



# **MIDNIGHT IN MELBOURNE HISTORY & BACKGROUND**

## PREFACE

Kindred society in Melbourne truly began shortly after the Victorian gold rush in the mid 19th century. The Camarilla quickly established Melbourne as a Camarilla town and mostly remained under that sect's control for over 150 years. (Notable periods of unrest include the underworld-influenced anarch revolt during the inter-war period and a flurry of anarch activity around the end of the 1990s.) Like all Australian Camarilla cities, the Prince of Melbourne was appointed by the Ventrue Archon known as the Governor.

In the 21st century, the Prince was the Governor's own grand-child, Lord Flinders, who was tasked with countering the increasing numbers of Brujah anarchs. Flinders took a particularly cruel and bloody approach to combatting the anarchs, which served not only to distance his supporters but to inspire the Brujah to take drastic action against him.

The Brujah and other anarchs swelled their numbers and assaulted Flinders' court. First launching a surprise strike against the Tremere, they drove the Warlocks out before turning their attention to Flinders and diablerised him. The resulting chaos and confusion were the ideal conditions for the rise of the Malkavian known as the Mad Prince Moon.

## THE GOVERNOR AND THE CAMARILLA

British colonization of Australia brought Kindred flocking to Australia, many of whom were anarchs and criminals. The Camarilla were not far behind, and the Ventrue Archon known as the Governor was sent to hunt them down and establish this new domain for the Ivory Tower.

Old, powerful, and efficient, the Governor has directed Camarilla activity in Australia ever since. Every major Camarilla city in the country has a Prince of his bloodline, much to the frustration of ambitious Kindred of other clans.

However, the Governor is not without flaw and his childer have lost control of their domains more regularly in the modern nights. Adelaide has only just returned to the fold and it is rumoured the Governor is considering allowing another clan to claim Praxis. Such a departure from tradition would be unprecedented and reeks of either strategy or desperation.



