Halloween Scenario

Girl in love with minister’s son

Minister’s son in love with girl but has to hide it from town

Minister wants to stamp out all paganism in town

Girl’s family are the only real evil ones in town rest are just pagan / witches but not evil

Girl’s mother is witch father is sorcerer for Gathanatoa

Minister and constable start convicting and executing witches on Oct 1st <someyear>

132 people in town, they kill 70 by Oct 31st nearly half the town

Girl’s family is the last to go father and mother burned alive in cabin

Father and mother perform powerful ritual while they are burned alive (vengeance spell)

Girl is in the wood waiting for her love, she made a wooden box with a lock of her hair sprig of lavender and a rose to profess her undying love for minister’s son.

Minister questions his son about where the girl is, he knows they have been secretly meeting.

Son goes to her and she gives him the box, they kiss and he kills her. Her blood falls on the box and soaks in (pattern)

They are at their secret spot, place in the woods with fallen log and tree with their names carved in it.

He buries her there and puts a iron stake through her heart to keep her buried.

Another boy witnesses all of this, (he is in love with the girl) writes it down, the whole story.

The boy is from a pagan family he escapes the town which is how the journal survives.

Present:

Town folk have, since that time, guarded their houses with symbols, folk protections and crosses from the 1st to the 31st of Oct every year. To protect against vengeful spirits.

New housing development with 30 new homes a total of 100 new people in town

Most do not believe in the superstitious nature of the townsfolk.

They do not guard their homes in Oct and plan to have a normal Halloween.

New sheriff (player) and family (Maybe players) moves into new housing development. Possible other players, new doctor, other various professions, teacher, news reporter etc.

Oct 1st family is murdered in a horrifying way. Vengeful spirits. They will take down all family’s who are not using protection.

Ways to end this.

Find girl’s grave and remove iron stake. This will let her spirit move on and end the curse.

Or kill or remove protections from the houses of the townsfolk who are descendants of the original towns folk who condemned all of the pagans.

Or leave and don’t ever come back.

**General Information:**

This scenario was designed to be played by a group of one to four investigators. Each investigator will have purchased a new home in Marrion’s Field within the last year. The homes purchased are all part of the Misty Ridge development tract that is on the east side of Marrion’s Field. The players are welcome to use the pre-generated characters provided or create their own. Characters can be of any profession however it should make sense to be a new homeowner in this small town. It is also recommended that one of the players use the pre-generated sheriff character or create a sheriff of their own.

**Player’s information:**

You have recently moved to a new home in Marrion’s Field Vermont. Choosing this location for its peaceful small town charm and the surprisingly low price. It has taken some time getting used to the slowed down rural lifestyle, which is a stark contrast from the busy urban life you came from. Your home in the recently developed Misty Ridge community is in stark contrast to the older Queen Anne style homes that dominate the original town center. It is clear that generations of families have lived in the central portion of Marrion’s Field. Though they seem wary of the newcomers who have purchased houses in the Misty Ridge tract, country hospitality is the rule of the day. Some of the town’s folk seem appreciative of the new professionals who have moved to their community, no doubt happy to have more services available locally.

(If a player has chosen the sheriff character) As the new sheriff you have had a chance to introduce yourself to the locals and you find them kind and charming. You are happy to settle into a more peaceful day-to-day where the most heinous crimes are the occasional theft of a pie from a window or a disturbance from someone who has had one too many drinks at the local pub. You are sitting at your desk reading the morning paper when a call comes in from one of your deputies. He tells you that four bodies have been found in a home in Misty Ridge.

(For players who are not the sheriff)

You are sitting at the breakfast table having your toast and coffee when a headline in the local paper catches your eye. “Family of four found dead in their Misty Ridge home.” Reading the article you discover that one of the families in the Misty Ridge community was found dead in their home and the local police have no leads. You are shocked by this uncharacteristic event. The article, while well written, seems to provide more questions than answers. You begin to feel that something truly odd has happened in this quiet community, the type of thing you moved here to avoid.

**Keepers Information:**

It is October 1st when the murder of the first family of four occurs; the year is up to the Keeper. This is the first in a long string of murders that will be committed up to the final murder on October 30th. The murders are being committed by several vengeful spirits controlled by Merabeth Eakley who is, herself, a vengeful spirit. The town Pastor’s son Collin Pith, who she was in love with, killed Merabeth. Collin was in love with her as well but his father Pastor William Pith pressured his son to find and kill her after her family was accused of witchcraft. Because of the great love and betrayal at the center of this heinous crime, the spirits, led by Merabeth have lingered in this cursed town waiting for a chance to extract revenge on the ancestors of their accusers.

