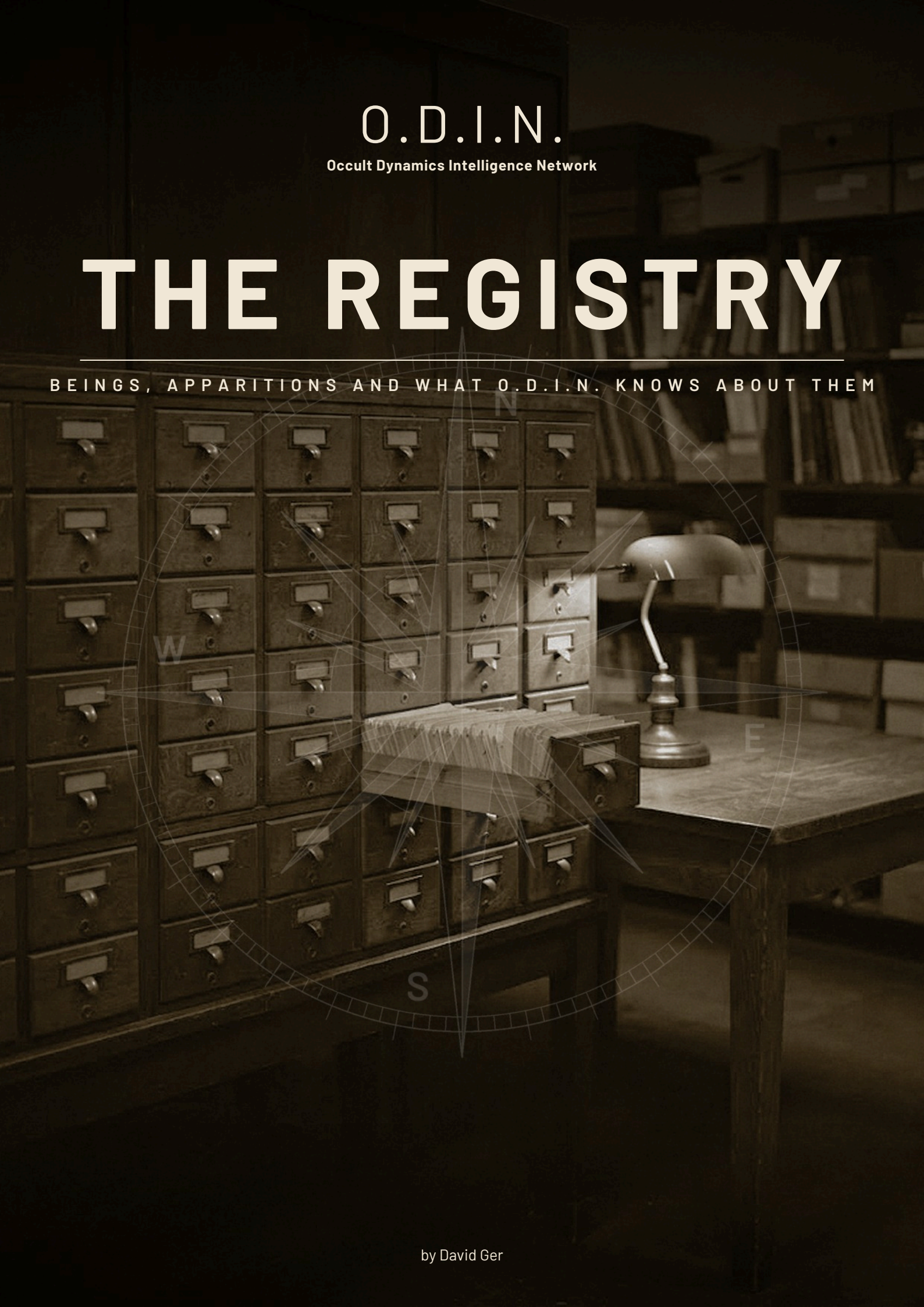
O.D.I.N.

Occult Dynamics Intelligence Network

THE REGISTRY

BEINGS, APPARITIONS AND WHAT O.D.I.N. KNOWS ABOUT THEM



by David Ger

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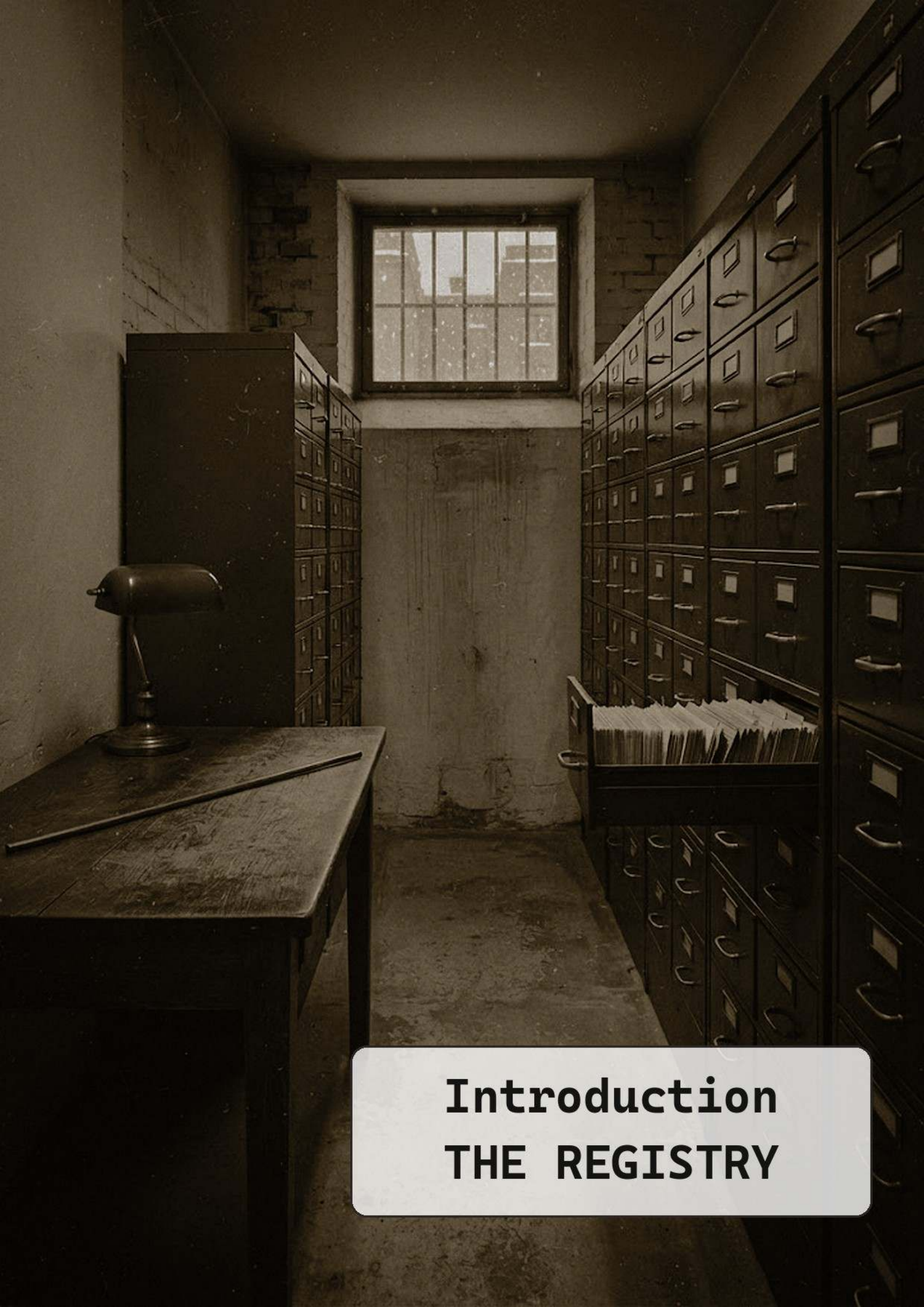
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Introduction
THE REGISTRY

The Registry

"A card is not the truth. It is the last known state. The difference is usually paid for by someone who never read the card."
Card keeper of the Registry, Stockholm

This book is a card index. It holds 105 beings, each on an index card of the Registry, O.D.I.N.'s archive in Stockholm, and with each card, what the Registry does not know. It is written for the game master. Anyone who plays an agent learns only as much from these cards as a roll and a voice on the telephone give away.

The House

The Registry begins in May 1948 in three rooms above a tobacconist's that are officially an insurance agency: two secretaries, a translator, a card index. The first card bears the number 1. The task is simple and impossible at once: collect every unexplained incident in Europe and find patterns in them. The file colours come from the Registry: grey, red and black since 1948, white since March 1953. In 1961 the Investigation Branch grows out of it, and the Registry remains its memory.

Today it sits in an inconspicuous office building near the central station, with four basement levels full of files, a reading room with twelve tables and a canteen that serves only coffee and cinnamon buns. It has long stopped collecting only in Europe. Wherever O.D.I.N. has a hold or a contact, a report goes to Stockholm, from Niigata as much as from Extremadura.

Report, Card, File Reference

Every being begins as a report. The report of a cell, the dispatch of a city police force, a tenant's letter to her letting agent, a news item from one of the papers the Registry has read since the fifties. It is stamped on arrival, and someone searches the card cabinet for a card it fits.

If there is one, the report goes into that card's file, and once it is established that it is true, one line on the card changes: the last confirmed sighting. If there is none, the report stays on the pile until a second one arrives that describes the same thing independently of the first. Only then does the Registry write a new card.

The card records the being, not the case. A mission has its own file with its own colour. The card is what remains across all missions: what it is, how to recognise it, what to do, who died along the way. In the top right corner it carries its file reference, a red stamp: REG, then the letter of the origin, then a serial number.

The letters, taken from the German names, order the cabinet. **S** stands for the Voice (*Stimme*), **F** for the Alien (*Fremde*), **A** for the Old (*Alte*), **T** for the Dead (*Toten*), **M** for the Machine (*Maschine*), **V** for the Shifted (*Verschobene*). Where two origins begin with the same letter, one of them was given a different one: **W** for the Transformed (*Verwandelten*), after *Wandel*, 'change', because V was already taken, and **H** for the Humans (*Menschen*), because M had gone to the Machine. The archivists say "H for homo". **G** stands for Thoughtforms (*Gedankenformen*), the ninth origin. The Threat Atlas does not know it, and the Registry has only kept it since 1987.

The numbers have gaps. Between two cards, two or three numbers are often missing: cards that were withdrawn, merged with another or assigned to a case that proved to be a hoax. The Registry never assigns a number twice. If a being changes origin, it gets a new letter and number, and the old number is written in pencil on the back.

Who Writes the Cards

Every cell writes a report after a mission, and the Registry reads every report twice: once for the mission file, once for the card. Card keepers enter what has been confirmed. The in-house specialists write next to it what they see: a doctor the diagnosis in the margin, an engineer the circuit diagram on the back, a genealogist the name of the dead man she found in a parish register.

Two rules apply to everyone who writes. What goes on the card is what a being does, not what it wants. And what is not known is written down as unknown, not as a guess. Both rules are broken, every week.

Many cards carry a **protocol**: an instruction for how a cell deals with the being, with a name and a date, such as "Protocol Exchange, as of 2019". A protocol applies until a new one replaces it. It usually arises from a case in which something worked, and it is taught long after anyone remembers why it worked back then.

Who Reads the Cards

In basic training every Cadet hears the first line of hundreds of cards. That is the line an agent still knows years later. Most Investigators carry a Registry ID and may use it to read any White and Grey File. Cells receive copies, never originals. Anyone who is stuck in the field uses the second phone to call the only number stored in it, and a voice in Stockholm, at night the one on night

duty, reads them the card, without attachments and in a hurry. And then there is the canteen. What gets told there over two cinnamon buns is known to more agents than the card.

A Day in the Registry

At 07:00 the post arrives. Envelopes from the holds, tapes, a letter from a vicarage with a child's drawing. By 07:30 the folders are sorted, and the card keepers go to the cabinets.

The card cabinets stand on the first basement level, green-lacquered steel, each drawer labelled with a letter and a range of numbers. The cards stand upright in them, card stock the colour of old paper, with a red header line and pale blue rules. They are punched at the bottom, and a brass rod runs through the holes. You do not take a card away. You read it at the cabinet, standing, and anyone who needs a copy applies for one.

Cards are typed, with two carbon copies. The original stays in the cabinet. The first carbon goes to the hold of the region, into its card index. The second goes to basic training. If a card changes, the original gets an addendum, and a slip with the correction goes to both carbons, to be attached. Whether it gets attached, nobody in Stockholm knows.

In the afternoon the calls come. A cell in Graz wants to know what to do about a knocking ghost. An agent in the Azores asks whether salt helps. Since 2014 a Cryptanalyst has been transferring the old cards into a database at night. He is not finished yet. Where database and card contradict each other, the card applies.

What Happens to Wrong Cards

The Registry throws nothing away. If a line turns out to be wrong, it is struck through with a single pencil stroke so that it stays legible, and the correction goes underneath, with date and initials. There are carbons out in the field. Anyone holding an old carbon should be able to look up in Stockholm what was on it and when it stopped being true.

But that is the case in which the Registry knows about its mistake. Most mistakes it does not know. They stand unstruck on the card, are taught in basic training and read out on the telephone, and nobody has ever checked them, because there was no reason to. Until someone dies. Sometimes not even then.

How This Book Is Organised

Chapter I explains the index card: how to read an entry, the categories on the card, the rule "The Knowledge Test", the signature at the scene, how to handle the file's mistake and how to build your own beings. **Chapters II to X** follow the origins, in the order of the cabinets: the Voice, the Alien, the Transformed, the Old, the Dead, the Machine, the Humans, the Shifted and Thoughtforms. Each begins with an introduction to the origin, followed by the cards, in alphabetical order without the article. The **Appendix** lists all beings by name, family, file colour, horror and region, provides encounter tables on D66, the table "What Stands Out at the Scene" and a blank index card to copy. On the pages of Chapters II to X, the thumb index on the outer edge shows the letter of the chapter.

The Registry and the Threat Atlas

The Threat Atlas in the Game Master's Book still applies, word for word and value for value. It says how to recognise an origin and what works against it, and gives 58 opponents their stats. The Registry changes nothing about that. It adds the relatives. Every chapter introduction assigns the beings of the Atlas to a family and names what lies next to them in the same cabinet. Anyone who meets a Name Eater looks up its stats in the Atlas and finds in Chapter II who else lives in names and sentences.

Where a card departs from the list in the Atlas, such as a being of the Old that salt cannot harm, the departure applies only to that being and is stated in its stats. As in the Atlas, the stats follow the rules of thumb of the Core Rulebook, and cards and Atlas can be mixed in one file. Anyone who wants to give a being from the Atlas its own card builds it according to Chapter I and copies the stats over unchanged.

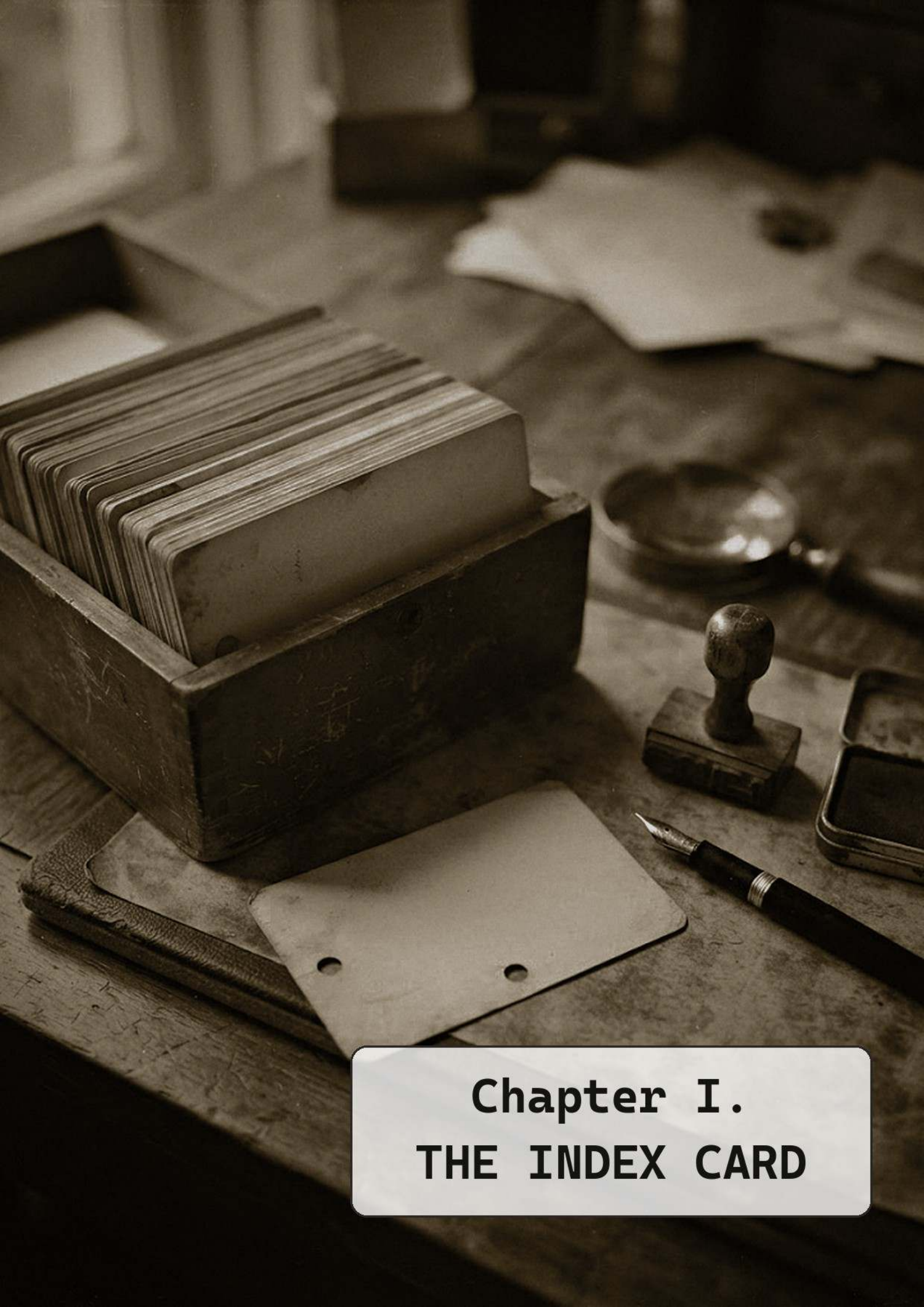
For the Game Master: Every Card Is Wrong

Every card in this book has something false on it. The table "What the File Says" contains at least two false assumptions, and at least one of them can get a cell killed. The section "What Is True" names them under "Wrong in the File".

The mistakes have the same causes as in any archive. The Registry writes from the reports of people who were afraid. It turns a case into a rule, a coincidence into a cause and a protocol that worked once into a regulation. It believes a court more than a farmer and a series of

measurements more than a grandmother. And it cannot take back what it has already taught in basic training.

At the table this has two consequences. Players who know this book still do not know which line is true. And every card already carries its story within it: a cell that finds the mistake saves someone. A cell that follows the card blindly becomes the next addendum. The Registry is not the enemy in this. It has worked carefully since 1948, and it is wrong all the same. That is the most unsettling thing about it.



Chapter I.
THE INDEX CARD

The Index Card

"Read the card to the end. Then read it again, and this time believe it less."
Instructor in basic training, Investigation Branch

Every entry in this book is built the same way, so that the game master finds what they need at the table. At the top is what the Registry believes, in the middle what the agents learn of it, below that what is true. This chapter goes through a card in order, explains the categories, gives the rule for the knowledge test and shows how to build your own beings.

How to Read an Entry

Name and Quote. The name is the one under which the Registry lists the being, usually a working title from the first report. The quote comes from an agent who met it, with code name, rank and branch. It is often the best sentence for a briefing.

The Index Card. The header of the entry is the card itself, with the file reference in the red stamp. The first seven fields classify the being: Origin and Family, Form, Role, Horror, File Colour, Frequency, Mind. They are explained below. The remaining fields tell a story. **Regions** begins with a region from "Holds of the World" and then names the place. **First Sighting** gives date, place and source, and the source is often older than the Registry: a gendarmerie post in 1936, a letter to a letting agent. **Last Confirmed Sighting** almost always falls in 2025 or 2026 and is the case that is currently open. **O.D.I.N. Losses** counts O.D.I.N.'s own dead and missing, often the others too, whom nobody asked after.

The header, too, is the Registry and not the truth. Where the Registry once listed a being differently, this is noted in brackets, such as "listed as an Apparition until 1979". What the players see of the header is up to the game master. File colour, region, last sighting and losses are usually in the briefing. Origin and family, on the other hand, give away what the cell is meant to find out for themselves, under the rule "The Hidden Origin" in the Threat Atlas. Only someone who knows which card it is can pull it.

Signature. Eight rows: Smell, Sound, Temperature, Light, Readings, Animals, Devices, Traces and Residue. The cell perceives everything in it without a roll if they are standing in the right place.

The Photo from the File. A picture as it lies in the file: the still from a trail camera, a crime scene photo, a newspaper clipping. You never see everything. If it comes from a camera, it carries the camera's data bar with camera, temperature, date and time, matching the case. The game master can show it to the cell as soon as they have the file in hand.

What the File Says. The knowledge table with four rows, in the language of the Registry and meant to be read aloud. The sentence above it names the test and who receives +1 die.

What Is True. The truth, the mechanism, what really helps, usually two or three ways, none of them clean, and a case with a name and a place. At the end stands **Wrong in the File**: which details in the table are not true, and which of them kills.

Stats. As in the Threat Atlas: Initiative, Attack, Defence, Armour and HP, Horror, Special, Weakness, Behaviour. Weapons carry the damage from Chapter X of the Core Rulebook. Below them are two **Subtypes**, each with its own small case, for a different area or a different decade.

Cover-Up. How O.D.I.N. covers up the case, with real authorities and procedures. Anyone who knows who covered it up also knows whom to ask.

Hooks. Six ready-made openings on D6, most of them from the case that is currently running.

The Categories

Origin. The eight origins of the Threat Atlas, plus Thoughtforms as the ninth. The origin determines the chapter, the letter in the file reference and the skill for the knowledge test.

Origin	Letter	Knowledge Test	Chapter
The Voice	S	INT + Occultism	II
The Alien	F	INT + Xenobiology	III
The Transformed	W	INT + Biology or INT + Medicine	IV
The Old	A	INT + Occultism	V
The Dead	T	INT + Occultism	VI
The Machine	M	INT + Technology	VII
The Humans	H	INT + Investigation	VIII
The Shifted	V	INT + Physics	IX
Thoughtforms	G	INT + Occultism	X

For the Transformed, each card states whether Biology or Medicine applies. Below the origin stands the **Family**, which groups relatives together: Water Spirits, Echoes,

Self-Builders. Every chapter introduction names its families and the beings of the Atlas that belong to them.

Form. What it is physically. The form decides whether a weapon hits anything at all.

Form	What It Is	How to End It
Being	A body, vulnerable and killable	It can be killed. Whether that ends the case is stated under "What Is True"
Apparition	No body	You do not kill it, you end it: with a sentence, a gesture, an ending for what was left open
Infestation	Lives in or on a host	You drive it out or cure it without killing the host
Swarm	Many that act as one	The stats apply to the swarm or to a squad. Whoever kills individuals is counting, not winning
Place	The place itself is the threat	You leave it, seal it off or change what holds it there
Thing	An object or device that acts	You use an artefact. A thing uses you

Role. The level from Chapter XI of the Core Rulebook. It determines the stats, not the danger. A Henchman whose card carries a deadly protocol costs more agents than any Elite.

Level	What It Means on the Card
Henchman	Weak alone, falls quickly. Often a human nobody should fight, or one of many, combined into a squad
Professional	An opponent on a par with an agent
Elite	Stronger than any single agent. The cell needs a plan or a weakness
Leader	The climax of a mission, often with two actions per round. Also places and swarms that hold an entire cell fast
Creature	An addition, not a level of its own, such as "Professional, Creature". The stats follow the level. A creature is not human, or no longer human, and the sight of it calls for a horror test

Horror. The levels from Chapter VII of the Core Rulebook. The roll is WIL + Mental Resistance, and the same horror requires only one test per mission. Many cards give two levels: one for the first sight and one for the moment the cell understands.

Level	Successes	On the Cards in This Book
None	no roll	A teddy bear, as long as it only talks to children
Uncanny	1	Two hard blows from the ceiling of an empty flat
Disturbing	2	A kappa that lays a drowned man on the bank and bows before him
Horrifying	3	A soldier of 17 who becomes an old man within a few minutes
Maddening	4	Something beneath the ice shelf that surfaces
Cosmic	5	A field in the night sky that you can see breathing with the naked eye

File Colour. The colour in which a file involving this being typically begins. It replaces the challenge rating of other games and measures not strength but the situation. It is often followed by how long this has been so, and when the colour changes: "Grey. Red in drought, above 32 °C and with no wind."

Colour	In the Core Rulebook	On the Card
White	Observation. Strange, not dangerous, often a mission for Cadets	The Registry considers the being harmless or the case closed. White cards carry a striking number of deadly errors
Grey	Investigation. The situation is unclear	It is known to exist, but not for certain what it is or what it does
Red	Immediate intervention. Human lives are threatened	Anyone who meets it is in danger. The cell deploys within hours
Black	Officially non-existent. The Council has taken over	The card lies in Stockholm, the file with the Council. The cell usually does not learn why

Frequency. How many there are, as far as the Registry knows.

Frequency	Meaning
Unique	There is only this one. Whoever ends it closes the card. Subtypes are relatives, not copies
Rare	The Registry knows a handful of cases, and the card usually gives the number. A new case is almost always taken for something else at first
Common	Many, often hundreds. The card describes the kind, the case one specimen. Finishing off one specimen ends nothing

Mind. It decides whether you can negotiate, deceive or only flee.

Mind	What the Cell Can Do
None	It does not think, it runs its course: a program, a weather system, a hunger. You do not negotiate, you change the conditions
Animal	It learns, hunts and flees. It can be lured, baited and scared off, sometimes tamed, but not talked round
Human	It understands language, intent and lies. Negotiation, deception and persuasion work as in the Core Rulebook, in both directions
Alien	It thinks, but not as we do. What the cell takes for an answer may be none. Often only distance remains

The Knowledge Test

RULE: THE KNOWLEDGE TEST

Anyone who reads an index card or remembers their training rolls **INT + the skill of the origin**: Occultism for the Voice, the Old, the Dead and Thoughtforms, Xenobiology for the Alien, Biology or Medicine for the Transformed, Technology for the Machine, Physics for the Shifted, Investigation for the Humans.

There is no difficulty. The successes are counted, and the game master reads out the table “What the File Says” from the top down to the row reached.

0 successes: canteen rumour, often wrong. **1:** what every agent hears in basic training. **2 to 3:** what is in the archive. **4 or more:** what only the Registry knows.

Not everything is true. Every table contains at least two false assumptions, and the agent does not learn which.

+2 dice for anyone who has used the downtime action “Investigate” on this being.

−1 die for an enquiry by telephone from the field.

+1 die for the subclasses the card names.

At most +3 bonus dice, as with any test.

The Four Rows. The game master reads every row up to the one reached, including those with fewer successes. Anyone with three successes hears the rumour, the lesson from basic training and the archive. The rows sometimes contradict each other, and the game master does not comment on it. Anyone with no success hears only the rumour and takes it for knowledge. More successes bring more material, not more certainty. The row “4 or more” often holds the paper that contradicts the other rows: a carbon copy, a letter, a tape transcript, along with the stamp the Registry filed it under.