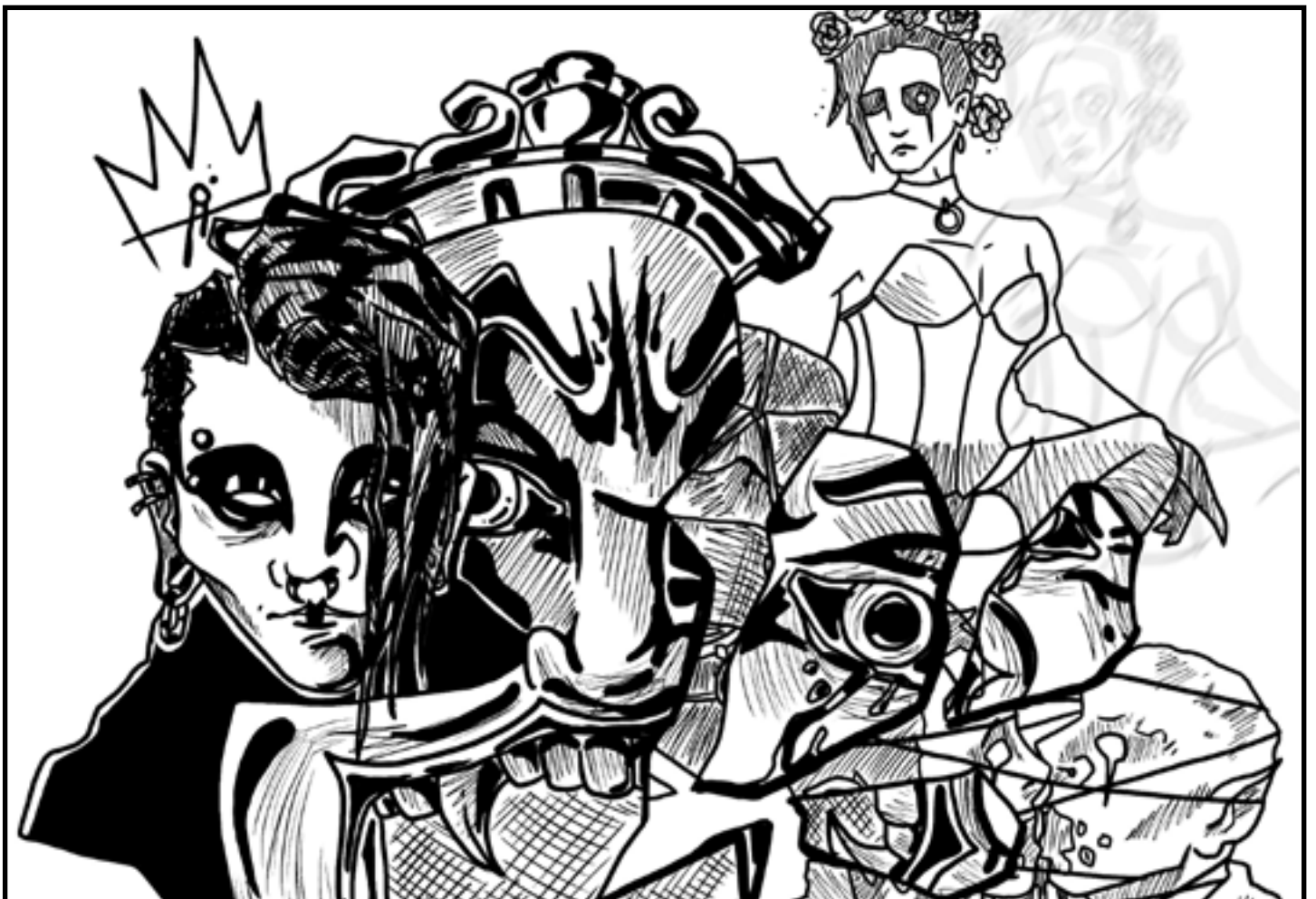
## MAD PRINCE MOON AND THE CURFEW WAR

Details of the Mad Prince and their rule are vague, conflicting, and disturbing. Moon's demented mastery of their Disciplines allowed them to warp the minds and memories of the city's Kindred and subjected them to a reign of terror. What is known for sure is limited.

Moon was certainly a Malkavian, if they were Kindred at all, and though they called themselves a Prince they were not affiliated with the Camarilla, nor for that matter with the Anarch Movement; their methods and motives were alien to either sect. They allowed the Brujah, Ventrue, Toreador, Nosferatu, and Banu Haqim of the city to remain but subjected them to horrors and humiliations that are generally remembered only in nightmare. Most fearsome of all was their haven of Luna Park which still remains shrouded in mystery.

When the city underwent an extended lockdown and curfew during the covid-19 pandemic, an opportunity was found to fight back. The Toreador and Nosferatu, who had both managed to maintain a precarious servile position, engineered a chance for the Brujah to assault the Mad Prince's haven. The bloodshed was only possible with the assistance of the Ventrue, whose ties to media, government, and the police ensured that the attack was successful and silent.

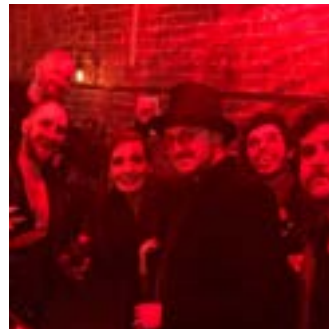
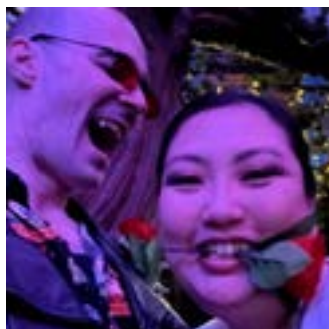
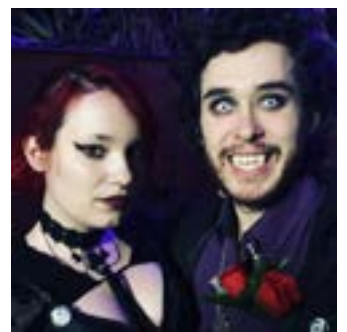
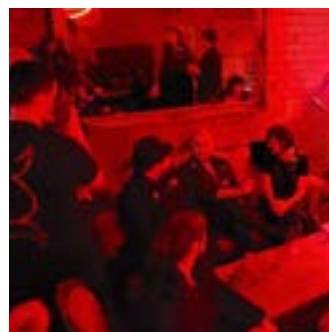
Sanity returned to Melbourne, but most of the memories of that time are still lost or broken. The Toreador reclaimed their traditional hold over Melbourne's cultural landscape and the Nosferatu were diminished and damaged, but not destroyed. The Anarchs stepped into the turf they fought so desperately to seize, while the Camarilla moved in to reclaim the city they once called their domain.



