hendricks will show you to the guest quarters..." As you follow Hendricks away from the high table, the hushed whispers of the Trivium resume somewhere behind you...

In short order, you prepare to retire for the night, but as you pass the infirmary, your curiosity gets the better of you, and in a cramped, dimly lit room you find her; the rosemary-scented girl convalesces peacefully now, thanks to whatever medicinal intervention the hospices have plied her with. They have washed and dressed her and her natural beauty, now untarnished by the grime of the city, shines through like a radiance. Her eyelids flutter occasionally, as if lost in a nightmare, and you reach out to place a supportive hand upon hers... but a hospice enters the room and you feel your cheeks grow hot with embarrassment. She offers a polite nod as you back away and give her space to check the girl's vitals. You're about to inquire as to the girl's condition, but the hospice speaks first.

"You were there when Layton brought her in; can you tell me her name? There was no identification on her..." You shake your head and admit that other than her trademark scent you remain painfully ignorant regarding most of the details of her life...

"'Rosemary' it is, then..." The hospice makes some marks on the clipboard hanging from the foot of the bed before continuing, "Poor dear, she's exhausted... Don't worry. She just needs some rest."

You open your mouth to reply, but the sound of an explosion nearby causes the room to shudder and nearly knocks you from your feet. The rabble of the alarmed Templar outside slowly rises to a din, and by the time you manage to gather your wits and make your way back to the entrance hall, you find it is crowded with armored knights standing in formation, pointed at the elevator shaft which brought you to the catacombs. The priest that greeted you earlier emerges from the elevator and barely manages to close the blast door behind him. Blurred movement within the darkened shaft is faintly visible as the shutter closes, and the steel barrier deforms as a volley of impacts, like battering rams, begin to assault it from the far side. A chorus of echoing howls rings out, dancing along the high ceilings of the catacombs...

"The Shifters..." the exasperated priest shouts, "They're attacking!" All eyes, including yours, fall upon Gerrard. He unsheathes a silver blade from the hilt at his waist. Its razor edge keen in the dim light. "To arms!"

Throughout the catacombs, a Templar war cry rings out, drowning out the swarming pack of Shifters descending upon Sanctuary...

Proceed to **Setup**.

Setup

- ② Gather all cards from the following encounter sets: *The Hour of the Wolf*, *Battle for Sanctuary*, *The Last Crusade*, *Relics of the Templar*, and *Seeing Red*. These sets are indicated by the following icons:



- ② Set the *Relics of the Templar* encounter set aside out of play.
- ② Shuffle the four **Layer One** locations, the four **Layer Two** locations, and the four **Layer Three** locations into three piles, separated by layer number. Randomly remove a card from each pile until each pile contains exactly 1♦ cards, then read the **Lanes and Layers** section on this page.
- ② Construct each lane by randomly choosing one card from each of the **Layer One**, **Layer Two**, and **Layer Three** piles and putting them into play in a vertical column, *Sanctuary* side revealed, in ascending layer order, starting with **Layer One**. Repeat this process until you have constructed 1♦ total lanes.
- ② Place one barricade token on each **Layer One** location, two barricade tokens on each **Layer Two** location, and three barricade tokens on each **Layer Three** location, then read the **Barricades and Ruins** section on this page.
- ② Put The High Table (*Seat of the Trivium*) location into play, then read the **The High Table** section on the next page.
- ❖ Investigators begin play at The High Table.
- ② Shuffle the six Sanctuary Warden story assets and put one into play at each **Layer Three** location, then remove any remaining copies from the game. Do not look at the reverse side of these cards unless instructed.
- ② Using *The Last Crusade* encounter set, compose a separate ‘rally deck’ via the following procedure, shuffle it, and put it into play face down, attached to the scenario card, and then read the **Rally Deck** section on the next page.
- ❖ Include each of the four unique **Templar** story assets.
 - ❖ Include 1♦ copies of the Morale Failure treachery.
 - ❖ Include 1♦ copies of each of the five named non-unique **Templar** story assets.
 - ❖ Remove any leftover cards from the game.
- ② Using the remaining encounter cards, compose the encounter deck via the following procedure:
- ❖ Include each card from the *Battle for Sanctuary* and *Seeing Red* encounter sets.
 - ❖ Include 1♦ copies of the Hold the Line and Collateral Damage treachery cards.
 - ❖ Include 1♦ randomly chosen copies of each of the five non-unique **Shifter** enemies.
 - ❖ Remove any leftover cards from the game.
- ② You are ready to begin. Prepare for battle!

Standalone Mode

If you are playing this scenario in Standalone Mode, use the following conditions while setting up the scenario:

- ② Setup the chaos bag with the following tokens:

0, 0, -1, -1, -2, -2, -3, -4, -5, ♦, ♠, ♣, ♤, ♦, ♠

- ② You haven't seen the last of Goreheart.

Lanes and Layers

The available locations in this scenario will be randomized during setup and Sanctuary's layout organized into a number of ‘lanes’ equal to the number of investigators. Each lane is composed of three locations and should include one **Layer One** location, one **Layer Two** location, and one **Layer Three** location. For the purposes of adjacency in this scenario, each **Layer One** and **Layer Three** location is considered connected only to the **Layer Two** location in its lane, and the **Layer Two** location is considered connected to both the **Layer One** and the **Layer Three** locations in its lane.

During this scenario, game effects may occur in a specific lane or layer number (or both). If you have organized the lanes vertically and parallel to each other, they are numbered 1-4 from left to right. Otherwise, assign each lane a unique number between 1 and 4 before play begins. If a game effect would resolve in a lane that does not exist (e.g. Lane 4 in a 3 player game), the lead investigator must choose one of the lanes that do exist to resolve that effect in, instead.

Barricades and Ruins

In this scenario, barricade tokens placed upon a location represent the fortification potential of that location. If a location in any lane ever runs out of barricade tokens, that location is considered to be strategically ‘lost’ and must be immediately flipped to its **Ruins** side. If all locations within a lane become **Ruins**, the Templar’s position will become compromised, Sanctuary will be overrun, and the scenario will end.

Ruins locations cannot have barricade tokens placed on them, and when a location is flipped to its **Ruins** sides, return any barricade tokens on it to the supply. Throughout this scenario, enemies and treachery cards may ‘attack’ barricade tokens and attempt to deplete them prematurely. Be sure you shore up your defenses proactively and plan accordingly so you are not taken by surprise!

The High Table

In this scenario, the High Table is a special **Central** location that is considered to be connected to all **Layer Three** locations (*and vice versa.*)

The High Table is not considered to be in any lane or have any layer. The High Table may never be chosen by an investigator as a lane or layer or resolve an effect in, but if a game effect would cause something to occur at The High Table's lane or layer, the lead investigator must choose a different lane or layer to resolve that effect in, instead.

Rally Deck

This scenario contains an additional encounter deck called the 'rally deck', which contains **Templar** story assets that may become available for investigators to marshal as reinforcements as they organize the defense of Sanctuary. Certain scenario cards in this scenario may attempt to deplete the cards in rally deck before you have a chance to benefit from them.

Via certain scenario card effects, investigators may be allowed to draw from the rally deck and put a **Templar** story asset into play via its **Revelation** effect. Cards from the rally deck should never enter the encounter discard pile. If a **Templar** story asset is defeated during the scenario or would otherwise leave play, it should be placed face up in the victory display.

If the rally deck becomes empty, Templar reinforcements are depleted and any game effects requiring players to draw from the rally deck are canceled.



DO NOT READ until the end of the scenario

Before resolving any other resolution, if at least one investigator was defeated: Read **Investigator Defeat**.

Investigator Defeat: You barely knew the men and women you fought alongside, but in the short time you stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Templar warrior-priests on the field of battle, you learned of their true worth. The battle was brutal and bloody, and the Shifters' onslaught was relentless. They had the numbers, but the Templar had the determination... In the end, it wasn't enough. You weren't enough. The Shifters swarmed through Sanctuary like a hurricane, leaving the Templar's retreat in ruins. You knew what they were after, because you helped bring her there to begin with. Your remains will be interred in the catacombs with the Templar saints to commemorate your valor in the face of overwhelming odds...