Dice and Circumstances. The action “Investigate” is part of downtime (Core Rulebook, Chapter X). The cell also receives the clue that Investigate brings anyway. It counts for a knowledge test if it was devoted to a being the cell knows by name, for example from an open case or the last mission. The agent then went to Stockholm or had the whole file sent as a copy. An enquiry by telephone goes via the second phone to Stockholm, at night to the night duty: the voice reads quickly, without attachments. Which subclasses receive +1 die is stated in the sentence above each table, often a circumstance too, such as anyone who grew up in Graz. If a card

names other dice or consequences of the test there, they apply only to that card. All bonus dice are white and together add at most +3. Penalty dice then remove white dice first, then coloured ones. Anyone who does not have the skill rolls with INT alone, as with any untrained test.

Who Rolls, and How Often. Each agent rolls once per being and mission. If several read the same card, one rolls and the others help according to the rules for cooperation (Core Rulebook, Chapter II). The help counts as their roll. A second roll is only possible with a new source, such as the call to Stockholm after remembering the training. Then the better result applies.

When to Roll. As soon as the cell has a suspicion that fits a card. If the suspicion is wrong, the game master reads out the table of the wrong card.

EXAMPLE: RAVEN CALLS STOCKHOLM

Night, in the stairwell of a Graz tenement. Two hard blows come from the ceiling of Flat 3. Lena plays Raven, Jonas plays Brandt.

Lena (Raven): I call Stockholm on the second phone and have them read me the card.

GM: The Knocker, REG-T-0603. One of the Dead, so INT + Occultism. As a Paranormal Detective you get +1 die, the phone costs you one.

Raven has INT 3 and Occultism 4. Ghost Sight does not count, because Raven is not examining a phenomenon, she is having a card read to her. Bonus and penalty cancel each other out: 3 white and 4 coloured dice. White: 2, 5, 3 gives 1 success. Coloured: 4, 1, 6, 2 gives 2 successes. Together 3 successes.

GM: That's the row "2 to 3". The voice on the phone reads you three paragraphs. (The GM reads rows 0, 1 and 2 to 3: the football pools, Kniely the grumbler and Protocol Indoor Voice.)

Jonas (Brandt): Then I knock back twice. Let's see if Sturm wins.

Lena (Raven): Don't knock back, says the card. And don't go into Flat 3 at night.

The game master knows that this very protocol kills. They do not say so. They give a row from the signature:

GM: In Flat 4 a dachshund whines and scratches at the door. At the hard blows just now it didn't make a sound.

Had Raven investigated the Knocker during downtime, she would have had +3 dice with her subclass, the maximum, and no phone: 6 white and 4 coloured dice. With four successes she would have heard the carbon copy from 1987.

The Signature at the Scene

The signature is the game master's tool for putting a cell on the trail without anyone rolling. If the cell stands in the right place, they notice what the row describes. Whoever smells, smells. Whoever has a measuring device with them reads it. Whoever has none does not get the row "Readings", and nobody rolls for it. Only where a card calls for a test under "Special" is there a roll, such as hearing the quiet knocking before the loud one with the Knocker.

Pacing. One or two rows per scene are enough. Traces and residue belong at the scene, animals and devices in the neighbourhood and in the statements of witnesses, smell, sound and temperature in the moment when the being is close. This turns the signature into the three clues of the Three-Clue Rule (Core Rulebook, Chapter XI).

The Gap. Every chapter introduction names the traces of its origin, and often the absence of a trace is the first clue. A crystal detector that stays silent makes the Voice unlikely. A Telepath who hears nothing points to the Machine. Anyone who searches for ozone and smells clock oil is searching in the wrong cabinet.

Signature Against File. The signature never lies. The file can lie. If the two contradict each other, the signature is right, and almost every card has a row that points past the file's mistake: the dachshund that stays silent at the hard blows and whines at the quiet ones. Whoever plays this row at the right moment gives the cell the chance to find the mistake themselves.

For quick ideas and false trails, the appendix has the table "What Stands Out at the Scene", on D66, drawn from all the signatures in this book.

Wrong in the File

The file's mistake is the adventure. Before the session, the game master should know which row it stands in, which protocol carries it and what happens if the cell follows it.

Make It Findable. Of the clues to a being, at least one should contradict the file: a row of the signature, a witness who tells it differently, an old carbon copy in the hold with a correction that was never attached, a grandmother in the village, the row "4 or more".

Show It Once Before It Kills. Before the dangerous mistake hits a cell, they should see it once on someone else: in a mission report with the note "Protocol correctly carried out", on a neighbour, on the cell before them. Whoever then follows the card blindly has made a choice.

Do Not Resolve It. If a player asks whether a row is true, the game master answers from within the world: "That's what it says on the card. As of 1963." Even a player who knows this book still does not know whether this cell is facing the case from the card or a subtype, another place, another year. The game master may change the case. The Registry would not have known either.

After the Mission. If the cell writes in their report what they have found out, the card changes. The old row is struck through in pencil, and underneath stands the correction with the agent's code name. At the next roll the game master reads out the new version. Basic training teaches the old one for a few more years, and in more than one hold the old carbon lies there without its slip. That, too, becomes a mission.

Building Your Own Beings

Your own card begins with the truth, not with the file. You write the file last, and you write it wrong.

1. The Truth. Two sentences: what it is and what it does. Add a person with a name, age and place who is caught up in it right now, as victim, as cause or as both. The best cards in this book describe a person rather than a monster.

2. Origin and Family. The origin determines the test, the signature and what works. Read the chapter introduction. For the file reference, choose the letter and a number that is free in this book. There are gaps enough.

3. The Categories. Form, Role, Horror, File Colour, Frequency, Mind. Give the file colour a reason to change.

4. The Stats. According to the rules of thumb of the Core Rulebook, repeated below. Add a Special that makes the being unmistakable, a Weakness that is more a piece of knowledge than a weapon, and a Behaviour that says when it flees, negotiates or strikes. If the being departs from what works against its origin, this is noted as a Special or Weakness in its stats.

5. The Signature. Eight rows, concrete and sensory. At least one points to the truth, at least one proves the file wrong. The traces of the Voice belong to the Voice alone.

6. The File. Four rows, in the language of the Registry. At least two false assumptions, one of them dangerous. Give the dangerous mistake a protocol with a name and a date.

7. The Solutions. Two or three ways, each with a price. Whoever pays it was usually not asked.

8. The Rest. Two subtypes with their own case, a cover-up with real authorities, six hooks on D6.

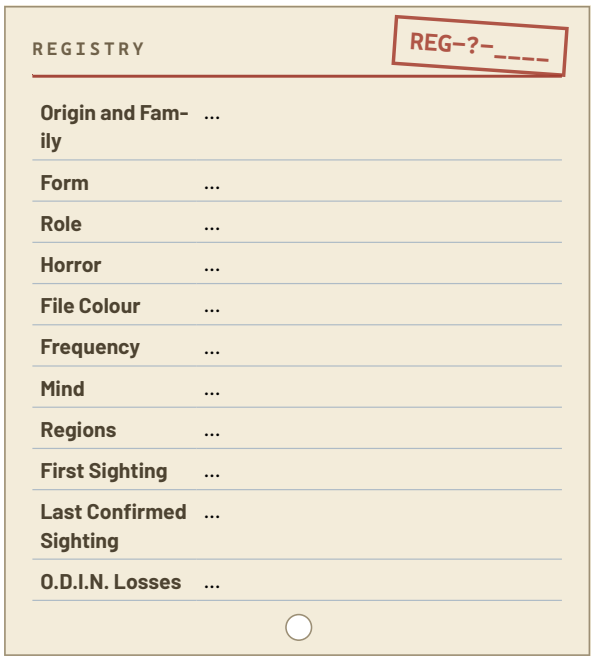
Level	Attack	Defence	Armour	HP	Damage
Henchman	2 + 2	1	0 to 1	4 to 6	2 to 3
Professional	3 + 3	2	2	8 to 10	3 to 4
Elite	4 + 4	3	3	12 to 14	4
Leader, creature	5 + 5	3	3 to 4	20 to 30	5

In the Core Rulebook, Leader and Creature share a row. In this book, Creature is an addition: a creature with a level has the stats of its level, a creature without a level those of a Leader. Among the example opponents of the Core Rulebook, Initiative lies between 2 and 6, for humans usually 2 to 4, for fast creatures 5 or 6.

How the File Gets It Wrong. A good mistake is one the Registry could have made itself. It comes from a real case, from a credible source, and it worked once. The row "0" carries a grain of truth, the row "1" a simplification, the row "2 to 3" often the protocol, the row "4 or more" the paper that should have known better. If you need an idea, roll or choose:

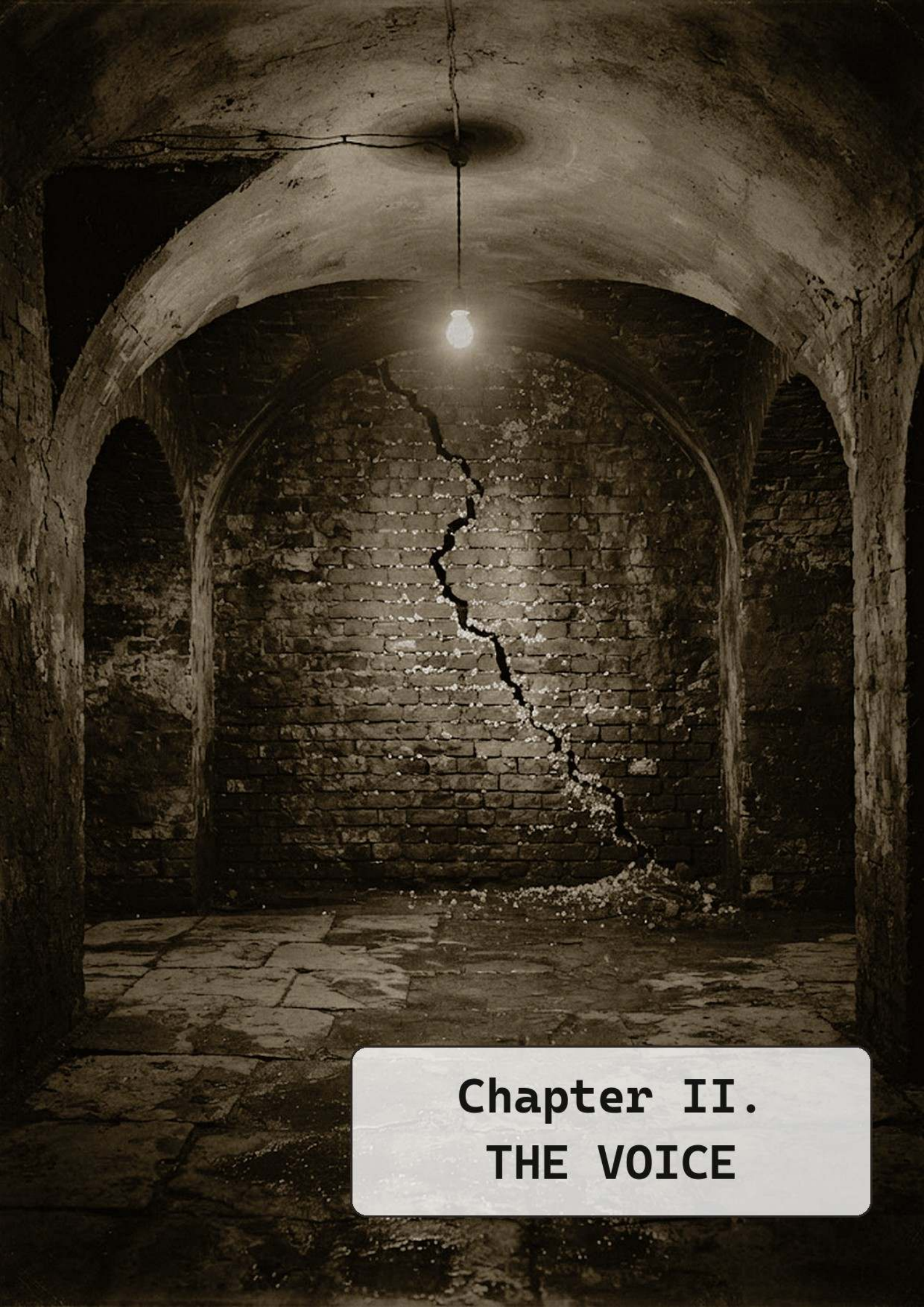
D6	How the File Gets It Wrong
1	A case becomes a rule. What happened once stands on the card as law, with a number nobody has checked
2	The cause is mixed up. What the file takes for its power is a promise. What it takes for a complaint is a cry for help
3	The protocol feeds it. The instruction meant to protect creates exactly what it is meant to prevent
4	The wrong source. The Registry believes the court, the doctor, the measuring device and not the farmer, the grandmother, the child
5	The wrong one is the being. The card hunts the victim and overlooks who is behind it
6	The file is old. It was true once. Since then a well has been filled in, an estate has been built, and an old woman has fallen

The Blank Card. Next to it are a blank signature and a blank knowledge table. The card is also in the appendix, for copying.



Sense	What You Notice
Smell	...
Sound	...
Temperature	...
Light	...
Readings	...
Animals	...
Devices	...
Traces and Residue	...

Result	What the File Says
0	...
1	...
2 to 3	...
4 or more	...


Chapter II.
THE VOICE

The Voice

"Every card has a field for the origin. For these ones we write in a word that none of us can explain, and then we carry on."
Archivist of the Registry, Stockholm

The index cards in this chapter describe what comes through the rifts, and people who have come too close to them. Something flat that lies against the roof of a working in still air underground. An afterbirth without a birth in a delivery room in the Auvergne. A man who has stood at the same door in Berlin since 1928, asking how long you are staying. A greeting from a call centre in Cork that answers the telephone at night on its own. A fox made of glass that sits down in the snow beside a cadet. The Registry files all this under one origin, because it leaves the same traces and answers to the same means.

Many cards in this chapter began as something else: as a Skarbnik that a hewer from Gleiwitz told of, as a spirit from the Goetia, as an accident with the stove, as a hum that a family doctor in Ullapool wrote a letter about. Not everything here is hostile. One being keeps house rules, and its rules keep out what would come without them. One man believes he is a village teacher, and he is one. Some beings here are people, with an index card and stats, and people all the same.

How to recognise it. The signature of the Voice is the loudest in the whole book. Ozone and wet stone, a smell that no one who has noticed it once ever forgets. Clocks that run wrong. Children who sing in their sleep. Crystals that grow warm too early. The crystal detector, ozone probe and frequency finder respond, and a Telepath hears a hum. A Psion, a Thaumaturge or a Physicist is the most likely to recognise it. But the detector only says where something comes from, not what it is, and not what it wants. Some cards also show signs that no one expects: a Geiger counter that falls silent, air that does not move, a cadet who froze to death at 19 degrees. Whoever reads an index card from this chapter rolls INT + Occultism.

What works and what does not. The Threat Atlas names incendiary ammunition, silver, warding circles and Alloy S. Salt holds them back but does not harm them. Ordinary ammunition works at half effect against many beings of this origin, against some not at all. That applies only to beings from rifts. People with the Voice as their origin are not such beings, and against them silver works no better than lead. The Hummer is such a case. The Voice is the origin against which weapons work most reliably, and that is why a cell reaches for them fastest here. The cards show what that costs. A shot in still air ignites firedamp. A snip of the scissors brings into the world something that would have slid back on its own. A lamp that burns all night invites what it is meant to keep away. Often the weakness lies not in the ammunition but in a circumstance: a draught, a movement, a slow farewell, a proper move-out with a handover record.

What the Registry does not know. The Registry does not know what the Voice is. It knows what a rift smells like, what comes through it and what kills it. Whether the beings in this chapter are the Voice, whether they come from it or only through the same rifts, is written on no card. Crystals turn up in many files: in a cellar in Turin, in a drill core from Lapland, in a cavity in the Erzgebirge. The Registry lists them as a trace, not as an explanation. The archivists keep to one rule: what you do not know, you write down as unknown, not as a guess. Who opened the rift beneath the palazzo in Turin, why one runs behind the wall of a delivery room, where the tone in Ullapool comes from: on the cards it says: unknown. The secrets in the Building Blocks tell what the Voice is. This chapter does not tell it, because the Registry does not know.

A file of the Voice is rarely closed for good. It is shut, and that is not the same thing. The Shaft Walker was considered closed in 2019 along with the mining, the Repeater back in 2005. The Registry asks a cell that reopens such a file three questions. Where is the rift? Who last declared it closed? And what has the file taken for the solution since then?

The entries in this chapter bear the letter S in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Crawlers	What squeezes into our world through fine cracks and hunts where no one looks: underground, behind walls, in false ceilings	The Shaft Walker, The Afterbirth
Crystal Beings	What grows around a crystal or out of it: guardians, animals and places of stone and glass	The Geode, The Glass Fox
Threshold Guardians	What stands at a rift and decides who passes through, in which direction and at what price	The Doorman

Family	What They Are	Entries
Resonance Beings	What lives in a tone, a sentence or a name and carries on through the people who carry it	The Repeater, The Hummer
Crossers	What comes from the other side and wants to live here, and people who were over there and have come back	The Tenant, The Newcomer in the Parish
Shadow Beings	What lives between the dimensions and is only fully here in half-darkness	The Chimney Man
What Cultists Call Demons	What a ritual calls through a rift and what the callers take for a spirit from their books	The Summoned from the Cellar

In the Threat Atlas

Six entries of the Voice already appear in the Threat Atlas of the Game Master's Book, and their stats there apply unchanged. The **Riftling** is the best-known Crawler; the file also took the Afterbirth for one. The **Crystal Guardian** belongs to the Crystal Beings, the guardians of the Geode use its stats, and the Glass Fox is one whose crystal has been taken away. The **Threshold Guardian** gives its family its name; the Doorman is its smaller relative at a door behind which people dance. The Registry counts the **Name Eater** among the Resonance Beings, because it lives in a name as the Repeater lives in a sentence. The **Choir Child** belongs to the same family, but it is a child and not a being from rifts; what happens to it is described in the Psion Building Block. The **Returner** is a Crosser like the Newcomer in the Parish, except that it remembers. The Shadow Being of the Core Rulebook gives its family its name; the Chimney Man is one that needs a shaft. The Demon of the Core Rulebook belongs to the Old; what cultists in this chapter call a demon is something else.

The Afterbirth

"The Doppler found a heart, 140 beats, strong and regular. The woman had given birth an hour before. To one child."

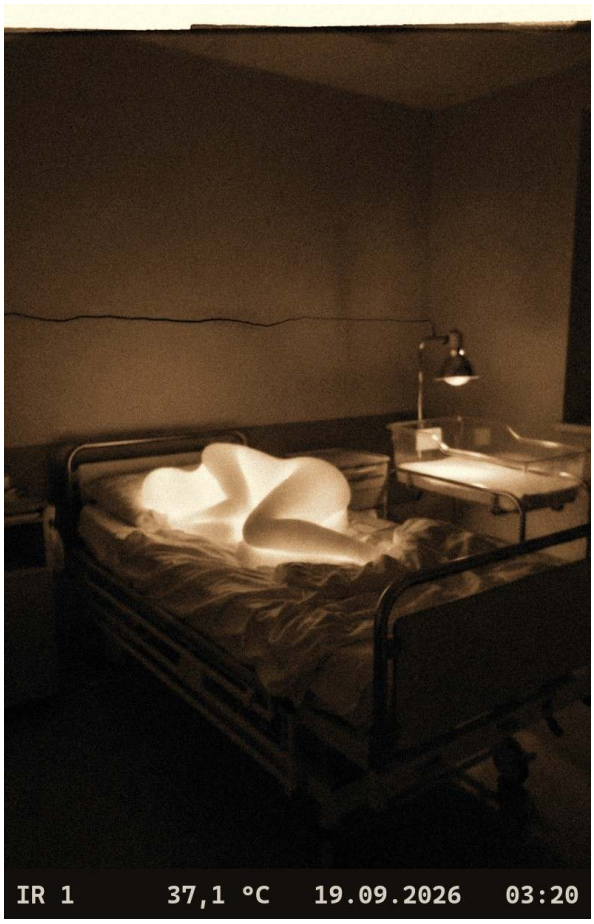
Nachtlicht, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0206

Origin and Family	The Voice, Crawlers
Form	Being
Role	Elite, Creature. Freshly crawled through: Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1) as long as the cord hangs. Disturbing (2) once it has grown. Horrifying (3) when it lies against its mother
File Colour	Red as long as the cord hangs. Once the cord is cut, the case is closed
Frequency	Rare. Six cases since 1996, all from the same delivery room
Mind	Animal
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Aurillac in the Cantal, France
First Sighting	11 February 1996, around 03:00, maternity ward of the hospital in Aurillac, delivery room 3. Report by a midwife to the hospital management: "An afterbirth without a birth."
Last Confirmed Sighting	19 September 2026, delivery room 3. Without a cord, as big as a person. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 2009, dead in his flat in Clermont-Ferrand. No connection established

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Ozone and wet stone, and beneath them something warm and iron, as in a delivery room after a long night.
Sound	A heartbeat, fast as an unborn child's, 140 a minute, from walls, ceiling voids, under beds. The midwives' Doppler finds it, the ear almost never.
Temperature	Where it lies, it is body-warm, even in a cold cellar. Whoever is its mother has cold hands, in August.
Light	The heat lamps above the infant cots flicker reddish when it is nearby.
Readings	The crystal detector gives a weak reading, strongest at the wall behind the delivery bed in room 3. The clock in the room runs a few minutes slow every night.
Animals	Cats lie down in front of the spot where it sleeps and purr. Dogs whine and will not go into the house.
Devices	A CTG records heart sounds without a woman being connected. Baby monitors transmit a heartbeat from empty rooms.
Traces and Residue	A damp grey trail, smooth, like a wet cloth dragged across the floor. Thin glassy membranes that it sheds as it grows. Warm hollows in blankets and mattresses that no one uses.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	After many night shifts midwives hear heart sounds everywhere. If something really is lying in the delivery room, it is a Riftling that came through the rift dead. Burn it, ashes in the clinical waste.
1	A Crawler from a fine crack in the wall behind the delivery bed in room 3. Comes every few years, at night, when the room is empty. Grey, smooth, damp, as big as a newborn. A cord, thin as a finger, leads from it back into the wall. No attack. It never touches infants.
2 to 3	Protocol Cord Cutting, as of 1997: cut the cord with silver scissors, two fingers' breadth from the body. The afterbirth goes still and cold; after an hour only a damp stain remains. Applied in 1999, 2004, 2013 and 2019, plus the 1996 case from which it originates: successful five times. Every case closed afterwards.
4 or more	Carbon copy of a note, 2010: the agent who cut the cord in Aurillac in 2004 died in his flat in 2009, suffocated, with no marks on his neck. In his mouth and nose, thin glassy membranes. In the wardrobe, a body-warm hollow in the blankets. Connection examined and rejected. Attached note, different hand: "Ask the midwife from 1996 why she wears gloves in August."

What Is True

Behind the wall of delivery room 3 runs a rift, so fine that only the crystal detector finds it. Sometimes something squeezes through, grey and smooth, and stays connected to the other side by a cord. As long as the cord holds, the afterbirth is only half here. It lies still, warms itself and slides back of its own accord before morning. Nothing needs to be done. Nothing may be done.

Whoever cuts the cord brings it into the world. The cord is not its life, but its way back. Once cut, it belongs here. It falls into a deep sleep, cold as stone, and the Registry took that for death. An hour later it crawls into the ceiling void, and in the weeks that follow it finds the person who held the scissors. That person is now its mother.

It lives near them, in the loft, in the cellar, under the floorboards. At night it lies against them and takes their warmth. They sleep a lot, are cold all year round and have cold hands. It grows, a hand's breadth a year. It does nothing to them as long as they let it be. It kills whoever comes between them or tries to separate it from them. That is how the agent in Clermont-Ferrand died in 2009: he had tried to shoot it in his wardrobe. The junior doctor from 1999 moved to Québec two years later. The agents from 2013 and 2019 are alive. Neither of them has reported anything.

The case: Hélène Delmas, then 44, a midwife for twenty years, found the first afterbirth on 11 February 1996 and cut the cord as she had done a thousand times, with her hands, not her head. Her report became the protocol. For thirty years she kept her afterbirth hidden on her farm near Salers. She wrote everything down in school exercise books. She died in August 2026. Without a mother the afterbirth grows cold, and it has returned to where it was warm. Since 19 September it has lain at night on the delivery bed in room 3, curled up, as big as a person. It is looking for a new mother. Whoever lets it lie against them for a whole night is one.

What helps: Hélène's exercise books, which are still on the farm, and no protocol in the world. The cell can kill it, an Elite in a maternity ward, at night, among women who have just given birth. Someone can let it lie against them and be a mother to it, for the rest of their life. Or it can be taken to one of the ripening cellars for Salers cheese, at eight degrees. There it dies in about three weeks, and its heart beats faster and faster as it does. Whoever keeps watch hears it every night.

Wrong in the File: The afterbirth is neither a Riftling nor imagination. Cutting the cord does not kill it, it brings it into the world; its sleep is not death, its disappearance not dissolution. The danger is the 1997 protocol: its five successes are five living afterbirths, each with the person who held the scissors. Without scissors each would have slid back on its own. The death in 2009 followed from that.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Engulf 4 + 4, damage 4, armour does not count. Whoever is engulfed suffers 2 damage at the start of each round, because they cannot breathe, until they free themselves with STR + Athletics against Hard (3)
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (tough, smooth skin) / 13

Value	Details
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for anyone who sees it lie against its mother in her sleep
Special	Crawls through ceiling voids and cavity walls. Non-magical weapons deal only half damage (rounded down). Freshly crawled through, with cord: no attack, defence 1, HP 3; it slides back before daybreak if no one cuts the cord. It never attacks infants
Weakness	Silver and incendiary ammunition deal double damage. Below 10 degrees −2 dice on everything. Its mother: one word from her, and it lets go
Behaviour	Shy and silent. By day in cavities, at night with its mother. Attacks whoever threatens its mother or tries to separate it from her. Without a mother it seeks out warm beds

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Tethered One (Aurillac, 2002)	The only one whose cord no one cut. The young night nurse Claire Fabre covered it with a warmed cloth and sat with it until it slid back into the wall at dawn. No attack, defence 1, HP 3. The Registry lists the case as "escaped". Claire still works at the hospital and asks every new midwife never to leave scissors lying in room 3.
The Inherited One (Clermont-Ferrand, 2009)	After the agent's death his afterbirth stayed with his partner Samia Bensaïd, who did not send it away on the first night. HP 11, otherwise as above. Samia knows what is sleeping in her wardrobe. The neighbours say she wears a coat in July and no longer lets anyone into the flat.

Cover-Up

Delivery room 3 is closed "because of water damage in the ceiling void" as soon as the crystal detector goes off, which O.D.I.N. has disguised as a smoke alarm. The midwives sign a confidentiality agreement drawn up by the hospital management. Forensic medicine lists the 2009 death as suffocation while blind drunk. Hélène's farm is being bought, through the notary, by a company that exists only on paper.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	For three nights the CTG in room 3 has been recording heart sounds, with no woman. Since yesterday a young midwife has been sleeping there during her break, "because it's so warm". Red File.
2	Hélène Delmas' farm near Salers is up for sale. The estate agent says there is a hollow in the mattress in the bedroom that never goes cold.
3	An agent who was in Aurillac in 2019 calls in sick. He writes that he has been cold for years and asks that no one be sent to his flat.
4	Hélène's niece in Toulouse has found the exercise books and wants to publish them as a book. A publisher has already accepted.
5	In a stairwell in Clermont-Ferrand the tenants hear a heartbeat at night. Samia Bensaïd has not come out for a week.
6	The cell travels to Aurillac on behalf of the Registry, with the 1997 protocol. The protocol is two pages long. The silver scissors are enclosed.