## CHAPTER 1: MIDNIGHT IN MELBOURNE

With Moon out of the picture, the collaboration quickly devolved into a struggle for power. The Brujah, who had suffered valuable losses during the Curfew War, insisted on taking the city for the Anarch Movement while the Ventrue and their Banu Haqim protectors demanded it remain Camarilla Territory. The Toreador, ever the fair-weather diplomats, hosted a meeting for the two sides to parlay. (The Nosferatu were mostly absent for the meeting having suffered egregiously during the reign of Moon.)

Inevitably, negotiations soon became heated and at the stroke of midnight a bloodbath ensued. Multiple Kindred met Final Death and by dawn the Ventrue, Banu Haqim, and those Toreador (and Nosferatu) loyal to the Camarilla were driven out of the city or destroyed. The Anarch Movement had finally claimed the World's Most Liveable City.

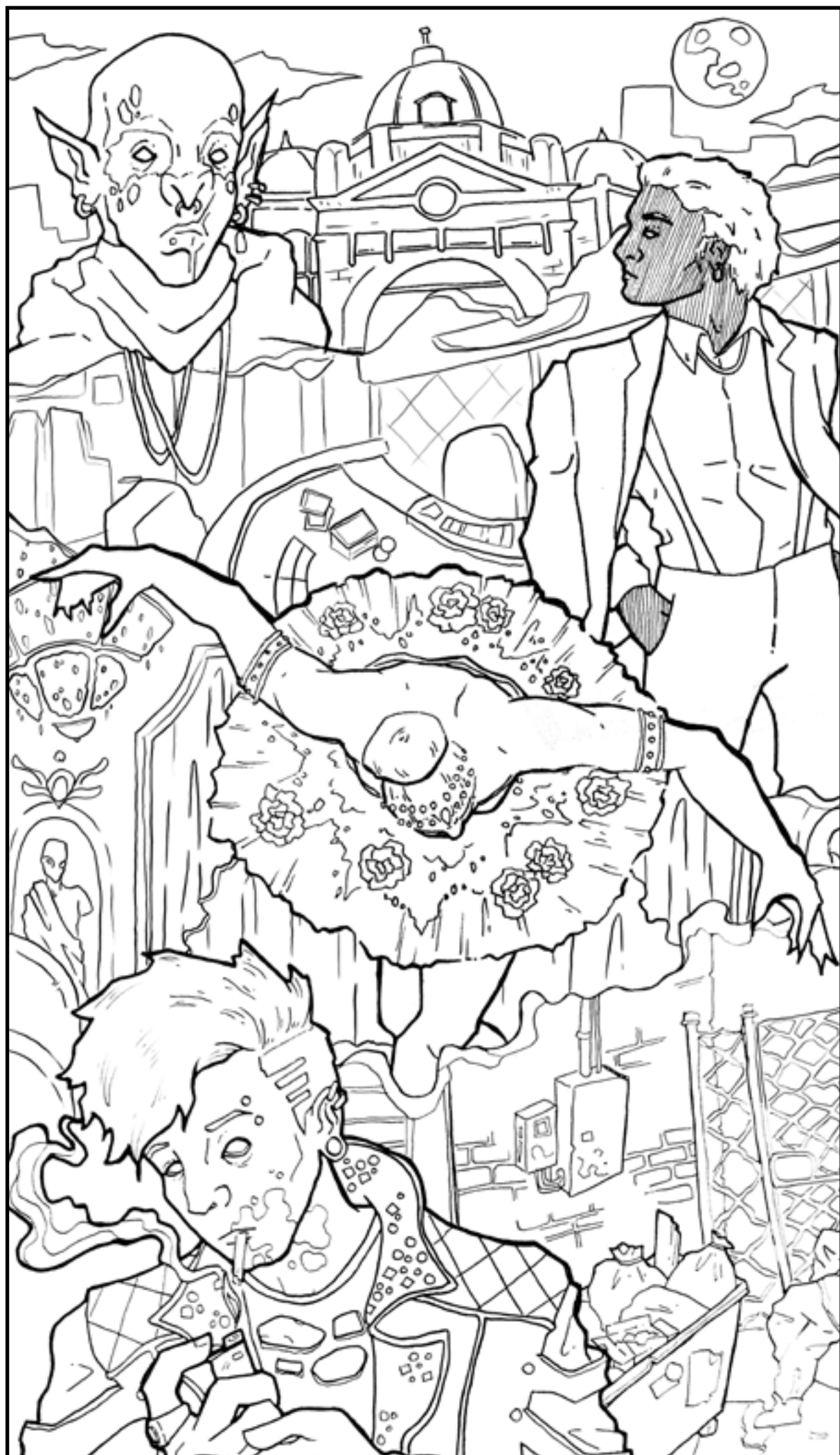


## CHAPTER 2: SPOILS OF WAR

The remaining vampires began claiming the hunting grounds abandoned by the Camarilla, resulting in territorial disputes and clan tension. This was only exacerbated by the Ministry entering the city, who were technically welcome now that it was an Anarch Free State. However, no authority existed to resolve any issues or disputes so a meeting was called to attempt to resolve these matters.

Notably, one attending Toreador managed to bring a most curious guest; a childe of the late Lord Flinders, who had been torporised during the fight against his sire and was discovered hidden in the Ventrue havens. This hostage was a powerful Elder, possessed of great mastery of Dominate, but their power and lineage were not enough to save them from being torn to shreds by the assembled anarchs.

By the conclusion of the event, some nominal territories were hashed out with the Brujah taking the lion's share, the Toreador gaining support to establish an Elysium, the Ministry staking a claim for their nefarious purposes, and the Nosferatu sending one sole delegate to grab the Melbourne underground.





