**Overview:**

This scenario is intended for 6 players of moderate skill level and You should be able to play this scenario in one to two sessions of varying length. One player must play Jonathan Crown or the keeper must use Crown to begin the play. The assignment starts with Mr. Crown and he in turn hires the other players for specific jobs. Though everyone will have a specific part to play it may not be easy for the keeper to keep everyone together. Pre-generated characters are provided which match the various tasks Mr. Crown will require through the scenario. The scenario is written with the pre-gen characters in mind. If you would like to use different professions you can, but try to make them fit the skills that the pre-gen character you are replacing has. Also be aware that some of the scenario descriptions may have references to the pre-gen characters so you will need to change those accordingly.

If you are not using the pre-generated characters you should at the very least have a lawyer. The main hook in the scenario is a case that the lawyer receives which leads into the investigation. You will need a lawyer to start, if you can come up with another profession that will work you can however the entire scenario as written is based on one character being a lawyer.

**Players Info:**

You are a lawyer at the respected firm of Billings and Lafayette, you have worked here for five years and you are the top prospect to gain partnership with the firm. This is an incredibly significant occurrence being that firm, has not, as yet, ever taken a partner in all of its years of operation. It is the beginning of the year and many of your married colleagues have taken time off to be with their families. This has left you and Mrs. Gwyneth Lampton, the office manager, to run the place during this, the slow season, for your firm. You, being a single individual, have no problem working extra hours as you are bucking for that partnership, which is to be announced soon.

The firm deals mostly in real estate law, estate management and inheritance. A particular file has come across your desk and you recognize the name instantly. The McGinley estate is the first and largest client the firm maintains and it behooves you to do your best with this case, as it is a very important one. It is Monday morning February 13th 1922 and you sit at your desk with the McGinley file in front of you. It almost feels like a test of some sort, to receive the firms most important clients file during a time when most of the office is away on vacation. You open the file…

**Keepers Info:**

Colton McGinley inherited his father’s fortune before he graduated Harvard University in 1852. He was not close with his father and never learned much about the business, which was the corner stone of the family’s fortune. The McGinley’s were in manufacturing and had made a large profit during the Great War. Colton did not exactly know what to do with the company and so left it to the men his father had in place and took a hands off approach.

He spent his time, with another young man he met at Harvard named Abram Penkin. Penkin was a student of philosophy and had grand ideas about our world and that which he called the other side. He believed that there were alternate worlds or dimensions that paralleled our own, and this idea fascinated Colton McGinley. They became friends through this mutual interest in dimensional travel. They began to research the idea that one could pierce the fabric that exists between dimensions and travel freely between them. They traversed many avenues to reach their hypothesis, studying physics, mathematics, biology and finally finding what they were looking for in occult works.

It was in their final year at Harvard that Mr. Penkin made a great discovery. He found reference to a book, which was said to be the spell book of an ancient Russian sorcerer that was contained formulas and rituals dealing with dimensional travel. Penkin convinced McGinley to put up the money for a trip to Denmark to find the alleged book. Once in Denmark they found the location of the grave, it was in a remote cemetery called De Beulen Huis (Danish translation The Executioners House). They procured the necessary equipment and proceed to rob the grave of the Russian sorcerer Maxim Utkin and carry off his book of shadows. Once back in the states Penkin began research in earnest.

Penkin became reclusive and solitary while he researched the book. It was written in Old East Slavic, an older Russian dialect and so Mr. Penkin, a fluent Russian speaker, was the best suited for the translation. It was during this time that Mr. McGinley met two other young men, Mr. Stewart Billings and Mr. Bernard Lafayette. Both of these men were students of law and endeared themselves to McGinley with their sharp wit and their intellectually clinical minds. It was a respite from the oppressive and sometimes dark conversation that he had been engaged in with Mr. Penkin for so long. He began to become more social and involved in the university community as a whole. He began attending parties and events, liberally spreading his family fortune around. He met another young man who was studying to be a doctor at Harvard Medical School at one such event, Mr. Wesley Lawton. They became friends and the four men became nearly inseparable.

Eventually the subject of the occult and specifically dimensional travel came up between McGinley and his new friends. They were skeptics but had an interest in delving into the dark arts as a means of amusement and wonder. They began to study magic and practice occult rituals, first as a curiosity and then more seriously as time went on. Eventually Mr. Penkin completed his translation of the ancient tome they pillaged from the detestable graveyard in Denmak. He produced an encrypted translation of the original, giving the cypher key to McGinley and keeping the encrypted translation himself. He told McGinley he was worried that the contents of the book would be found by others and that their research would be stolen. In truth he encrypted the book so that McGinley could not see the translation for what it was and discover Penkin’s diabolical intentions.