- ⌚ Each investigator that was defeated during this scenario was **killed** in the Battle for Sanctuary. If there are not enough investigators to continue the campaign, the campaign is over and the players lose.
- ⌚ If another resolution was reached, the remaining investigators may proceed to that resolution.

Resolution 1 (each defeated investigator should resolve

Investigator Defeat first: As the sound of fighting dies out, you find yourself trapped beneath a pile of bodies. With great effort you pull yourself out from underneath the heap of fallen wardens and butchered Shifters and slowly rise to your feet... All around you, Sanctuary, or what's left of it, lies in ruin. It's sacred places and treasures reduced to ashes, the stricken bodies of crusaders and beasts lie intermingled throughout the catacombs, while a handful of hospitaliers urgently pick at the remains, hoping to find any Templar that may yet survive the onslaught. The air is thick with incense and iron, and you feel your stomach turn as the weight of what has transpired here comes crashing down upon you. So much blood shed, so many lives extinguished... and for what?

The acid in your stomach spikes as you race back to the infirmary as quickly as your feet can carry you. The large wooden door that once served as its entrance has been torn from its hinges and hurl into a nearby wall, reducing it to a pile of splinters. Inside that dimly lit room, where you last saw Rosemary, only a dismembered hospice nurse and an empty bed remain...

- ⌚ In the Campaign Log, record: *Sanctuary has fallen.*
- ⌚ In the Campaign Log, record: *Rosemary was captured by the Shifters.*
- ⌚ Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X value of all cards in the victory display. Do not spend your experience yet.
- ⌚ Proceed immediately to **Interlude II: The Aftermath.**

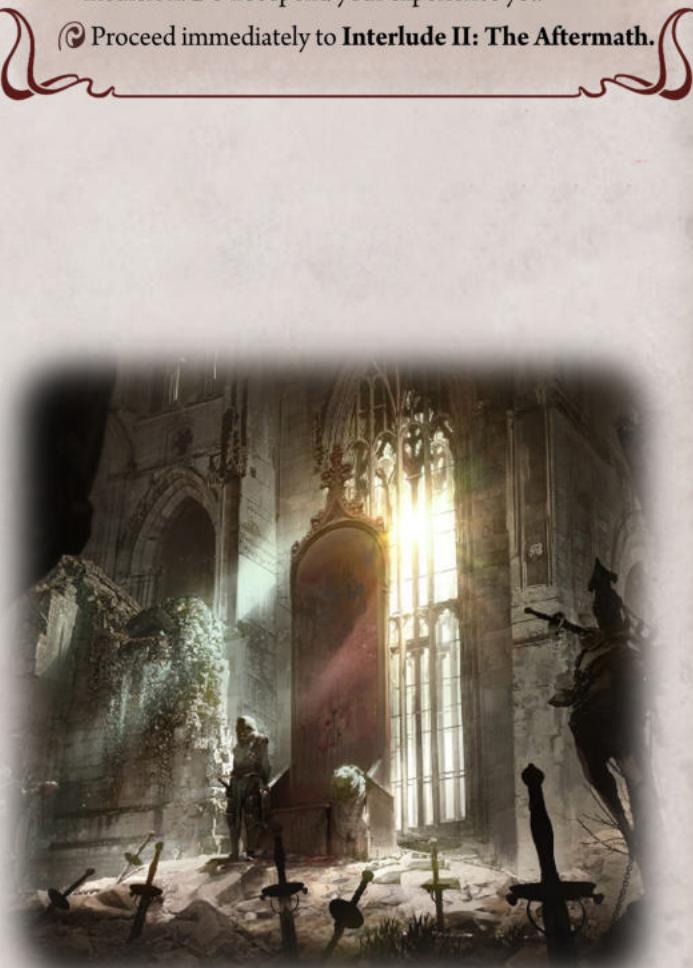
Resolution 2 (each defeated investigator should resolve

Investigator Defeat first: After what seems like a lifetime trapped in that crucible of incense and iron, the Shifters' ranks begin to thin out, and it isn't long before they begin to rout.

Cheers erupt from the surviving Templar as the Shifters retreat and scurry back into the darkness that bore them and the sounds of fighting die out... The Shifter swarm's shamed howls echo in the distance as the remaining Templar wardens slowly stalk the halls, searching for wounded and staking every Shifter corpse they come across for good measure. You wipe the sweat and blood from your brow as you take a moment to catch your breath. It was a well-earned victory; what the Templar lacked in numbers, you made up for in strategy. You can only hope the sacrifices of all who fell in the defense of Sanctuary won't be in vain...

You swallow the bile welling up in the back of your throat as you limp towards the infirmary. Thankfully, 'Rosemary' remains there, sleeping safely in her bed...

- ⌚ In the Campaign Log, record: *The Templar prevailed in the Battle for Sanctuary.*
- ⌚ Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X value of all cards in the victory display.
- ⌚ Each investigator earns 2 additional experience for successfully defending Sanctuary from the Shifter incursion. Do not spend your experience yet.
- ⌚ Proceed immediately to **Interlude II: The Aftermath.**



Interlude II: The Aftermath

Interlude 1: You wander back to the entrance hall in a daze. From the vantage of The High Table, you gain a sense for the true scale of the destruction wrought by the Shifters...

Flip each face down card in the victory display face up to see who perished in the Battle for Sanctuary. Then, for each of the following sections, read the corresponding section that applies to your situation. After you have read a section in each box, proceed to **Interlude 2**.

If Mackenzie Albright is in the victory display:

A pair of medics pushing a stretcher race in your direction. As they pass by you, its occupant shouts and the cart comes to a grinding halt at your side. The Confessor's eye is blackened, her lips are bruised, and her hair is matted with blood, which seems to leak out of every crevice in her dirtied armor, "You... I saw you out there," she groans. The way her one open eye never seems to find yours makes you wonder if she even realizes who she is talking to. Maybe she doesn't care. Maybe that's the point... "You never gave up," Mackenzie continues as her trembling, gauntleted hand reaches out and grasps yours, "... not even in the face of overwhelming odds. It was an honor to fight beside you... I tried to stop them but... it was not enough. I was not enough. Make sure my death was not in vain..." The Confessor's eye slides shut and her arm goes slack, dangling lifelessly from the side of the stretcher. The hospitaliers carry her away in the direction of the infirmary, leaving you alone again, and when you look down, a proud hunk of polished iron is resting in your hands...

- Ⓐ In the Campaign Log, record: *Mackenzie Albright put her faith in you.*
- Ⓑ One investigator may choose to add the Templar Insignia story asset from the *Relics of the Templar* encounter set to their deck. It does not count against their deck limit.

Otherwise:

You find Confessor Albright staking corpses with the other wardens and you manage to catch her gaze as you approach. "It's over..." Mackenzie says, devoid of all emotion. You feel like it's more of a question than a statement, so you nod... and then she nods. "... Why does it feel like we lost?"

Looking around, you can certainly relate to that feeling; the sheer quantity of death and destruction currently surrounding you is quite difficult to ignore.

"Do not mourn for them. They fought well, and died defending something they believed in. We should all be so lucky..."

It's hard to imagine describing anyone who perished in the Battle for Sanctuary as 'lucky,' but you must admit, you do prefer the Confessor's view of things...

- Ⓒ Each investigator gains one additional experience.

If Seraph the Advocate is in the victory display:

While wandering through Sanctuary, you come across the slumped body of Seraph the Advocate. His spectacles are smashed, his nose is bloodied, and his dark cloak is soaked with some unknown substance. He does not stir until you place a hand upon his shoulder and his eyes flutter open. "You... You fool. You led them right to us... It is not merely the Templar who shall pay the price for your carelessness..." The Proctor breaks into a coughing fit, and dark blood begins to leak from between his teeth. "Soon all of Arkham will be drowning in rivers of blood... It may be too late to stop it, but..." The Proctor produces a thick, tattered tome from within the folds of his robe that seems to have absorbed at least one strike from a Shifter on his behalf. You remember catching a glimpse of it earlier, secured to his belt by some strange contraption. Seraph unlocks it and thrusts the tome into your hands. "Take it... Everything you need to know – everything I ever knew – is in there..."