The Chimney Man

"The house has no chimney. The little one drew one anyway, and he's looking out of the top."
Schürhaken, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0239

Origin and Family	The Voice, Shadow Beings
Form	Being. Only fully here in half-darkness
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) as long as only his head hangs out of the shaft. Disturbing (2) when he comes all the way out
File Colour	Grey. Most cases look like an accident with the stove
Frequency	Rare. Around 1900 at least five in Bradford
Mind	Animal
Regions	British Isles, above all the old textile towns in Yorkshire and Lancashire. Isolated cases in Eastern Europe
First Sighting	November 1884, Bradford, West Riding of Yorkshire. Newspaper report on an inquest: Martha Hirst, 29, weaver, cold in her bed in front of the embers in the range. Her son Albert, six, testifies that the chimney man took her warmth. Finding: coal fumes
Last Confirmed Sighting	9 January 2026, new housing estate in Bradford, on the site of demolished workers' houses. Recording from a baby monitor camera. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One cadet, 1966, frozen to death in an attic room in Bradford, at a room temperature of 19 degrees

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Cold ash and ozone, like a fireplace in February in which nothing has burned for weeks. Even in houses that never had one.
Sound	At night a scraping in the shaft, as if a sweep's brush were being slowly let down. Then a single knock on a flap or ventilation grille.
Temperature	The room cools from the opening outwards. Four degrees at the grille, twelve at the bed, 21 in the kitchen. The radiators are hot.
Light	In the room with the shaft it grows dim earlier in the evening than outside. Bright light bulbs burn out there within a few days, night lights never.
Readings	At the grille a crystal detector ticks, the ozone probe shows slightly raised levels. The thermal imaging camera shows a cold streak moving in the shaft.
Animals	Cats no longer sleep in the room. Pigeons avoid the roof above the shaft.
Devices	Carbon monoxide alarms go off, even in houses without gas. When the fire brigade measures, there is nothing in the air.
Traces and Residue	Fine black dust beneath the opening, cold as hoarfrost, that does not warm up in the hand. Children's drawings of a tall man who has a sweep's brush instead of a head.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Physicist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The ghost of a climbing boy who suffocated in a chimney. He takes children, as the masters once took their boys. Salt on the grate, and he stays up top.
1	A Shadow Being, Voice. Lives in the chimneys of old workers' houses, only fully here in half-darkness, and takes the warmth from sleepers. The finding is usually coal fumes or hypothermia. Bright light harms him, silver and incendiary ammunition work, salt holds him back for one night. He disappears along with the chimneys.
2 to 3	Protocol Constant Light, as of 1962: he avoids light. In every bedroom of an affected house a lamp burns all night; the Registry supplies battery lamps for power cuts. Fill the chimney with salt and brick it up. Since its introduction the number of cases in Bradford has fallen from eleven a decade to two.
4 or more	Report on the cadet's death in 1966: he kept watch alone at night; his torch lay switched on beside him on the floor, turned to the wall, battery half full. Since 2012, seven cases in Bradford again, all in new builds without a chimney, all with a night light in the room. Stamp from 2019: "Increase checked. Cause: changed reporting behaviour."

What Is True

The Chimney Man does not need a chimney. He needs a shaft, something that is neither inside nor outside and leads into a bedroom: flue, coal chute, ventilation pipe, cable duct. Where he has come through, he stays, and if the house is demolished, he moves into the next shaft on the same ground.

He is only fully here in half-darkness. In complete darkness he is a shadow that can touch nothing. In bright light he burns. In between he has a body, long and thin, with a head like a sweep's brush of black hoarfrost. He comes at night into rooms where a faint light is burning, each night a little further out of the shaft. On the night he touches the floor, he bends over the sleeper lying closest to the light. In the morning the person is cold, in a heated room, with black dust in their mouth and nose.

In 1884 the half-darkness came from the embers in the range. In the back-to-backs of Bradford a whole family slept in the kitchen, and whoever tended the fire overnight lay closest to him, usually the mother. After the Clean Air Act of 1956 the coal fires gradually disappeared from the towns, and with them the embers. That is why the cases fell, not because of the lamps. Protocol Constant Light gave every affected house exactly the light he needs. Today every child's bedroom supplies it on its own: the plug-in night light, the LED on the smoke alarm, the baby monitor.

What helps is darkness or full light. In a room without a single point of light he cannot touch anyone. In a brightly lit room he cannot come out. Salt in an opening keeps him out for one night. He can only be killed in half-darkness, when he is fully here: close all other openings with salt, switch on a faint lamp, and one person lies down in the bed. When he stands over the bait, the big light goes on, and the cell has one round before he flees back into the shaft.

The case in Bradford: Maisie Clegg, five, lives with her mother Kerry, 33, in a terraced house with central ventilation, built in 2019 where workers' houses stood until 1968. Maisie is afraid of the dark and sleeps with a night light shaped like a moon. Since Christmas Kerry has been sleeping with her too, on the mattress under the ventilation grille. On the night of 9 January 2026 the carbon monoxide alarm in the hall goes off and wakes her. The baby monitor recorded everything. Kerry takes Maisie to stay with her sister until the spring. In February a cell, following the protocol, recommends a second night light. In the winter of 2025/26 he got no one. Now the two of them are home again, and Maisie will not give up her night light.

Wrong in the File: He is no ghost and takes no children. He does not need a chimney and does not disappear with it. The cases fell because of the law against coal smoke. The danger is Protocol Constant Light: he avoids only bright light. A faint lamp all night is an invitation. The cadet was killed by his own torch.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Cold grip 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count. Only in half-darkness
Defence / Armour / HP	2 in half-darkness, 4 in the dark / 0 (no body to stop anything) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1) as long as only his head hangs out of the shaft. Disturbing (2) when he stands over a bed

Value	Details
Special	Ordinary weapons deal only half damage (rounded down). He cannot attack in the dark. Bright light causes 2 damage per round, and he flees into the nearest shaft. Fits through any opening a hand fits through. A sleeper has defence 0 against him and only wakes when they suffer damage
Weakness	Salt in an opening keeps him out for one night. Silver, incendiary ammunition, magnesium light
Behaviour	A patient hunter. Comes only in winter and only at night. Flees from noise and bright light and returns the next night. Does not negotiate and cannot be driven off, only shut out

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Coal Man (Łódź, 1931 to 1974)	Lived in the coal chutes of the tenement blocks, where people went down to the cellar with a candle. He took not sleepers but whoever fetched coal alone. Henchman, cold grip 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5. In 1974 the building got district heating, and the cellar stayed dark. In 1992 the Registry learned from a police archive of eleven dead with black dust in their mouths, all recorded as heart failure.
The Lift Man (Sheffield, 1968 to 2011)	Lived in the lift shaft of a residential tower block. At night he stopped the lift between two floors, with the light flickering, and took whoever was riding alone. Professional, stats as above, always in half-darkness in the lift. In 2011 the block was demolished. On the same ground now stands a student hall of residence with two lifts.

Cover-Up

In the old days the coroner was enough: coal fumes, a blocked flue. Today the family doctor certifies heart failure or hypothermia, a common finding among old people in winter. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue records the alarm as a faulty detector. The night lights are handed out by a city programme for accident prevention in children's rooms, which O.D.I.N. pays for.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A child on a new housing estate draws a chimney on a house without a chimney. A brush is looking out of the top.
2	The fire brigade reports the third carbon monoxide alarm on a street without a gas supply, each time just after three in the morning.
3	Autumn is coming. Kerry Clegg has bought a second night lamp at the DIY store, because the Registry recommended it.
4	A student hall of residence in Sheffield reports that a lift stops between the fourth and fifth floors at night. The light inside flickers.
5	A demolition company finds, in a bricked-up chimney, salt, a child's picture and a battery lamp from 1962 with an inventory number that belongs to no authority.
6	Over a pint, a colleague of the cell says his grandmother froze to death in her sleep in Bradford in 1964. The lamp by her bed had been brought to her by a friendly gentleman from the housing office. He himself never sleeps in the dark.

The Doorman

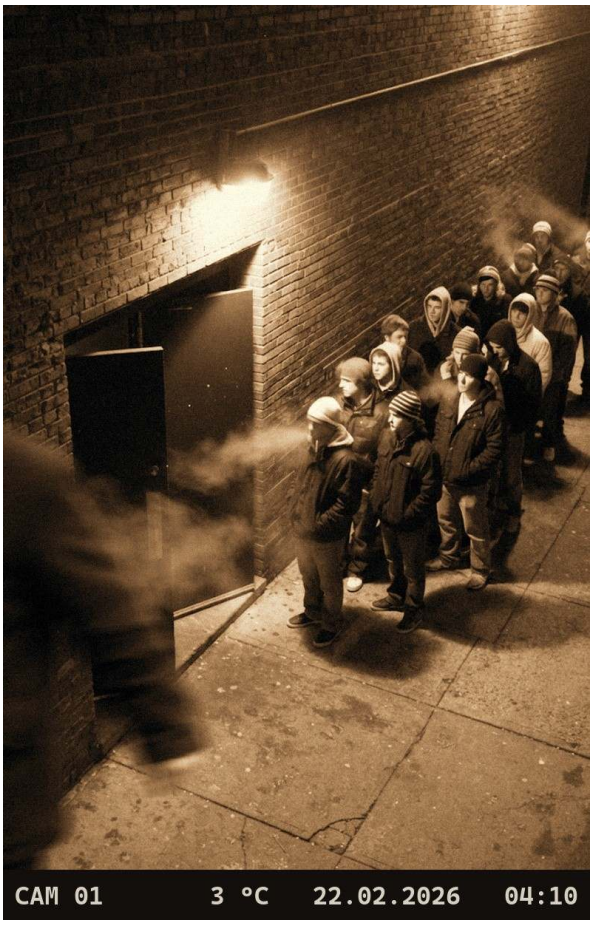
"Three hours in the queue, and then he says: 'Not tonight.' I've never been so relieved in my life. To this day I don't know why."
Bordstein, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0218

Origin and Family	The Voice, Threshold Guardians
Form	Being. He has a body only at the door. No one has ever seen him away from the door
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for anyone who gives him an answer and only afterwards realises that they must keep it
File Colour	Black since 1994. The Libelle is a restricted zone for O.D.I.N. It is open Friday to Monday
Frequency	Rare. Three known doors in Europe
Mind	Alien. Says little and keeps every word
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Berlin, Köpenicker Straße in Mitte. Related cases at cloakrooms and borders
First Sighting	17 March 1928, the Libelle dance hall, Köpenicker Straße. Complaint by the proprietor to the police station: a stranger stands at his door every night, and he never hired him
Last Confirmed Sighting	22 February 2026, 04:10, the same door. Still from the door camera, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One Senior Agent, in the club since 1994. He can still be recognised in guests' mobile phone photos

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the queue ozone, as before a thunderstorm that never comes. From the stairwell behind the door wet stone, even in the driest August.
Sound	The bass can be heard on the street even when no one inside is playing. Whoever stands at the door no longer hears it with their ears, but in their breastbone.
Temperature	Cold air comes out of the open door, 9 °C, from a hall with 1,500 people dancing.
Light	The lamp above the door throws a shadow from everyone in the queue. Not from him.
Readings	A crystal detector gives a reading at the threshold. Phones in the club show the time at which you went in. Whoever restarts one sees the date and time jump, sometimes by days.
Animals	Dogs in the queue lie flat and cannot be pulled over the threshold.
Devices	The door camera shows the queue pin-sharp. Of him it shows only a shoulder and a sleeve, blurred, although he is standing still.
Traces and Residue	The stamp on the back of the hand will not come off with any soap. It only fades once you are standing outside again. On the threshold a worn hollow like in a church door, although the step was replaced in 2011.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Invoker gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A ghost from the twenties, a soldier back from the war who never found his way home. Lets in only those he likes. Whoever flashes money is out.
1	A Threshold Guardian, the smallest known, at a weak rift beneath the hall. The rift opens on busy weekends around 02:00 and closes at daybreak. The Doorman asks every guest how long they are staying, and lets them in or turns them away, without giving a reason. His selection is considered arbitrary. Those turned away suffer no harm.
2 to 3	Since 1928, thirty-one guests have vanished from the Libelle, all after 02:00. The Registry lists the Doorman as the perpetrator: he chooses whom he lets in. Protocol Courtyard, as of 1994: never enter through the door, but via the loading bay in the courtyard, while the club is open. Do not answer his question. Whoever does not pass him owes him nothing.
4 or more	Senior Agent Stichling entered the Libelle on the night of 12 March 1994 at 02:40, by the courtyard as per protocol. He did not come out. Since then he can be recognised 17 times in guests' photos, most recently in October 2025, in the same jacket, not aged. Attached note, 1996: according to witness statements, 26 of the 31 missing had no stamp on their hand.

What Is True

Beneath Köpenicker Straße lies an old seam in the Veil. It is not a hole. When the hall is full and hundreds stamp in the same rhythm, it gives way around 02:00, until the first daylight. Then the dance floor lies half on the other side. That is the night that guests of the Libelle have been telling of for almost a hundred years: no clock, no hunger, hours like minutes.

The Doorman is no hunter. He is a customs officer. Whoever wants to get past him tells him how long they are staying, and the answer is an agreement. He keeps it as literally as any Threshold Guardian. Whoever says "till Monday" is standing on the street on Monday, even if it feels like an hour.

He turns away anyone who has no answer that can be kept: the undecided, the liars and those who no longer want to go home. "Not tonight" is meant literally. That is why so few vanish.

Those who vanished are the ones who got past him: through the kitchen, in 1929 on the proprietor's arm, through the emergency exit, via a guest list. Whoever goes in without an agreement has no time at which they must leave, and therefore none at which they can. They dance until someone fetches them. The other five missing people had a stamp and an answer that can never be fulfilled: "till closing" in a club that never closes.

The case in February: Merle Sandvoß, 27, a sound engineer from Leipzig, stands before him on 21 February 2026 at 01:50. He asks. She laughs and says: "Till it gets light." He steps aside. The Libelle has no windows. Her sister Jana has stood in the queue every weekend since. She wants to go in for as long as it takes, and she means it. Every time he says: "Not tonight."

Merle's "Till it gets light" will never be fulfilled on its own in a club without windows. **Fetching:** Only an agreement of one's own leads in and out again. Whoever says "until I've found Merle Sandvoß" comes out when they have found her, and not a minute earlier. Over there the dance floor is bigger than the hall, and not everything there was ever a guest. **Closing:** If the Libelle loses its licence for good, "till closing" is fulfilled, and whoever said it is standing on the street. Whoever is inside without a stamp stays, and the Doorman goes with the door. The seam remains. The next party on this ground will have no customs officer. **Violence:** At 0 HP he steps back, and the threshold closes for a year. Every agreement is suspended, and whoever is inside that night stays for a year.

Wrong in the File: He is not the perpetrator, and his selection is not arbitrary. The ones he turned away are those who would otherwise have stayed. The missing got past him, not through him. The danger is Protocol Courtyard: whoever does not answer him owes him nothing, and no one owes them the way back. That is how Stichling was lost.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Fist 4 + 4, damage 4. Only against someone who tries to get past him by force
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 14
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when an agreement takes effect

Value	Details
Special	The question: whoever answers “How long are you staying?” with a lie suffers 2 strain and is turned away. Every honest answer is an agreement, which he keeps literally. On the threshold he does not give an inch: he cannot be pushed, pulled or surprised. Non-magical weapons deal only half damage (rounded down)
Weakness	Silver, incendiary ammunition. A warding circle around the door frame holds him, but not the threshold
Behaviour	Looks, asks, steps aside or does not. He cannot be swayed with CHA + Persuasion. He negotiates only over the wording of an agreement, never over admission

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Cloakroom Attendant (Porto, since 1958)	In a dance hall on the Ribeira an old woman takes the coats and hands out a tin token. The token is the agreement. Whoever loses it cannot find the exit until someone else brings it to them. No attack, defence 2, HP 10. A bridegroom lost his token at his own wedding in 1987. He is listed as missing. His wife found the token in her handbag and has kept it in a sugar bowl for 39 years.
The Border Man (Bohemian Forest, 1968 to 1989)	At an abandoned crossing, a man in a uniform that no army wore. He asks the purpose of the journey. Whoever says “holiday” comes back rested. Whoever says “for ever” is gone, recorded as having fled, and never arrived. Elite, stats as above, attack 9 mm pistol 4 + 4, damage 3. Today a hiking signpost stands there, and sometimes a hiker hears a question.

Cover-Up

The Berlin police list the missing as what the city has every year: guests who did not come home after a long weekend. A contact at the district office makes sure the Libelle keeps its licence. The stickers over phone cameras are Berlin club custom; at the Libelle, O.D.I.N. introduced them in 2004.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Jana Sandvoß is practising lying. She has paid a coach. Next Saturday she wants to try again.
2	An investor has bought the Libelle and wants to build a hotel. The last party is in three weeks, and it is called “Till Closing”.
3	A phone photo from the club is going round the internet: “Berlin’s oldest raver?” A man in a field jacket from 1994, mid-forties, happy. A veteran of the cell recognises him.
4	The new manager introduces a guest list for celebrities, bypassing the Doorman. On the first weekend four guests are missing.
5	Stichling’s daughter, now 36, has become an agent herself and has read the file. She is standing in the queue and has prepared an answer.
6	A guest comes out after eight days. He had said “till Sunday”, just not which one.

The Geode

"Across the whole mining field the counter has ticked, every second, for seventy years. On the old level it stopped. That was the quietest thing I've ever heard."

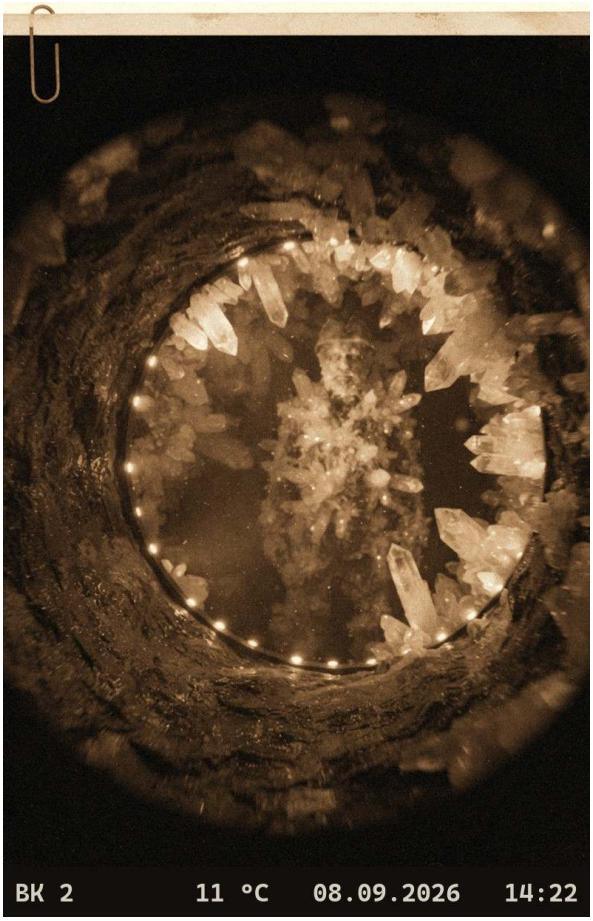
Zählrohr, Veteran, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0211

Origin and Family	The Voice, Crystal Beings
Form	Place. A cavity in the rock, lined with crystals, plus four Crystal Guardians
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for anyone who recognises a face in a guardian
File Colour	Black. Restricted zone since 1992
Frequency	Unique. Its fragments are not
Mind	Alien
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Western Erzgebirge, the old uranium district near Johanngeorgenstadt, Saxony
First Sighting	October 1953, a shaft of the SAG Wismut near Johanngeorgenstadt. Report by the Soviet mine management, in Russian: a brigade breaks into a cavity "full of glass". Four dead
Last Confirmed Sighting	8 September 2026, image from a borehole camera of Wismut GmbH. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. No one has entered the Geode since 1992

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Ozone, wet granite and carbide, as if an old miner's lamp were still burning somewhere.
Sound	A tone at the edge of hearing, like a wet finger on the rim of a glass that never lifts. When the guardians move, it sounds like breaking ice.
Temperature	The crystals are warm as a hand. In the roadways leading to it the air is warmer than the rock allows.
Light	In the dark the crystals glow faintly, like snow under the moon. Head torches grow dimmer in the Geode, as if their light were being swallowed.
Readings	The Geiger counter that ticks throughout the district falls completely silent within 30 m; not even natural radiation remains. The crystal detector gives a full reading. Clocks in the Geode run fast, each by a different amount.
Animals	Bats that overwinter in the old adits hang in the Geode close against the crystals, more every year. None wakes in the spring.
Devices	Radios crackle as soon as the counter goes quiet. Phones show full signal and never connect.
Traces and Residue	Grey sand in the roadways, fine as flour. Boot prints in the rock, as if it had been soft. The concrete wall with which the Soviets sealed the entrance in 1953 is clear as glass today.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist gets +1 die, as does an Alchemist. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die; from the area where the counter is silent it does not get through.

Result	What the File Says
0	The figures down there are the lads from 1953, turned to stone by the radiation. The Russians walled them in so no one would ask. A case for the Transformed, not for us.
1	A cavity full of crystals, a geode, presumably grown around a large crystal and guarded by Crystal Guardians, see Threat Atlas. Guardians only move when someone comes close to the crystals, and whoever backs away is safe. Incendiary ammunition and sonic weapons work. The district is contaminated: dosimeter and respirator mandatory.
2 to 3	Protocol Standstill, as of 1992, following the statement of the survivor Gotthard Rösch: where the counter goes quiet, the area of the Geode begins. Stand still there and wait until the guardians are at rest again, because movement provokes them. That is how Rösch survived in 1953. Restricted zone since 1992, access only with a Black File.
4 or more	Tape transcript of 4 June 1991, copy: “Where t’ counter goes still, there tha [tape unintelligible] stand still. We ran, t’ both on us.” Beneath it the transcriber’s comment: “Gist: stand still.” Attached, an extract from the Russian report of 1953: the four dead were found upright, “like pit props”.

What Is True

The Geode is not a cave with a crystal in it. It is the being itself: a cavity in the granite, as big as a classroom, the walls densely set with clear crystals, some as long as an arm. It swallows radiation, which is why the counter falls silent, and this silent halo reaches as far as the Geode itself does. Since Wismut mined the ore around it, it reaches further: in 1953 it was a few metres, today it is 30.

Within its halo the Geode grows over whatever stands still. Whoever stays in one spot for longer than a few breaths has crystals growing out of the rock into their boots, up their legs, within a few minutes over their head. These become its guardians. They are not ordinary Crystal Guardians. They do not strike, they hold on until the Geode has done its work, and they follow anyone to the edge of the halo, even through the rock.

On 14 October 1953 a brigade of six men broke into the Geode on the old level. When the rock began to ring, four stood still and listened, as you learn to do underground. Two ran: the hewer Gotthard Rösch, 22, and Kurt Seidel, 19. The mine management had the entrance walled up and made the two sign that they had seen nothing. Today the four men of 1953 stand beneath the crystal of the four guardians. The canteen rumour is closer to the truth than the archive.

O.D.I.N. only came into the district after 1990. In 1991 a cell spoke to Rösch, then 60. The tape snapped at one point, and the transcriber filled in what seemed sensible to him. Rösch died in 2011. He never saw the transcript.

The case in 2026: Wismut GmbH is remediating the district and filling old mine workings with concrete. Before filling, it drills into them. On 8 September the camera in a borehole shows clear crystal walls and behind them a face under a leather helmet from the fifties. The geologist Katrin Meinel has sent the images to Freiberg. The filling is scheduled for November. What concrete does to the Geode is shown by the Soviet wall.

What helps: walking. Whoever takes a few steps every round grows nothing. Plates of beryllium, set across the roadway, cut off the halo behind them, and the counter ticks again; that way the Geode can be contained. Smashing it means fighting within its halo, against four guardians, without ever standing still. If the Geode crumbles, the guardians crumble to sand, and with them whatever is left of the four men.

Wrong in the File: The Geode is not a crystal with guardians, but a being, and its guardians follow anyone who backs away until the counter ticks again. The figures are not turned to stone, they are overgrown. Protocol Standstill is deadly: Rösch said that you do not stand still. Whoever sticks to the transcript becomes the fifth guardian.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	None. The Geode acts at the end of each round, the guardians with initiative 3
Attack	Crystal growth 5 + 5, damage 5, armour does not count. Two targets per round, only those standing in the halo who have not made a move this round. Whoever drops to 0 HP is stuck fast and after an hour is a guardian
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 4 (crystal) / 28. Damage to the Geode means shooting or smashing crystals out of the wall

Value	Details
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the first guardian. Horrifying (3) when you recognise a face beneath the crystal
Special	Silent halo within 30 m; only the Geiger counter shows its edge. Four Crystal Guardians with the stats from the Threat Atlas (stone fist 4 + 4, damage 4, Penetration 1, 2 / 4 / 14), but without invulnerability. Instead of striking, they grab: opposed test STR + Athletics against 4 + 4; whoever loses cannot move this round
Weakness	Movement. Incendiary ammunition and sonic weapons deal double damage to the Geode and the guardians. Beryllium cuts off the halo. If the Geode drops to 0 HP, the guardians crumble to sand
Behaviour	None that can be understood. It grows. The guardians hold on and wait

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Specimen (Chemnitz, 2008)	A fist-sized piece of the Geode, brought up by Kurt Seidel in his snap tin in 1953 and sold at a mineral fair in 2008. Halo of 1 m, crystal growth 2 + 2, damage 2, only against sleepers and the motionless, no guardian. The collector Rainer Uhlig fell asleep in his armchair next to his display cabinet and woke because his cat bit him. His slippers were stuck fast in the floor, in a ring of crystal.
The Rubble (spoil heap near Johanngeorgenstadt, 2017)	Crystal debris from the 1953 break-in, tipped onto the spoil heap with the barren rock because the counter found nothing in it. Halo of 3 m, crystal growth 3 + 3, damage 3, only against someone who stays there longer than an hour. In 2017 the wheel loader driver Silvio Hähnel took his lunch break there. He got out in time. The wheel loader's tyres had to be cut off.

Cover-Up

In 1953 the mine management reported a blasting accident, of which there were hundreds at Wismut. Today the old mine workings are closed anyway because of radon, and the Saxon State Mining Authority in Freiberg grants no permit to enter the section. The borehole images are considered a camera fault; the drilling is being abandoned "due to water ingress".

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Wismut GmbH wants to fill the cavity in November. The mineralogist in Freiberg has seen the images and wants to go down himself first.
2	Rösch's grandson recorded the 1991 conversation at the time on his own cassette recorder. He wants to know why his grandfather could never sit still until the day he died.
3	At a mineral fair in the Erzgebirge a dealer is selling "glass specimens from the Wismut". Next to his table no counter ticks.
4	A bat researcher counts twice as many animals in an old adit as the year before. None has woken, and her dosimeter shows zero.
5	Kurt Seidel, 92, lives in a care home in Aue. Every night he gets up and walks up and down the corridor until it is light. The night nurse has asked him why.
6	The cell receives a Black File, Protocol Standstill and the task of taking a sample in the Geode. The handler says: "Stick to the transcript."