The author of the book, Maxim Utkin, was actually a descendant of Mr. Penkin. When his ancestors had migrated to the colonies they had changed their name from Utkin to Penkin attempting the flee the persecution that followed the family line. The Utkin / Penkin family had a long been worshipers of Yog-Sothoth, going back to the time of Maxim Utkin. When Penkin found the location of his ancestors grave he needed only to find others he could convince to help him perform the “Dedication to the Opener”. He found a willing participant in McGinley, however he never revealed his true intentions or his family history in fear that McGinley would sour on the whole affair. He needed to draw power from several individuals to perform the ritual, and he found them in McGinley’s new friends.

Penkin kept on with the group, performing small insignificant rituals and spells, to amuse them and increase their interest and abilities. Outwardly the men all seemed to be good friends, they formed a sort of secret club, which they called the Tenebris Circuli, Latin for the dark circle. McGinley bought a house outside of Boston on Waverly Oaks road so that the men had a location to practice their craft. Penkin finally convinced the men that he had a ritual that would send him to another dimension and he wanted them all to attempt it. They all agreed believing this to be research into dimensional travel and, if successful, would be a breakthrough that would gain them all considerable notoriety.

They went to the house on Waverly Oaks and performed the “Dedication to the Opener”. Mr. Penkin was transported to Yog-Sothoth where he was imbued with the dark gods power and horribly deformed then sent back, transformed into a servitor of the blasphemous god, bent on opening the way for his master to reign in our dimension. Upon returning, the others saw this corrupted version of Penkin and panicked. Mr. Lawton was the Penkin thing’s first victim, mesmerized by the power of the thing he rushed towards it. It pulled him in with writhing worm like appendages and the others watched in horror as the thing bit into Mr. Lawton’s neck and began to gorge on his blood. It was McGinley who, fearing trouble with the ritual, created a silver disc emblazoned with the eldar sign. He ran forward and pressed the disk to the thing and it released Mr. Lawton. Calling for the others to get something to bind the thing he held it fast with the disk, staring face to face with the abomination, which once was his friend Abram Penkin. They chained the thing up; fixing the disk to the chain to keep the thing at bay then proceeded to brick it up in the basement. They carved the eldar sign on newly fashioned wall and performed the ritual to seal it. The body of Mr. Lawton was also walled up with the thing. They feared what would happen if anyone had found what they had done. McGinley through Penkin’s book into an empty well behind the house and sealed the “key” away in a safe deposit box at his bank.

The three men, Colton McGinley, Stewart Billings and Bernard Lafayette told authorities that they had all be spelunking in some caverns in northern Massachusetts when a cave in claimed the lives of the other two men. They even went to the lengths of finding a cavern and causing a cave-in to legitimize their story. McGinley gave the two lawyers a large sum of money to being handling his estate with specific stipulations, one of which was that the inheritors of the estate were never to sell or dismantle the house on Waverly Oaks road. This initial capital allowed Billings and Lafayette to start their firm before either had taken the Barr exam and so was blood money they could not pass up. The years went on and they pushed the memories as far down as they could.

A series of horrible incidents followed the McGinley family as they lived in the house, the thing in the basement ever calling for the inhabitants to release it. McGinley pushed his wife down the stairs in a fit of rage brought on by the thing. His son fell in an empty well when the thing persuaded him to retrieve it and use it to release it. Only his oldest son Christopher survived and eventually unable to resist the thing any longer, Colton McGinley shot himself so that he would not succumb to the will of the thing.

Christopher McGinley, found his fathers journal and realized the horrible truth. He attempted to right the wrong done by his father but the price was high. He wife, chased by the shadow of the thing, which it was able to project inside the house, jumped to her death. His daughter seeing the shadow went insane and was committed to the Roxbury Sanitarium. His son grew to manhood and left for college only to here a few years later that his father had committed suicide by hanging.

Peter McGinley, the last descendant of the McGinley line, after finding his father and grandfathers journals also attempted to send the thing back to the hell it came from but the things power was too strong. Fearing he would succumb to the things will, he also committed suicide just a week ago.

It is now Mr. Crown’s job as executor of the estate to facilitate the inheritance in accordance with the stipulations set forth in the estate documentation.

**Setup:**

It is best to setup the appointments, which Mr. Crown will have ahead of time so that the players will have definite connections at the beginning of the game. There is a note on the case file, which states that Mr. and Mrs. Lawton of Boston are the expected inheritors of the estate. It also makes some suggestions about services to contact. If you are using the pre-generated characters the following list will be useful however if you are using custom characters the list could be different.

Mr. / Mrs. Brooks – Accountant setup a time to come to the office to get started on the company documents.

Mrs. Waterford or Mr. Pembrook – Antiquarian / Historian who can appraise the items in the house.

Mr. Stark – Architect, setup a time to meet at the house to check out its condition.