You crack the tome open. Each page is filled with hastily scribbled notes, charts, and tables. The Proctor clearly kept detailed records of all manner of things, but when you look up to inquire further, the light in his eyes has gone out...

- Ⓐ In the Campaign Log, record: *Seraph the Advocate perished in the Battle for Sanctuary.*
- Ⓑ One investigator may choose to add The Advocate's Ledger story asset from the *Relics of the Templar* encounter set to their deck. It does not count against their deck limit.

Otherwise:

The 'wizened' Templar Proctor emerges from a hidden alcove in a nearby wall and sheathes his tiny dagger into the hilt of his staff. It appears he managed to avoid becoming a casualty by concealing himself within Sanctuary's walls; you aren't sure if this is more cowardly or clever.

"You survived... How fortunate." The nonchalance in his voice is borderline insulting, but you are relieved to see even a marginally-friendly face after what you just went through. "Such senseless carnage..." Seraph the Advocate sighs as he surveys the ruin surrounding the High Table, "It will take some rebuilding but... it appears we may live to fight another day. Well done. Perhaps Hendricks was right to bring you into the fold after all..."

- Ⓒ Each investigator gains one additional experience.

If Leyton Hendricks is in the victory display:

You find Hendricks perched on the edge of a wooden supply crate in the larder. The trail of blood leading to him suggests that he drug himself there at great personal effort. He takes a drag from a cigarette and recoils as you reach out to him.

"Don't..." Hendricks hacks, "I'm done for..." He pulls his hand from chest, revealing weeping wounds that eject wisps of smoke that never reached his lungs... "Don't blame yourself," he says, evenly, "I never should have brought you into this. I just thought... That girl..." Hendricks trails off, either unwilling or unable to complete the thought and just shakes his head.

"Speaking of... Take care of my girls..." Hendricks weezes as he yanks the holsters containing his golden revolvers from his belt and tosses them to you, "... and they'll care of you."

You look the weapons over for a moment, admiring their pristine luster, and then back up to Layton, just in time to see the cigarette fall from his lips and extinguish itself in a pool of blood below...

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: Layton Hendricks's 'daughters' have been remanded to your custody.

(C) One investigator may choose to add The Silent Sisters story asset from the Relics of the Templar encounter set to their deck. It does not count against their deck limit.

Otherwise:

A rough hand suddenly grasps your shoulder and spins you around. You smile when you recognize the familiar face buried beneath all that blood and soot.

"You made it..." Hendrick says with a slight smile, "Thank God." You think he's about to embrace you, but Hendricks expression quickly sours, "Don't blame yourself; they must have followed us from Gotham... I'm so stupid. I never should have dragged you into this..."

(C) Each investigator gains one additional experience.

If Gerrard Renault is in the victory display:

Through a crack in the ceiling of the chamber, the sunrise casts a narrow shaft of light upon the Paragon, who lies splayed atop a pile of rubble like a beacon in the darkness. You race to Gerrard's side and from the pleading look in his bloodshot eyes you can tell he's in bad shape... You mumble something about a hospice and turn away, but Gerrard lashes out, grabbing your forearm in a vice-like grip and disarming you with his imperial gaze. "Please..." he whispers desperately, "Let me feel the sunlight upon my face, one last time..."

You had expected the platinum face plate to disguise some hideous scar or lingering illness, but when you abide by the Paragon's request and gently remove the mask concealing his visage, you are surprised to find that – apart from the sweat and blood – Gerrard's face is actually quite handsome and young looking. His bone structure is sharp and his skin is as pale as porcelain... like a child, almost. But then, that flawless complexion you had been admiring begins to sizzle, and crack, and melt, as though a great vat of boiling oil had been dumped over his head... You feel Gerrard's grip tighten around your wrist as you watch him 'dissolve' right before your very eyes. His bursting lips part as he moans in agony, revealing a pair of sharply pointed fangs hidden within the hollow of his mouth...

"Ah... What you must think of me," Gerrard coughs through the pain, his voice cracking, "Villain? Hypocrite? Perhaps I am both; only God may judge me now... But, to the end, I have sought only redemption... To kindle a flame bright enough to cast out my darkness... Soon, I shall see if it was enough." You can do nothing but watch as Gerrard's hair and ears turn to char and slough away from his cheeks. He's burning alive, and yet he speaks with such sangfroid...

"These people deserve to live in a world that has more light than darkness. I leave it in your hands..." Gerrard releases his grasp, leaving an ashen handprint upon your sleeve. Within moments, he is gone, and the platinum mask is all that remains of the fallen Paragon...

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: The investigators learned Gerrard's secret.

(C) One investigator may choose to add The Paragon's Modesty story asset from the Relics of the Templar encounter set to their deck. It does not count against their deck limit.

Otherwise:

You find Gerrard watching as a group of wardens douses a pile of Shifter corpses with kerosene. He casts a greedy torch into the pile, which quickly alights into a bonfire, sending thick, dark smoke spiraling up through cracks in the ceiling overhead. The Paragon turns and flashes you an anguished look as he passes you. He is alone; no one will ever feel the true extent of the loss incurred today as acutely he does...

(C) Each investigator gains one additional experience.

Interlude 2: Having assessed the Templar survivors, the only question left is what comes next...

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators learned Gerrard's secret,
skip to **Interlude 4**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Interlude 3**.

Interlude 3: Gerrard has gathered the survivors at the High Table.

The ragged assembly claps as you approach...

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *Gerrard Renault retained command of the Templar chapter in Arkham.*

Skip to **Interlude 11**.

Interlude 4: With Gerrard's death, it seems a 'regime change' is in order...

Check the Campaign Log.

If Mackenzie Albright put her faith in you, skip to **Interlude 6**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Interlude 5**.

Interlude 5: Confessor Albright nods solemnly as you approach the High Table. You feel somewhat relieved; with Gerrard gone, she's the obvious choice to lead the Templar...

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *Mackenzie Albright assumed command of the Templar chapter in Arkham.*

Skip to **Interlude 11**.

Interlude 6: ...Confessor Albright seemed to be the military mind behind the Trivium, but alas...

Check the Campaign Log.

If Seraph the Advocate perished in the Battle for Sanctuary,
skip to **Interlude 8**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Interlude 7**.

Interlude 7: The Proctor stands alone behind The High Table now, and he looks to you with sad eyes. The Templar have been dealt quite a blow, and you feel he's going need to your help...

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *Seraph the Advocate assumed command of the Templar chapter in Arkham.*

Skip to **Interlude 11**.

Interlude 8: ...and with the Proctor gone too, the command structure of the Templar is left in shambles...

Check the Campaign Log.

If Leyton Hendricks's 'daughters' have been remanded to your custody, skip to **Interlude 10**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Interlude 9**.

Interlude 9: The Trivium are all dead. There remains only one man trusted enough by the surviving Templar to lead them in these dark times... and he's desperate to make amends for having brought this ruin upon them in the first place.

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *Layton Hendricks assumed command of the Templar chapter in Arkham.*

Skip to **Interlude 11**.



Interlude 10: ... and you feel all eyes falling upon you. The outsider, who might just be responsible for having brought this ruin down upon them in the first place...

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *The investigators (reluctantly) assumed command of the Templar chapter in Arkham.*

Proceed to **Interlude 11**.

Interlude 11: Suddenly, a spiralling cone of shrieking bats descends from a crack in the ceiling above and coalesces upon The High Table. You attempt to cover your ears to block out their infernal noisemaking as they swarm over you, but to no avail. When the cloud has gone, you notice a furled piece of ivory parchment sitting in the middle of The High Table, sealed with red wax pressed into the shape of a pregnant spider...

(P) Each investigator gains one bonus experience. You may now spend your experience.

Proceed to **Scenario III: The Red Widow**.



Scenario III: The Red Widow

Intro 1: You awaken in Sanctuary's guest quarters late the next afternoon from the deepest sleep you've ever had in your life. Your bones are bruised and your head is pounding... but none of that matters because you're just happy to be alive. There's no more time to rest or recover... because you've got a party to attend tonight.