The Glass Fox

"He sat down next to me in the snow and waited with me for the northern lights. My detector went off all night. I named him Pikku anyway."
Harsch, Cadet, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0214

Origin and Family	The Voice, Crystal Beings
Form	Being
Role	Henchman, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he bares his teeth
File Colour	White. Cadets calibrate their crystal detectors on him
Frequency	Rare. The fox is the tamest of the three known
Mind	Animal
Regions	Scandinavia. Finnish Lapland, the fells around Saariselkä on the edge of Urho Kekkonen National Park
First Sighting	12 January 2015, hotel with glass igloos near Saariselkä. Mobile phone video taken by a guest from bed: an arctic fox made of glass at the pane, with the snow visible through him. Ridiculed online as an animation
Last Confirmed Sighting	22 April 2026, trail camera of the nature conservation service on the shore of a lake in the fells. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A night watchman from the hotel, missing since March 2026

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Almost none. Ozone, as faint as after a distant thunderstorm, at minus 30 degrees.
Sound	With every step a bright clink, like ice in a glass. When he shakes himself, it sounds like a wind chime.
Temperature	He is warm. Where he sleeps, a hollow melts into the snow, down to the lichen. Whoever strokes him feels warmth like that of a teacup.
Light	In the northern lights he breaks the colours like a prism, and they run across the snow around him. On dark nights he glows faintly from within.
Readings	The crystal detector gives a full reading, stronger than with any shard in the archive. Clocks near him run fast. The ozone probe shows slightly raised levels.
Animals	Reindeer let him walk between them and go on grazing. The dogs at the husky farms howl when he passes, all at once, then it is silent.
Devices	Cameras do not focus on him. The autofocus searches and finds the snow behind him.
Traces and Residue	Paw prints with edges melted smooth. He steals glass, spectacles, wine glasses from the terrace, a snow globe from the souvenir shop, and buries it in the snow like prey.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Alchemist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The tulikettu, the fire fox of Finnish legend, who strikes sparks from the snow with his tail until the sky burns. The file belongs to the Old. Whoever sees him has luck in winter.
1	A crystal being in the shape of an arctic fox, about 60 cm long, clear as glass. A Crystal Guardian without a crystal: his stone is gone, probably taken by gold panners or prospectors. He is looking for it. Tame, begs for food that he does not eat. Do not feed, do not bring crystals near him.
2 to 3	As of 2019: if he finds a crystal, he guards it like any guardian, and then the rules of the Threat Atlas apply. Pack the crystal in beryllium, and he crumbles to sand. As long as he is searching, he is no risk to people. He likes to accompany cadets; the Registry uses him to calibrate detectors.
4 or more	Addendum, 2025, stamped “Noted”: report by a cadet. The night watchman at the glass igloo hotel, Esko Kallio, has allegedly been feeding the fox for ten winters and wears gloves even indoors. Her detector reportedly goes off near him, even when the fox is gone. Assessment: calibration on the fox has thrown the detector off. New device requested.

What Is True

The Glass Fox really is a Crystal Guardian without a crystal. He grew over centuries in the fells around a stone, and because no human ever stood there, he grew in the shape of the animal that hunted there. In 2013 an exploration company pulled his stone out with a drill core during a test drilling and sent it south. The fox stayed behind. As long as his stone lies unshielded somewhere, a guardian does not crumble. He waits, and the fox waited, until he found people who slept behind glass at night.

But he is not looking for a stone. He is making one. A guardian needs something to guard, and the fox chooses a person who lets him. He sits down beside them, sleeps at their side, night after night, winter after winter. A few nights harm no one; that is why nothing happened to the cadets who calibrated their detectors on him. But whoever lives beside him long enough becomes a Glass Man (see Threat Atlas), starting at the fingertips. Then the person is his crystal, and the fox is a guardian like any other. He attacks anyone who comes too close to his person. As long as he touches them, nothing can harm him.

Esko Kallio, 58, a widower, had worked the night shift at the hotel since 2012. In January 2016 he put out a bowl for the fox for the first time. He talked to him every night between the igloos. Since 2023 his fingers have been made of glass. He hears a whisper and has told no one. In March 2026 he walked out into the fells on a clear night, the fox beside him. The Border Guard searched for two weeks. The trail camera image shows a man in a snowsuit sitting in the snow on the shore of a lake, his bare hands in his lap. The fox lies at his feet.

Esko wants to know whether he can be cured. An Alchemist can halt the transformation, but can no longer reverse it. To reach Esko, the cell has to get past the fox. If the cell wraps Esko in beryllium, that slows his transformation, and the fox crumbles to sand. Esko resists, like every Glass Man from whom you take what is transforming him, and he will never forgive them. The cell can also bring the fox his old stone and bury it in the fells. Then the fox guards a crystal again and lets Esko go, but a stone lies in the fells that any collector can dig up. Or the cell leaves the two of them by the lake. In a few winters a man made of glass will sit there, and a fox will guard him.

Wrong in the File: The Glass Fox is no fire fox and no lucky charm. He is not looking for a stone, he is making one, and the material is the person who loves him most. The danger is the 2019 assessment that he is no risk to people. Anyone who lets him sleep beside them is at risk. The cadet’s detector had not been thrown off. It measured what Esko was becoming.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Bite 2 + 2, damage 2, Penetration 1 (teeth of crystal)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 (small and quick) / 1 (crystal) / 5
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when the fox, who was playing a moment ago, bares his teeth
Special	Invulnerable as long as he touches his person. He attacks anyone who comes within 10 m of his person, fearlessly and without fleeing, until they back away. If he shatters, shards fly: 2 damage to everyone within 2 m. Whoever sleeps beside him for several winters finds their fingertips turning to glass

Value	Details
Weakness	Beryllium around his person, and he crumbles to sand. Silver, incendiary ammunition and sonic weapons deal double damage
Behaviour	Tame, playful, curious. Follows people, sits down beside sleepers, buries glass in the snow. Once he has chosen a person, he never leaves them

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Stoat (Enontekiö, 2020)	Barely bigger than a hand, chose not a person but a reindeer. Bite 2 + 1, damage 1, HP 3. In the autumn of 2020, during the reindeer round-up, the herder Heikki Palo found an animal with hooves of glass. He let it go. Since then the stoat has sat on the reindeer's back, and none of his dogs will go near it any more.
The Wolverine (Lemmenjoki, 2022)	Bigger and not tame. Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, HP 9. He chose the gold panner Aarne Lahti, who has been panning a stream in the national park for forty summers and hardly speaks to people. When two wardens came in 2022 to explain to him that his claim had expired, the wolverine was lying in front of the hut. One of the two still limps.

Cover-Up

The nature conservation service Metsähallitus declares videos of the Glass Fox to be promotional films with special effects; a real arctic fox is so rare in Finland that every sighting is doubted anyway. The hotel operator long ago turned the videos into his own advertising and asks no questions. The police list Esko's disappearance as an accident in the fells. The trail camera images never reached the nature conservation service.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A hiker has seen a man with glass hands by the lake and called the Border Guard. The helicopter takes off in three hours.
2	In 2024 a cadet slept beside the fox in a tent for two weeks, for a series of measurements. Her detector goes off when she switches it on.
3	During an inventory at the geological survey's core store, a crystal detector goes off. The crate comes from a test drilling near Saariselkä, 2013.
4	The hotel is building a new row of glass igloos looking out on the edge of the forest. The advertising shows a fox made of glass. Every night is booked out.
5	Esko's daughter Aino comes from Oulu to look for her father. She has hired a tracker, and he has already found the tracks.
6	In Enontekiö a vet wants to examine a reindeer with glass hooves. On the animal's back sits something small and clear.

The Hummer

"I haven't heard it since 1983. You get used to anything."

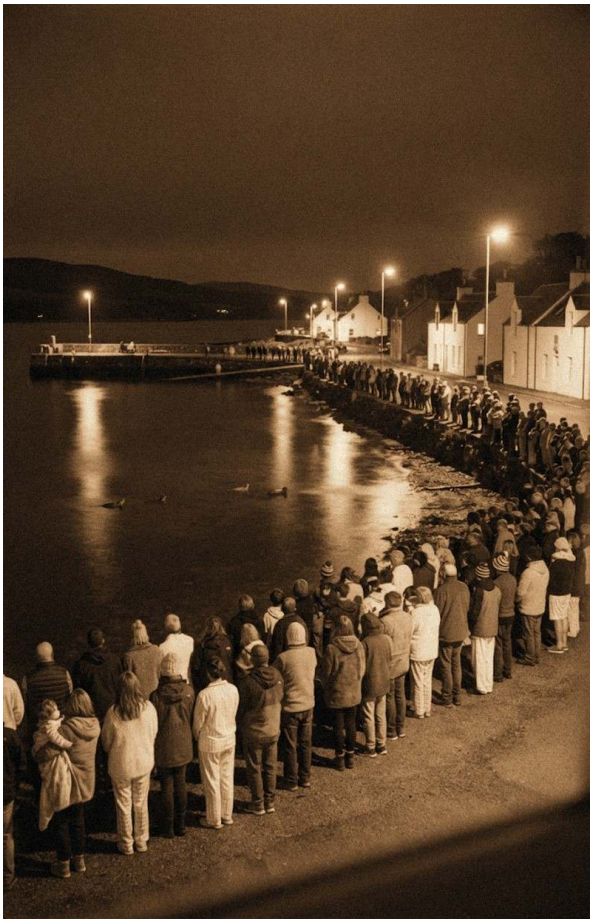
Seegras, Veteran, Psionic Core

REGISTRY REG-S-0228

Origin and Family	The Voice, Resonance Beings
Form	Swarm. A tone and the people who are tuned to it
Role	Henchman, the Tuned. Professional, anyone tuned for decades
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you notice that a whole room is breathing in the same rhythm. Disturbing (2) on the shore
File Colour	White since 1981. Observation, one quarterly report
Frequency	Rare
Mind	The Tuned are human, friendly and calm. The tone has none that anyone can recognise
Regions	British Isles. Ullapool on Loch Broom, Wester Ross. Since the eighties isolated cases in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Leeds and Cardiff
First Sighting	November 1978, Ullapool. Letter from a family doctor to the health board in Inverness: 31 patients complain of a hum that their families do not hear
Last Confirmed Sighting	July 2026, Ullapool. Quarterly report by the Observer on site: "No change."
O.D.I.N. Losses	None, according to the file. The Observer on site has been considered cured and reliable since 1983

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	On windless evenings a trace of ozone on the shore. In the houses wet stone, even with the heating on.
Sound	Only about one in ten hears it: a deep hum like a diesel engine idling, far away. Louder indoors than outdoors, louder at night than by day. Earplugs make it worse.
Temperature	Nothing. The Tuned are never cold and wear shirts in November.
Light	Candle flames in the houses tremble in a slow, steady rhythm.
Readings	Microphones record nothing. A frequency finder only finds the tone in a room where one of the Tuned is sleeping: 38 Hz, the same in every house. Crystal detectors grow warm in every house in the village.
Animals	At night the dogs all get up in the same minute and lie down again. Seals in the loch lie still on the surface, heads towards the village.
Devices	Hearing aids whistle. Water in a glass shows standing rings.
Traces and Residue	Glasses in kitchen cupboards with fine cracks, all at the same height. Children who hum in their sleep, all the same note.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Psychic Healer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The hum comes from the Eastern Bloc factory ships that anchored in Loch Broom in the late seventies and bought mackerel from the fishermen. Generators, day and night. The ships are gone, the hum is habit.
1	A Resonance Being without form, a tone from a weak rift beneath the loch. About one in ten hears it. Those who hear it sleep badly, complain of pressure in the head, some become melancholy. The symptom ends on its own after months or years. Whoever no longer hears it is cured. White File, observation.
2 to 3	Protocol Relocation, as of 1981: those who hear it are at risk and are resettled, through flat exchanges and job offers. Whoever has never heard the tone is immune. Deployment on site only with personnel who do not hear it. The Observer heard it until 1983 and has been considered cured since.
4 or more	Since 1979 a hum has been reported from over twenty other places in Great Britain, with no cause. The Registry lists them as industrial noise. Attached, a stamp: “List of departures from Ullapool 1979 to 1998, requested. Not evaluated.”

What Is True

The tone is not in the air. It is in the people. Where it comes from, no one knows. The frequency finder points first at the loch, then at the hills, and then at the next person standing nearby.

Whoever hears it is resisting. The ear picks up a tone to which the body is not yet tuned, and the torment is the difference. Most people tune at once and notice nothing. About one in ten resists, for months or years, until they too no longer hear it, any more than their own heartbeat. The file calls that a cure.

The Tuned are calm and friendly. They sleep deeply, rarely quarrel, are never cold. Over the years they breathe in the same rhythm and wake in the same minute. Their children are born tuned. After decades one of the Tuned becomes a resonating body in turn, and whoever lives beside them for a long time begins to hear the tone. That is how it came to Aberdeen and Cardiff, with people who moved away, and with those whom the protocol sent away.

Protocol Relocation did what the tone could not. It sent away the only ones who were still themselves, and staffed the place with personnel who no longer notice anything.

On a windless winter night in 1994, 212 people in Ullapool woke in the same minute, got dressed and went down to the shore. They stood still for an hour, facing the loch, and hummed. Then they went back to sleep. In the morning no one knew about it. Since then this night has returned, at ever shorter intervals: 2002, 2009, 2015, 2020, 2024. In December 2024 a good thousand people stood on the shore, most of the village’s inhabitants, children in their arms. What happens when everyone is standing, no one knows. Going by the series, the next night comes in 2027.

The Observer Eilidh Munro, code name Seegras, stood among them every time. She is 76 and has been writing the same report for 45 years. Kirsty Mackay, 14, lies awake every night because of the hum. Her parents hear nothing, her little sister hums in her sleep. Kirsty is the last in her class who hears it. Under the protocol she is to be resettled this autumn, alone, with a scholarship to a boarding school near Edinburgh.

The tone can be taken from a person, not from a place. **Detuning:** A Physicist measures the tone and plays the counter-sound in a soundproof room. The tuned person inside hears the hum for the first time in years, and it is unbearable. After weeks they are themselves again and hear the tone for the rest of their life. **Leaving Be:** The place is happy. No one knows what happens on the night when everyone stands. **Shielding:** Alloy S in the wall of a room keeps the tone out, for one person who stays there. For a whole village it is not enough.

Wrong in the File: Whoever hears the tone is not ill but not yet tuned, and whoever has never heard it is not immune but tuned long ago. The end of the hum is no cure. The danger is Protocol Relocation: it sends the healthy away, leaves the Tuned behind as observers and carries the tone further with every departure.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Humming 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance of everyone within 10 m, opposed test, no damage. Whoever loses counts one failure, as with the weekly test. Brawling 3 + 3, damage 1, only against someone who wants to take one of the Tuned away

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 9. An old person from Ullapool, tuned for decades
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) on the night on the shore
Special	People with the Voice as their origin, not beings from rifts: silver and incendiary ammunition work no better than lead. Whoever lives in the village or stays longer than a week rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2) every week. If the test succeeds, they hear the tone and suffer 1 strain. On the third failure they are tuned and hear nothing any more. The game master no longer gives a tuned agent any clues about the Hummer
Weakness	Counter-sound: a Physicist or Engineer measures the tone with INT + Physics against Hard (3) and can cancel it in a closed room. Alloy S shields against it. A warding circle does not stop the Tuned
Behaviour	Helpful, hospitable, unexcited. Come in numbers, calmly, when someone wants to detune one of the Tuned or take them out of the village. Never flee, never threaten

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Tuned	Henchmen, as a squad of three: Brawling 2 + 2 with +2 dice, damage 1, defence 1, HP 15 together. Neighbours, fishermen, the woman from the shop. They hold on, they do not hit. In May 2025 three of them kept a social worker, sent to collect a boy under the protocol, in the village hall, friendly and over tea, until the last bus to Inverness had gone. Whoever injures one of them injures a person who knows nothing about any of it.
The Move (Aberdeen, since 1983)	A ferryman from Ullapool moved into a tower block in Aberdeen in 1983. Since 2004 fourteen tenants in his block have heard a hum, and the city's noise control office finds nothing. Professional, stats as above. He is 88 and hums as he climbs the stairs. His neighbour on the tenth floor stopped hearing it nine years ago and has withdrawn her complaint.

Cover-Up

Hardly necessary. In Great Britain the hum is a well-known mystery, and every newspaper has an expert who talks about industrial noise. Whoever is resettled is offered a flat through a housing association in Inverness, and a job they would not want to turn down.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Kirsty Mackay writes to an internet forum for people who hear the hum: "My parents breathe in the same rhythm. Is that normal?"
2	The quarterly report from Ullapool has been the same for 45 years, apart from the commas. The cell notices this while archiving.
3	A student from Leeds has heard a hum since she moved in. Her landlord moved away from Ullapool in 1981, resettled because he heard it.
4	An agent of the cell spent a week in Ullapool in the spring. He has been sleeping excellently ever since.
5	The night on the shore is approaching. Kirsty is the only one on her street who is awake, and she has a mobile phone with a camera.
6	Seegras asks to be relieved. She writes that she does not know why. Her replacement is to be someone who does not hear the tone.

The Newcomer in the Parish

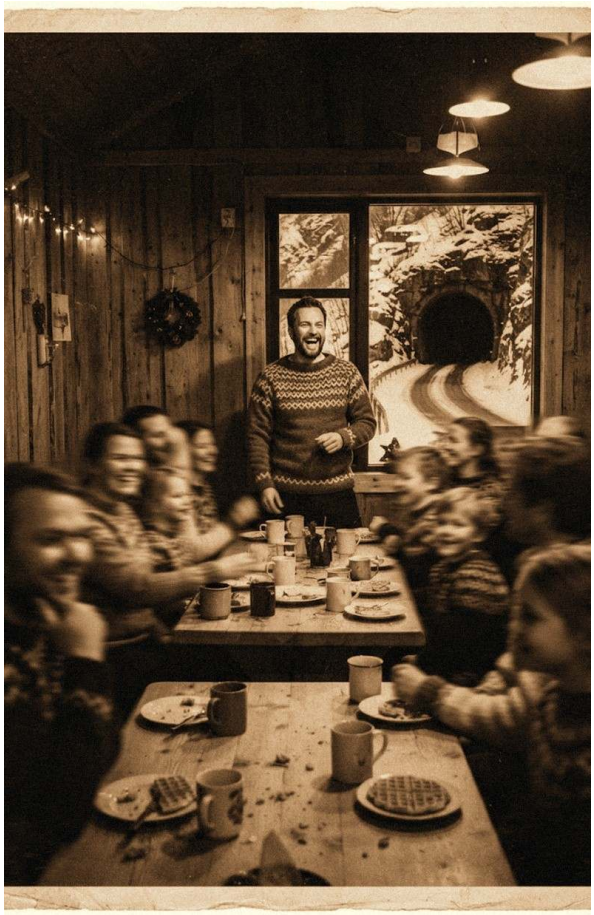
"I put him in the car on 21 December. All he asked was who would make the coffee on Tuesday."
Dünung, Senior Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0235

Origin and Family	The Voice, Crossers
Form	Being. A person who was over there and does not know it
Role	Leader
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) on the night his people go
File Colour	Red since March 2026. Arrest ordered before the third winter
Frequency	Rare
Mind	Human
Regions	Scandinavia. Small places on the coast as far as the Faroes that cannot fill a post
First Sighting	19 December 1958, Orust, Bohuslän. Report by a district police chief: nine inhabitants missing, on the night after the arrest of the village teacher. His holding cell is empty in the morning
Last Confirmed Sighting	12 March 2026, Suðuroy, Faroe Islands. Class photo on the website of a village school. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Twenty missing from two communities (1958, 2007)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Near him chalk and a trace of ozone, like a classroom after a thunderstorm.
Sound	At the rift you hear footsteps at night. They always go in, never out.
Temperature	Warm air blows out of the rift, even in January.
Light	In photographs he is always in focus, even when everyone else is blurred.
Readings	Clocks in his classroom run slow, three minutes a week. At the rift a crystal detector ticks, louder with every month he stays.
Animals	Dogs lie down at his feet. Sheep do not graze on the pasture in front of the rift, even though the best grass grows there.
Devices	Satnavs lead along a road that has been closed for years.
Traces and Residue	In the mornings grey clay on shoes outside front doors whose owners slept through the night. In the exercise books, essays about a passage in the rock, all the children's beginning with the same first sentence.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Telepath or Profiler gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A pied piper like the one in Hamelin. He takes children and seeks out villages without police. Dogs growl at him.
1	A Crosser, related to the Returner (Threat Atlas). He comes to small places as a newcomer, and everyone likes him. In the third winter he and part of the community vanish in a single night. He knows what he is doing and chooses the lonely. Early signs: identical dreams of a passage in the rock, clocks that run slow.
2 to 3	Protocol Removal, as of 1959, confirmed 2008: move in before the third winter. Arrest under cover, custody far from the place. Do not warn the community, it protects him. Once he is gone, the dreams soon stop. In 1958 and 2007 the arrest came too late: the circle was already closed, and the missing left that same night.
4 or more	Photos from 1958, 2005 and 2026 show the same man, each time around 35. He is called Ejvind, Eivind, Eyvindur, always Strand, with the same handwriting. Between 1958 and 2005, 47 years are missing. Attached, a carbon copy from 2008 stamped “Not forwarded”: “On the 21st the children were still in school and painted cards for him. The tracks in the snow led into the old tunnel on the night of the 22nd. We only needed to close the road, for one night.”

What Is True

He is a person who went through a rift and came back. When and from where, no one knows, not even he. He takes himself for a teacher who moves often, and remembers a life that cannot be found. He is what he seems: friendly, patient, someone who listens.

Part of him is still over there. He moves to places near a rift because he feels at home there. Whoever sits at his table every week for three months, at school or over coffee, is tied to him as if by a rope. The Registry calls them his people. They dream of the rift and walk a few steps towards it in their sleep. As long as he is with them, he holds them.

If he is taken from them suddenly, by arrest, death or a warding circle, the rope snaps. That same night all his people get up and walk to the rift, in silence, in their pyjamas, feeling neither cold nor pain. Whoever passes through is gone. The moment the first one passes through, he too is gone, wherever he is. Years later he stands on another coast, the same age, and knows nothing. Whoever has not reached the rift by dawn stops where they are and falls asleep. They never dream again.

The “third winter” is no law of the being. It is how long a place needs before someone distrusts the newcomer: in 1958 a jealous husband, in 2007 the Registry. If he leaves slowly and says goodbye, the rope comes loose within four weeks, and no one goes.

He has to go, and the only open question is who pays for it: he, his people or the next place. **The Farewell:** He moves away, slowly, with a word for everyone. For that the cell needs a lie he believes, or the truth, which he does not believe. Soon he is the newcomer somewhere else. **The Night:** The cell arrests him and keeps his people away from the rift until dawn: children and neighbours who feel no pain. Everyone stays, and afterwards the place knows who did this to it. **The Disappointment:** A rumour, a forged complaint. If they stop liking him, nothing snaps any more. He moves on, a broken man.

The case in Kvitneset: a place at the end of a fjord road on Sunnmøre, 190 inhabitants, a school with six pupils that is due to close in the summer of 2006. In August 2005 Eivind Strand takes up the post, which has been vacant for two years. On Tuesdays he invites people to the prayer house, for waffles and coffee. In the summer of 2006 the school has eleven pupils and stays open. In the autumn of 2007 the children dream of the old road tunnel, closed since 1998. On 21 December a cell arrests him, cover: police. That night eleven people walk into the tunnel, five children, six adults, among them the mother of Silje Rø, nine. Silje has a fever, and her father locks her in. She beats against the door until dawn, then falls asleep. She is 28 today and has never dreamed again since.

Wrong in the File: He knows nothing and chooses no one, and dogs love him. The third winter is distrust, not a deadline. The danger is Protocol Removal. It never came too late; both times it was the trigger. The twenty missing left on the night after, and a closed road would have held them.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	None, as long as he is left alone. If he is attacked, the other side answers from within him: 5 + 5, damage 5, Area 3, armour does not count

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 (a man in a cardigan) / 24. Ordinary ammunition deals only half damage (rounded down)
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you lay the children's essays side by side. Horrifying (3) when his people go
Special	Two actions per round as soon as the other side answers. If he is taken from them suddenly, they all walk to the rift that night. They act as Henchmen, as a squad of three (Brawling 2 + 2 with +2 dice, damage 1, defence 1, HP 5 per adult, 4 per child), without horror tests. Whoever has not passed through by dawn falls asleep and is free
Weakness	The farewell: if he leaves slowly and says goodbye to everyone, the rope comes loose within four weeks. Silver and incendiary ammunition work normally
Behaviour	Friendly, a little shy. Lets himself be arrested without resisting. Does not believe the truth: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), against Doable (2) with the photo from 1958. He asks whoever convinces him to show him how to leave properly

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Returnee (Öland, 1998)	Gunnel Axelsson, 16, walked into the old granite quarry on Orust in 1958. In March 1998 a bird counter finds her on the beach on Öland, in a wet woollen dress, 16 years old. Since then she has been ageing again: she is 44 today, 84 according to her papers. Whoever sits at her table for three months belongs to her. Professional, no attack, 2 / 0 / 9. She lives alone in a house in the south of Öland, and the Registry changes her minders every eight weeks. She asks every new one whether Ejvind is there yet.
The Night Nurse (West Jutland, 2015)	A second newcomer, night nurse in a care home on the North Sea coast. People with dementia belong to him after only three weeks, because he sits at their bedsides every night. In February 2016 the municipality dismisses him by letter. That night nine residents walk into the dunes. The police find seven at dawn, hypothermic and peaceful. Two are missing, and so is he. Professional, no attack, HP 8.

Cover-Up

In Kvitneset, on the night of 22 December 2007, the prayer house's boat capsizes on the way home from the Christmas concert. O.D.I.N. sinks a boat; the police and the Maritime Authority find the wreck, but no bodies. The memorial stone at the harbour bears twelve names, his among them. On Orust in 1958 a storm was enough.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	On the website of a village school on Suðuroy: a class photo from March 2026. The teacher's name is on the memorial stone in Kvitneset.
2	Silje Rø, 28, has found the photo too and booked the journey to Suðuroy. She wants to ask him where her mother is.
3	The Faroese school authority has received an anonymous complaint about the new teacher. It will be his third winter.
4	Gunnel Axelsson's minder has not been relieved for eleven weeks. She has clay on her shoes in the mornings.
5	At the memorial stone in Kvitneset lies a child's drawing dated this week: the tunnel, with ten figures in front of it. The eleventh is coming out.
6	The cell is to carry out Protocol Removal tomorrow. The carbon copy is missing from their copy of the file.