Mr. Elliot or Mrs. Nolan – Contractor / Interior Designer could be contacted by Crown or could be contacted by the inheritor of the house to have their own professional check out the house.

Mr. / Mrs. Lawton – Contact the Lawton’s to inform them about the inheritance.

Character descriptions and stats are included at the end of the scenario.

**Note on the file:**

Mr. Crown,

This is the big one so handle it with care.

Tracked down the last descendants of the Lawton family, see the stipulations for the inheritance.

The company records will be delivered, Monday 13th at 9 am, you may want to get an accountant or someone to look through them. You may also want to contact someone who can appraise items in the house to see what can be sold off. You will also want to get ahold of an architect or contractor to check the place out and see if there are any structural issues we will need to address.

Good luck, Crown, I’ll see you when I return from vacation.

Danforth Billings

**Billings and Lafayette:**

Founded in 1852 Billings and Lafayette is one of the top firms in Boston dealing with real estate and inheritance law. Stewart Billings and Bernard Lafayette started the firm, the year of their graduation from Harvard Law School, and before either had even completed the Barr exam. Mr. Colton McGinley, who was a friend of both founders and the heir to the McGinley family fortune, provided the initial capital used to start the firm.

There is some intrigue to the founding of the firm, which is tied closely to the founders and their first client. A large sum, even for this time, was offered to begin the McGinley estate. This initial capital provided the means to create the firm before either of the two founders had taken the Barr and were accredited lawyers. Some say that this money was in some way tied to a tragedy which the three men were involved in that left two other men, Mr. Wesley Lawton and Mr. Abram Penkin, dead by a cave in that occurred during a spelunking trip the men had taken after graduation.

**Employees of Billings and Lafayette:**

Danforth Billings – owner / founders grandson

Mr. Billings is a kind and compassionate man, and upstanding member of the community and an exceptional lawyer. Billings has taken Mr. Crown under his wing and is the reason that Crown is up for a partnership. Billings is on vacation for the week and will return Monday the 20th of February.

Walter Lafayette – owner / founders grandson

Mr. Lafayette is a shrewd and cunning businessman who is fastidious in both his business and personal life. He is an upstanding member of the community and has aspirations of becoming a judge. He recognizes Mr. Crown’s potential and his aptitude and although he will not say it outright, he believes Mr. Crown is a good choice for partnership. Lafayette is on vacation for an indeterminate amount of time. The keeper can decide if Lafayette returns during the scenario or not, but in most cases he should be on vacation.

Charles Monrow – lawyer

Charles is a decent lawyer but not as dedicated to the firm as one would hope. Charles has only been with the firm for two years and has proven capable but has been rumored to have entertained certain offers from other firms in the city. Mr. Monrow is out of town currently working with a client in New York. He will be back at the office Monday the 20th of February.

Edith Lampton – Office Manager / Secretary

Edith is a no nonsense woman with strong puritanical beliefs. She does not take any guff and is not keen on more liberal ideas about society. She keeps her opinions to herself unless asked but it quick to give disapproving looks when necessary. Mrs. Lampton is an efficient office manager and has files and appointments in order. If there is anything that needs to be pulled up in the firm’s files she will do so in short order. She respects Mr. Crown, though she wonders why he is not married or looking to become so. She does not like Mr. Monrow and believes that he is a deviant that should be tossed out on his ear. She respects and admires Billings and Lafayette and has nothing but good things to say about them.

**Research:**

**Newspapers:**

Billings, Lafayette, McGinley tell about deaths of Wesley Lampton and Abram Penkin.

Boston Globe July 18th 1852

Tragedy befalls recreational cave explorers in upstate Massachusetts

A cave-in caused the death of two Harvard University graduates this Saturday July 17th while a group of armature spelunkers traversed an uncharted cave system in upstate Massachusetts. A group of five men all graduates from Harvard were on a camping trip in celebration of their recent graduation when the tragedy struck. Mr. Wesley Lawton and Mr. Abram Penkin where killed when a portion of the cave collapsed on them, the other men attempted to dig them out but realized the effort was futile and called authorities. The other three men Mr. Stewart Billings, Mr. Colton McGinley and Mr. Bernard Lafayette gave statements about the cave-in, which authorities deemed too extensive for there to be any chance of survivors.

Rescue crews were brought in to search the cave for the bodies but another cave-in, caused by structural weakening as a result the first, forced rescuers to abandon the effort. The cave, near Sutton Massachusetts, has been blocked off and is now off limits for curious cave explorers. This is a great tragedy for both the Lawton and Penkin families.