The scroll, as it turned out, was a letter to the Templar leadership, written by someone named Amelia, who extended a cordial invitation to attend a gala later tonight hosted at her palatial estate, Chateau Mistral, in celebration of All Hallow's Eve.

With the state of the Templar chapter such as it is in the wake of the Shifter incursion, it's not surprising that none of the Templar are feeling very festive, and perhaps due to your role as an unwitting accessory in the Shifters' discovery of their hideout, it didn't take long before it was decided that the best person to 'represent' the chapter at Amelia's ball... should be you.

The remaining Templar did not have much to tell you about this 'Amelia' person when you inquired about her, but she was frequently implied to be an important but dangerous woman, having apparently hard-earned her charming sobriquet 'The Red Widow'...

Check the Campaign Log.

If Layton Hendricks's 'daughters' were remanded to your custody or Layton Hendricks assumed command of the Templar chapter in Arkham, proceed to **Intro 2**. Otherwise, skip to **Intro 3**.

Intro 2: You don't really know what you'll be walking into, and with the remaining Templar forces committed to tending to the wounded and rebuilding Sanctuary, you won't have any backup...

Skip to **Intro 4**.

Intro 3: "I'm coming with you tonight... Meet me at the service exit when you're ready," Hendricks barks, sticking his head into your quarters just long enough to say his piece before departing. It was a statement, not a request; he's hungry to make amends for his own lapse in judgement which led the Shifters to Sanctuary, and you do feel a bit more confident knowing Layton will be there to watch your back...

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: Hendricks accompanied the investigators to Chateau Mistral.

(C) One investigator must add the Layton Hendricks (*Corporal Punisher*) story asset included in *The Red Widow* encounter set to their deck. It does not count against their deck limit.

Proceed to **Intro 4**.

Intro 4: After changing your clothes and cleaning yourself up as best you can, you find yourself nearly ready to depart for Chateau Mistral...

Check the Campaign Log.

If Sanctuary has fallen,

skip to **Intro 8**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Intro 5**.

Intro 5: You return to the infirmary one last time before you depart to check on Rosemary. She remains unconsciously, but there are so many questions you wish you could ask her now... partly, because you fear you might not be coming back. Whoever this 'Red Widow' is, she seems formidable, to say the least. As you contemplate your situation, you feel a chord of anger and anxiety building in your chest... and you catch yourself playing with the orb you took from Rosemary.

The investigators must decide (choose one):

(C) Keep the Gothic Orb. Proceed to **Intro 6**.

(C) Return the Gothic Orb. Skip to **Intro 7**.

Intro 6: So many things have gone wrong since the strange sphere fell into your possession that part of you feels you'd be better off without it... but you're not sure you can bear to part with it, either. The Gothic Orb is the key to unraveling this mystery, you're sure of it... Wait, when did you start calling it that...?

(C) One investigator must add The Gothic Orb (*Ponderous Enigma*) story asset included in *The Red Widow* encounter set to their deck. It does not count against their deck limit.

Skip to **Intro 8**.

Intro 7: So many things have gone wrong since you first laid eyes upon the strange spher, and even now you feel strangely on edge just having it on your person. There was some reason Rosemary had it... and somehow you know you can trust her with it. The trembling in your hand finally ceases as you gently place it into her delicate palm, and watch the dark runes pulse as her slim fingers unconsciously wrap around it...

(C) Each investigator may heal 1 physical or mental trauma.

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: *The investigators left the Gothic Orb with Rosemary.*

Proceed to **Intro 8.**

Intro 8: After emerging from a sewer runoff channel a few blocks from Our Lady of Mercy, you manage to catch the last train to Northside and ride the Sunset Limited as far as it will take you. After hiking a dozen blocks from the station, you find now yourself approaching an empty lot hidden in away the hills. You take out the Red Widow's letter to make sure you have the right address... and the scroll begins to disintegrate in your hands. Once it has vanished into smoke, a shimmering mirage begins to bend the light in the center of the lot and an enormous manor spontaneously 'phases' into existence right before your very eyes...

What was moments ago an empty lot full of refuse and overgrowth is now a palatial expanse of expertly groomed lawns and rose gardens surrounding the most decadent looking building you have ever seen in your life. As you cautiously walk up the paved driveway towards the entrance to the manse, a pair of well-dressed servants bow before you and wordlessly usher you through the front doors.

You then find yourself in standing a lavishly decorated foyer, staring at an enormous oil painting – depicting a beautiful woman surrounded by three cherub cheeked children – hanging from a balcony wrapped by marble staircases. The kids are dressed in white robes... and the woman wears red.

Read only if an investigator has the **Vampyr** trait:

You know full well what sorts of 'activities' go on in the House of Mistral. You might have even attended a few of the Red Widow's 'galas' before, if your brain wasn't too scrambled to remember them. But that was a long time ago. You aren't that person anymore... or at least, that's what you've been telling yourself.

The din of mingling party-goers nearby finally catches your ear. It seems you have arrived at Chateau Mistral right on time...

Proceed to **Setup.**

Standalone Mode

If you are playing this scenario in Standalone Mode, use the following conditions while setting up this scenario:

(C) Setup the chaos bag with the following tokens:

0, 0, -1, -1, -2, -2, -3, -4, -5, ♠, ♦, ♣, ♤, ♧, ♨

(C) Layton Hendricks assumed command of the Templar chapter in Arkham.

Setup

(C) Gather all cards from the following encounter sets: *The Red Widow*, *Bloody Ballet*, and *Seeing Red*. These sets are indicated by the following icons:



(C) Set the *Bloody Ballet* encounter set aside out of play.

(C) Put the Vintner's Crypt, Holding Pens, Mistral Galleria, Drawing Room, Feast Hall, Velvet Escalier, and Decadent Foyer locations into play unrevealed. Set all other locations aside out of play.

◆ Investigators begin play at Decadent Foyer.

(C) Set the Amelia Mistral (*The Red Widow*) story asset and the Adrian Tepesh enemy aside out of play.

(C) Shuffle the remaining encounter cards to form the starting encounter deck.

(C) Read the **Blood Tokens** section on this page, then add 1 blood token to the chaos bag.

(C) You are ready to begin.

Blood Tokens

This scenario introduces a new type of chaos token: the blood token.



(C) Each blood token revealed during a skill test has the following effect: "0. Reveal another token."

(C) If an investigator fails a skill test in which they resolved at least one blood token, that investigator takes damage equal to the number of blood tokens resolved during that test.

(C) Any resolved blood tokens are returned to the chaos bag after the test ends. No more than eight total blood tokens can be included in the chaos bag and/or sealed on cards in play at any given time.

(C) The number of blood tokens in the chaos bag does not persist between scenarios. At the end of each scenario, return any blood tokens in the chaos bag to the token pool.

Scenario Interlude: The Last Prince

Interlude 1: Your eyes fall upon another staircase that leads into Chateau Mistral's uppermost reaches. A number of masked guards flank a pair of large doors, which suggests to you that someone or something important must be inside the atelier, but your chances of talking your way past the enforcers seems slight...

Just then, the doors to the atelier burst open, and a finely dressed man with pale hair bursts emerges from within the sanctum, looking rather disappointed by whatever has just occurred within. He mutters something under his breath as he storms down the staircase; looks like he's heading your way...

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators left the Gothic Orb with Rosemary,
proceed to **Interlude 2**.
Otherwise, skip to **Interlude 3**.

Interlude 2: As the pale man approaches you, he pauses just long enough to narrow his eyes at you. His head cocks curiously, and a tense moment passes as you feel him momentarily scanning your body. He allows his lips to part just enough for you to catch a glimpse of the fangs protruding from the corners of his mouth...

But just as quickly as it began, it is apparently over, and the man fans out the edge of his long, dark cape before abruptly departing. Whatever he thought he might want from you, it seems he has apparently thought better of it...

(C) Put the set aside Adrian Tepesh (*Frustrated Petitioner*) enemy into play at Penumbral Lounge.