In 1642 the Pastor and Constable of Mirrion’s Field, then called Pittock’s Field began a reign of terror in which they condemned over 70 men, women and children to death after accusing them of witchcraft. The first executions began on October 1st 1642 and the last was the Eakley family on October 30th. The first family accused was the Pittock family from which the town gets its name. Pastor Pith and George Pittock were the founders of the town, the Pastor accused Pittock to gain control of his land and the governance of the town. The other families accused of witchcraft were simply pagan families who continued to practice a mixture of puritanical Christianity and older pagan beliefs. In fact the only family legitimately practicing an evil religion were the Eakley’s, who had managed to stay clear of suspicion until the very end. The other families were innocents killed in a frenzy of fear and suspicion that ended in nearly half the town’s population being publicly executed.

Merabeth and Collin were indeed in love. He was the son of the town Pastor and so was high on the social ladder. Merabeth however came from a poor family who lived on the outskirts of town in the woods and were considered of low standing and moral fiber. Collin’s father would never accept their union and so they kept their love secret from the town. On the night Collin murdered Merabeth they had planed to meet at their usual spot, an area in the forest with a downed tree that the two young lovers had carved their names and professed their love. Merabeth was indeed the daughter of a powerful evil witch and a blasphemous sorcerer, Deliverance and Job Eakley, however she was not tainted as yet by evil. She wanted to leave her family and liberate herself from their unwholesome ways. She did however make a gift for Collin, a small wooden box with pagan symbols, anointed with herbs and magical oils that contained within it a lock of Merabeth and Collin’s hair intertwined. The box was a symbol of their undying love that would last for all eternity. She had the box with her on the night Collin came to her at their secret spot. She believed he was going to run away with her. Instead, coerced by his father and convinced by the things he had seen in Merabeth’s home when they came for her mother and father earlier that evening, Collin Pith killed the unsuspecting Merabeth. They were in the midst of a lovers kiss when he plunged his knife into her stomach. Blood from the wound stained the wooden box Merabeth made for him. Under his fathers direction he buried her there in the woods by the tree with their names on it. He used an iron stake through her chest to pin her into her unmarked grave, as was the custom for keeping a witch from returning from the dead. Collin did however keep the box. It was a secret he took to his grave. The box remains in the rotting ruins of the Pith Family Mansion a mile north of town through the woods.

Merabeth’s mother and father were indeed servants of evil however none of the other townsfolk accused were. They were the ones who were performing evil deeds and framing other simple pagan families in the hopes of diverting attention from themselves. Deliverance was a witch in the service of Satan before she met Job who was serving something a bit more tangible. Job was a worshiper of Ghathanatoa and he brought Deliverance into the fold soon after they crossed paths. Their daughter Merabeth was an innocent victim of her parent’s depravity but she had picked up a thing or two from o’l mum and da.

Merabeth’s soul is trapped in this place, corrupted by the betrayal of Collin Pith, and anchored by the iron stake in her heart. She cannot pass on until she can reclaim and destroy the box that binds her to Collin for eternity. If the investigators can retrieve the box and destroy it, with fire, or by unraveling the locks of hair, she can be free of her vengeance. They will also need to remove the iron stake from her heart so that she can pass on into the afterlife. If they only destroy the box she will haunt the town until the stake is removed but will not be set on vengeance. If they remove the stake without destroying the box she will be free to move beyond the town and wreak havoc on the world. If she is freed from her vengeance and her anchor to this town the other spirits will also be free to pass on. The spirits of the other innocents are bound to her by her fury. Once her desire for vengeance is quenched the other spirits can pass on. The only other way to accomplish this would be to allow the spirits and Merabeth to kill all the living descendants of their accusers. These would be several of the town folk, most notably the town Pastor Carl Penn and the current sheriff. If a player has selected the sheriff as their character this will be an interesting dilemma.

Merabeth’s box lies in the abandoned Pith home, which is a mile walk from her grave. The grave itself is around a half mile north into the woods that border the Misty Ridge Housing Development. The Pith home is now haunted by Collin Pith. After his terrible crime, he and his father covered up the murder saying that Merabeth ran away when her family was accused of witchcraft. He eventually married and died of old age in the home, taking his horrible secret to the grave. To his surprise, the guilt he carried anchored his spirit to the Pith home. Unable to pass on until Merabeth’s vengeful spirit is sated. As much as Collin loved Merabeth he is a selfish man. He will try to thwart any attempts to resolve the situation, knowing that his soul is damned and that his memory will be tainted. Merabeth however will not enter the Pith family home to confront him. This allows the investigators a safe haven from Merabeth but they would then be trapped with Collin.

Twenty years after her murder Merabeth became consumed by vengeance. In the beginning she was simply a spirit trapped by the stake in her heart doomed to wander the village listening to the secrets of the townsfolk. Eventually the inability to move on or affect anything on this plane of existence drove her at first to anger, then to fury then to vengeance. It was October 1st 1662 when Merabeth gathered the spirits who wandered the town after their violent deaths unable to move on and bound them to herself in fury. That year murders began in the exact form of the methods of execution used on each of the accused families.