Death of McGinley’s wife Bethany dies, falls down stairs

Waltham Examiner January 23rd 1864

Obituary:

Mrs. Bethany McGinley, wife of Colton McGinley, mother of Christopher and Charles McGinley died Wednesday January 20th 1864 after an accidental fall down the basements stairs in her home on Waverly Oaks road. Her distraught husband Mr. Colton McGinley told authorities that he came down for breakfast to find the door to the basement open, upon investigating found his wife at the bottom of the stairs. Mr. McGinley stated that the stairs would often ice up on extremely cold night and she must have slipped on the ice. Funeral services will be held next Saturday the 30th of January.

Youngest Charles falls in well

Boston Globe August 7th 1867

Boy found in well after weeklong search

Search parties found the body of Charles McGinley, the young boy who had gone missing five days prior, in a dry well behind the McGinley home. Son of Colton McGinley owner of the prominent McGinley Manufacturing had been reported missing five days prior when he did not return for supper. The oldest boy Christopher stated that he had been playing in the wood behind the house but had lost track of his brother and could not find him. Mr. McGinley immediately set up a search party and a reward of $500 was offered.

After an exhaustive search of the woods and outlying areas the search party was beginning to lose hope. It was when one of the dogs caught scent of something in an old dry well that was covered with years of debris, that the searchers found the old well. A small hold had been uncovered and this was apparently the access, which the boy had found. The lifeless body of young Charles was found at the bottom of the 50-foot well. Another sad tragedy for the McGinley family coming only three years after the tragic death of Bethany McGinley, wife of Mr. McGinley and mother of young Charles.

Company starts downward spiral

Boston Globe October 4th 1867

McGinley Manufacturing stocks plummet

McGinley Manufacturing stock begins a downward trend as the owner Mr. Colton McGinley leaves on another trip abroad. Mr. McGinley who has not taken an active role in the company since his father’s death in 1851, continues with his globe trotting excursions while the company falls to ruin. Speculation on McGinley’s mental state after losing a wife and child have investors selling off as much stock as they can.

Back home mismanagement of the company has gone unchecked for years and it seems that Mr. McGinley is more interested in seeing the world than seeing his company succeed. It is rumored that several offers have been made to buy McGinley out but as yet the company rests firmly in the hands of the McGinley family.

Colton commits suicide

Waltham Examiner March 21st 1879

Tragedy at the McGinley residence

Mr. Colton McGinley was found dead in his home at 1747 Waverly Oaks Rd. yesterday morning when the mail carrier Stanley Knolls saw what looked like a body lying on the floor through the large bay windows of the home. When authorities arrived they received no answer and finally forced entry into the home. The body of Mr. McGinley was found lying on the floor of an apparent gunshot wound to the head. The home was searched and no evidence of foul play was discovered. Mr. McGinleys own .38 revolver was used and police stated that the injury was indeed self-inflicted.

Mr. McGinley had recently been seen in town in what was described as a bedraggled condition and ranting about his inability to stop his families curse. Mr. McGinley has become increasingly aloof in recent years, spending more and more time confined in his home, when he was not taking trips to exotic locations around the world. It is said that the loss of his wife and child and the decline of his company had played heavy on the mans mind.

His son Christopher McGinley who is currently away at the Miskatonic University in Arkham Massachusetts survives Mr. McGinley. Christophe is the sole inheritor of McGinley Manufacturing and the McGinley family fortune.

Christopher inherits company starts an upturn.

Boston Globe April 3rd 1888

McGinley Manufacturing takes an upward turn under new ownership

McGinley Manufacturing stock has taken a steep upturn under the new and capable ownership of Mr. Christopher McGinley. The son of Colton McGinley inherited the company and the family fortune in 1879. Since that time has taken a passive role in the company until now. It is reported that McGinley has cleaned house, letting go of many corrupt and inefficient managers who were pillaging the company due to that lack of a firm hand at the helm.

The woes of the company seem to now be in the past as the new McGinley is setting a course for success. We wish Mr. McGinley success in the future and we hope that the misfortune that has been a dark cloud over the McGinley family is now lifted.

Chirstopher’s wife Claudette falls from third story window dies, Agatha is sent to Roxbury

Waltham Examiner October 16th 1897

Tragedy at the McGinley Home

Police were called to the McGinley house on Waverly Oaks road this Friday, responding to reports that the McGinley children were found wandering the road near the house. When police arrived Agatha McGinley, age four, was found with her two-year-old brother wandering the road a few blocks from the house. When officers asked the children where their parents were Agatha told an unbelievable tale, which sent the officers immediately to the home to discover the whereabouts of their mother Mrs. Claudette McGinley.

Agatha told officers that a beast had thrown her mother from the second story window of the home and that she was not moving. The police went to the home to find that Mrs. McGinley had indeed fallen to

death from the second story window. Her body was found at the foot of the large bay windows on the right corner of the house. The window above was open and the officers believed this must have been where she had fallen. A search of the house was conducted due to the assertion that a beast has pushed the children’s mother but the house was found to be empty.