Interlude 3: As the pale man approaches you, he pauses just long enough to narrow his eyes at you. His head cocks curiously, and a tense moment passes as you feel him momentarily scanning your body... and suddenly, his eyes widen, an incredulous stare rapidly installing itself upon his porcelain face. "You... ? It can't possibly..." As the man speaks, you catch a glimpse of the sharp fangs protruding from the corners of his mouth, and, alarmed by the vampyr's sudden interest in you, you decide to quickly excuse yourself and beat a hasty retreat into the crowd...

(C) Put the set aside Adrian Tepesh (*Obsessive Fixation*) enemy into play at Tasting Room.

**DO NOT READ
until the end of the scenario**

If no resolution was reached because each investigator was defeated: You are roughly awoken by the sensation of your face hitting the cold floor. Your vision swims as you slowly rise and find your feet beneath the dim light of the sanctum, but you quickly become aware that you are surrounded on all sides by a rather large audience... "My, my..." A haughty voices laughs from somewhere above you, "It seems the stuffy old Templar have not completely forgotten how to enjoy themselves..." Perched atop a velvet throne, a fetching woman with porcelain skin and a dazzling red dress stares down at you, smirking smugly. If there was any doubt in your mind that this was the Red Widow of Mistral, it is swiftly demolished when she explodes into a cloud of bats and reappears immediately in front of you, causing you to stagger backwards and fall back to the floor. "... Though, to send such green recruits to act as their emissaries, I suppose I should be offended..." Scattered laughter ripples through the court and Amelia bends over, offering a delicate hand to pull you back to your feet; her fingers sting like black ice...

- (C) In the Campaign Log, record: The investigators were brought before the Red Widow.
- (C) Each investigator gains experience equal to the combined Victory X values of all cards in the victory display. Do not spend your experience yet.
- (C) Proceed immediately to **Interlude III: Parting Gifts**.

Resolution 1: A hush falls over the members of the Red Widow's court like a shadow as you stride confidently into the sanctum. Weapons are swiftly drawn and guards begin to close in on your position... but a fetching woman with porcelain skin and a dazzling red dress sitting atop a velvet throne waves them all away. If there was any doubt in your mind that this was the Red Widow of Mistral, it is swiftly demolished when she explodes into a cloud of bats and reappears immediately in front of you. She looks you over with a hard gaze for a moment, but you remain resolute in the face of her attempted intimidation and her complexion quickly softens. "You did well to seek me out..." Amelia says, approvingly, "Come... We have much to discuss." You release your bated breath and hushed murmurs begin to ripple through the court once again...

- (C) In the Campaign Log, record: The investigators sought an audience with the Red Widow.
- (C) Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X values of all cards in the victory display. Do not spend your experience until yet.
- (C) Proceed immediately to **Interlude III: Parting Gifts**.



Interlude III: Parting Gifts

Interlude 1: "I had hoped my summons might reach the Trivium in time to prevent the attack, but..." The Red Widow's eyes turn cold, and she hesitates before continuing, "I see now that the information came into my possession too late to make a difference. Tell us... How fare the Templar?"

You recap the Battle for Sanctuary, offering your eyewitness testimony from the front lines as dispassionately as you are able. Uncertain of the Red Widow's intentions, you elect to gloss over some of the more gory details; you don't want to risk arousing her 'baser instincts'... or revealing how dire the situation really is.

"You have my condolences..." Amelia sighs and looks away, remaining silent for a long while, considering hard before she meets your gaze again, "The House of Mistral has long enjoyed a productive 'partnership' with your chapter; know that were it within our power to have intervened, we would have certainly done so. Please tell your masters that we also find the recent increase in Shifter 'aggression' most troubling... The balance of power has shifted away from us, and we are well aware that if these beasts are not pacified soon, the holdings of the clans may next come under threat, or worse..." You attempt to imagine what could be worse, but the Red Widow deciphers the quizzical look on your face within moments, "Our survival depends on secrecy; the humans will not tolerate open war upon their streets for long. The Shifters know that, and they know our ability to clean up their messes is not limitless... but something has changed. There are unconfirmed reports of an... entity. Something that has risen to unite the warring prides in the pursuit of some unknown goal..."

Your thoughts turn to Rosemary and the missing women. Everything is connected; you know it in your bones. But has the Red Widow fared any better than you have at putting all the pieces together...?

Proceed to **Interlude 2**.

Interlude 2: "...As always, we will keep your masters apprised of our findings." With a release of breath, Amelia's jaw unclenches, visibly gladdened that your 'business' here has concluded, but a mercurial fire begins to burn in her eyes, almost as if she is considering you for the very first time...

"...But it was good of you to come all this way, and I would hate for any friend of the House of Mistral to leave empty-handed," The Red Widow says imperiously, "Tonight's festivities have left me feeling generous, and so I shall grant you a boon, as a token of my good faith: I will answer any one question you may ask of me... Choose wisely."

The investigators must decide (choose one):

(C) "Why are people disappearing?"

Proceed to **Interlude 3**.

(C) "Who was that pale-haired vampyr who was here earlier?"

Skip to **Interlude 4**.

(C) "Do you know what the Gothic Orb is?"

Skip to **Interlude 5**. This option may not be chosen if Hendricks accompanied you to Chateau Mistral, unless Hendricks knows of the Gothic Orb.

(C) "Did you know the truth about Gerrard?"

Skip to **Interlude 8**. This option may not be chosen unless the investigators learned Gerrard's secret.

(C) "Don't give her the satisfaction; refuse to play her game."

Skip to **Interlude 11**.

Interlude 3: "I cannot say, but I can assure you the House of Mistral has no part in it. To date, my agents can find no common link between the victims. I had half a mind to use one of my children as bait and attempt to draw the perpetrator out into the open, but, for better or worse, my daughters take after me in nearly all respects..." Amelia plays with her dark hair absently, and you find yourself thinking that she would look better with redder hair... like Rosemary. "... It may be possible that one of the other clans is operating behind my back, but this smacks of outside involvement... Before, it was difficult to even imagine the Shifters 'coordinating' in such a fashion, but now... Well, stranger things have occurred in this city, I suppose, but I do believe there is some yet undiscovered pattern behind the disappearances; whoever is taking the girls is looking for someone or something... and they haven't found it yet."

Skip to **Interlude 10.**

Interlude 4: "Ah, I see you met Adrian..." Amelia smiles smugly, "Poor boy. He means well, but he is a pariah of sorts among our kind – the last remaining vertige of a fallen house – and were Adrian not afforded my protection this evening, I feel quite sure many here would have taken it upon themselves to stamp it out once and for all. He is also investigating the vanishings, you see, and he sought my 'cooperation'... I'd have liked to help him, but, well, one side effect of long life is that old grudges tend to die rather hard, and there are many powerful people with whom he shares 'bad blood'..." Amelia's knowing smile suddenly turns sour, as if remembering something, "Long ago, I attempted to mend that rift at great personal expense, but he declined my offer to marry him to my dear Evelyn, if you could believe such a thing..." Amelia rolls her eyes, exasperatedly, "You can't save people from themselves..."

Skip to **Interlude 10.**

Interlude 5: The way the Red Widow's sinister eyes flash with surprise and delight at your question makes you instantly suspect you've just made a terrible mistake.

"So, it is true..." Amelia whispers breathlessly as her crimson lips arch into a wry smile, "I would be very careful who you speak to about... What did you call it?"

Your mouth goes dry and Amelia chuckles as she steps closer to you; you feel her eyes moving up and down the length of your body, somehow crushing you with her gaze...

"I'm afraid that anyone who knows about its existence is in grave danger..." Amelia's face is in your neck now, whispering seductively in your ear, "... and I would hate to see any harm come to you."

The scent of The Red Widow's perfume overwhelms you and you suddenly feel weak; for some reason, you want to give Amelia the sphere. In fact, you'd do anything to please her – quickly now!

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators left the Gothic Orb with Rosemary,

skip to **Interlude 7.**

Otherwise, proceed to **Interlude 6.**



Interlude 6: Without let or hindrance, you produce the Gothic Orb and hold it in your outstretched hands. The Red Widow kisses your cheek and coos, "A gift? For me? Oh, sweet thing, you shouldn't have..." Her delicate hands collect the sphere from your grasp and Amelia bites her lip as a band of red runes crawls over and around her slim fingertips.