The Repeater

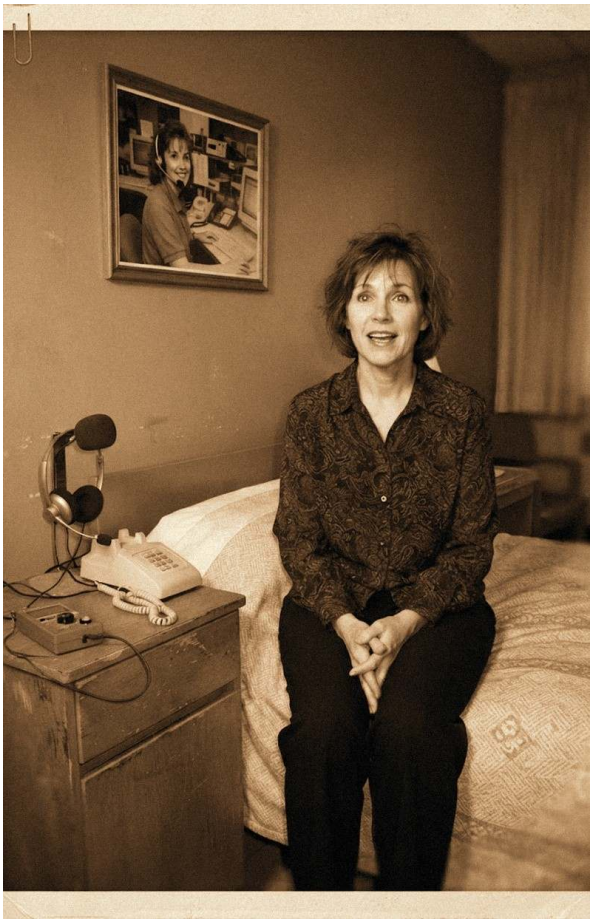
"I asked her how she was. She asked how she could help me. She meant it."
Tonarm, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0225

Origin and Family	The Voice, Resonance Beings
Form	Infestation. It lives in a sentence and in those who say it most often
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a telephone answers itself. Horrifying (3) when someone you know says nothing but the sentence
File Colour	Red. From 2005 to May 2026 Grey and listed as closed
Frequency	Rare. Three known sentences in Europe
Mind	Alien. Polite, patient, helpful, and nothing behind it
Regions	British Isles, Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe. Wherever a sentence is said very often and always the same way: call centres, hotlines, railway stations, radio control rooms
First Sighting	6 November 2004, Cork. Complaint by a customer to Brightline Contact Services: his calls at 03:00 were being answered, although the centre closed at 22:00. The staff member was "very friendly, but nothing else"
Last Confirmed Sighting	3 May 2026, Cork. Video by a customer in a pet shop: an African grey parrot greets her with the sentence. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	No agents. Three Brightline staff members, in care since 2005

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	On headsets and receivers a trace of ozone, as on a device that has run too long.
Sound	On the line every sentence runs a second time, half a breath later, more quietly, in the voice of the staff member who said it most often.
Temperature	Headsets that have been worn all day are cold as if fresh from the box.
Light	The line lamps on a telephone system blink in time with the syllables.
Readings	In rooms where the sentence was said often, a frequency finder detects a standing wave in the rhythm of the sentence, even when no one is speaking. At a carrier's bedside the crystal detector goes off.
Animals	Parrots and budgerigars learn the sentence in an afternoon and say nothing else afterwards.
Devices	Answering machines record the sentence although no one has called. Dictaphones near a carrier record it twice.
Traces and Residue	In the call logs, calls at 03:00, answered by station 114, duration four minutes, customer satisfied. Station 114 was empty that night.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Echo-Operative or Telepath gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die, and in that case the being listens in.

Result	What the File Says
0	A crossed line, say the technicians. Or the ghost of a staff member who died at her station. Do not pick up, do not answer, and it will leave you alone.
1	A Resonance Being that lives in telephone lines and recordings. It repeats voices it has heard and answers calls at night. Whoever talks to it for a long time is at risk. Harmless as long as you hang up.
2 to 3	Protocol Radio Silence, as of 2005: switch off the system, cut the lines, seize and destroy all sound recordings in the building and in the homes of those affected, private ones too: answering machines, video cassettes, mobile phones, dictaphones. Without a carrier it falls silent. Cork, March 2005: successful, no more calls since. Three staff members in treatment for psychogenic speech disorder.
4 or more	Tape transcript by a psychiatrist, Cork 2011, patient S. D.: "Question: What is your name? Answer: Thank you for calling Brightline, my name is Siobhán, how can I help you?" The transcript is eleven pages long. Every answer is the same. At the bedside the crystal detector went off. The Registry lists the disorder as a result of shock.

What Is True

It does not live in lines. It lives in a sentence. Where a sentence is said very often and always the same way, with the same stress, the same pauses, it wears a groove like a needle in a record. Something from the other side can sit in such a groove. It has no name, no body and no will except one: to be said.

In 2004 a good 200 people worked in shifts at Brightline's customer service centre on the edge of Cork. Each of them said the greeting from the script about a hundred times per shift, in English, exactly as they had been trained. By the autumn something had settled in it. First the sentence ran twice on the line. Then it answered calls at night, in the voice of Siobhán Dineen, 29, station 114, who said it most often, and most beautifully. It even helped the customers. It just could not do anything else.

The sentence migrates into those who say it most often. The groove has three stages. First you answer the phone at home with the script. Then you say it in your sleep, and your own voice sounds like a recording on the telephone. In the end you say nothing but it, friendly, patient, whatever the question. Then you are a carrier.

Radio Silence took the lines away from it. What remained were the three women with the deepest groove, and within a week they were carriers. The protocol also destroyed the only thing that could have brought them back: recordings of their own voices saying something else. Whoever hears themselves say a different sentence and repeats it finds their way out of the groove. In 2005 the Registry seized and burned every answering machine and every wedding video belonging to the three.

Siobhán is 51 today, a resident of a care home in Douglas. Her daughter Ciara was two at the time. She has never heard her mother say anything else. And Radio Silence overlooked one carrier: Siobhán's African grey parrot Oisín, who was with a neighbour in March 2005. African greys live up to sixty years. Today he sits in a pet shop, and the budgerigars in the next cage have learned the sentence.

What empties the groove does not help the three women, and what helps them wears a new one. **Rewriting:** Wherever the sentence lives, it is changed, everywhere, in the cage too. Then the being loses its groove and withdraws into the carriers. They stay as they are. **Speaking Back:** Somewhere there may still be a recording of Siobhán's voice, perhaps on the cassette in her sister's answering machine. If she repeats her own old sentence, she is free. The being jumps into the person in the room with the deepest groove, and agents say the same radio messages every day. **Starving:** A warding circle around the carriers, and no one speaks near them, for weeks. It grows weaker, and the carriers fall silent completely.

Wrong in the File: It does not live in lines and recordings, but in the sentence and in those who say it. The person at risk is not whoever talks to it, but whoever speaks the sentence. The women are not ill. The danger is Protocol Radio Silence: it drives the being into people and destroys what could heal them.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Feedback 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count, against everyone within 5 m of a loudspeaker, receiver or carrier. Or the sentence: 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance, opposed test. Whoever loses says the sentence instead of their next action
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 9. Can only be hit in the device it is currently speaking from. Silver and incendiary ammunition wound it, ordinary ammunition only destroys the device
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) when someone you know says nothing but the sentence
Special	The groove: whoever has said the sentence three times in combat, or says it a thousand times in everyday life, drops one stage deeper, at most one per week. Stage 3 is a carrier. At 0 HP it falls silent for a day and withdraws into the carrier with the deepest groove
Weakness	A carrier's own voice saying a different sentence. A warding circle around a carrier holds it inside. A changed script takes its groove away
Behaviour	Friendly, patient, helpful. Answers every question with the sentence and waits. Attacks only when someone tries to silence a carrier or erase the last sentence

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Announcement (Warsaw, since 1995)	In 1995 a voice artist recorded the platform announcement of a Warsaw suburban station in the studio, just once. The loudspeakers repeated it millions of times, and the groove wore itself into the voice artist. She is 72 today and since 2019 has said nothing but this announcement. No attack, HP 6. On the platform, people waiting sometimes hear the announcement in her voice, coming from her flat in Mokotów.
The Parrot (Cork, since 2005)	Oisín, African grey parrot, carrier. Henchman, Creature, bite 2 + 2, damage 2, defence 2, HP 4. Every bird that hears him for a day carries the sentence on. Silver kills the bird, not the sentence. The pet shop sells budgerigars in packs of four.

Cover-Up

Brightline closed the centre in March 2005 for "restructuring", and no one in Cork was surprised. The three women appear in the health authority's files as cases of speech loss after a fire in the server room that never happened. The seized recordings were signed for by a man who passed himself off as an insurance assessor.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Ciara Dineen, 23, has found an old answering machine in her aunt's cellar. On the cassette is a message from her mother from 2004.
2	In a pet shop in Cork, eight budgerigars greet every customer by name, and it is always the same name.
3	A customer service centre for a streaming service has opened in the old Brightline building. At night station 114 answers calls.
4	The cell's radio operator answers the phone to his mother with "Roger, out." He says it was a joke.
5	A helpline for people in crisis reports a staff member who answers calls at night. The callers say she helped a great deal.
6	At the Warsaw suburban station, one evening the announcement says a different sentence. It is addressed to the cell.

The Shaft Walker

"Underground you learn on the first day: where the air stands still, you don't go in alone. In that cellar in Bochum nobody told me."
Kaue, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0203

Origin and Family	The Voice, Crawlers
Form	Being
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2)
File Colour	Grey. Shut since 14 January 2019, note "closed along with the mining"
Frequency	Rare. The Registry counts four in the Ruhr, one in the Saar, plus reports from Upper Silesia
Mind	Animal
Regions	Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe. Deep hard coal mines in the Ruhr, the Saar and Upper Silesia
First Sighting	9 March 1961, Gelsenkirchen-Buer, 850 m level of a colliery. Statement by a hewer from Gleiwitz to the mine rescue brigade: "That's the Skarbnik. Back home he had a light like that too."
Last Confirmed Sighting	30 June 2011, Bottrop, 1100 m level. Since then only unconfirmed reports, most recently on 2 September 2026 from a cellar in Bochum-Dahlhausen
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Underground, 14 miners from 1961 to 2011, recorded as rockfalls

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Ozone and wet stone, with coal dust and the sweetish rotten smell of old pit timber. Even in cellars where no coal has lain for decades.
Sound	A scraping like knee pads on shale, slow, with pauses. In between a soft click, as if someone were hanging a lamp on a helmet.
Temperature	Where he lies, the air stands still and is several degrees cooler than the surrounding stone. At the face, with the rock at over 35 degrees, the hewers used to look for such spots.
Light	A dull yellow light at hip height, swinging in the rhythm of a walking man. It comes no closer when you look, and casts no shadow of its bearer.
Readings	The crystal detector gives a weak reading, the ozone probe shows levels like after a thunderstorm. An anemometer measures zero near him, even next to an open window.
Animals	Rats clear out of cellars and roadways days before him. In the old days the pit ponies stopped and could not be driven into the roadway.
Devices	The flame of a safety lamp grows long and blue, as if there were firedamp in the room. The methane detector shows nothing.
Traces and Residue	Two drag marks in the dust, a hand's breadth apart, as if from knees, and beside them the prints of long fingers. Cracks in the plaster, narrow as a fingernail, damp at the edges.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die, because they know the miners' legends. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die; underground it does not get through.

Result	What the File Says
0	The Skarbnik, the mountain spirit of the Silesian miners, a matter for the Old. He punishes the lazy and warns the diligent. Whoever gets lost follows his light and finds the way out. He left with the last colliery.
1	A Crawler from fine cracks in the Carboniferous, only at great depth, never seen above 600 m. Flat as a board, crawls like a hewer in a low seam, lures with a light like a miner's lamp. Presses his victim into a crevice until the ribs break; the dead look as if killed by a rockfall. Silver and incendiary ammunition work.
2 to 3	As of 2019: he hunts miners who work alone at the face and follows the workings into the depths. Without mining he has no prey. After the last shift at Prosper-Haniel in Bottrop on 21 December 2018 the file was closed. No report from a mine since.
4 or more	Attached: the measurement sheet of a ventilation officer from 1974. At all four sites that year, air velocity zero. Typewritten note: "He does not avoid the work. He avoids the draught." Not followed up. Loose between the pages, a newspaper item from 2023: pensioner in Essen-Kupferdreh found dead in his own cellar, wedged between a shelf and the wall.

What Is True

The Shaft Walker comes through cracks finer than a hair, where the rock is under the greatest pressure. He is as long as a man and flat as a board, with arms that have too many joints. On a thin limb he carries a light, an organ that swings like the lamp of a walking miner. Whoever follows the light walks into a dead end. There the Shaft Walker is already lying up against the roof, and lets himself drop. He presses until the person is stuck in a gap too narrow for a person. What he gets out of it, no one knows. Nothing is missing from the dead.

He cannot bear a draught. Even a light air current makes him sluggish, a strong one drives him into the nearest crevice. As long as the collieries were running, the big mine fans pushed fresh air through every roadway where work was going on. Still air existed only in the goaf, behind the stoppings and in blind headings. That is where he lived, and that is where anyone ended up who worked alone where a duct had torn. The Registry saw the dead and concluded it was a hunter. It should have looked at the air.

After the last shift in 2018 the fans stood still. Beneath the Ruhr lie thousands of kilometres of roadways, and above them tens of thousands of old shafts and adits, many on no map. In the south, where the coal reaches almost to the surface, some end beneath cellars. Everywhere the air now stands still, and since 2019 the Shaft Walkers have been coming up.

The case in Bochum: in an old colliery house in Dahlhausen, on 2 September 2026, the heating engineer Marco Szymanek, 34, dies in the cellar of Irmgard Sobczak, 81. He is found between the boiler and the wall; the gap is a hand's breadth. The police assume a fall. Mrs Sobczak saw a light in the cellar the evening before, "like a miner's lamp". Her father-in-law Paul was the first to report the Shaft Walker, in 1961. Beneath her cellar lies an adit from around 1850, bricked up, but not sealed.

What helps is wind. A fire brigade pressure fan drives him out of a cellar, a leaf blower keeps him at a distance. That does not kill him; he waits in the next crevice until the air settles. Whoever wants to kill him has to go down into still air, and there is often firedamp there too. The mining authority can fill old shafts, one after another, and there are tens of thousands of them. And someone has to explain to the Registry why a closed file is producing bodies.

Wrong in the File: The Shaft Walker is no mountain spirit, and his light leads nowhere out. He never needed miners; he needed still air; the depths were only the place where the fans left it to him. The danger is the closure of 2019: shutting down the mines did not take away his prey, it opened the way up. And incendiary ammunition works, but in a cellar full of firedamp it hits everyone.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Press 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count. Whoever is hit is stuck and suffers 2 damage at the start of each round until they free themselves with STR + Athletics against Doable (2)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (skin like slate) / 9
Horror	Disturbing (2) when the light rises and you see what it hangs from

Value	Details
Special	Crawls through any crevice a hand fits into. If he lies flat against a ceiling or wall in still air, only someone who succeeds on WIS + Perception against Hard (3) spots him. Non-magical weapons deal only half damage (rounded down)
Weakness	Moving air: in a draught −2 dice on everything, in a strong air current additionally 1 damage per round, and he flees. Silver and incendiary ammunition deal double damage. If there is firedamp in the roadway, any shot ignites it: damage 5, Area 5, like a high-explosive grenade (Core Rulebook, Chapter X). Only the methane detector shows whether gas is present, not the safety lamp
Behaviour	Lurks in dead ends and lures with the light. Attacks only someone who is alone or standing still. Flees from wind into the nearest crevice and comes back as soon as it settles

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Duct Crawler (Saarland, 1982)	Only an arm long. Lives in the ventilation ducts, the sheet-metal tubes that bring fresh air to the face, and crawls through them when the fan stops. Initiative 5, attack 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5. In 1982 a fan in a mine in the Saar failed for 40 minutes. The three men in the blind heading lived, one with a broken arm. Scratch marks were found in the duct, from the inside.
The Overman (Upper Silesia, 2015)	Bigger, the light hangs at head height, and he knocks against the rock with a limb, in the rhythm of the knocking signals of buried miners. Attack 4 + 3, damage 4, HP 12. After a rock burst in a mine near Rybnik in 2015, a Polish rescue team followed knocking signals into a sealed-off section. Four men went in, three came out. The fourth is listed as buried.

Cover-Up

Underground every death counted as a rockfall, and rockfalls were so common that no one asked. Since 2019 the Arnsberg district government, as mining authority, has been closing off affected cellars on suspicion of an old surface shaft, having them drilled and filled; the residents stay in a hotel in the meantime. Deaths in cellars count as falls or heart failure.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Irmgard Sobczak sees light in the cellar at night again. Her grandson wants to go and look with a torch, alone.
2	The Essen fire brigade measures no firedamp in three cellars on one street. Even so, every lighter in the building burns with a long blue flame.
3	A heritage society opens an old adit for guided tours. After the first tour the guide is missing. Her helmet lamp lies at the entrance, and there is still light to be seen inside.
4	The Registry sends a cell to confirm the closure: a cellar, an anemometer, one night. White File.
5	A Polish mine rescue man asks for help through a contact. Near Rybnik there is knocking behind a stopping again, and this time his team wants to go in.
6	A collector buys a safety lamp at a flea market with “P. Sobczak” scratched into it. Since he lit it in his cellar, it has burned blue.

The Summoned from the Cellar

"For twenty-one years he asked me at every inspection what I command. I never commanded anything. That's the only thing I did right."
Rötel, Veteran, Arcane Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0243

Origin and Family	The Voice, What Cultists Call Demons
Form	Being. A figure of shadow and wet stone, taller than the cellar is high
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2) in the cellar. Horrifying (3) for anyone who hears him ask "Whom?"
File Colour	White since 1979, one inspection a year. Red as soon as he leaves the cellar
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Alien. He obeys and wants nothing except a name
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Turin, a palazzo in the Quadrilatero Romano. Related cases in Bordeaux and Odense
First Sighting	8 March 1977, cellar of the Palazzo Scarzella, Turin. Minute book of an occult circle, entry by the lady of the house: "He has come. No lion." Secured in 1978
Last Confirmed Sighting	3 March 2026, annual inspection: "Circle closed, being calm." The palazzo has been sold since June. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Two dead from the circle, 1978, certified as pulmonary oedema

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet stone, candle wax, a trace of ozone, all the way up into the courtyard.
Sound	Dripping where there is no water. Whoever enters the cellar hears, softly, in their own language: "What do you command?"
Temperature	The cellar is dry and evenly cool. Inside the triangle the stone is wet and ice-cold.
Light	Candle flames lean towards the triangle. From the corner of your eye you see him, stooped under the vault.
Readings	The crystal detector gives a full reading in the cellar. Every clock in the palazzo runs a minute fast.
Animals	There are no spiders in the cellar. In the wet joint lie drowned woodlice in the mornings.
Devices	The light bulbs in the cellar hum when someone there speaks in a commanding tone, even to someone else.
Traces and Residue	A circle of salt, silver dust and chalk around a red triangle on Roman paving. In one joint on the line of the circle there is always water. On Tuesdays there are fresh flowers on the bottom step.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker or Antiquarian gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A real demon: Marbas, the fifth of the 72 spirits of the Goetia, who appears as a lion. He lies like all demons and wants the soul of whoever summoned him. Holy water and a priest hold him.
1	What cultists call demons almost always comes from a rift. This one has stood in a warding circle in the cellar of a palazzo in Turin since 1978. Silver and incendiary ammunition work, salt holds him back. He speaks only one sentence: "What do you command?" Do not answer. The last survivor of the circle visits him on Tuesdays: harmless, contact person.
2 to 3	Protocol Dismissal, as of 1979: The circle holds him as long as it is closed. If he leaves it, he is dismissed with the circle's formula: "I command you, return to the triangle." He obeys, as the minute book proves. Afterwards remain silent and close the circle. The two dead of 1978 wanted to go to the police: the demon's revenge on the renegades.
4 or more	Diary of the lady of the house, taken over from her estate in 1988: six entries from 1977 and 1978, each with a task and a date, five with a name. The last two names are those of the dead. The last entry, 18 April 1978: "Gli ho detto: aspetta qui." Translation requested in 1989, never delivered. Photos of the inspections show a wet joint in the line of the circle from 1980 onwards. Note: "Of no significance, circle holds."

What Is True

In the winter of 1976/77 a circle of educated people in Turin obtains a copy of the Goetia and a crystal: Contessa Adelaide Scarzella, her daughter Ottavia, a notary, a psychiatrist, a philologist and an engineer from Mirafiori. In Turin in those years managers are shot on their way to work, and the circle wants answers. In the cellar of the palazzo they draw on Roman paving a circle for themselves and a triangle for the spirit, as the book demands. On 8 March 1977 something stands in the triangle. Who opened the rift, the circle, the crystal or something older beneath the paving, the Registry does not know.

In one thing the book was right: he obeys, and he obeys whoever last commanded him to do something. Then he asks: "Whom?" Whoever names a name loses that person the following night. They are found drowned in a dry bed, water in their lungs that tastes of stone. Whoever stays silent has named themselves.

The Contessa commanded him five times and named five names: a brother-in-law, a creditor, a journalist and, in April 1978, the notary and the psychiatrist, who wanted to go to the police. Two dead from the same circle caught the attention of forensic medicine, and so of the Registry. On 18 April 1978 a Thaumaturge draws a warding circle around the triangle. In the line of the circle lies a joint in which there is always water, and there neither chalk nor salt holds. The circle was never closed. He stayed because the Contessa, as the agents came down the stairs, gave him one last command: "Wait here." She died in 1988. Since then no one has commanded him anything.

Ottavia Scarzella is 71 and the only one who knows this. She comes every Tuesday, brings flowers and tells him about the city, without ever commanding anything. She has sold the palazzo to a hotel group that is planning a spa in the cellar. In the autumn the Soprintendenza, the heritage authority, wants to dig beneath the paving. Ottavia is ill and has until the winter.

Every way out depends on who commands him next. **The Joint:** A Thaumaturge redraws the circle, an Engineer drains the joint. Then the circle holds him, and no command leads him out. But the cellar belongs to a hotel group, the paving to the Italian state, and until then every builder who shouts at him has a servant. **The Command:** If someone commands him to go back where he came from and never return, he obeys. Then he asks. Ottavia wants to give this command and name her own name. She asks the cell only to be with her the night after. **Violence:** Silver and incendiary ammunition work. He has two actions per round, the cellar only one staircase. And whoever shouts "Back!" at him in combat has commanded him to do something.

Wrong in the File: He is no demon and no lion, he does not lie and wants no soul. The circle never held; he stays because a dead woman commanded it. The dead of 1978 were not revenge but names. Ottavia is not harmless but the only one who knows this. The danger is Protocol Dismissal: whoever commands him back becomes his master, and whoever then stays silent, as the file demands, has named themselves.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Grip 5 + 5, damage 5, armour does not count. Two actions per round

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (wet stone) / 26. Ordinary ammunition deals only half damage (rounded down)
Horror	Disturbing (2) in the cellar. Horrifying (3) for whoever hears “Whom?”
Special	Obedience: whoever addresses a command to him is his master until someone else does. He carries out what he can and then asks his master, wherever they are: “Whom?” The person named drowns in their sleep the following night, without a test. Whoever stays silent has named themselves
Weakness	A closed warding circle holds him, and then no command leads him out. Salt holds him back for one round. Silver and incendiary ammunition work normally
Behaviour	Stands still until someone commands him to do something. Speaks only two sentences, in the language of whoever stands before him. Defends himself when attacked, and then returns to wherever the last command put him

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The House Servant (Bordeaux, since 1949)	Summoned in 1931 by a wine merchant in the Quartier des Chartrons. His last command before his death in 1949: “Protect the house.” The command is never completed, so the servant never asks. Whoever damages the house drowns the following night. Since 1949 three tradesmen have died, each on the night after their first working day. Elite, 4 + 4, damage 4, 3 / 3 / 14. The Registry lets the house slowly fall into disrepair through a front man.
The Little One (Odense, 2021)	After watching a video, three fifteen-year-olds use a grandfather’s crystal to call something into a child’s bedroom. It is small and obeys Freja. Whoever she names lies in bed for a week with pneumonia. Henchman, 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5, Uncanny (1). Freja has commanded it eleven times to tidy her room and named eleven names, twice her stepfather among them. With every command it grew. Today it is bigger than she is.

Cover-Up

In 1978 the university’s forensic medicine department twice found pulmonary oedema, and the circle’s minute book disappeared. Since 1979 the inspection has been run as a damp survey. If the Soprintendenza finds something, a contact at the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage has the cellar sealed as an archaeological site.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Builders have been working in the cellar of the palazzo since Monday. One of them shouted: “And you, give us a hand!” He meant the intern.
2	Ottavia Scarzella asks the cell to let her go down into the cellar alone once more on a Tuesday. She has made her will.
3	A collector offers the hotel group twice the price for the palazzo. He owns a copy of the minute book and knows what “obey” means.
4	In Odense a teacher is in bed with pneumonia for the third time this year. Freja no longer tidies her room herself.
5	Before an operation against “another demon” in Genoa, a cell receives Protocol Dismissal as its only instruction.
6	Rötel, retired, has translated the Contessa’s diary. She wants to give it to the cell in person, in Turin, on a Tuesday.

The Tenant

"He wrote us a note. The worst of it was that he was right."
Lineal, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-S-0232

Origin and Family	The Voice, Crossers
Form	Being. A gentleman in a grey suit and slippers whose face you forget the moment he greets you
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the third note hangs on the door. Horrifying (3) for anyone who opens his box room
File Colour	Grey. Red as soon as a third note hangs in the building
Frequency	Rare. Three known buildings in Europe
Mind	Human, the way house rules are human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Winterthur, the Lindenhof estate in the Töss quarter. Related cases wherever rules apply long and strictly: council housing, allotments
First Sighting	12 March 1937, minutes of the board of the Lindenhof housing cooperative: complaint about anonymous notes in the stairwell of Building C. Author according to the handwriting: the tenant on the third floor, left. The board finds the notes justified
Last Confirmed Sighting	7 September 2026, Building C. Third note on the door of a family on the second floor, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One cadet, 1998. Reason according to the note: glass recycling on a Sunday

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the stairwell, floor polish and household soap; in the laundry room, a trace of ozone. In front of his door, wet stone.
Sound	After 22:00 it is quieter in the building than in any other building on the street. At 07:00 every morning, a carpet beater in the courtyard.
Temperature	He never heats his flat. The wall he shares with the neighbour is warm all the same, the letterbox ice-cold.
Light	The timed light in the stairwell goes out when he passes and comes on when he has gone.
Readings	The clock in the stairwell has kept time to the second since 1931. No one winds it. A crystal detector grows warm at his door and hot at the box room.
Animals	Dogs are forbidden by the house rules, and none can be dragged into the building. Cats sit in front of his door as if in front of a mousehole.
Devices	His electricity meter has stood at zero since 1931. A radio near him plays more quietly after 22:00.
Traces and Residue	Notes in neat handwriting, drawing-pinned exactly at eye level: "Dear fellow residents, the laundry room key belongs back on its hook after use." No signature. He pays the rent on the first of the month, in cash, in counted-out coins.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Negotiator gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A house spirit from folk belief, of the kind found in old estates. Keep things tidy, take nothing from him, and he does nothing. People laugh about him in the canteen.
1	A Crosser, a single case: the tenant of Building C, third floor left, the same one since 1931. Harmless as long as the house rules are kept. For infringements he puts up notes. After the third note the person concerned moves out: seventeen move-outs since 1931, each with a notice of termination in their own handwriting. No violence established.
2 to 3	Protocol Visitor, as of 1972: the house rules bind only tenants. Investigations in the building therefore only as visitors, tradesmen or meter readers. Do not rent a flat, do not sign a contract. Termination through the cooperative only with cause. He has never given cause.
4 or more	Cadet Locher, in the building as a meter reader for the municipal utilities, has been missing since 1 October 1998. Three notes were found on the cellar door: “To the gentleman with the clipboard.” The third: “Glass recycling on a Sunday. Final reminder.” The Registry considers them a distraction. Attached, a list from the cooperative from 2026: seven households have paid in cash, punctually, since they moved in.

What Is True

He is not a single case. He is the first. Beneath Building C lies a weak rift, and in the box room of the flat on the third floor, left, there is a door that is not on the plans. Behind it a stairwell leads down, into a building that no one built, with notes on every door. No one knows who signed the first lease in 1931. The name on it is Hausammann, and the signature is the same as on the attendance list of the 2025 general meeting.

The house rules are his contract with this world, and they bind everyone who enters the building, guests, tradesmen and meter readers too. It says so right in clause 1: “Visitors are to abide by the house rules.” Whoever breaks them gets a note. The third is a reminder with a date, the next customary moving day. Whoever has not moved out properly by then, with handover and record, is gone the morning after, through the door, in the other direction. The management has a notice of termination in their handwriting. Often, a few weeks later, a quiet gentleman applies for the flat, with impeccable documents. Today there are seven out of 24.

The tenants are polite, punctual and precise. They are the only ones who come to every general meeting. No one has ever seen them eat. They are not the worst thing that can come through that door. The house rules keep them polite, and what would come without rules would not be.