Mr. McGinley, prominent owner of McGinley Manufacturing, was away on business but is now returning home from abroad. Agatha McGinley who seems to have suffered a mental break from witnessing her mother’s apparent suicide was taken to the Roxbury Sanitarium for evaluation. Peter McGinley has been taken to a family friends home until Mr. McGinley returns.

Agatha described a large creature that had to stoop down to fit in the confines of the house, it had dark green skin which glistened as if covered with some sort of mucus or slime. She saw it from behind and so did not get a look at the face of the thing but noted that it walked on two legs and had multiple appendages coming off the torso, which she took for arms. These arms however did not appear to be jointed as she described them as waving like hair in the wind. The thing had her mother tangled in its multiple appendages and was pulling her close to its body. She described a loud sucking sound and finally the sound of something ripping open. After that she stated that the thing flung her mother out the window and she had ran before it could turn to see her behind it. She grabbed the baby and ran from the house.

It is believed that Agatha has constructed this monster to justify in her mind the reason behind her mothers apparent suicide. When asked, neighbors stated that Mrs. McGinley had not seemed distraught or troubled in the weeks leading up to this grisly event, and that she had seemed happy and content. Mr. McGinley is expected to return home sometime in the coming week, he has received a telegram about the indecent and is returning home post haste.

Christopher hangs himself

Boston Globe March 24th 1914

Head of McGinley Manufacturing Meets a Tragic End

The body of Mr. Christopher McGinley was found in his home this Monday evening as neighbors spotted something hanging in the large bay window that fronts the house. Upon closer inspection they realized it was the body of Mr. McGinley. Police responded to the call, searching the house but found no evidence of foul play. Mr. McGinley had hung himself, which was apparent from the condition of the body and the overturned chair beneath him. The family has suffered much loss through the years and it seems it has taken its toll on the manufacturing mogul.

His son Peter McGinley who will inherit the family fortune and the prosperous McGinley Manufacturing Company survives McGinley. The company has been on a downward trend since the death of McGinley’s wife but has recently taken a turn for the worst as McGinley stopped taking any hand in the day to day running of the company. There is speculation about the companies continued existence in the wake of this tragic event.

Peter’s

Waltham Examiner February 7th 1922

Another Tragic Death at The McGinley Home

Peter McGinley was found dead in the McGinley home today by a passing motorist seeing his body hanging in the large bay windows at the front of the house. Police were called and confirmed the suicide, ruling out any foul play.

Oddly enough the last of the McGinley line committed this heinous act in the exact fashion that his father before him had. Peter who had never taken any interest in the family business had recently returned home from abroad. It is speculated that the estate holders will now sell off the company, which bares the family name, and the family assets will be liquidated.

**Journal of Colton McGinley:**

Leather bound journal with no distinguishing marks on the outside cover. The inside front cover has an inscription “C McGinley”.

Entries begin in 1850 and detail the general college life of a young Harvard student. Being a history major the initial entries deal with trips to historical sites around Boston and musings about the cities past.

September 21st 1850

Today I met a philosophy major that had some very interesting things to say about the history of the greater New England area. Mr. Abram Penkin was his name. He spoke of the rich occult history of New England dating back to the original colonists. I of course have studied the witch trials but some of the events he brought up had eluded me. I found it intriguing that a philosophy student would more interesting facts about the local area than I a history student. We talked for several hours, he is a very interesting man.

September 30th 1850

I spoke with Mr. Penkin again today at length. We discussed certain notable figures in New England history that seem to have lived what one might call a prolonged life. Both of us had researched in depth information that referenced a man named Ezekiel Kurtz. This man was captured in several paintings and a few photographs which depict him looking almost identical in each despite the images being dated several score or more years apart. We mused that the man was some sort of wizard who had the ability to suspend his own aging process.

October 17th 1850

Penkin and I are collaborating on some very exciting and unpopular ideas that I initially believed to just be a flight of fancy but the further we delve the more engrossed I have become in these theories. It is our belief that separate worlds or dimensions exists in parallel with our own. There are many references to this belief in the disciplines’ of religion, occult practices, physics and other fields. Though we do not claim that our ideas are original, we have dedicated ourselves to the pursuit of proving these beliefs to be true. I feel more excited by this research than I have been with anything I have experienced in my years so far at university.

October 28th 1850

Penkin has come up with some silly rituals for us to perform this Halloween, it should be fun but it is silly in my opinion.

November 1st 1850

The ritual we performed last night was amazing; I have never been so electrified in my life. I believe that we were truly calling up the energies latent in our surroundings. It is as if we had accessed the forces of nature themselves and were able to weave this energy to our will.

Mundane entries exist for a time with nothing of note.

January 23rd 1851

Penkin and I have gained a bit of unwanted notoriety around campus. It seems we are seen as strange and that our theories are fantasy at best and demonology at worst. We have been spending time studying any shreds that we can find about dimensional travel. Some interesting theories have been brought forth in the realm of physics but nothing as exciting as what we have uncovered in occult works.