"Perhaps you would allow me to properly thank you..." she says as the sphere disappears down the front of her blouse in an instant, and the Red Widow stares deeply, hungrily, into your eyes, "... In private?"

You've never wanted anything more. You take Amelia's frigid hand and smile as you are led away, deep into the bowels of the chateau. Hours pass before you eventually reappear in the garden outside the chateau, left with only a foggy memory of the night's events...

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: *The Red Widow took possession of the Gothic Orb.*

(C) The investigator with The Gothic Orb story asset in their deck must exile it and take 1 physical or mental trauma.

Skip to **Interlude 11.**

Interlude 7: ... but you don't have it anymore. You foolishly gave the Gothic Orb away, to someone you don't even know. What were you thinking...?

Your mind races as you desperately try to formulate a plan to avoid disappointing Amelia. In fact, the mere thought of such a perfect creature ever being disappointed causes you enough angst to know you'd want no part in it. Just wait, please – you'll do anything! You can go get it, and then come back! Everything is fine, nothing is ruined, just let–

A wave of anxiety evaporates from your body as the Red Widow steps away from you; you can feel her presence worming its way out of your brain and your own volition beginning to reassert itself.

As you wonder if you made the right choice leaving the sphere with Rosemary after all, Amelia just eyes you warily, obviously confused by this little 'stunt' of yours...

Skip to **Interlude 10.**

Interlude 8: "I did," she replies flatly, as if insulted by the implication; for a moment, a flash of anger is visible behind the Red Widow's amethyst eyes, "We know – knew – each other well, and I was always fond of him, even after his 'conversion' to your tiresome faith. What woman can resist a man who becomes so preoccupied with futile endeavors to 'save' the world that he forgets to live in it?"

There is more than a hint of bitterness in her words, and, as she continues, you begin to suspect you might have inadvertently reopened some wounds which never truly healed...

"It is a pity that true death has claimed him, but..." A look of crestfallen disappointment possesses Amelia's features, but she quickly catches herself, "I know it was what he always truly wanted most. A waste of potential, that man; we could have ruled Arkham together... I shall miss him."

The investigators must decide (choose one):

(C) Press no further and leave Amelia to her grief.

Skip to **Interlude 10**.

(C) Offer the platinum mask to the Red Widow.

Proceed to **Interlude 9**. This option may only be chosen if an investigator's deck contains The Paragon's Modesty (*Countenance of the Martyr*) story asset.

Interlude 9: You wordlessly produce Gerrard's mask and present it before the Red Widow. Amelia falls silent as she slowly approaches you and places a delicate hand upon its surface, tracing the outlines of its lips with a gentle fondness. Instantly, her imperial demeanor vanishes, and you are no longer standing before an immortal temptress... In that moment, you just see a heartbroken woman in mourning for a lost loved one; a sister, or a mother, who lost something precious in a war she never served in, on a battlefield she never knew, to an enemy she couldn't name. The one that was left behind. A widow...

"Thank you, sweet thing," Amelia whispers as she plants a chaste kiss upon your cheek. She takes the mask from you and immediately hands it to a retainer, who wraps it in an ivory cloth and spirits it away for safe keeping. It will be displayed with honor in the Mistral Galleria for remainder of the Red Widow's reign.

"This means more to me than you know... I won't forget your kindness."

You feel like you understand the weight of her words, and you immediately know that the image of the Red Widow of Mistral's eyes growing glassy in the dim light of the atelier will haunt you for the rest of your days...

(C) The investigator with The Paragon's Modesty (*Countenance of the Martyr*) story asset in their deck must exile it.

(C) Each investigator earns 1 additional experience as their insight into the mythos deepens.

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: *The investigators earned the Red Widows's favor.*

Proceed to **Interlude 10**.



Interlude 10: "... I'm afraid that's all I can tell you," The Red Widow says politely, and you nod and swallow hard as you wonder if you have utilized her 'boon' wisely. You suppose only time will tell...

Proceed to **Interlude 11**.

Interlude 11: As you are escorted from Chateau Mistral and back out into the cold night, a nervous pit forms in your stomach. You feel fairly certain the House of Mistral cannot be trusted, but false friends need not necessarily become your enemy...

Check the Campaign Log.
If Hendricks escorted the investigators to Chateau Mistral,
proceed to **Interlude 12**.
Otherwise, skip to **Interlude 13**.

Interlude 12: "I don't like it," Layton grumbles, "If Amelia is truly as in the dark as we are, then we have already lost. But if I know anything about that bloodsucking witch, it's that she never plays her entire hand... She's hiding something; I'd stake my life on it." You hope it will not come to that...

Proceed to **Interlude 13**.

Interlude 13: Once you pass far enough beyond the garden outside, a disconcerting rush of air blows past you and the chateau once again phases out of existence, stranding you in the empty lot it 'borrowed' for the night's festivities. You begin to descend from the hill and back down into the city proper; once you've made it back down to street level, you begin to notice a curious red mist hanging in the air, blanketing the streets of Arkham in a sinister pale...

(C) Each investigator earns 1 additional experience for surviving the trials of the House of Mistral. Investigators may now spend their experience.

Proceed to **Scenario IV: Blood Omen**.

Scenario IV: Blood Omen

Intro 1: You feel your breathing grow shallow as you cautiously navigate through the scarlet fog smothering the city. Eventually, you find yourself back at the crumbling remains of Our Lady of Mercy and decide to check in on the Templar while you have the chance...

Check the Campaign Log.

If the Templar prevailed in the Battle for Sanctuary,
proceed to **Intro 2**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 9**.

Intro 2: After descending into the undercroft, you worse fears are realized; a trail of bloody footprints and wounded Templar leads to the infirmary, and, inside, Rosemary is nowhere to be found...

You attempt to interrogate one of the fallen Templar regarding who or what caused this carnage, but the warden manages only a ragged wheeze before losing consciousness in your arms. "The girl..."

You swallow hard as you consider the facts; there's no way Rosemary could have carved this path of destruction on her own. She must have been taken... but by whom? The shifters? Or a yet unseen enemy? A dark suspicion creeps into your mind: could the Red Widow's gala have been a smokescreen all along...?

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators earned the Red Widow's favor,
proceed to **Intro 3**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 6**.

Intro 3: You banish the thought as quickly as it arises; one look at Amelia's face as she gazed lovingly at Gerrard's mask told you exactly where her loyalties lie. No one knows the pain of having someone taken from you more than the Red Widow of Mistral...

But the Shifters were soundly beaten last time they invaded Sanctuary; would they really dare launch another assault against the Templar stronghold so soon? What reason would they have to think it would go any differently? Why risk it...?

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators left the Gothic Orb with Rosemary,
proceed to **Intro 4**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 5**.

Intro 4: Because this time, you weren't there... and you foolishly left the sphere behind. That's what they were really after all along; you're sure of it...

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: Rosemary was captured by the Shifters.

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: The Shifters took possession of the Gothic Orb.

Skip to **Intro 13**.



Intro 5: The Gothic Orb suddenly feels hot in your pocket, like something is agitating it... Could it have been what the Shifters were searching for all along? And what will they do when they realize Rosemary doesn't have it...?

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: Rosemary was captured by the Shifters.

Skip to **Intro 12**.

Intro 6: The timing of the Red Widow's delivered invitation, at the precise moment the Templar were most vulnerable, stands out to you... and your blood boils as you entertain a surprising but very real possibility; did Amelia merely intend to lure you out long enough for her agents to infiltrate the ruins of Sanctuary and abscond with the girl? Was Rosemary being taken while you pleasantly conversed with the Red Widow in her atelier...?

(C) In the Campaign Log, record: Rosemary was captured by the Red Widow.

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators left the Gothic Orb with Rosemary,
or the Red Widow took possession of the Gothic Orb,

proceed to **Intro 7**.

Otherwise, skip to **Intro 8**.

Intro 7: ... and now Amelia has the Gothic Orb as well. Your fist finds a nearby wall as you realize that you foolishly stumbled right into her trap...

(C) In the Campaign Log, if it is not already recorded, record:
The Red Widow took possession of the Gothic Orb.