## CHAPTER 3: AMBITION'S DEBT

Melbourne remained without leadership nor laws, but it did at least have an Elysium where the Kindred could meet, socialize, and plot. The Toreador, social creatures in the extreme, called for a gathering ostensibly to welcome the Gangrel and Nosferatu clans who were establishing themselves properly in the domain, but rumours abounded that an emissary of the Camarilla would be in attendance as well.

This emissary kept their identity hidden but the Keeper of Elysium, Lady Catherine, read a missive they delivered to the gathering. This letter was ostensibly from the Governor who requested the terms Melbourne wanted in return for their grand-child kept as hostage (the same Ventrue who had been destroyed at the previous meeting.) Eventually, the emissary, a Nosferatu, revealed themselves and were immediately set upon, in particular by the Gangrel known as Rumble. After yet another violent meeting, a leader arose from the Brujah. Baron Leo had begun his reign.



## CHAPTER 4: DEAD MAN'S HAND

The Ministry, offended by the Toreador's inability to conduct a meeting without violence (at a supposed Elysium, no less), invited the Kindred to a meeting at their hunting grounds in Crown casino to attend the inaugural pronouncement of Baron Leo and hear his laws and edicts. Though the Baron's ascendance was of central import, two other vital matters concerned the assembly.

The first was the death of one Gabrielle Simmons, whose violent death in the Toreador hunting grounds caused significant mortal attention and caused a potential threat to the Masquerade (a movement called March at Midnight was particularly troublesome). The second was a request from the anarchs in Adelaide to assist them in their struggle against invading forces of the Camarilla.