Many references to occult study and the practice of ritual magic are present but nothing of exceptional note.

June 27th 1851

My father has passed on, his health was failing for some time but somehow it comes as a shock. I can’t say that I feel all that much, he was never a kind man to me, he seemed less of a father and more of a benefactor. Still he is my father and so I grieve. I am to inherit the family business now as well as the entirety of the family fortune. I was content to simply fill my days with my studies and not think on our company or the estate. Now I have more responsibility than I have ever asked. It is less the sadness for my father and more the sadness of seeing my youth disappear before my eyes. Things will be forever different now. I will confide in Abram, it could be that he can provide some prospective. I wish I knew where he’d gone for the summer.

Mundane entries on happenings during the summer.

September 20th 1851

Penkin has come to me with some very intriguing news. He had been studying the notion of dimensional travel in occult reference work and had found mention of a book entitled Cabala of Saboth written in 1686. After some extensive inquiries he was able to locate a copy of the book in the Oren Library at the nearby Miskatonic University in Arkham. He had convinced the head librarian to allow him access to the book, which was on the restricted list and locked away in a private collection. The book hinted at some malevolent entity worshiped by witches and sorcerers who could grant its supplicants, through certain rituals, passage through dimensional rifts referred to as gates by the author.

Penkin told me of an old Russian tale told to frighten children which he believes had its roots in actual fact. He said that an ancient sorcerer named Maxim Utkin was said to have the ability to not only travel dimensions but to move forward and back in time at his whim. It was said that the man had a secret grimoire which contained the secret to such travel but that it was buried with him in an infamous graveyard in Denmark named “De Beulen Huis”

October 9th 1851

We have begun extensive research into Utkin and the book, which is said to hold the power we seek. It seems it won’t be long now.

December 23rd 1851

We have returned from that terrible place “De Beulen Huis”, the executioner’s house as it is translated from the original Danish. It was as if we walked into hell itself, it is akin to hell on earth. That place I will never forget how terrifying it was. We found the grave of Utkin and liberated the book from his cold dead grasp. I believe we may have gone too far. Penkin cannot be dissuaded, he means to translate the book from the Old East Slavic to his native Russian and finally to English. I am not so certain we should continue. That place, it was horrible.

January 14th 1851

Penkin is locked away in study of that horrible book. I have found this time away from him to be amicable to my state of mind. I am becoming more social and I have begun to be accepted in other social circles. Penkin for his work, has become sickly and gaunt, dark circles beneath his eyes and pale skin. I have told him to take a break but he is as a man possessed. There is no deterring him from his goal. I fear his body will break before he can achieve the final translation. For me it is a time of peace from the darkness we have been immersed in for so long.

March 18th 1851

I have made the acquaintance of two law students that I find particularly engaging. Mr. Stewart Billings and Mr. Bernard Lafayette have taken me under their wings socially and I find that I am enjoying the added distraction now that Penkin is looked up in his room studying every day. With the final months of this year upon us, I find myself looking forward to the summer, as I never had before.

July 4th 1851

I have reveled interest in the occult and the traveling of dimensions to Billings and Lafayette. To my surprise they did not rebuff me, instead we entered an in-depth discussion on the subject. I was surprised to find these men of law to be such mystics. For them I believe it is a passing fancy or novelty, Penkin and I will show them that it can be so much more. I haven’t seen Abram in days; I feel he is close to completing the translation. Wont he be happy to find that we have others who are of a like mind about our work.

September 28th 1851

I’ve introduced the lawyers to a few easy rituals and spells. They seem to find it intriguing and are at the very least interested in finding out more. I have introduced them to Penkin and to my surprise he took to them very quickly. It seems that his spirits are higher these days. I asked about the translation and he told me that it will be completed soon. He wants me to find a place we can begin to experiment, starting with less potent rituals, gearing up for what he explained as our theories realized.

November 13th 1851

I have purchased a house outside of Boston in the rural city of Waltham. The house is at 1747 Waverly Oaks road. It is secluded but not so much that we would have to travel far if we needed anything. The neighboring houses are at a decent distance to not be disturbed by our nightly activities. The others have come on board fully and we are beginning to head to the house on weekends to perform our experiments. We have even taken to calling ourselves Tenebris Circuli, Latin for The Dark Circle. It has been thrilling and I feel that we are on the verge of something very big.

February 6th 1852

Our research is coming along; we have been spending many weekends at the house experimenting with various rituals. I believe we are ready but the translation is still to be completed. The others know now what we are working towards and they are on board. We are met another who I believe will be a good fit for the group. He is a medical student and is very skeptical. I believe he will keep us grounded as we continue to progress. His name is Wesley Lawton, his seems a fine man with a solid mind, but can he be discreet until we are ready to reveal our findings.