Skip to **Intro 13**.

Intro 8: You were wise – or maybe just lucky – enough not to mention the Gothic Orb to Amelia; there's no way she would have let you leave Chateau Mistral alive if she knew you were carrying it. Could this have been why the Shifters were after Rosemary all along? To ensure the Gothic Orb did not fall into the wrong hands...?

Skip to **Intro 13**.



Intro 9: The surviving Templar have done a credible job at cleaning up the carnage left by the Shifter incursion, but with the chapter decimated, the solemn halls of Sanctuary now feel noticeably emptier to you than before...

Check the Campaign Log.

If the Red Widow took possession of the Gothic Orb,
proceed to **Intro 10**.
Otherwise, skip to **Intro 12**.

Intro 10: The Shifters may have Rosemary, but you've unwittingly dealt yourself back into this game by delivering the Gothic Orb to the Red Widow; if that what the Shifters truly sought, then the House of Mistral will be drawn into this mystery whether they like it or not...

Skip to **Intro 13**.

Intro 12: Your meeting with the Red Widow was less than helpful regarding the fates of Rosemary and the other missing women, but Amelia seemed reasonable enough, and you haven't lost the Gothic Orb yet. You suspect this will prove key to finding Rosemary... it may even be the reason the Shifters took her in the first place.

Proceed to **Intro 13**.

Intro 13: You return to the surface to get some fresh air, but are immediately assaulted by the scent of copper and the taste of blood on your tongue. The red fog rolling through the streets has intensified and you can observe stray packs of Shifters and Vampyr alike openly brawling up and down the streets, leaving mayhem and carnage in their wake. The sinister red glow in the creatures' eyes is ominous... Could this red fog be triggering some sort of unholy 'blood frenzy'... ?

Proceed to **Setup**.

Standalone Mode

If you are playing this scenario in Standalone Mode, use the following conditions while setting up this scenario:

(C) Setup the chaos bag with the following tokens:

0, 0, -1, -1, -2, -2, -3, -4, -5, ♦, ♠, ♣, ♤, ♦2, ♠2

(C) Rosemary was captured by the Shifters.

Setup

(C) Gather all cards from the following encounter sets: *Blood Omen*, *Crystal Crisis*, *Fear the Night*, and *Seeing Red*. These sets are indicated by the following icons:



(C) Set the *Crystal Crisis* encounter set aside out of play.

(C) Put the Gotham Park location into play unrevealed in the center of the play area, then put the Our Lady of Mercy location into play unrevealed above that.

♦ Investigators begin play at Our Lady of Mercy.

(C) Shuffle the seven Park Blocks locations and then randomly put them into play unrevealed surrounding the Gotham Park location.

(C) Add 1 blood token to the chaos bag.

(C) Shuffle the remaining encounter cards to form the starting encounter deck.

(C) You are ready to begin.

Location Adjacency

Since the layout of the park blocks is randomized during setup, in this scenario connections between locations are primarily established by an adjacency effect printed on the current agenda. In this scenario, locations are considered adjacent orthogonally, but not diagonally.



DO NOT READ until the end of the scenario

If no resolution was reached because each investigator was defeated: Read Resolution 1.

Resolution 1: Amidst the chaos consuming the city, you barely noticed the fissure forming in the middle of Gotham Park until it suddenly snapped open and consumed the entire park right before your very eyes... Helplessly, you tumble into its starry expanse, caught in its upside-down gravity and falling down towards a rocky, red wasteland. In the distance, the last vestiges of the onyx citadel converge on themselves, bathing in the trembling shadow of an eclipsed star. Your feet eventually find the dusty ground and you release a breath you didn't realize you were holding, which hangs in the air like misty vapor before dispersing into nothingness. The cold air of this place replenishes your lungs and covers your limbs in goose pimples as you silently observe winged monstrosities distantly emerging from the aerie of the black fortress and soaring across the blackened sky. Their otherworldly shrieks sound hollow and jagged, echoing brokenly across the desolate plains...

- Ⓐ In the Campaign Log, record: *The investigators could not prevent the portal to Rhyllkos from opening.*
- Ⓐ Remove all blood tokens from the chaos bag and return them to the token pool.
- Ⓐ Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X values of all cards in the victory display. Do not spend your experience yet.
- Ⓐ Each investigator earns 1 additional experience for surviving the transit to Rhyllkos.
- Ⓐ Proceed immediately to **Interlude IV: The Seed of Uvhash.**

Resolution 2: As you gaze into the abyss, a longing – no, a hunger – greater than you've ever known gnaws at your insides, and, without thinking, you allow your body to fall forward, hurling yourself into the chasm. As you transit the portal, gravity itself becomes confused and you gently fall from the aperture into a starry expanse that hangs over a rocky, red wasteland. In the distance, the last vestiges of the onyx citadel converge on themselves, bathing in the trembling shadow of an eclipsed star. Your feet eventually find the dusty ground and you release a breath you didn't realize you were holding, which hangs in the air like misty vapor before dispersing into nothingness. The cold air of this place replenishes your lungs and covers your limbs in goose pimples as you silently observe winged monstrosities distantly emerging from the aerie of the black fortress and soaring across the blackened sky. Their otherworldly shrieks sound hollow and jagged, echoing brokenly across the desolate plains...

Above you, the red haze of Arkham remains visible where it leaks through a tear in the firmament. As the wound in the sky slowly expands, you can't help but feel somehow responsible; did your actions fuel the power needed to open this rift...?

- Ⓐ In the Campaign Log, record: *The investigators opened the portal to Rhyllkos.*
- Ⓐ Remove all blood tokens from the chaos bag and return them to the token pool.
- Ⓐ Each investigator earns experience equal to the combined Victory X values of all cards in the victory display. Do not spend your experience yet
- Ⓐ Proceed immediately to **Interlude IV: The Seed of Uvhash.**

Interlude IV: The Seed of Uvhash

Interlude 1: You stand dumbly upon the edge of a rocky outcropping, gazing vacantly at the black fortress beyond the desert, when the sudden chirping of bats somewhere behind you startles you from your reverie. You turn to see a tall, pale vampyr with light blonde hair standing across from you...

"Welcome to Rhylkos... You should not be here," he says, but you sense it is more of an admission of guilt than a reprobation. A wave of familiarity washes over you as you scan his face; you think you recognize him from the gala at Chateau Mistral, and your posture shifts to a defensive stance...

"Be at ease; I mean you no harm," The vampyr says softly, "I am Adrian. I apologize for my earlier... behavior. I did not mean to frighten you. The locus's influence was... an unexpected complication; as you have seen, it makes the children of the blood... forget ourselves. I had not expected to encounter it so soon," Adrian trails off as his gaze wanders from you to the black fortress in the distance, "... and I had hoped that this day would never come."

Locus? Could Adrian be referring to the Gothic Orb?

"The locus... is a 'seed,'" Adrian explains, "The root of an ancient evil which has entwined itself with the skein of history, leeching nourishment from all of creation like a parasite..." A baleful sneer mars Adrian's complexion as he continues, "... all so that the First House might one day reap the harvest of its bloody blossoms."

You're familiar with the House of Mistral... but 'The First House'? Could this be the 'unseen enemy' the Templar anticipated?

"The House of Drakul was the first of the great houses... and all children of the blood owe it their allegiance. Its grandsires observed the blood omen in ancient times, and their reward was life everlasting... at the cost of their humanity. Mistral, Janos, Dresden, the Shifter packs... Even the Templar... We are all children of the First House. There are those who prefer to turn a blind eye, pretend to forget but... The blood calls for more blood, like a great 'coagulation' across the aeons," Adrian's appears momentarily crestfallen, "It has always been so..."

Your eyes drift up to the chasm in the sickly sky above and the bloody miasma of the crystalline formations leaking through the edges of the portal that brought you here...

"Left unchecked, the bloodstone will consume all of Arkham, feeding upon it... When the city has fallen, the First House shall rise from its ashes... and the blood of Drakul will once again spill across your world like a crimson tide..."

Check the Campaign Log.

If the Red Widow took possession of The Gothic Orb,
skip to **Interlude 3**.