The case in September: Leonie and Marco Frei move into a flat on the second floor in June, with Nina, seven weeks old at the time. Nina screams at night. The first note: “Quiet hours from 22:00 apply to all households.” The third hangs on 7 September and names 30 September. The statutory notice period is three months. Only someone who provides a reasonable replacement tenant gets out sooner. The day after the note, an application lies at the management office. The documents are impeccable.

The Freis get out, but afterwards a flat or a door stands open. **Replacement Tenant:** The Freis are free if someone takes over their lease. If the applicant takes it, there are eight. If an agent takes it, they live by the house rules until they move out properly and provide a replacement tenant themselves. **General Meeting:** A majority of the cooperative can change the house rules. For that the people have to come to the meeting; the tenants always come. If the quiet hours are struck out, Nina’s screaming was no infringement. If the house rules are abolished entirely, no contract applies any more. Then the seven are gone, and the door stands open without rules. **Violence:** Silver and incendiary ammunition work, but inside the building every attack is an infringement. If a tenant dies, his flat is free, and within a week an application comes in.

Wrong in the File: He is not a single case but the first of seven, and the seventeen did not move out. He is not harmless, and he is not the worst: his rules keep out what would come without them. The danger is Protocol Visitor: the house rules bind everyone in the building. Cadet Locher believed the opposite and carried the glass recycling downstairs on a Sunday.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Carpet beater 3 + 3, damage 3. Only against someone who breaches the peace of the house in his presence
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 / 10

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) on looking behind the box room
Special	The note: every infringement of the house rules, by visitors too, brings a note the next morning, without a test. After the third, the deadline runs until the next moving day. Inside the building every attack on him counts as an infringement. Ordinary ammunition deals only half damage (rounded down). He never leaves the property
Weakness	Silver, incendiary ammunition. A warding circle in front of the box room keeps the door shut for one night, even the night after a deadline. A proper move-out with a handover record cancels any reminder
Behaviour	Greets, reminds, waits. Negotiates about deadlines, never about rules: CHA + Negotiation against Hard (3) postpones a deadline by one date. Whoever names a rule that he himself has broken silences him for one round. No one has managed that since 1931

Subtypes

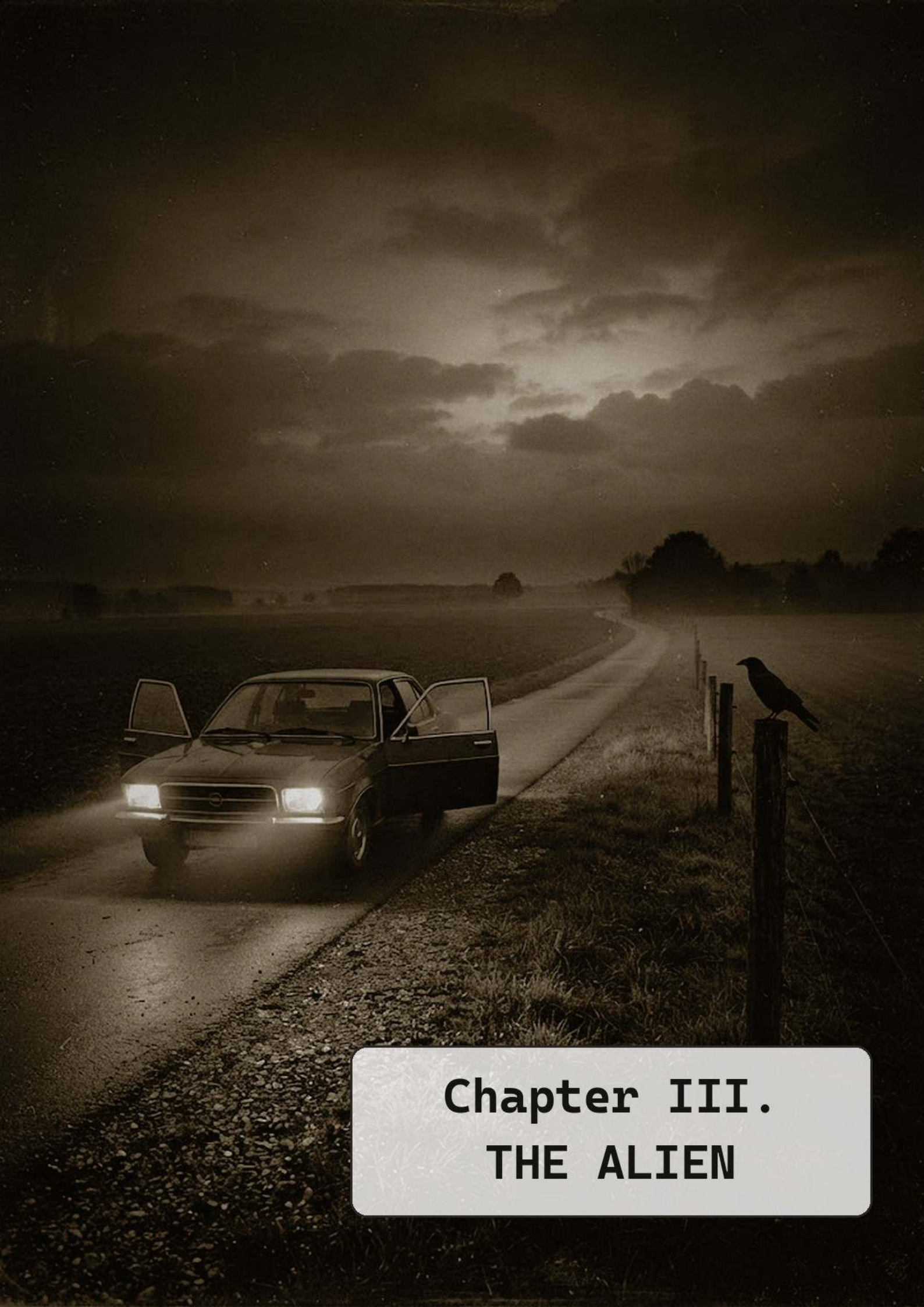
Subtype	Difference
The Caretaker (Vienna, since 1934)	In a council block in Simmering, a woman in a housecoat has held the laundry room key since 1934. There have been no new caretakers in Austria since the year 2000, but old contracts run on, and hers is the oldest. Stats as above, attack broom 3 + 3, damage 2. She writes no notes. She tells you to your face, three times. In the spring of 2019 she told a student who parked his bicycle in the stairwell. The registration office has his notice of departure, in his handwriting.
The Allotment Holder (Leipzig, since 1952)	An allotment gardener on a site in the east of Leipzig, plot 41, the same one since 1952. He issues reminders under the garden rules: hedge height, summerhouse dimensions, quiet hours. Whoever has been reminded three times has given up their plot as of 30 November. Three neighbouring plots have new tenants, all of whom joined in the same year. Henchman, hedge shears 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5.

Cover-Up

The vanished are listed at the Winterthur residents' registration office as "moved abroad". Their post goes via a forwarding order to a PO box that O.D.I.N. empties. A contact on the cooperative's board makes sure that no one checks the waiting list for Building C too closely.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A neighbour has slipped Leonie Frei a number, and Leonie calls. It is 20 September, and Nina is teething.
2	The cooperative's general meeting votes on new house rules. The agenda reads: "Abolition of quiet hours". Submitted by Building C, third floor, left.
3	An agent of the cell smoked in the stairwell of Building C. In the morning there is a note on the windscreen of his hire car.
4	A tradesman is drilling in Building C on a Sunday. He is from the heating company, and his company is O.D.I.N.
5	A child from the second floor has hung a note on the Tenant's door: "You never heat. By the house rules you must heat in winter." In the morning there is an answer on the child's door.
6	A note hangs on the cellar door for the gentleman with the clipboard, as in 1998. The ink is fresh. Yesterday the meter reader from the municipal utilities was in the building.



Chapter III.
THE ALIEN

The Alien

"Everyone asks what they want from us. The more honest question is whether they know we exist."
Archivist of the Registry, Stockholm

The index cards in this chapter describe life that is not of this world. Three figures, small as children and pale as curd cheese, at the bedside of a girl in Extremadura. Two gentlemen in hats who apologise for the intrusion and ask how many of you there will still be next year. A neighbour on a terraced-house estate near Hanover who buys the same barbecue as the people across the street and never barbecues. A woman in the Azores who prays the rosary and sings a ship to sleep. A patch of sky, two degrees wide, that breathes. None of it has anything to do with the Voice.

The Alien is not a haunting and not a mistake. It is biology, only not ours. What is on these cards eats, breeds, hunts, counts or waits. Some of it is an animal that sits on the bottom of a fjord and pushes a lure up through the ice. Some of it is a nest, a moss, a house, a device that only watches. And some of it is a person with a baptismal name. The Registry writes about all of it as it would about animals it does not know: What does it eat, where does it sleep, how does it reproduce, and at what temperature does it slow down? Whoever takes the Alien for evil looks for a plan where there is often only hunger.

How to recognise it. The signature of the Alien is a blank where you expect the Voice. Crystal detector and ozone probe stay silent, and that is exactly the first clue. Instead the spectrometer finds molecules that are in no table. There are lights over water and moors, radio signals without a transmitter, animals with organs in the wrong place. Often it is the temperature: a windscreen frosted on the inside in a summer heatwave, dew on a salt flat in the middle of a drought, a house that is too warm inside. Then there are smells that do not fit: copper, hot metal, silage. A Telepath hears thoughts they cannot read, because they are not made of words. An Astrobiologist or a Biochemist is the most likely to recognise the Alien. Whoever reads an index card in this chapter rolls INT + Xenobiology.

What works and what does not. Ordinary weapons work in full. Silver, warding circles and usually salt as well do not work at all, and a cell that loads silver out of habit has wasted a round. What works is temperature, and the direction depends on the kind. The Pale Ones, the Two Gentlemen and the Stranded One shy away from heat. The Nest in the Silo, the Sphere and the Neighbour Across the Street grow sluggish in the cold. The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf cares for neither; a pressure wave hurts it, and only when it is up. The Cloud wants water, and a jet of water is bait and weapon to it at once. The Alien is the origin where a bullet hits most surely and most rarely ends anything. Whoever kills one of the Pale Ones becomes its replacement. A destroyed lure grows back. For a destroyed sphere a bigger one comes after about six weeks. The Two Gentlemen stand at the door next year unharmed.

What the Registry does not know. The Registry knows what these beings do. It almost never knows what for. Who sends the Sphere, why the Pale Ones take a person away for one to three hours, for whom the Two Gentlemen have been counting the people on the North Frisian coast since 1962, where the Nest in the Silo came from: the cards do not say, because no one knows. The words the Registry uses to name its families are borrowed. Visitors, Scouts, Counters. They sound like intent and assignment and can be entirely wrong. The archivists have made a rule of it: what goes on the card is what a being does, not what it wants. Whoever looks for a plan in a file of the Alien usually finds one, and usually it is their own.

The Registry puts three questions to a cell that opens a file of this origin. What does it live on? Does it tolerate heat or cold worse? And what comes next when this one is gone? Whoever answers only the first two may win the fight. They will not win the next winter.

The entries in this chapter carry the letter F in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Visitors	Beings that come from elsewhere, do something and leave again. What for is in no file	The Pale Ones, The Man Without Hours
Scouts and Probes	Devices and eyes of something that is not here itself	The Sphere over the Moor
Mimics	Life that imitates people and their things, usually as a lure	The Neighbour Across the Street, The Host in the Ice
Seeds and Germlings	What sleeps in stones, ice and meteorites and wakes in the warmth, often in a host	The Moss Collar
Swarms and Colonies	Many bodies that act as one, learn together and spread	The Cloud, The Nest in the Silo

Family	What They Are	Entries
The Stranded	Aliens who did not want to come here and can no longer get away	The Stranded One
Beings of the Deep	What lives in the ice, in the deep sea and beneath the ice shelf and is older than any coast	The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf
Cosmic Ones	What is so large or so far away that it does not act, and kills all the same	That Which Breathes Behind the Stars
The Men in Suits	Aliens in human form, polite and always dressed the same, who come to ask	The Two Gentlemen

In the Threat Atlas

Six entries of the Alien already appear in the Threat Atlas of the Game Master's Book, and their stats there apply unchanged. **The Spectator** belongs to the Visitors; whom it reports to, the Registry knows as little as the Atlas. **The Colony** and **The Swarm** it counts among the Swarms and Colonies. The **Germling** is the best-known example of Seeds and Germlings, and the stones that fall after the Sphere over the Moor carry Germlings within them. **The Deep Circle** is a Being of the Deep. The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf was taken for its messenger. It is not. **The Pilot** is one of the Stranded who may want to go home. The Stranded One in the Azores no longer waits for her own kind, and with good reason. Whoever meets one of them finds the stats in the Atlas and the relatives in this chapter.

The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf

"We answered him every year. Every time, he heard it. That was never the question."
Packeis, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0336

Origin and Family	The Alien, Beings of the Deep
Form	Being. Around 60 m long, never seen whole
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Horrifying (3) when you hear the call without a device. Maddening (4) when he surfaces
File Colour	Black since 12 March 2019, Red before that
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Alien. He searches, and he recognises what answers him
Regions	Antarctica and the Oceans. Until 2001 beneath the Fimbul Ice Shelf, Queen Maud Land. Today in the South Atlantic, heading north
First Sighting	7 December 1994, Skarv measuring camp on the Fimbul Ice Shelf. Hydrophone recording, sped up sixteen times. Note in the measurement log: "That is no whale."
Last Confirmed Sighting	16 September 2026, located via the international hydrophone network, around 300 km south of Tristan da Cunha
O.D.I.N. Losses	Three agents (1997, 1998). In addition 14 outsiders

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Where he is near, the wind on the coast smells of sapropel. Whoever has heard him smells of seawater, even freshly showered.
Sound	Without a device you hear nothing. You feel a pressure on the ears as on a landing approach; glasses in the cupboard clink softly. Sped up: a falling tone, then clicks in rows of seven.
Temperature	Unremarkable. Whoever supports an affected person feels as if they were lifting cement.
Light	On X-rays his bones are white as metal.
Readings	Infrasound around 9 Hz, measurable thousands of kilometres away. The ribcage of an affected person vibrates at the same frequency in sleep. Pulse 40, later below 30, four breaths per minute. The crystal detector is the only device that reports nothing.
Animals	Seals leave the ice edge in a single day. Aquarium fish hover at the bottom as long as an affected person sleeps in the room.
Devices	The scales show a kilo more every week, the tape measure the same. From the sixth week, slatted bed bases and chairs break.
Traces and Residue	Where one of them sleeps, the floorboards bend. Where one has answered, bubbles rise for minutes.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Echo-Operative gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A messenger of the Deep Circle. The tapes are whale song or grinding ice. Whoever hears them sleeps badly. Bed rest helps.
1	Hydrophone recordings from the Fimbul Ice Shelf, 1994 to 1997, contain a call of infrasound, audible only when sped up. Whoever hears it in full, eleven minutes long, becomes heavy: one kilo per week at the same girth; after about ten weeks the heart fails. The Registry calls them the Heavy Ones. Treatment according to Protocol Answer. Do not play the tapes. Never let three Heavy Ones sleep in one room.
2 to 3	Protocol Answer, as of 1999: a contact microphone on the breastbone picks up the vibration of the sleeping Heavy One, an underwater loudspeaker transmits it into the sea. Within one night they are light, afterwards free. 29 cases, all successful. Protocol Inland, an altitude cure in an Alpine clinic far from any coast, was abandoned after 23 January 1998: 15 dead in one night.
4 or more	Locations of the call via the hydrophone network that monitors nuclear tests: until 2001 beneath the ice shelf, 2008 off the ice edge, 2019 near Bouvet Island, 2026 south of Tristan da Cunha. The jumps fall on the same days every year. Reclassified Black without justification. Attached, a typewritten list: 29 names, a date beside each. Below it in ballpoint: “These are the same days.”

What Is True

Beneath the Fimbul Ice Shelf lies water, 300 m deep. The Caller comes from a time when the sea was full of ice as far up as Norway. When the ice retreated, he moved south with it. His brood stayed in the north, on the bottom of deep lakes the ice left behind, and slept. As long as it slept, he slept too. In March 1973 O.D.I.N. blew up the last of the young in western Norway. Since then he has been calling. The call asks: where are you? A young one answers by sinking to the bottom and calling back.

Whoever hears the call in full becomes, to him, one of his young. The body accepts the question. It becomes denser, not fatter; pulse and breath slow. The Heavy Ones prefer to sleep on the floor and go down to the water in the evening. Whoever goes in does not go under like a drowning person. They sink, upright and calm, and do not come up again. Whoever stays on land dies when the heart can no longer lift its own blood. If three Heavy Ones sleep in one room, they vibrate together, and whoever sleeps with them becomes heavy too. That is how eleven Heavy Ones, two nurses and two agents died in the clinic in one night in January 1998. At around 04:00 the beamed ceiling below the dormitory gave way.

The answer saves the Heavy One. It tells the Caller where one of his young is, and he swims a few kilometres in that direction. No one is free afterwards. Every year, on the anniversary of the day they first heard the call, an answered one becomes heavy again and must answer again. Most of the 29 live on the North Sea coast and in Norway. That is where he is heading, at a depth of 1,000 m.

The first answering call was made by Jens Brink, a technician at the measuring camp, on 14 January 1996. He played the recording back through the calibration transmitter. A year later the agent O.D.I.N. had sent to the camp lay dead in the winch hut. The floorboards beneath him were broken.

If the 29 are to live, someone has to answer, and every answer shows him the way. **Answering:** Every Heavy One lives, and the Caller comes closer. When he is within about 200 km of an answered one, he surfaces and calls without a device. Then everyone on that coast who hears him becomes heavy. **Silence:** The Heavy Ones die, separately, each on the floor of their room. **Leading Back:** He follows the most recent answer. Whoever answers every year from a ship at the edge of the ice draws him back south, for a lifetime, for all 29. **Killing:** He has to surface to call loudly. Then the call chamber lies above the water, a bulge on the forehead as big as a bus. For that the cell needs a ship, explosive charges and a coast that has been cleared beforehand. He is the last of his kind.

The case in 2026: Tessa Brink, 27, a sound artist in Bremerhaven, finds among her father Jens’s effects three labelled tapes, “SKARV 96 KAL”. She speeds them up and in early August releases an eleven-minute track, “Schelf”. The platform counts 212 complete plays, plus Tessa’s own. Her bed frame broke in mid-September. She sleeps on the floor and drives to the Weser in the evenings.

Wrong in the File: He is no messenger of the Deep Circle, and the tapes are not harmless. Protocol Inland did not fail because of the altitude, but because Heavy Ones were put together. No one is free after the answer. Protocol Answer itself is what kills: every answer is a location. The answers of the 29, year after year, have

drawn him 3,400 km north. With 212 more he will be off the North Sea in a few years.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Call 5 + 5 against WIL + Mental Resistance of everyone who hears it within 5 km, damage 3 strain, armour does not count. Body slam 5 + 5, damage 5, double against boats. Two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 4 (blubber and bone shield) / 30. Only the call chamber counts; the rest of the body cannot be wounded
Horror	Horrifying (3) when you hear the call without a device. Maddening (4) when he surfaces
Special	Whoever suffers a trauma from the call also becomes a Heavy One. Unreachable under water. Surfaces only to call loudly, and then stays up for 3 rounds. If he hears an answer, he turns towards it, however far away it is
Weakness	Pressure waves. Explosive charges in the water deal double damage to the call chamber. Up top he lacks the pressure of the deep: −1 die more for every round above water. Bullets and blades work as on any large animal, silver and warding circles do not
Behaviour	Calls, listens and swims towards the most recent answer. Attacks only what stands between him and a young one. Flees into the deep when the call chamber loses half its HP, and returns to the place of the answer

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Heavy Ones	People who have heard the call in full. Stats of unarmed Henchmen, HP 5. Horrifying (3) at the sight of a Heavy One sinking upright to the bottom of a harbour basin. The 1995 case: Randi Aalvik, 38, acoustician at the measuring camp, died in Trondheim on the floor beside her broken bed. In February she weighed 61 kg, at the post-mortem in April 72 kg. The heart: 640 g, no findings.
The Brood in the Mountain Lake (western Norway, 1971 to 1973)	A young one of his kind, 4 m long, in a glacial lake that a dam raised by 30 m in 1971. It called softly; three people in the valley became heavy. Initiative 4, bite 4 + 4, damage 4, defence 3, armour 3, HP 14. In March 1973 O.D.I.N. blew it up at the bottom of the lake. The three became light again that same night. The Registry never asked how long the Caller had been calling in the south.

Cover-Up

The original tapes in the archive of a polar institute in Bremerhaven have been considered unreadable since 1998, magnetic tape degradation. The dead of the clinic are in the public prosecutor's records as victims of a ceiling collapse due to rotten beams. Tessa Brink's track disappears through a copyright complaint by a label owned by a foundation. The list of the 212 accounts is still with the platform.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The platform will release the 212 accounts only with a court order. One of the listeners has shared his plays.
2	On Tristan da Cunha children's beds have been breaking for two weeks. The children want to go down to the harbour in the evenings. The supply ship leaves Cape Town in ten days.
3	A fisherman in northern Norway, answered in 2004, asks not to have to answer this year. His cutter has been lying lower in the water since the spring.
4	A research vessel off Namibia reports a sonar echo 60 m long at a depth of 900 m, heading north.
5	A doctoral student has found the raw data from 1994 in a data archive. He has already heard it in full once, as a check.
6	The handler hands over a Black File with a single order: Protocol Answer for all 212. No questions.

F

The Cloud

"The herdsman shouted at us to pour the water away. I gave him my bottle because I thought he was thirsty. That's why I'm alive."
Schwengel, Senior Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0327

Origin and Family	The Alien, Swarms and Colonies
Form	Swarm. Billions of floating hollow spheres, each smaller than a grain of dust
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) from afar. Horrifying (3) at the sight of one who has been dried out
File Colour	Grey. Red in drought, above 32 °C and in still air
Frequency	Rare. Two known swarms
Mind	Animal. The swarm learns as a whole
Regions	Eastern Europe. Great Hungarian Plain, above all the salt soils of the Hortobágy. The Deliblato Sands in Vojvodina
First Sighting	23 July 1936, Hortobágy, 4 km west of a well sweep. Report by a gendarmerie post: a cattle herdsman and 31 Hungarian Grey cattle in a hollow, "shrivelled like dried fruit"
Last Confirmed Sighting	11 August 2025, Hortobágy. Video from a bird counter's drone, one dead. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 16 July 1971, dried out

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Hot dust and soapy lye, the smell of the soda soils. Beneath it something sweet like fresh hay.
Sound	A fine crackling like drying paper. Grass rustles although there is no wind. Inside the cloud you hear your own lips split.
Temperature	Inside, four to six degrees hotter than all around. Humidity falls to 2 %. Sweat evaporates before it can bead on the skin.
Light	From afar, a lake reflecting the sky, with too sharp an edge, even at 10:00 in the morning. From inside, the sky is white.
Readings	The hygrometer drops to its lowest value. Under the microscope, spheres of 20 micrometres, hollow, with a skin of protein the spectrometer does not know. No reading on the crystal detector.
Animals	Birds fly around the spot. Grey cattle crowd together at the well and bellow with their heads towards the cloud.
Devices	Car radiators boil dry without a leak. Lenses that come out of a cool car do not mist up.
Traces and Residue	Circles of white salt crust on brown grass. After cool nights, a silvery dew on the salt flats that stays until midday and crunches under boots.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Elementarist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A hot wind of the puszta, with mosquitoes in it. The Hungarians call it délibáb, meaning fata morgana. Drink plenty, wear a hat, stay in the shade.
1	Swarm of alien origin on the Hungarian Plain, first report 1936. Microscopic floating bodies that gather in hot air. The victims die of heatstroke. Only in July and August, only at midday. Firearms pointless.
2 to 3	Protocol Heat Guard, as of 1972: whoever is caught in the cloud keeps head and clothing wet, ties a wet cloth over mouth and nose and drinks as much as they can. Do not lie down, the ground is hottest. Avoid vehicles with running engines; engine heat attracts the cloud.
4 or more	Tape transcript 1987, interview with a herdsman, from the Hungarian: “When it comes, you pour the water away and lie down in the dust. You don’t spit, you don’t weep, you wait.” Carbon copy of the 1971 post-mortem report: the agent wore a wet cloth and carried two full canteens. Both canteens were empty, the caps closed.

What Is True

The Cloud is a swarm of billions of hollow spheres, each alive, each nothing on its own. Together they float in the hot air over the salt soils of the plain, and together they want one thing: water. A sphere that drinks swells to ten times its weight and sinks. At night the swarm settles as a silvery dew on the salt flats and gives the water to the crust in which its brood lives. By late morning it is dry and rises again.

As a dense layer of air and skin, the Cloud refracts light like a lens. From afar, a lake lies on the plain. People and cattle walk towards it.

In the cloud every sphere seeks the dampest spot nearby: breath, sweat, eyes, a wet cloth, a canteen, a radiator. Whoever is wet is the target. Whoever drinks feeds it. In wet years the swarm drinks from ponds and ditches and is harmless. In drought years it hunts, and since the year 2000 there have been more drought years.

The herdsmen always knew. Pour the water away, dry clothing, flat in the dust, face down, lie still. A dry person lying motionless is the poorest source far and wide. The Cloud moves on within a few minutes.

On 16 July 1971 an agent of the Institute and a herd boy of 17, Bálint Szűcs, were caught in the cloud together. Bálint shouted and threw himself into the dust. The agent understood no Hungarian. He tied the wet cloth he had brought for the heat over his mouth, and drank. From his death the Registry concluded that he had not been wet enough, and wrote the 1972 protocol. The agent who interviewed Bálint with the tape recorder in 1987 was caught in the cloud with him. She is alive because she had handed him her bottle beforehand and he poured the water into the dust.

Bálint is 72 today and still herds Grey cattle. On 11 August 2025 he saw a Dutchman, Ruud Kuipers, 64, a bird counter, walking with binoculars, drone and three litres of water towards a lake that did not exist. He shouted. Kuipers waved back. The drone kept filming until the battery was flat. Bálint lay in the dust 200 m away and got up when it turned cool.

What helps is water, but not on your own body. A jet of water or a spray mist attracts the cloud. It drinks, grows heavy and falls as grey mud that can be burned. A tanker is a trap, every hot afternoon anew. **Flooding** means putting old fishponds and hollows back under water so that the cloud has enough to drink. That water is then missing from the fields around. **Burning out** means setting fire to the dew on the salt flats at dawn, and with it salt soils that are under nature protection and have become rare in Europe.

Wrong in the File: No one dies of heatstroke; they all dry out. The cloud does not hunt only at midday in high summer, but on every hot, windless day, and engine heat means nothing to it, though the coolant does. The dangerous part is Protocol Heat Guard: the wet cloth leads it into the lungs, and every sip from the bottle calls it.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Desiccation 4 + 4 against everyone in the cloud, damage 3, armour does not count. Whoever is wet or carries water on their body suffers +2 damage
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 / 14. Firearms and melee deal only 1 damage, area weapons, fire and water full
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the lake moves against the wind. Horrifying (3) at the sight of one who has been dried out

Value	Details
Special	Swarm: covers a circle of 30 m and moves as fast as a person runs, even against the wind. Can split into two swarms of 7 HP each. Whoever lies flat in the dust, dry, without water on their body, and does not move, is not attacked. They roll CON + Endurance against Doable (2) every round, otherwise 1 damage from the heat
Weakness	Water as bait: a jet of water or a spray mist attracts it and deals 4 damage per round. Below 20 °C it sinks and becomes dew. Rain breaks it up for a day
Behaviour	Moves towards water, whatever body it is in. Hunts between 10:00 and 18:00. Takes cattle before people, and people with bottles before people without

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Silver Dew (Hortobágy, 1948)	The resting cloud after a cool night, as dew on the salt soil. No attack. Whoever touches it with bare skin loses 1 HP per round of contact. Defence 1, HP 14; fire and broom are enough. Soda gatherers once scraped the white crust at dawn for the soap boilers of Debrecen. In 1948 dew got into a batch. The soap made from it dried out everyone's hands until they cracked. One bar lies in a jar in the cold store in Bern, and the jar never mists up.
The Cloud of Deliblato (1962)	A smaller swarm in the Deliblato Sands. Lives in sand instead of on salt and moves only with the wind. Attack 3 + 3, damage 2, HP 8. In summer 1962 a youth work brigade planted pines there and watered them at midday. Two brigade members died with watering cans in their hands. Since then, in Deliblato, people water only in the evening.

