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. Attending parties and events, liberally spreading his family fortune around.

Eventually the subject of the occult and specifically dimensional travel came up between McGinley and his new friends. They were both 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.