May 21st 1852

I spoke with Penkin and he is ready. He gave me a portion of the translation that he calls the key. He has encrypted the text so that only he and I with our separate portions of the book can create the full translation. We are ready. We will so go to the house and perform the final ritual. This will be a momentous day.

July 18th 1852

What have we done, what have be brought into this world? We completed the ritual and it worked, god help us it worked. The group met at the house on a Friday evening and had what seemed to be a nice night discussing the specifics of the coming ritual. All seemed in order and the next day we set about getting things ready for the nights festivities. From all accounts the ritual was a complete success, a gate was drawn on the floor in the great room of the house, the proper incantations and rituals were preformed, and finally Mr. Penkin stepped into the circular symbol we had created as the gate. To our amazement he then vanished. We were astonished and could not believe what we had seen. We all stood before the gate gazing in wonder, but then, the abomination crossed back over the threshold. The thing that came back through the gate was not Abram Penkin though it bore his face. It was a figure standing on two legs, which were bent in awkward places and from its torso extended several writhing pseudo-pods that undulated with some sort of unheard rhythm. The skin of the thing was dark and wet with some sort of mucus, which constantly ran down the thing. Atop that blasphemous torso was the visage of my friend Penkin but bloated with puss filled tumors bulging from random locations around his head. It turned to us and we could only stare frozen in fear as it exhibited a victorious smile.

At that Billings crumpled to the floor in terror and began to shriek, Lawton, apparently mesmerized by the creature stepped forward and was engulfed in the undulating grasp of the multiple appendages then pulled closer into the thing where the face that bore Penkin’s visage bit deeply into the neck of Lawton and began to devour the lifeless body. I had prepared for trouble and had created a single silver disc baring the symbol of a five pointed star emblazoned with a flaming eye in its center. I rushed to the thing pressing the disk to its skin; it dropped the limp form of Lawton to the ground and shrank back staring wildly at me. I called for Lafayette to bring something to bind the foul beast with and Lafayette rushed off, returning with a length of rope, which, they hastily tied around the abomination. With the symbol subduing the thing we quickly found a chain that was used to secure the outside basement doors and bound the thing with it affixing the disk to the chain. Then dragged the thing and Mr. Lawton’s body down into the basement. On through the night, until morning we worked at bricking the thing and Lawton’s corpse into the center wall of the basement. All the while we worked the thing stared at us and made no sound. Once finished we carved the symbol on the freshly made brick wall and set about carving the same symbol into each of the entry ways and windows of the home. With our grisly work completed Lafayette and I sat on the couch in the great room before the large bay window and succumbed to exhaustion as the shrieking of Mr. Billings began to subside.

It is in Gods hands now, have mercy on us.

July 19th 1852

We have come up with a story that the authorities are willing to believe. We told the tale of a cave-in that claimed Mr. Lawton and Mr. Penkin’s lives. For now there seem to be no further inquiries into the incident. We were able to fake the cave-in convincingly with some explosives that we used to collapse an old cavern we knew of in Sutton. What have we become in all of this.

I have offered a large sum of money to the two lawyers for them to handle my family estate. With it they should be able to being a firm of their own, which I have suggested to them. I can only hope that this will be enough to keep them quiet about the incident.

The journal does not have another entry for several years.

November 3rd 1863

It has started again, that calling. I thought that after so many years it would be dead. Starved in its tomb, but it calls. I can hear it in the back of my mind calling tirelessly, beckoning for release. Had I only worked harder to keep the company afloat, I would not have had to sell the family home and move back here. Now with Bethany and the children, I should have never come back, I am a fool.

November 23rd 1863

I found my self in the basement today. Standing in front of that wall. I had no idea how I had gotten there. What is happening? Can this be real?

December 15th 1863

The dreams, the voice in my head, it wont leave me be. Calling, ever calling, release me. That thing in the basement is calling me. Is it my own mind, my guilt, have I gone mad? I just want it to stop, please stop.

January 23rd 1864

I came to at the top of the stairs with my Bethany lying at the bottom, neck broken. My god, how could this have happened? I pushed her, it was me, spurred on by that voice calling, ever present, that horrible voice. I killed her, my God, my love what have I done. I must hide this journal, no one must ever know. What have I done?

January 30th 1864

I cast Penkin’s portion of the translation into the dry well behind the house and covered it. Let it rot there never to be seen again. I have made a vow to send that thing back, send it to the hell it came from. I will search the world over to end this curse that I have brought upon my family, this curse that killed Bethany, by my own hands. I will end this.

Entries after this point begin to speak of travels abroad in search of a way to send the Penkin thing back to the dark realm it came from and stop the constant clawing at his mind to release the thing. There are references to his return to “De Beulen Huis” the horrid graveyard in Denmark in an attempt to retrace the lineage of Maxim Utkin. The search leads him to Arkhangelisk Russian where Utkin was born. The trail went cold there.