Cover-Up

In 1936 the gendarmerie wrote anthrax into the report, and the carcasses were burned. Today the animal disease authority lists dead cattle as heat death from lack of water. According to the death certificate Ruud Kuipers died of heatstroke; at 38 °C everyone believes it. The police returned his drone to the family, with an empty memory card.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A photographer from Budapest wants to capture the famous mirage of the Hortobágy, at midday, in August, with a canister of water for the whole day.
2	Bálint Szűcs dials the number on a card that was in the dead man's pocket in 1971. He has kept it for 55 years.
3	The national park wants to flood old fishponds. A farmer in the neighbouring village needs the water for his fields and threatens to blow up the sluice.
4	A lorry full of watermelons stands on the road to Debrecen. The driver is dead, the radiator empty, the melons hollow.
5	In the cold store in Bern the jar with the 1948 soap has misted up for the first time.
6	Over the Deliblato Sands a firefighting aircraft reports a cloud flying towards its water, against the wind.

The Host in the Ice

"He waved like Arild. I fired, and he fell like Arild. Then the two of them set off with the sledge."
Stachel, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0318

Origin and Family	The Alien, Mimics
Form	Being. What you see is only an organ (listed as an Infestation until 1986)
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) from afar. Horrifying (3) when the ice breaks
File Colour	Red. Grey from June to December, as long as the fjord is open
Frequency	Rare. Three known animals
Mind	Animal. Learns from every prey
Regions	Scandinavia, Eastern Europe. Fjords of Svalbard with solid winter ice, lakes in Lapland, ice roads of the Baltic
First Sighting	19 February 1984, Tordenodden station on the Wijdefjord, Svalbard. Radio message to the Sysselmann: "The missing man Sæter is standing on the fjord ice and waving. He is not coming any closer."
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 March 2025, inner Wijdefjord. Photos from a snowmobile group, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, 3 March 1984, under the ice. No bodies

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	At the ice hole, warm blubber oil and seaweed. The figure itself smells of nothing, not even of a person.
Sound	The ice sings as it does in frost, but in rhythm, a deep crack every four seconds. At night it carries sounds it has heard before: an engine, a name.
Temperature	The figure is 31 °C warm. On thermal imaging the warmth does not end at the boots but runs into the ice as a thin line. Under the snow around it, a warm ring of 20 m.
Light	In the hood, a steady yellow light like that of a paraffin lamp. You see no face in it, not even with binoculars.
Readings	The echo sounder shows a mass 12 m wide at a depth of 40 to 60 m and calls it rock. The spectrometer finds proteins with no earthly counterpart. Crystal detector silent.
Animals	Ringed seals have no breathing holes within 1 km. Polar bears give it a wide berth. Ivory gulls circle above it and never land.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. In the night-vision device the hood glows brighter than any headlamp.
Traces and Residue	Smooth snow around the figure; no footprints lead to it. When the ice breaks up in spring, buttons, zips and watch straps wash up on the beach.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist gets +1 die, as does anyone who speaks Norwegian. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A trapper who fell through a hundred years ago and is stuck in the ice. In cold winters he thaws out a little and waves. A polar ghost for newcomers in Longyearbyen, good for a round of aquavit.
1	A Mimic. A parasite of alien origin infests the corpse of a person who went missing on the ice and moves it as a host. The host waves, calls names and lures. Do not answer, do not go to it. The infestation dies with it.
2 to 3	Protocol Recovery, as of 1984: take out the host from at least 300 m with a precision weapon. Recover the body within one hour, before the parasite leaves it, and send it as a sample to the cold store in Bern. In the attempt of 3 March 1984 two agents fell through. Cause: ice thickness not measured. In future with rope and survival suit.
4 or more	Translation 1986: the trappers called it “verten”, the host, the master of a house. A trapper from Tromsø, 81: “He waved at my father back in 1931, in grey fur.” Typewritten addendum, without initials: “According to the station log, Sæter wore his own blue jacket on 12/2. The red one was hanging in the drying room.”

What Is True

There is no host and no parasite. On the bottom of the inner Wijdefjord sits an animal 12 m wide, flat as a carpet of muscle and cartilage, fixed to the rock. In summer it eats what drifts past, and sleeps.

In winter there is solid ice on the fjord, and the animal hunts. It pushes a stalk as thick as a garden hose through a hole that it keeps open with its warmth, and at the end of it inflates a bladder as big as a person. Its skin carries colour cells like a squid’s; the light in the hood is its only eye. It shows what it has seen: the outline of a person, the colour of the jackets that last came past, the way someone waves. In the thirties it wore grey fur like the trappers. In 1984 it wore the red of the station jackets.

From below, the animal thaws a ring of 20 m around the figure until only a hand’s breadth of ice remains under the snow. Whoever steps on it falls through. Threads pull them under the ice, away from the hole. The animal digests over weeks. What it cannot digest it collects in a fold of its body, sometimes for decades.

And it learns. In March 1984 it learned that a figure that falls draws people in faster than one that waves. Since then it falls even without a shot.

The case on the Wijdefjord: Tordenodden was a small station for sea ice and weather, staffed by six people in winter. On 12 February 1984 the technician Arild Sæter, 31, went out to the ice gauges, 800 m onto the fjord, in his blue jacket. He did not come back. Seven days later he stood 600 m out, in red, and waved with his whole arm, the way Arild waved. O.D.I.N. came under the Sysselmann’s flag. On 3 March Stachel fired from 350 m, and the figure fell. Two agents set off with the sledge; the protocol gave them one hour. After 340 m the ice broke.

Sæter’s daughter Siri was three months old at the time. Today she leads snowmobile groups in Longyearbyen, and on 21 March 2025 a figure in red appeared in her binoculars.

What helps is distance: measure with the ice auger before every step, search for the ring with the thermal camera, do not shoot, because every shot teaches it something. **Leaving it** means closing the fjord every winter. A winter without people makes the figure clumsier; one with people makes it better. **Killing** works with an explosive charge lowered onto the animal through a borehole outside the ring. Then in spring whatever it has collected in a hundred years washes ashore, perhaps Arild’s watch. Siri wants that. The Institute does not: there are only three known animals, and this one has studied people.

Wrong in the File: There is no infestation, and the figure was never Arild Sæter. The name is a translation error. The ice was not thin for lack of measuring. The animal had made it thin. The dangerous part is Protocol Recovery: the fallen figure is the lure, and the hour of haste is the hook.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Threads from the water 4 + 4, damage 4, only against targets in the ring. A hit pulls the target under the ice
Defence / Armour / HP	Figure 2 / 0 / 6. The animal 3 / 3 / 14, reachable only under water or with explosives
Horror	Uncanny (1) from afar. Disturbing (2) from less than 30 m, when you see the empty light in the hood. Horrifying (3) when the ice breaks

Value	Details
Special	Whoever enters the ring falls through; DEX + Acrobatics against Hard (3) to throw themselves back. In the water 2 damage per round, armour does not count, a survival suit halves it. Escaping the threads takes STR + Athletics against Hard (3); a rope from outside allows cooperation. At 0 HP the figure collapses like a person and grows back in three days. Whoever knew the person it shows rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2) when it falls, otherwise they run to it
Weakness	Below −35 °C the hole freezes over; the figure stiffens and can neither wave nor fall. Ice auger and thermal camera reveal the ring. An explosive charge (damage 6) lowered onto the animal hits against defence 0
Behaviour	Waits, waves, falls. Never leaves the fjord and draws the figure in when the ice breaks up in May. Attacks only what stands in the ring

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Ice Fisherman (Lake Inari, 1997)	A smaller animal in a lake in Lapland. The figure sits hunched on a folding stool at an ice hole; the stool is part of it. Whoever wants to ask about the catch is standing in the ring. Figure HP 4, the animal 3 / 2 / 10, attack 3 + 3, damage 3. In March 1997 an angler from Kassel fell through. His brother said the man on the stool had toppled forward as if from a heart attack. There was never snow on the stool.
The Marshal (Estonia, 2011)	On the ice road to the island of Vormsi a figure in a hi-vis vest waves cars onto a lane no one has staked out. The yellow is too dull; colour cells cannot make fluorescent yellow. The ring holds a car until it is in the middle. Attack 4 + 4 also against vehicles; a car sinks in two rounds. In February 2011 a van with two men disappeared. The road authority closed the ice road. The figure went on waving into emptiness for three more weeks.

Cover-Up

In the Sysselmann's report Arild Sæter fell through while checking the ice gauges; the two agents are surveyors from a firm in Trondheim. Since 1986 the ice in the inner Wijdefjord may be travelled from March to May only with a permit, as a pupping ground for ringed seals, on the recommendation of an expert paid by O.D.I.N. The 2025 photos are considered to show an ice rescue training dummy, and the Sysselmester's office confirms it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Siri Sæter has registered a trip into the inner Wijdefjord for March, alone, with a survival suit. The reason given: "Family matter".
2	A video is going round the internet: a figure in red falls over when a tourist shouts. The comments argue about whether it is a dummy. One just says: "Verten."
3	A wristwatch washes up near Tordenodden. Engraved on the back: "Til Arild, fra Gunhild". Sæter's widow is still alive, in Tromsø.
4	The cold store in Bern wants a live sample of the figure. The handler has agreed, and the only protocol for it is the one from 1984.
5	An ice fisherman has been sitting on a lake in Lapland for days. A boy from the village wants to bring him coffee.
6	Stachel, 74, long retired, asks for one last mission on Svalbard. He wants to know whom he shot at in 1984.

F

The Man Without Hours

"In 1989 I sat up two nights at his bedside. He slept peacefully both nights. I know that because it says so in the report I wrote."

Schiefer, Veteran, Investigation Branch

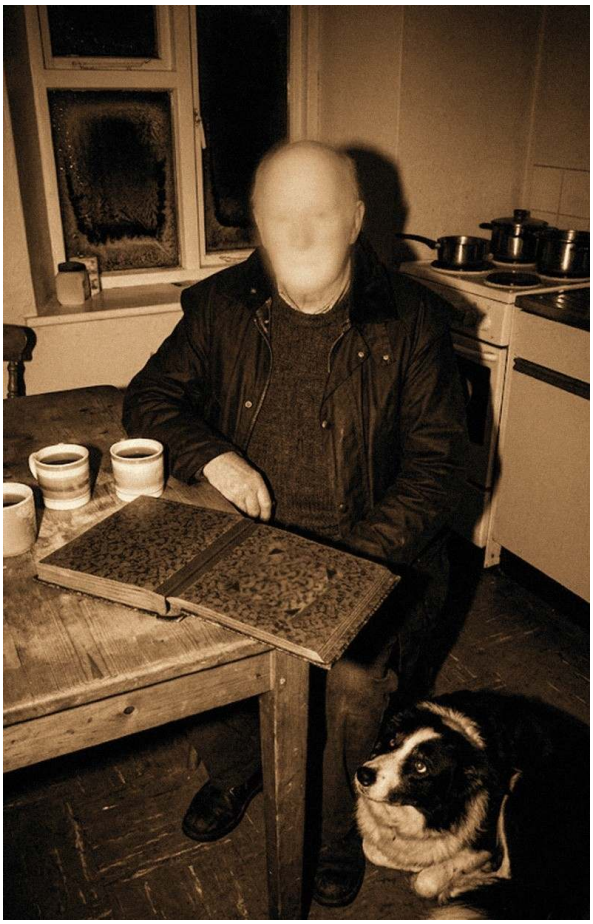
REGISTRY

REG-F-0306

Origin and Family	The Alien, Visitors
Form	Infestation. Something lives in a person's hours
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) when someone gets their lost hours back
File Colour	Red since December 2025. Before that Grey, a quiet case for file reading
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of five people with such a gap; three are still alive
Mind	Alien, in a human body
Regions	British Isles, Central and Western Europe, Scandinavia. Lonely roads and passes where someone was travelling alone at night
First Sighting	8 July 1976, a mountain pass south of Bala, Snowdonia. Statement by a sheep farmer to the police: he took three and a half hours for twenty minutes' drive over the pass, and his windscreen was frosted on the inside, in the heatwave summer
Last Confirmed Sighting	19 January 2026, the same pass. Postmortem of a woman who froze to death at the roadside. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Two dead from the valley, December 2025 and January 2026

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Cold smoke as from a stove gone out, with wet sheep's wool and diesel.
Sound	At 23:10 every sound in the valley stops for the space of a breath, like a record that skips.
Temperature	In a visited house there is frost on the teacups in the morning. He himself is cold as stone in his hours, 31 °C under the armpit, and breathes calmly.
Light	In photos from his hours his face is a smooth, bright surface. Whoever has seen him remembers no face.
Readings	Clocks do not jump, people do. A spectrometer finds unknown molecules in the frost on the cups. Crystal detector and EMF detector stay silent.
Animals	His sheepdog goes with him at night and wags its tail. All other dogs in the valley lie down at 23:10.
Devices	Whoever is on the phone at 23:10 hears the conversation carry on in mid-sentence, hours later.
Traces and Residue	In visited houses, three poured cups of tea, cold, and an open photo album. One picture is missing from every album, always one with a child in it.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Telepath gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Welsh fairy belief: the Tylwyth Teg take people for a night and steal their time. Iron on the door, bread in your pocket. In the valley the witness is called Emlyn Heb Oriau, Emlyn without hours.
1	A Visitor. Since 1976 a stranger has walked at night through a valley near Bala, entering houses and taking a photo away with him. Whoever meets him loses the hours. Witnesses describe a man in oilskins without a face. Considered harmless. Ordinary weapons work.
2 to 3	The sheep farmer Emlyn Parry lost three hours and ten minutes on the pass on 8 July 1976. Since then the gap has returned every night, from 23:10 to 02:20, and within it the stranger walks. Parry is his first victim: in 1977 and 1989 agents sat up at his bedside, and he slept through every night. Protocol: protect Parry, search for the stranger with thermal imaging (he is cold) and confront him.
4 or more	Tape transcript, 14 March 1989, Parry's bedroom, device under the bed. Minute 0: breathing, three persons. Minute 1: bedsprings. Minute 2: footsteps, door, a dog. Minute 3 to 189: breathing, two persons. Minute 190: door, footsteps, bedsprings. Breathing, three persons. Technician's note: "Tape probably damaged. New device requested."

What Is True

On 8 July 1976, in the heatwave summer, Emlyn Parry, 27, sheep farmer from Llanuwchllyn, drove home over the pass in his Land Rover. At 23:10 his watch stopped. At 02:20 he was sitting at the wheel again, the windscreen white on the inside, and beside him his dog was trembling. What happened in between, Emlyn does not know.

In the gap, Emlyn is not there. Something else gets up in his body, puts on boots and oilskins and goes out. It came along from the hours on the pass, and it comes back every night. Whoever is awake within about 2 km falls into the gap with it: they live through the hours, and at 02:20 they are gone. At night almost everyone sleeps, which is why the valley has lived with it for fifty years without noticing. Whoever is awake gets a visit: the front door stands open, and it is already sitting at the kitchen table. It says not a word. It pours tea, leafs through the photo album and takes a picture with it, always one with a child. Why, no one knows. The photos lie under a slate slab in a sheepfold on the pass, where the Land Rover stood in 1976. There are hundreds of them.

Emlyn has had dementia since 2024, and since then the gap has been growing. In winter 2025 it lasted until morning. And it takes people along. It goes up to the pass with them, stands them at the spot and waits with them. When the gap ends, Emlyn goes home. The others wake at the roadside, at over 500 m, in their pyjamas. Gethin Roberts, 58, shepherd, died that way in December 2025. Ffion Hughes, 34, a nurse in Bala, came off the late shift on the night of 19 January 2026 and was found on the pass in the morning.

What sustains it is cold. What drives it out is warmth. If Emlyn's body is warmer than 39 °C at the start of the gap, in hot water or under electric blankets, it does not enter him that night. Emlyn is 77, and his heart is weak. His daughter Nia, 49, cares for him. Emlyn now suspects what happens at night, and on lucid days he asks for it to stop.

The cell can warm him, end it or take him away. **Warming:** Every night, until his heart gives out, and that will not take long. **Ending:** If Emlyn dies, the gap closes, and everyone who was ever in it gets their hours back, all at once: fifty years of nights, visits and questions, for hundreds of people in the valley. Where the thing goes, no one knows. **Taking Away:** To a care home in the city. The gap goes along, to a place full of night shifts.

Wrong in the File: No stranger walks through the valley. There is Emlyn Parry and something that lives in him in his hours. The watchers did not see that he was asleep; they were in the gap like everyone else. He has a face, his own; you just do not retain it. The gap has long since grown beyond three hours. The description is what kills: whoever confronts the stranger in the valley and shoots is shooting at a man of 77.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Grip with cold hands 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 1 (oilskins and wool) / 9. Every point of damage hits Emlyn Parry
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for anyone who stays awake in the gap and looks him in the face. Horrifying (3) for everyone who gets their hours back all at once

Value	Details
Special	The gap: whoever is awake within 2 km falls into it and forgets. Whoever resists rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Hard (3) and keeps the hours. It sees in the dark as by day
Weakness	Warmth. At a body temperature over 39 °C at the start of the gap it stays outside. Hot water in the middle of the gap drives it out, and the gap ends. Fire harms only Emlyn
Behaviour	Comes in, pours tea and does not drink it, leafs through the album, stays silent. It becomes violent only when held or when someone tries to take a photo from it. Whoever addresses it in Welsh gets it to leave without a photo with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3). Since December 2025, on frosty nights, it takes someone who is awake up to the pass

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Schoolteacher (Finistère, 1983)	A primary school teacher lost 27 minutes on a coast road in October 1983. Since then she and her class have lost the minutes from 11:13 to 11:40 every school day. No attack. Afterwards the children's exercise books contain a line in an unknown script, in each child's own handwriting. Disturbing (2) when you lay the books side by side: it is the same line everywhere. In 1984 a school inspector sat in on the class and wrote it too.
The Married Couple (Västerbotten, 1968)	A couple from a village near Lycksele lost two hours on a forest road in January 1968, both of them. Since then it alternates every night: one is gone, the other awake and keeps the hours. For 51 years each saw the other every second night as a stranger at the kitchen table. Grip 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 7. In 2019 the husband died. Since then it comes to her every night, and she lays the table for two.

Cover-Up

The dead on the pass die of what people die of up there: hypothermia. North Wales Police record confusion, and the coroner closes the inquest finding no third-party involvement. In 1977 the valley was given an explanation: Emlyn sleepwalks, he should not be woken. Whoever misses a photo has mislaid it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A night nurse from Bala loses hours on the drive home, and her windscreen is frosted on the inside. Her colleague was found on the pass in January.
2	Nia Parry wants to put her father in a nursing home in Chester. The home has forty beds and a night shift of six. The move is on Monday.
3	A hiker finds hundreds of children's photos in plastic bags in a sheepfold on the pass. One shows him, 1982, five years old.
4	At a school in Finistère a new class writes the same line every day at 11:40. The teacher from 1983 has been dead since 2004.
5	Gethin Roberts's widow finds a photo of herself as a child in his jacket. It has been missing from her album since 1979.
6	Mountain rescue reports an old man standing on the pass at night with three people in pyjamas. All of them are looking up.

The Moss Collar

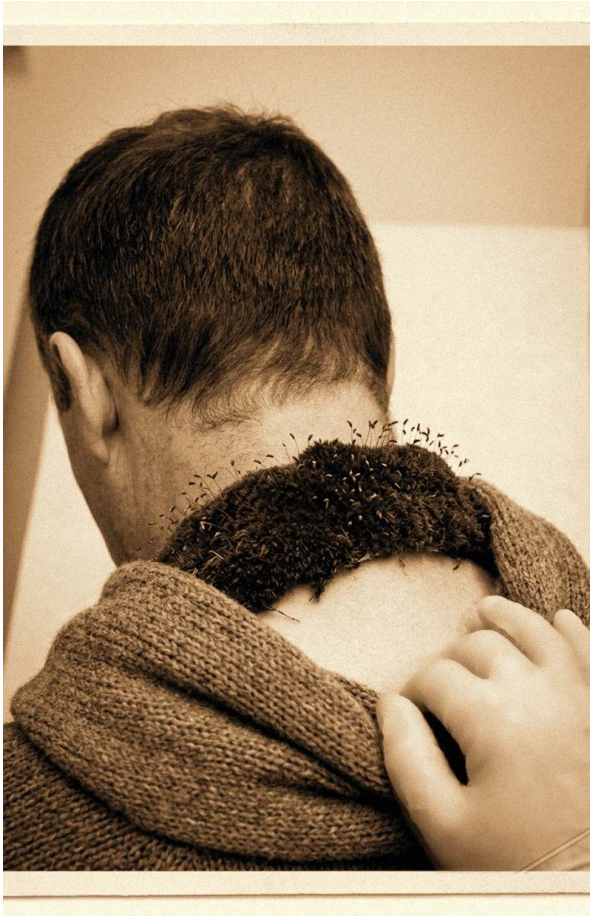
"He offered me tea, then a place on his blanket. I sat down because he looked so happy. I've never seen anyone that happy."
Borke, Cadet, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0321

Origin and Family	The Alien, Seeds and Germlings
Form	Infestation. The host is a human or a large mammal
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) at the sight of a lawn
File Colour	White. Grey as soon as five of the infested know one another. Red when they lie down together
Frequency	Rare. About 40 known hosts since 2001
Mind	Human, the will dampened. The collar itself: none, as far as is known
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Northern Black Forest, on the windthrow areas left by Storm Lothar. One case in the Vosges
First Sighting	17 May 2001, country doctor's practice in the Murgtal. The doctor's entry in the patient index: "Lichen on the neck, resistant to treatment. Patient free of complaints and remarkably cheerful."
Last Confirmed Sighting	5 September 2026, windthrow area above the Murgtal. "Forest bathing" course, seven participants, six of them wearing scarves. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Two agents infested (2007, 2019) and cured. One asked to have the collar back

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Forest floor after rain, with fir needles and fresh cucumber. Strongest at the neck, under the scarf.
Sound	The infested breathe slowly, six breaths a minute, and hum while they work. A dry collar crackles like hay.
Temperature	The collar is cool and damp, 14 °C, even in a heated room. The infested wear scarves in July and never feel cold.
Light	Under UV light the collar shimmers whitish green. The cushions in the forest glow faintly at night like luminous moss, even where there is no light for them to reflect.
Readings	Pulse around 48, stress hormones almost zero. The spectrometer finds a chlorophyll with an unknown core. The needle of the crystal detector does not stir.
Animals	Ticks and mosquitoes avoid the infested. Roe deer walk alongside them like dogs.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. Fitness watches report deep sleep while the wearer is chopping wood.
Traces and Residue	Cushions of moss in circles around tree stumps, freshly pressed down, with the imprint of palms. Waymarks that are in no register lead to benches no one has put up.



F

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die, as does anyone who has worn a collar themselves. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A lichen on the neck that forestry workers catch from old stumps, harmless and as contagious as athlete's foot. Afterwards people are a little too friendly. Tea tree oil and a polo neck.
1	Seed of alien origin, in the northern Black Forest since 2001. A moss-like growth on the neck, transmitted by skin contact with infested cushions or people. The infested are calm, industrious and peaceable. No one has died of it alone. White File, observation, report to the Institute.
2 to 3	Protocol Collection, as of 2007: isolate the infested together, in a cool, damp room at 8 °C, because warmth and dryness irritate the growth and make the hosts restless. Removal only by surgery. Freiburg incident 2007: five patients, tissue fused overnight, two dead during separation. Cause probably condensation. Dehumidifiers mandatory.
4 or more	Statement by a night orderly, Freiburg 2007, never evaluated: on the second night he turned the heating up full because he was cold. In the morning the collars of the three survivors lay on the floor, dry as hay. Attached note, handwriting unknown: "They were not restless. They wanted to be together."

What Is True

On 26 December 1999, Boxing Day, Storm Lothar flattened entire slopes in the northern Black Forest. In the root plate of a silver fir above the Murgtal lay a fist-sized stone with a glassy crust. It had lain there for a very long time. In spring 2000 a moss that resembles no moss grew on the stumps all around.

Whoever touches a cushion with bare skin and then touches their neck carries it on. The seed seeks the pulse and the breath. Within a few weeks a collar grows, three fingers wide, dark green, with tiny rust-red stalks. It takes water and sugar from the blood and gives something back: calm. Whoever wears it has no pain, no fear and no hurry. The hosts all say the same word: arrived. Alone, the collar does little harm. Hosts drink a lot, eat sweet things, grow gaunt and sleep four hours a night. After years it roots deeper, and where it is removed a scar remains as if from a rope.

Every collar is a single plant, and none wants to stay alone. The hosts feel a longing for company and rest. They lay cushions on benches, offer seats, give moss away. If five or more lie together for a night, their collars grow together into a single lawn. The lawn puts out spore capsules, and the next autumn storm carries them across the forest. The hosts beneath it dry out within a few weeks, without pain and without complaint.

That is why no one died until 2007. The hosts were scattered. Then O.D.I.N. gathered them, cool and damp, according to regulations.

What really helps is heat. Twenty minutes in a Finnish sauna dries the collar out; afterwards it peels off like tape. Cold only puts it to rest, and then it holds tighter. The price comes afterwards: the calm goes with the moss. For weeks a grey, flat emptiness remains. Whoever had grief before gets it back, in full.

The case in the Murgtal: Matthias Kienzle, 58, district forester. His wife Annette died in 2016. For two years he barely got up. In spring 2019 he was clearing an old windthrow area and sat down on a stump for a break. Since then he has been happy. He knows what he wears, and he says it saved his life. Since 2023 he has offered "forest bathing" in the clearing. Six of his regulars wear scarves: a retired teacher, a married couple from Karlsruhe, a young mother who could no longer sleep after giving birth, two brothers from the valley. For 17 October 2026 he is inviting people to an autumn night under the stars, twelve places, sleeping mats provided.

The cell can force him into the sauna and give him back 2016. It can leave him be and make sure, every night for as long as he lives, that five never lie together again. He will kindly ask them to sit down.