Leo and his Brujah resisted considerable conflict within the court, and especially created friction with the Ministry. Though several attempts were made on the Baron's unlife, he survived another night (partly due to some kind of ritual involving a chalice, the blood of multiple participants, and alleged sorcery.)

# THE AGE



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## Shock murder makes Melbourne nocturnal

Rising star Gabrielle Simmons found dead after night out. Her family mourns and the public rages

Edgar Mason

Gabrielle "Gabby" Anastasia Simmons was known to her friends and family as a charming, friendly and fun loving young woman. The public knew her as Luke Fitzpatrick's kind and witty girlfriend, who recently appeared in a junior capacity on The Morning Show as a maternity cover. A young and promising journalist in her own right and model appearing in multiple ad campaigns. However this rising star's journey into the public eye was cut short in a shocking murder over the weekend.

Police report that Saturday evening Ms Simmons saw a production of Moulin Rouge at the Regent Theatre with a friend, then enjoying drinks at local high class club 'The Belfry'. She was then reported to continue her evening alone before departing at 2am to walk the mere 3 blocks to her hotel. However she never arrived. Instead her body was found in Melbourne's art precinct Sunday morning by a rough sleeper in the area.

**"We understand your outrage but for your safety we ask that the public shows restraint and respect for the dead"**

A police spokesperson confirmed that their suspicion is murder and that they are questioning the homeless man who discovered her body. The investigation continues and police are urging calm from the public as the feminist group 'March at Midnight' has surged into action. While our authorities urge the public to stay indoors, women and passionate activists have taken to the streets in action calling for an end to violence.



Photos provided by the Simmons family

**A statement from her family and the tragic moments prior to her passing**  
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## CITIES OF AUSTRALIA

Kindred activity in Australia is naturally most prominent in the major cities. The Camarilla hold Sydney, Hobart, and Brisbane and have recently reclaimed Adelaide. Losing Melbourne was a huge loss to them. Perth has long been an Anarch stronghold, though it is undergoing a coup due to complaints that its Baron is a Prince in all but name. Canberra was claimed for the Anarch Movement by Leumeah of the Brujah seemingly as a personal affront to the Governor himself and has resisted many attempts to remove her.

Smaller regional and satellite cities (Darwin, Alice Springs, Newcastle, Geelong, Broome, Gold Coast) possess only a small handful of Kindred at most and tend to either support the nearest major city or act as a staging ground to launch attacks against it. Smaller and more isolated towns and communities tend not to be large enough to nourish a Kindred long and are generally left to roving anarchs, desperate fugitives, or the Gangrel (who claim to have been on the continent much, much longer than any other Kindred).



## CHAPTER 5: WAGES OF SIN

Adelaide had fallen to the Camarilla. Though some (particularly the Gangrel and a prominent Toreador named Phoenix) had contributed much to the war effort, it was not enough to resist the Ivory Tower and the survivors fled to Melbourne. It was not lost on any that even a token effort by the Brujah to assist would have seen them victorious instead, yet the Brujah sent nobody.

Rather, the rabble were indulging themselves in their mastery of the city. Baron Leo allowed his clan free reign to assault and abuse the licks under his authority. Appointing himself a Judge or Magistrate rather than a Baron, he had Diana, the Priestess of the Ministry executed and diablerised for the attacks against him at the last meeting and then humiliated Lady Catherine, Keeper of Elysium, by making her sing while the Brujah threw banana peels at her.

Once the Gangrel and other Adelaide exiles arrived, tension quickly turned to violence and the Baron and his clan were driven out. With them gone, Lillian of the Toreador assembled support enough to counter the Masquerade threat posed by March at Midnight.



## CHAPTER 6: CRADLE OF ASHES

In the absence of an authority figure, the Camarilla once again sent an emissary to Elysium. This time it was not one solitary figure but a cohort of Tremere with the Nosferatu acting as escorts; the Sewer Rats had seemingly thrown their lot in with the Camarilla. But Elysium was compromised by the mysterious absence of Lady Catherine and without a Keeper the meeting could fall to chaos and violence.