August 3rd 1867

Charles is missing; I know it has something to do with that thing. Something horrible has happened I just know it. I have put forth a reward and created a search party, my poor son, I just know something horrible has happened. I am sick with worry.

August 6th 1867

They found him in the well. The well I through that cursed book into. I know it was that thing in the basement, poisoning his mind to do it’s bidding. Calling to him to retrieve its evil book. No, I must end this. I must stop it, my son, sweet little Charles. What have I done to you my sweet boy?

March 19th 1879

It is too much to bear, the calling the beckoning. I can no longer hold myself against it. I have traveled the world over and I have not found a way to stop it. It cannot be stopped, it will call until I release it and then it will bring forth its horrible master. This is more than just me and mine, the fate of mankind rests on keeping that thing at bay. I cannot hold any longer, so I will remove from it that which gives it power. I have created a secret space in which to hide the key and this journal. Never should it see the light of day. I will leave the means to continue my research however, if one so desires. I will lock this all away and then put an end to my retched life. I do not deserve the forgiveness of God, I am doomed to hell for what I have done.

**Journal of Christopher McGinley:**

Mundane entries dealing with day-to-day affairs, there is an inordinate amount of references to horrible dreams as a child and on through young adulthood. These dreams seem to have stopped entirely once Christopher left his home for college.

March 21st 1879

Father took his own life, how could this be, he seemed so strong. After mother’s death I know there was something driving him, something he was not telling anyone. I imagined that father had some secret that he was protecting the family from. So horrible, I wish I were at home with him, if I hadn’t gone away to school maybe I could have helped. I am the last now. I love you father.

There are more entries dealing with Christopher’s college life and life in Arkham. There is some mention to not wanting to return to his family home. Christopher writes that the horrible dreams have stopped and he feels better than he has in his entire life. Leaving home was the best thing for him.

Entries in 1890 speak of Claudette and the subsequent marriage, after which their first child is born in 1893, Agatha McGinley. Two years later, Peter McGinley is born and the family moves to the house on Waverly Oaks. At this point the entries begin to take on a similar tone to Christopher’s fathers journal.

April 2nd 1897

We have move back to this house, which has cause my family so much grief. I still feel the oppressive feeling I has as a child here, Claudette loves the place and so I cannot deny it to her. She and the children seem happy here. I wish I could say the same.

May 4th 1897

Claudette has gone to the bank and opened the safe deposit box left by my father before his death. There was nothing in it save a single key. What it could be for is beyond me. I do not remember that key in all of my time here in this house. Claudette believes it to be some sort of fantastic mystery, which she has set herself to solve. Not harm I suppose.

May 18th 1897

The search for the mate to that confounded key is becoming an obsession for Claudette. I worry about her, she seems so preoccupied by this search that she has begun to neglect other duties around the house. The dreams are back too, I thought I had grown out of them but maybe it is just being back here at the house that is bringing them on. I am having a difficult time sleeping now and the fatigue is wearying on me.

June 25th 1897

Claudette is having the dreams too; she describes the same visions I have been seeing for years. She told me she has found herself in the basement and had no recollection of coming down. I am convinced it is this damn house. I have begun hearing whispers as well. I need to see a doctor and check my ears. The children seem to be unaffected it could be just the lack of sleep.

July 7th 1897

The most horrifying event happened in the small hours of the morning. I woke to find Claudette was not beside me in bed. I went downstairs to find her when I noticed the basement door was open. I could hear noises down there and so I went to investigate. When I reached the bottom of the stairs I was horrified to see that Claudette was there kneeling before a section of brick wall to the north side of the basement. She had moved old furniture and boxes away from the wall to expose a section that was of a different brick then the rest of the basement. There was also a strange star shape chiseled into the brick with what looked like a flaming eye in the center.

Claudette was kneeling in front of this wall murmuring to herself quietly so that I could not here her. I called to her to see what was the matter and that is when she turned to me and I nearly fell backward from shock. Her eyes were white and rolled back into their sockets and the veins stood out on her neck as she said in a horrifying guttural voice, which was not her own, “set me free”. After this exchange she fell unconscious and has been so ever since. I knew we should not have come to this place. I know it is this house; some evil that my father knew of but never spoke. I had to find out what my father knew, I had to help my dear Claudette.

July 23rd 1897

I found it, while fixing a floorboard in the master bedroom I noticed something in the heating register, which hung down from above. To my surprise when pulled and audible click sound was heard to my left. I noticed a section of wall had come open a slight bit and once opened revealed a steal safe door with a handle and a large keyhole. I rushed to get the mysterious key, which fit perfectly into the hole. With a turn it opened to reveal its odd contents.