The bodies of the accused were buried in unmarked graves on Abner Pittock’s land and townsfolk had seen spirits cavorting in the fields after sundown. It was a new comer to the town named Charles Marrion who found references in ancient tomes regarding the dismissal of tormented spirits. He gathered the townsfolk and moved all of the bodies from Pittock’s field to a new location outside of town where they were given a proper Christian burial, though the graves remained unmarked. The towns name was changed from Pittock’s Field to Marrion’s field and for the time it seemed the spirits had moved on. However the very next October 1st the murders began again. This time Marrion searched even deeper into the arcane and found protective symbols, which were said to repel vengeful spirits. It was from this moment on that the townsfolk of Marrion’s Field would draw the symbol on their doors beginning on October 1st and never go out after dark.

The Misty Ridge Housing Development broke ground in January of the current year. The homes are modern, luxurious and affordable. The one problem they have is that they happen to be built on the graves of the accused victims of Pastor Pith and Constable <Sheriffs Last Name>. The houses being built on the graves is not the problem it is the fact that the new owners are not ingrained in the towns superstitions. The symbol that the townsfolk use to repel the vengeful spirits is the only thing that will keep them away. Unfortunately the newcomers do not believe it such superstitious nonsense.

The investigators can survive October if they use the symbol to keep the spirits out but this will not help their friends and neighbors from being murdered night after night. The only ways to stop it all are to release Merabeth’s soul and let her pass on, thus taking the rest of the spirits with her or to let them extract their morbid vengeance. If they simply use the symbol to survive the month it will all begin again next October. If they choose one of the other paths, the curse will end forever.

**The Terror Starts:**

On October 1st the first murders will be reported. This happens after midnight sometime and involves the drowning deaths of a family of four. Indications of a struggle are present in the living room, in the form of an overturned corner table between the couch and loveseat and signs of a struggle in the master bedroom. The victims are all in the upstairs master bathroom. They have all been drowned in the bathtub but the bodies are haphazardly splayed in the tub. The reason is that a ghostly entity lifted the family of four by their feet so their heads hung above the bathtub water and lowered them in until they drown. Then dropped them all, which account for the haphazard way the bodies are piled atop one another.

This is a mimic of the first murders to occur in 1642. It was a family of four, the Culvert’s who were hung upside down over the creek and lowered into the water to drown. The current family, the Dundee’s moved to Misty Ridge only four months ago. They have no apparent enemies, and there are no signs of forced entry in the home. In fact there are no fingerprints, DNA, or physical evidence of any kind. The turned over table and the signs of struggle in the master bedroom are the only indications that anything happened at all.

The coroners report indicates that the family consisting of one adult male 36 years of age, one adult female 34 years of age, one female child age 11 and one male child age 9 all died from drowning. Each victim had a large flat bruise on the top of their heads consistent with a fall from approximately 2 to 3 feet directly onto the head. No other signs of trauma are discovered.

After this first murder it is up to the Keeper how they would like to roll out the remaining deaths. There will be 70 in total and they can happen at what ever interval the Keeper sees fit ending on October 30th. Each murder should be consistent with methods of execution used for accused witches in the 17th century. We hope that the investigators can solve the mystery before the Keeper has to explain all 70 murders but in case they do not methods can be duplicated as necessary. Some families will be larger or smaller but in the end, if it goes that far, there will be a total of 70 deaths. The final deaths on the 30th should be one adult male around 30 plus years of age, one adult female 30 plus years of age and one young adult woman age 18 is the final murder. The adult male and female are burned in some fashion while the young woman is stabbed in the stomach and bleeds out. Thus mimicking the final murders committed by Pastor Pith, Constable <Sheriffs Last Name> and Collin Pith.

The murders should be mysterious and very creepy. There are no real clues other than anomalies that would lead one to believe the victims were attacked by some unseen force. The Keeper is free to give as much or as little information about the murders as they like. Red Herrings and misdirection can easily creep in here, be sure to keep the murders mysterious as the only real clue that one could glean from them is that they are all killed in a fashion that resembles execution techniques used for accused witches. The real clues are not in the murders, they are in the history of the town.

**What are the locals doing:**

As the investigators move around Marrion’s field be sure to instill a distinct sense of separation between the old (original) town and the newly developed Misty Ridge neighborhood. The old town has older architecture, more dilapidated dwellings; the residents are guarded and suspicious but not unfriendly. All of the homes in the old town have one thing in common, an intricate symbol that is drawn on the front door in white chalk. There are no Halloween decorations and the town’s folk stay in at night and will not leave their homes for any reason.

If asked about the symbol the townsfolk will say that it is a local superstition. They will not come right out with this information believing that it will somehow endanger them but some individuals will feel the need to inform the new comers that they are in danger unless they put the sign on their door. Some of the townsfolk who are direct descendants of the original accusers will try to keep the secret, believing that if the spirits take these newcomers they will be free of the curse. In particular Pastor Penn and the Curwen, Endicott, Upton, Derby, Elliot and Corbit families will not give up any information about the towns history or the protective measures they employ each October. Other families will be wary to speak of it but will feel bad for the new comers, especially when the murders start.