Lillian stepped up and claimed the role of Keeper and thus oversaw the bloodiest and most damnable gathering of Kindred in Melbourne since the reign of the Mad Prince. Conflict constantly broke out, firearms were discharged, and at least three or four Kindred were diablerised. The Tremere even managed to conduct a sorcerous ritual which lifted whatever abominable enchantment was affecting the Mad Prince's haven at Luna Park.

In the end, no Kindred claimed praxis over the lawless Melbourne night, the Tremere were driven out, another Masquerade breach compromised the Theatre hunting grounds, multiple Kindred had met Final Death through the worst of vampiric crimes, and something dark and terrible began to laugh.



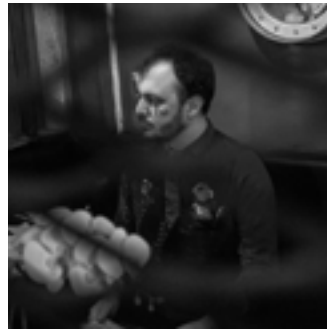
## CHAPTER 7: INFINITE JEST

Without leadership or laws, diablerie began to run rampant through the ranks of the Kindred of Melbourne. In the midst of this chaos, the Mad Prince Moon returned. However, they were much different than remembered.

Multiple Malkavians awoke from torpor each claiming to have a piece of Moon within them and further stated that Moon had implanted memories into other Kindred who had survived the Curfew War. These Moon Malkavians insisted that they were the rightful rulers of the city and that the clans respect their position as Prince. Their words fell on mostly deaf ears.

Rather than halt the bloody tide of diablerie, the Moon Malkavians seemed to revel in it, using it as a tool to reclaim their supposed lost memories with the aid of a Caitiff named Fenchurch who had been specifically engineered for this purpose. In the end, Fenchurch would marry an Aspect of Moon, diablerising them and claiming praxis over the city as the Widowed Prince. The Malkavians bowed to this new ruler, but the rest of the court erupted in laughter; the one insult Moon was known not to tolerate. Where once Moon ruled as the city's most dangerous and feared Kindred, the remnant they had become has become a sad and broken joke.

More and more of the city has become too difficult to hunt in as the Masquerade continued to fracture.



## OTHER SUPERNATURALS

Kindred, ever fascinated by their own aberrant nature, often speculate upon the existence of other supernatural creatures. Few in Melbourne have found any truth to the rumours and those who do guard the knowledge closely. But the rumours persist.

Blood Sorcerers are well-aware of mortal magicians and indeed Embrace from their number, but even they claim that truly talented magi are rare and enigmatic. Nevertheless, some have said that a mortal magus investigated Luna Park around the time the Tremere briefly returned to the city.

Lupine fears are alleviated by a simple lack of wolves on the continent, but Kindred in regional centres have occasionally been slaughtered in violent and bloody scenes that some credit to Lupines, though others suggest the Sabbat; both options are as unproven as they are unsettling. At least one potent sample of blood with powerful properties supposedly from a Lupine has been in circulation in Melbourne since the Curfew War.

The Kindred are aware of the existence of ghosts, though none of the clans skilled in necromancy have had much presence in Melbourne. Nevertheless, it has become almost a superstition among Melbourne Kindred to keep away from the Shrine of Remembrance lest the dead take issue. Some mortals recently claim that they have seen the ghost of a murdered media celebrity called Gabby Simmons, notable only because the death was by Kindred hand and threatened the Masquerade.





## CHAPTER 8: FEARFUL SYMMETRY

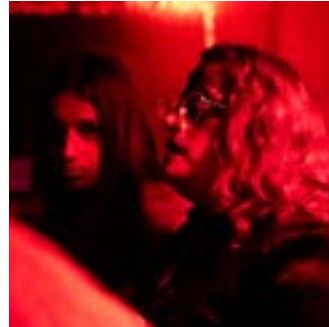
The first official court gathering of the Widowed Prince saw a delegation of Banu Haqim from the Camarilla attend with an invitation from the Governor for the city to join the sect. This would also grant the Widowed Prince the curious distinction of becoming the first non-Ventrue Prince in the country, and the fact that he was Caitiff made the offer even more notable. The Widowed Prince accepted, but also informed his court that he desired a new bride (that he would diablerise this spouse was assumed rather than declared).