If the Shifters took possession of The Gothic Orb,
skip to **Interlude 5**.

Otherwise, proceed to **Interlude 2**.



Interlude 2: Could it be stopped? You still have the locus; could the Gothic Orb be unmade?

"You are not the first think to thwart fate in such a manner," Adrian says wearily, "but the Seed of Uvhash cannot be destroyed. It can only be contained, hidden, forgotten, and eventually lost... Until one of the bloodline is called to it... and unleashes it upon the world once more."

Check the Campaign Log.

If Rosemary was captured by the Shifters,
skip to **Interlude 5**.

Otherwise, skip to **Interlude 6**.

Interlude 3: You confide in Adrian that Amelia managed to obtain the 'locus' from you...

"I suspected Amelia's hand was involved in this; I went to Chateau Mistral to discover her intentions, but she has never been forthcoming with me..."

Check the Campaign Log.

If Rosemary was captured by the Shifters,
proceed to **Interlude 4**.

Otherwise, skip to **Interlude 6**.

Interlude 4: "You are playing a dangerous game..." Adrian cracks a wry smile but for the briefest of moments before continuing, "But the 'locus' might have been safer in her hands than yours. I suspected she was searching for it, but I know not why... To keep it safe from the Shifters? Or deliver it to them herself?"

Proceed to **Interlude 5**.



Interlude 5: But the Shifters have Rosemary... Where do they fit into all of this?

"The attack on Sanctuary was no mere rampage – the locus has driven the pride into a frenzy," Adrian explains. There is a hint of pity behind his words, "They have no say in the matter; the blood calls, and they must obey. This was why they were created when the locus was forged, as 'watch dogs' to act as its mortal caretakers, to bring about the blood omen, and become harbingers of the First House's bloody rebirth..."

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *The Hour of the Wolf is nigh.*

Skip to **Interlude 7.**

Interlude 6: You confess to Adrian your suspicions regarding your invitation to the gala; it's all too convenient to be mere coincidence...

"I see..." Adrian sighs, "Then Amelia has played us all masterfully. Why am I not surprised...? Her sire, Gabriel Mistral, was a weak man of low cunning and lead their house to the brink of ruin; Amelia was always determined never to repeat the mistakes of the past... and now her mad quest for power has lead her to this. If what you say is true, and the Red Widow of Mistral has been working to restore the First House all along... then she cannot be allowed to live."

(P) In the Campaign Log, record: *The Hour of the Bat is nigh.*

Proceed to **Interlude 7.**

Interlude 7: By why take Rosemary? Who is she in all of this?

"I do not know where the vanishings fit into this..." Adrian admits somberly, "The girl may be an innocent bystander who came across the locus by happenstance... or perhaps she is a child of the blood. I suspect we shall find out soon enough..."

Check the Campaign Log.

If the *Hour of the Wolf* is nigh, proceed to **Interlude 8.**

If the *Hour of the Bat* is nigh, skip to **Interlude 10.**

Interlude 8: Above you, another flock of chirping bats descends from the tear in the sky. You are immediately reminded of the letter delivered upon the High Table after the attack on Sanctuary, and when the flock reaches the ground beside you, its slowly coalesces into a familiar shape; the Red Widow emerges from the cloud when it eventually disperses, and, when her eyes open, they fall immediately upon the obsidian citadel...

"Bastille Drakul..." A stricken look crosses Amelia's features as she breathlessly whispers, "I confess, I had thought the histories to be largely myth... A story to scare greedy children. I never–"

"It was no myth, Amelia," Adrian retorts, "The Count of Drakul was defeated long ago and his house cast out from your world. It was not the first time... Now, we can only hope it will not be the last."

"Then we are too late. The armistice is undone..." A single solitary tear glides down Amelia's porcelain cheek, "Oh, Gerrard..."

Check the Campaign Log.

If the investigators learned Gerrard's secret, proceed to **Interlude 9.**

Otherwise, skip to **Interlude 13.**

Interlude 9: Your thoughts turn to Gerrard and his platinum visage; Adrian mentioned the Templar were somehow involved... But how?

Amelia sighs as she and Adrian exchange meaningful glances, "Gerrard had been feeding his clerics his own blood, unbeknownst to them, bleeding himself dry to 'bless' his flock with his dark gift in an act of blasphemous 'communion'..."

You blink. Blood, into wine, then back into blood again – twisted, profane, but... poetic, in a way. You shudder while imagining what the 'bread' might be made out of, and Adrian detects the wave of judgment involuntarily passing over your features.

"Gerrard knew the First House would one day return, and believed it could only be defeated on its own terms. The great 'martyr' of Arkham sacrificed much to ensure his men would be prepared when they day came... and we must all be ready to commit a small evil in the service of a greater good."

Skip to **Interlude 13.**



Interlude 10: A primal bellow somewhere above you draws your attention; something is falling from the portal, like an angry shooting star... Eventually, the entity hits the dusty ground with a sharp crack, leaving a crater where it impacts the brittle rock, and it looks up at you, through wild eyes, snarling viciously...

"You..."

Foam and spittle collects at the edges of Goreheart's jagged maw as he scans first your face and then silhouette of the black citadel beyond.

"... This is all because of YOU!"

"Enough," Adrian says, sternly, "We are all in this together now, whether we like it or not..."

"Together?" Goreheart roars indignantly, "Your Templar worms are hiding in their precious rat hole, what's left of the prides are lost to the blood frenzy, and now we stand in the shadow of Bastille Drakul! We could have stopped this! We could have taken the locus—"

"... and the Red Widow would have taken it from you, in turn," Adrian interjects, as if instructing a child, "Nothing could have averted this outcome. The First House... is inevitable."

The killer instinct in Gorehearts's eyes suddenly breaks, apparently too weary to continue his ferocious bravado any longer. He staggers forward onto all fours and lets loose once last anxious howl as his sinewy muscles begin to writhe beneath his dark flesh... When it is over, the creature is gone, and a tall man with long matted hair and a torso covered in scars slowly stands up from the crater... Could this be his true form?

"... I tried to stop it. I tried to make the others see. But in the end, it was all for nothing. Bastille Drakul rises from the red star and, again, we are puppets of the First House, too blind to see the strings," A disgusted sneer mars Goreheart's features as he ironically remarks, "Sanguis aeternum..."

Proceed to **Interlude 13**.

Interlude 13: But are you too late? Is all hope already lost? "Not yet," Adrian says, "There may be a way to close the rift, here on Rhylkos... Pluck the noxious weed before it has a chance to take root. The locus acts as a conduit, harvesting the anima of your world to reconstitute the Count of Drakul and return his infernal soul to flesh. The blood omen is the final piece of the ritual, but if one was to reach his regenerating corpus before it was complete..." It's starting to sound like Adrian has a plan... But how? "We lay siege to the castle, find the Count, and put an end to this. It will not destroy him – I do not know if he can ever be truly destroyed – but it will buy your world time. Until the next blood omen..." It sounds crazy enough to work, but something else is bothering you... Adrian does not strike you as a man who is given to naive heroics and he seems to have all the answers; there's something personal about this for him...

"When the locus found me, I was just a boy, desperate for the approval of an old and bitter man... I had no way of knowing what horrors my curiosity would unleash. That is why I am here... Attonement." Adrian's fierce determination falters for a moment and he appears 'vulnerable' to you for the first time when he finally manages to meet your gaze and say the words, "The Count of Drakul... is my father."

Of course. As always, the sins of the father come to weigh most heavily upon the shoulders of his wayward son; Greek tragedy had better family values. But can Adrian truly be trusted... ?

"There is no time. If you are here to stop what is coming, then trust me when I say we have common cause, and let that be enough. My entire existence has been spent in preparation for this day; the First House must be dismantled if your world is to survive. There is no other way."

Vengeance alights Adrian's eyes. You find yourself gladdened that he is on your side...

➊ In the Campaign Log, record: *Adrian Tepesh is on your side*.

➋ Each investigator gains 1 additional experience as their insight into the mythos deepens. Investigators may now spend their experience.

➌ The story continues in **Scenario V: The Castle Doctrine...**