Clearly under the crazed influence of the remnants of the Mad Prince Moon, many in the court sought a way to oust their regent. The Malkavians sought a way to remove the aspects of Moon from themselves and were assisted by sorcerers of the Banu Haqim in collating them into the Widowed Prince, Fenchurch.

This proved the opportunity many were looking for to slay him, and the slaughter was initiated by a prisoner. The Banu Haqim had brought the Brujah known as Baron Leo who once claimed praxis over the city, giving him to the Nosferatu for loyal service to the Ivory Tower. Leo (subtly assisted by devious conspirators) would find a way to break his bonds and attack the Widowed Prince. In the resulting bloodbath, both would fall and many others would slink away to wipe the blood from their hands.

Following this, the Malkavian known as Eclipse would claim praxis, though some vampires claimed to still be plagued by visions and dreams of the Mad Prince Moon.





## CHAPTER 9: BETTER ANGELS

The first gathering under Prince Eclipse occurred at a difficult time. Half the city were too compromised or threatened by mortal attention to be safe for hunting, and yet another would suffer the same fate before the night was over. Nevertheless, the Kindred of Melbourne held what could be considered the first recognisable Camarilla court since the reign of Lord Flinders.

Prince Eclipse founded his court, honouring respected Kindred with positions of influence, acknowledging several childer into his Domain, and granting the Ministry leave to remain in his city as his vassals (notably appointing one of their number, Nak, as his Seneschal). Alas, bloodshed would mar the meeting as a Malkavian assaulted a Nosferatu, much to the frustration of the Banu Haqim. As hosts of this Elysium, they ensured that this crime was addressed before all.

The Haqimi sorcerers further exerted their authority by insisting that suspected criminals prove their loyalty under oath. The Seneschal took it upon himself to be the first so appraised, where it was revealed he was a diablerist. Though the Prince found it in himself to forgive this crime, he could not forgive the treason his own clan proved him guilty of. He was executed by the Sherref, Jean-Paul, with little ceremony but brutal significance.

Though the clans did well in addressing the various threats to their hunting grounds, one clan fully neglected their duties. Trusting the Banu Haqim to clean their mess, the Toreador would find that mortal authorities began a sweep for narcotics, abuse, and financial discrepancies within their Theatre Hunting Grounds. As such, they would need to flee the city. It is rumoured that the Haqimi slayed more than a few of them as they left.

## CHAPTER 10: UNEASY LIES

With Prince Eclipse now firmly in place as ruler of Melbourne's Kindred, the other Camarilla cities sent envoys to welcome him to the Ivory Tower. Sydney sent their Sheriff, Greater Brisbane sent their Herald, and Hobart sent their Scourge. It came as little surprise that each of these envoys were of the Ventrue clan and the line of the Governor, and it was highly suspected that they were sent in part to pressure or intimidate this upstart Malkavian Prince.

But Eclipse was not to be intimidated. He immediately went on the political offensive, illustrating the support of his court, forcing the Ventrue to bend the knee, and even going so far as to question and insult the Governor. Later, several Ventrue would be slain due to accusations of ties to the Anarch Movement (which has become an immortal sin, with capital punishment even being acceptable within the walls of Elysium).

The Ministry continued to claim allegiance to the Camarilla and to Prince Eclipse himself, though their Priestess was executed due to accusations of unsanctioned diablerie; the Prince would allow one of their subordinates to perform the same crime upon them in a display of ironic justice. Nevertheless, the Prince seemed to approve, and even allowed the Ministry to leave his city peacefully when they asked. However, two of the Snakes remain to advise him.

But they would not leave without administering some venom. The Banu Haqim, who had failed to support the Toreador in the past, got a taste of poison themselves when their own attempts to maintain a hold in the city were thwarted by the serpents. And despite a noble effort by the Ventrue to reign in the Masquerade breach the judges and roses let run unchecked, the Theatre district remains a serious threat to the Kindred of Melbourne.