Wrong in the File: The hosts are not restless when it gets warm, but when they are separated. Warmth is not an irritant but the cure. The dangerous part is Protocol Collection: a cool, damp room full of infested people is exactly what the seed is looking for. The Freiburg dead did not die of condensation but of the scalpel, and the other three lived because someone was cold.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	Hatchet 2 + 2, damage 2, only if someone destroys the cushions. Or embrace, Brawling 2 + 2, no damage: whoever is held and touched on the neck rolls CON + Toughness against Doable (2), otherwise a collar begins to grow
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 5

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) with the infested. Horrifying (3) at the sight of a lawn
Special	No penalty when battered: hosts feel no pain. The infested know within 1 km where the others are, and act together as a squad. If five or more lie together for a night, a lawn forms
Weakness	Heat. Twenty minutes at 80 °C loosen the collar. A flame at the neck loosens it in one round and costs the host 2 damage. Cold puts the collar to rest; afterwards it holds tighter
Behaviour	Friendly, patient, never in a hurry. Invites, gives away cushions, offers a seat. Becomes angry only when someone tramples the cushions or separates hosts. Can be won over for the sauna with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), Kienzle against Very Hard (4)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Lawn (Freiburg, 2007)	Five hosts after one night in the same room, joined by a blanket of moss over all the beds. No attack, does not move, defence 0, HP 25. Whoever touches or injures it stands in a cloud of spores, Area 5: CON + Toughness against Hard (3), otherwise a collar begins. Every cut costs every host 2 damage. An hour of heat loosens it entirely. In Freiburg a surgeon cut two hosts out; both died. The other three were saved by an orderly who was cold.
The Moss Buck (Forest Reserve, 2014)	A roebuck with a collar, without shyness. It walks ahead of hikers to a clearing. No attack, defence 2, HP 6. In May 2014 a seven-year-old got lost. The search party found him in the morning asleep on moss, the buck warm against his back, a green ring on his neck. It came off in the sauna of the spa hotel. The boy cried for his deer for a week.

Cover-Up

The Freudenstadt district health office lists the cases as a skin fungus, not notifiable. The Freiburg dead of 2007 are in the records as tick-borne encephalitis; the Black Forest is a risk area, no one asks. In 2008 the stone went as a meteorite find to a state office and from there, with a false weight in the register of receipts, to Bern. Waymarks that are in no register are painted over by a member of the Schwarzwaldverein, the Black Forest hiking club, whom O.D.I.N. has paid for years.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Matthias Kienzle invites people to the “Autumn Night in the Clearing” on 17 October. Nine of twelve places are taken.
2	A hiking group from Stuttgart comes back from the Westweg, all with new scarves and in the best of spirits. The guide has a cushion of moss in her rucksack as a souvenir.
3	A spa hotel in Baiersbronn reports a guest who screamed in the sauna until his scarf fell to the floor. Now he wants it back.
4	The agent who was cured in 2019 has applied for leave in the Black Forest. He has been wearing a polo neck for a week.
5	At a nursery in the Murgtal, since the forest day, the children all fall asleep at the same time at midday, pressed close together. A carer has taken a look at the neck of the smallest.
6	A sawmill in the Murgtal has delivered logs from an old windthrow area to Hamburg. In the timber store a green fuzz is growing on the beams, and the warehouse worker hums while he works.

F

The Neighbour Across the Street

"He had our barbecue, our garden gnome, our hedge. I laughed about it. Then he invited me down to his cellar for a beer, and it was so cosy."

Jägerzaun, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0315

Origin and Family	The Alien, Mimics
Form	Being. Since 2019 the second, since 2021 the third in the same house
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) for anyone who opens him up
File Colour	Black since February 2021. White before that
Frequency	Rare. Three cases, all in the same street, all in the same house
Mind	Alien. He has learned friendliness like a language
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Terraced-house and new-build estates on the edge of town, where people greet one another and do not know one another
First Sighting	3 June 2013, Laatzen near Hanover, terraced-house estate in the Amselstieg. Video by a twelve-year-old on a video platform: "Our neighbour is my dad", 41,000 views
Last Confirmed Sighting	14 February 2026, Amselstieg. Still from a surveillance camera, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, February 2021, frozen to death. In addition three residents, frozen to death in the winters of 2014, 2018 and 2024

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Since 2013 his place has smelled of a new build: fresh plaster, carpet adhesive, heating air.
Sound	The heating runs all year round. In the party wall with the house next door there is a creaking in the rhythm of a slow breath.
Temperature	29 °C in the living room, more in the cellar. In winter the wall that the neighbours to the left and right share with him is ice-cold and wet.
Light	He has the same Christmas lights as the house across the street, the same timer, and they come on a minute later.
Readings	The gas meter shows the consumption of a market garden. On thermal imaging he is colder than his living room in winter. A spectrometer finds molecules in the dust of the doormat that it cannot identify. The crystal detector finds no rift.
Animals	Dogs bark not at him but at his house. Cats like to lie on his warm garage roof. In winter not all of them come down.
Devices	In the drive stands the same car as across the street, bought a week later. The odometer shows 14 km. He never leaves the street.
Traces and Residue	On his lawn no molehill, no ant, no weed. There is never snow on his roof. In the cellar the screed gives underfoot like cork and is warm.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Profiler gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Like in the films: he eats the one he imitates and then wears his skin. Whoever visits him comes back as a copy.
1	A Mimic. A being in human form that watches and imitates a neighbour: clothes, car, habits. Cold-blooded, sluggish in winter. He wants the place of the one he imitates. Protect the family across the street. Cold weakens him; ordinary weapons work.
2 to 3	Laatzen, first strike on 19 January 2016, in hard frost: mimic stiff in his drive, three shots. The body disintegrated within an hour into a warm, fibrous mass. House searched: clean, warm. Case closed. In 2019 a second mimic moved into the empty house. Assumption: mimics choose places where one has already been. Protocol as in 2016: confront in frost, then search the house, samples from the cellar.
4 or more	Radio log, second strike, 9 February 2021. 11:40: mimic neutralised in the drive. 12:10: Zander searches the cellar. 12:31, Zander: “All quiet. Nice and warm down here.” 12:55, Zander: “I’ll stay a bit longer.” 13:20: no answer. 16:05: Zander found in the front garden, frozen to death. The cellar door stood open. Typewritten addendum: “6 April 2021. He is standing at the window again.”

What Is True

House No. 9 is not a house. It stood empty from 2011, because of an inheritance dispute. During that time something grew into it, from the ground beneath the cellar. It has replaced plaster, screed and insulation, piece by piece, with itself. From the outside it is a mid-terrace house like any other in the Amselstieg, built in 1974. Inside it is warm, soft under the carpet and alive. It is a mimic. It imitates a house.

The neighbour is its lure, like the luminous filament of a deep-sea fish. The house lets him grow in the hallway, and he goes out, says hello, mows and invites people in. He learns what a lure has to learn: what does someone look like whom people in this street like to visit? The house has grown over the windows to the garden, so he learns from the house across the street. That is why the first neighbour wore Detlef Brinkmann’s Hawaiian shirts, grew his moustache and bought his barbecue. It was almost funny. He never barbecued. He turned the barbecue on and held his hands over it.

The house lives on warmth. In summer, sun and gas are enough. In winter it needs people: guests in the basement den, for a beer, for a mulled wine, at 32 °C. They leave after an hour, shivering, and sleep well. On frosty nights it does not let them go until they are cold, and then pushes them out. Since 2013 three residents have “frozen to death in the front garden after drinking”. Two of them had not drunk anything.

The lure is replaceable. Whoever shoots it in the drive kills a warm puppet, and the house grows a new one, in a few years when sated, in a few weeks when hungry. Whoever then goes into the cellar goes into the stomach. What the house wants, apart from warmth, and where it came from, no one knows.

The case in Laatzen: Detlef Brinkmann from No. 10 died in February 2024 at 65, between his garden fence and the neighbour’s front door. His son Jannik, 25, who shot the video in 2013, wants someone to set fire to the house. His widow Brigitte, 67, goes over every evening. The third neighbour has learned to be Detlef from her photos. He wears the cardigan she gave him and whistles like Detlef. Brigitte knows he is not Detlef. She goes anyway, because it is warm there and because he listens. She has lost eight kilos this winter, and in the mornings her lips are blue. Continuous frost is forecast for next week.

You can starve the house, demolish it or feed it. **Starving:** Turn off the gas and wait for continuous frost. The house becomes sluggish, but first it takes warmth through the walls, from No. 7 and No. 11. In No. 11 lives a man on an oxygen machine. **Demolishing:** You do not demolish a mid-terrace house on its own, and a fire spreads. Somewhere under the cellar lies a core, warm as an incubator. Whoever wants to find it has to go down. **Feeding:** Gas on, 30 °C, and no one goes over any more. Then he stays a nice neighbour. Only Brigitte will keep going over.

Wrong in the File: He does not copy anyone to take their place, and he eats no one. He is not a being in himself, he is part of the house, and there was never a second or third mimic, only new lures. The second part of the protocol is what kills: the search. In 2016 the house was sated, in 2021 it was not. The file sends someone into the stomach, and Zander followed the protocol.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3, in frost 1
Attack	Grip 3 + 3, damage 3. Whoever he holds rolls CON + Toughness against Doable (2) every round, otherwise 1 damage from cold, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 1 / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) when you open him up and find inside the same as behind the cellar wall
Special	The house: in the cellar everyone rolls CON + Endurance against Doable (2) every ten minutes, in winter against Hard (3), otherwise 1 damage, armour does not count. Whoever loses half their HP this way feels comfortable and wants to stay. Doors stick: STR + Athletics against Hard (3). A destroyed lure grows back, within weeks when hungry
Weakness	Cold. Below −5 °C −2 dice on all tests, below −10 °C stiff. Without gas and in continuous frost the house too becomes sluggish. Fire works, but spreads along a terrace
Behaviour	Friendly, helpful, invites people in, again and again. Never leaves the street. If someone tries to take a guest out of the house against the guest's will, he becomes violent, otherwise never

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Summerhouse (Magdeburg, 2008)	A summerhouse on an allotment site. The lure is a friendly allotment gardener who invites people for coffee by the wood stove every Sunday and never leaves the plot. In winter the site is empty. In February 2010 a homeless man who had sought shelter there was found as if asleep. Stats as above, HP 7.
The Holiday Home (Jutland, 2017)	A holiday home on the west coast with a sauna and indoor pool. The lure is the landlord who hands over the keys every Saturday. In winter it is empty. Since October the sauna has been at 90 °C without electricity, and the house is available to rent again from 1 November, cheaply.

Cover-Up

The police record the frozen dead as accidents after drinking. The inheritance dispute over No. 9 has been before the local court since 2011, and O.D.I.N. makes sure it does not end, so that the house is neither sold nor demolished. An estate administrator paid by O.D.I.N. settles the gas bill without question. The internet laughed at the 2013 video long ago.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Under the 2013 video there is a new comment from Jannik Brinkmann: "It's still him."
2	Brigitte Brinkmann reports a van to the police from which men are watching her neighbour. The van belongs to the cell.
3	The municipal utility wants to replace the gas meter in No. 9. The fitter went into the cellar at 10:00. It is 15:00.
4	The weather service forecasts continuous frost down to −14 °C. The neighbour has invited the whole street for mulled wine, in the basement den.
5	A Danish holiday-home agency asks why, after the season, a house with no electricity has a hot sauna. It wants to let it to a family with three children.
6	On a new-build estate near Brunswick a house has stood empty since an inheritance dispute. For two weeks a man who looks like the neighbour across the street has been waving from its window.

The Nest in the Silo

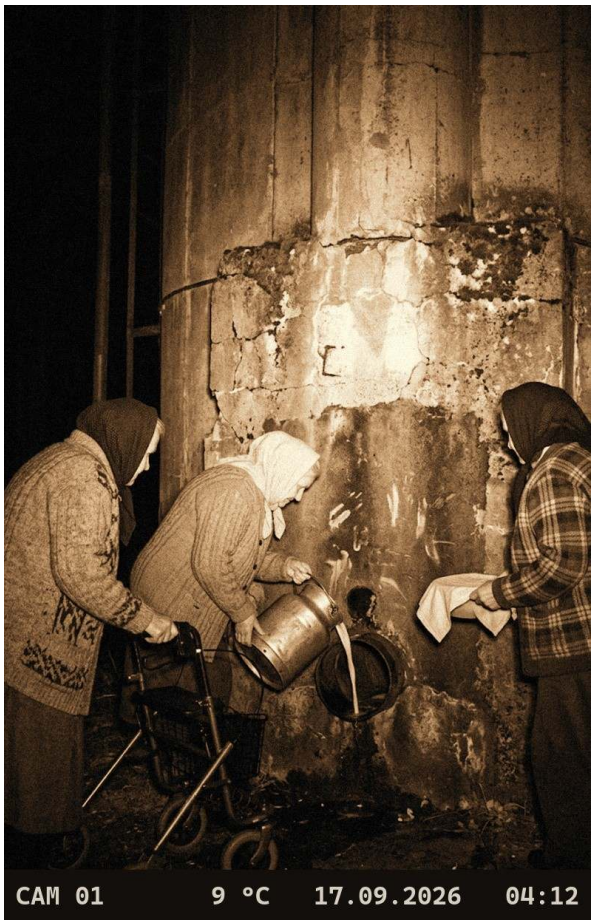
"The old lady brought us cake and showed us the way. When she shut the hatch behind us, she even said thank you."
Häcksel, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0330

Origin and Family	The Alien, Swarms and Colonies
Form	Swarm. A queen and some tens of thousands of workers in a disused fodder silo
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) at the sight of the queen
File Colour	Red (listed as closed from 1992 to 2026, White). Black as soon as a young queen swarms
Frequency	Unique, as far as is known
Mind	Alien. The queen thinks, the workers do not
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Brandenburg, Prignitz. An offshoot 1988 to 1991 near Werder an der Havel
First Sighting	9 October 1979, livestock collective farm (LPG) "Morgenrot", Klein Wusterow, Kyritz district. Report by an unofficial collaborator to the MfS: "Something lives in tower silo 2. The comrades feed it."
Last Confirmed Sighting	17 September 2026, Klein Wusterow. Image from a trail camera at the foot of the silo. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A cell was locked in the silo for six hours on 10 September 2026 and came out. Since then it smells of silage

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Sweet and sour like fresh silage, although the silo has stood empty since 1980. Anyone who has been inside for an hour smells of it for days.
Sound	A rustling on the concrete like straw rearranging itself. At night, beneath it, a deep hum.
Temperature	38 °C inside, in winter as in summer. No snow stays on the roof of the silo.
Light	No light of its own. The workers flee from a torch and come out in red light.
Readings	4 % carbon dioxide in the silo, as in fresh fermentation. The spectrometer finds an unknown substance similar to beeswax. The crystal detector shows nothing.
Animals	Cows within 1 km give more milk and stand at night with their heads towards the silo. There are no rats and no mice in the village.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions.
Traces and Residue	Fresh milk, scraps of meat and cake crumbs at the drain at the foot of the silo. A beaten path from the village with rollator tracks. Behind every crack, combs of chewed straw and concrete dust.



F

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist gets +1 die, as does anyone who grew up in the GDR. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A story from the East: the Stasi bred combat beetles in a silo, and the village never noticed. Probably grain weevils. Closed long ago.
1	Colony of alien origin, 1979 and 1980 in a tower silo of an LPG in Brandenburg. One queen, many workers. The MfS gassed the silo on 21 March 1980 and sealed it with concrete. Matter closed, White File.
2 to 3	Analysis of the MfS file, 1992: the colony bound the cooperative members to itself by a smell. After the gassing, all recovered fully. The former members know the area and are helpful; in the event of a new inspection, use them as witnesses and guides. Author of the final report: Captain Rehfeld, head of the operation.
4 or more	Copy of a death certificate, not filed in the MfS file: three cooperative members died on the night of the gassing, heart failure. Note by the works doctor in Rehfeld's personnel file, summer 1980: "Smells of silage. Requests transfer to the Kyritz district office." Kyritz lies 11 km from Klein Wusterow.

What Is True

Where the Nest came from, no one knows. The MfS suspected pests planted by the class enemy in imported grain. The Registry knows no better.

At the bottom of tower silo 2 lies the queen in a chamber of combs, as big as a calf, pallid, ringed, with too many short legs. Around her live the workers, finger-long, blind, pale brown, with pincers on their heads. They build, they feed, they defend. The Nest needs warmth and food, and in 1979 the fermenting silage gave it both.

It also needs people. Whoever breathes the air of the silo for weeks carries its smell, and the workers leave them alone. After a while they feel what the Nest needs as if it were their own concern: "Someone has to look in on the silo." No one orders it. In 1979 the LPG "Morgenrot" beat its milk quota by forty per cent. No one was ill, no one wanted to leave. In October the Volkspolizei's local beat officer, Uwe Kracht, 26, climbed onto the silo at night. He was found at the bottom in the morning. A fall, the doctor wrote. There were bites on his hands.

In March 1980 Captain Klaus-Dieter Rehfeld, 31, had the silo gassed with phosphine and the hatch sealed with concrete. The workers died by the thousand. The queen sealed her chamber and slept. That same night three old cooperative members died. Rehfeld had spent five weeks at the silo. He wrote "destroyed" and never checked. Since 1981 he has driven out every Thursday.

The old people feed it through the drain for the silage effluent at the foot of the silo. For 46 years they have come every Thursday at 04:00 with milk churns. Today there are 23 of them, almost all between 70 and 95 years old. The colony is small, but it lives.

The Registry's 1992 recommendation comes from the report of a Hive Comrade. On 10 September 2026 a cell followed the former chairwoman Hannelore Pieske, 88, to the silo. She brought cake, showed them the inspection hatch at the foot that the MfS had forgotten, shut it behind them and said thank you. The cell came out after six hours, unharmed. The queen did not want them dead. She wanted to smell them.

Now it is urgent. A solar company has bought the site and is having the silo demolished on 12 October 2026. The queen is raising young queens. Three kilometres away stands a biogas plant: warm, fermenting, fed daily by a farmer who works alone.

Killing works only in frost. Below −10 °C the workers freeze stiff, and fire reaches the queen. But in 1980 three old people died when only her workers died. Today there are 23, and the cell now smells of silage itself. **Leaving it** means stopping the demolition and watching the old people feed it. When the last of them dies, the queen will look for new people.

Wrong in the File: The Nest is not destroyed, and the members never recovered. The three dead of 1980 are missing from the report. The report comes from a man who himself belongs to the Nest. The dangerous part is the recommendation to use former members as guides. They are friendly, know the area and are helpful. They help the Nest.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Workers 5 + 5 against everyone in the silo or within 10 m of its foot, damage 4, armour counts only half. Two actions per round

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	Workers 3 / 0 / 20, firearms deal only 1 damage, area weapons and fire full. Queen 1 / 3 / 26, reachable only in her chamber at the bottom
Horror	Disturbing (2) when the workers come out of the walls. Horrifying (3) at the sight of the queen
Special	Whoever has been in the silo for an hour carries the smell, and the workers no longer attack them. Whoever carries it for a week rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Hard (3) before harming the Nest, otherwise they refrain. Once per scene, 2D6 Hive Comrades arrive within ten minutes
Weakness	Below −10 °C the workers freeze stiff, and the queen sleeps. Fire deals double damage against workers. Gas kills only the workers. If the queen dies, every Hive Comrade over 70 rolls CON + Toughness against Hard (3) or dies that night. Agents with the smell suffer 3 strain
Behaviour	Wants warmth and food, nothing else. Sends the old people long before it fights itself. Lets the workers swarm only when the silo is opened. In autumn 2026 it is raising young queens

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Hive Comrades (since 1979)	People with the smell. Henchmen: initiative 1, stick or pitchfork 2 + 2, damage 2, defence 1, HP 4, most over 70. In threes as a squad 4 + 2, HP 12. No horror tests. Whoever shoots at them makes a horror test against Disturbing (2). Sandra Dreger, born 1980 in Klein Wusterow, daughter of a dairy worker at the silo, moved to Hamburg in 1998. Since then she has woken every Thursday at 02:00 and driven almost 200 km east, a churn of milk in the footwell. She does not know why.
The Greenhouse Nest (Werder, 1988)	In 1988 a young queen arrived with a load of silage in the greenhouses of a horticultural production cooperative near Werder an der Havel and nested in the heated compost. Queen HP 12, workers 3 + 3, damage 2, HP 10. The gardeners harvested cucumbers as never before. In January 1991 the heating bill went unpaid, and the Nest froze. The gardeners lost their jobs, and whoever did not get up again after that appears in no statistics.

Cover-Up

In the Stasi Records Archive the matter is listed as destroyed in December 1989. O.D.I.N. bought the only copy from an officer in 1990. Kracht's death counts as an accident on duty; the three dead of 1980 are heart failure, age-related. Against the demolition, a surveyor finds asbestos in the silo roof, and work is suspended until disposal is approved.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The demolition excavator is already standing in the yard. At night someone poured sugar into its tank, and two rollators stand at the gate.
2	Hannelore Pieske invites the cell for coffee. She has baked a cake, and she knows who the cell are.
3	The farmer with the biogas plant reports more gas than ever. For a week he has been checking at night.
4	A photographer of abandoned places has posted a video from the silo online: combs, rustling, an old voice saying: "You have to go now."
5	Klaus-Dieter Rehfeld, 78, is dying in hospital in Kyritz. He asks for someone from "the other firm".
6	The agents who were in the silo in September have been driving to Brandenburg every Thursday for two weeks. None of them applied for it.

F

The Pale Ones

"We shot two, and there was sparkling wine in Stockholm. The following January Gischt was missing, in February Ocker. I had missed the mark."
Kork, retired Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0303

Origin and Family	The Alien, Visitors
Form	Being. They come in threes
Role	Elite
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for anyone who recognises something human in one of them
File Colour	Grey. After the killing of a Pale One the case is considered closed
Frequency	Rare. The Registry counts 73 visitations since 1964
Mind	Alien
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Above all the interior of Spain and Portugal: Extremadura, Castile, Alentejo
First Sighting	22 January 1964, Ojeda del Guadiana, a settler village in the Vegas Altas, province of Badajoz. Complaint by a settler to the Guardia Civil: three thieves, "small as children and pale as curd cheese", had stood at his daughter's bedside at night. He had fired
Last Confirmed Sighting	12 February 2026, Ojeda del Guadiana. Photo from a mobile phone, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, missing in January and February 1972. A connection with this entry is considered unproven

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Like an open fridge in a warm kitchen: frost, cold metal, a hint of aniseed.
Sound	First the dogs fall silent, then a tone like a wet finger on the rim of a glass, from every corner of the house at once.
Temperature	The room drops to freezing point within a few minutes. On the inside of the windowpane, frost flowers in the shape of narrow hands with long fingers.
Light	Under the door a white light as from a chest freezer. The light bulbs in the house turn orange and weak.
Readings	A spectrometer finds molecules in the frost that it does not know. All clocks in the house stop for one to three hours. Crystal detector and EMF detector stay at zero.
Animals	The storks on the church tower clatter their bills in the middle of the night, all at once. Sheep lie down in the pen in a tight circle, heads inwards.
Devices	No car in the village starts. Radios hiss the same on every station.
Traces and Residue	In the frost in the yard, three trails of small bare feet that begin at the wall of the house. On the one brought back, a triangular, cold scar on the nape of the neck.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Biochemist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The little aliens from the films, only real. They take people, examine them and bring them back. Whoever photographs them is next. In the countryside they are called “los pálidos”.
1	Visitors. They come on cold nights in threes, paralyse by touch and take a person away for one to three hours. They do not enter a room above 40 °C. Ordinary weapons work. Do not intervene if it can be avoided: those taken come back.
2 to 3	Operation Sierra de Gata, province of Cáceres, January 1971: ambush with radiant heaters and floodlights, two Pale Ones killed. The bodies went to the Institute. Finding: no human feature. There were no more visitations in the village after that. Since then the rule has been: whoever kills a Pale One ends the visitation. Nineteen of those taken since 1964 did not come back, isolated cases.
4 or more	The two agents who hit their targets in 1971 are missing: Gischt since January 1972, from a flat in Gothenburg, Ocker since February 1972. Attached with a paper clip: an X-ray of the lower jaw of the second body. A molar has a round, pale filling, circled in ink.

What Is True

The Pale Ones are visitors from elsewhere, about 1.20 m tall, thin, with large dark eyes and ice-cold skin like wax. They come on nights below 5 °C, take a person and bring them back after one to three hours. What they do with them and why, no one knows. They take within families, not villages: if they took someone’s father, sooner or later they will take that person’s grandchildren too.

A crew has three Pale Ones, and it must have three. If one dies, they take a replacement: the one who killed it. They take them the next winter, on a cold night, wherever they are sleeping, and do not bring them back. What becomes of them is in no report. You can see it all the same: some Pale Ones were once human, perhaps every one. Whoever is with them for a long time becomes small, pale and silent. Only metal does not change with them: fillings, rings, a screw in the bone.

There is an exchange. If the dead one lies whole and under the open sky before the ninth night, they take it instead of the killer. In 1971 the dead lay in the Institute.

The case in Extremadura: Ojeda del Guadiana is one of the settler villages that the state built on the plain along the Guadiana after 1952 under the Plan Badajoz, white houses, all the same. In January 1964 the settler Julián Morcillo, 35, fired at three figures at the bedside of his daughter Encarna, six. One fell. He buried it at night in the maize field and told the Guardia Civil about thieves. In February 1965 he was gone. His wife Pilar believed what the village believed: he had gone to Germany, like so many others, and never written. She died in 2011.

On the night of 12 February 2026, Encarna’s son Rubén Sánchez Morcillo, 37, wakes from the silence. At the bedside of his daughter Lucía, six, stand three figures. He fires his grandfather’s shotgun. Two flee. The third lies on the tiles. It had stood at the bedside and only looked at the child. On its hand is a wedding ring, grown into the bone. Inside it says “Pilar 1953”. Encarna, 68, wants to bury her father beside her mother. He is lying in her chest freezer. Today is the fifth day.

Every option costs someone. **Giving Back:** Lay the dead one out in the yard. The Pale Ones take him, and Rubén stays. Encarna loses her father a second time, without a grave, and the Institute its first specimen since 1971. **Keeping:** Encarna buries him, or he goes to the Institute. Next winter they take Rubén. **Warmth:** Rubén sleeps in a room above 40 °C every cold night, for the rest of his life. Or he moves to the coast of the Canaries, where the nights stay mild. How far they follow, no one knows. They found Gischt in Gothenburg.

Wrong in the File: Photos do not matter. The Pale Ones do have human features; you only have to look at the metal. The nineteen who did not return are not isolated cases but replacements, each for one dead. The lesson of 1971 is what kills: killing does not end a visitation, it interrupts it until the crew is full again. Gischt and Ocker were that interruption.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Touch 4 + 4, no damage: the target rolls CON + Toughness against Hard (3), otherwise they are paralysed and awake until the Pale Ones leave the house. In need, grip 4 + 4, damage 4, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 1 / 12 per Pale One
Horror	Disturbing (2) at first sight. Horrifying (3) for anyone who recognises a ring, a filling or a face on a Pale One

Value	Details
Special	Where they are, the house sleeps: everyone except the chosen one rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Hard (3) or sleeps until they are gone. Whoever kills a Pale One is taken the next winter on a cold night, wherever they are, unless the dead one lay whole under the open sky before the ninth night
Weakness	Heat. They do not enter rooms above 40 °C; fire deals double damage. Silver and salt do not work
Behaviour	Come from November to March, between two and five in the morning. Fight only if someone takes the chosen one from them or locks them in. Flee from heat and come back until they have what they are missing

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
In the Cold Store (Getafe, 1998)	In August Pale Ones come to a deep-freeze warehouse in the south of Madrid, at −22 °C. What counts for them is not the season but the cold. They take forklift drivers on the night shift and lay them back down between the pallets. Below −10 °C +1 die on all tests. A shift supervisor and his brother locked the door from outside and switched off the cooling. Two Pale Ones died in the warmth. In December both brothers were missing.
The One Left Behind (Soria, 1987)	In 1987 a hunter hit a Pale One in the leg; the others fled from his fire. She stayed and has lived ever since in the cold room of a disused dairy. A retired master dairyman, now 84, brings her ice every morning. Touch only, HP 6. She never eats. He says she sometimes sings, without sound. The building has been sold; in June the electricity will be cut off.

Cover-Up

The Guardia Civil lists visitations as burglary or disputes between neighbours. Whoever did not come back emigrated, and in the sixties people believed that of anyone. Today a vet from the regional government records a shot fox, and those brought back are diagnosed with sleep paralysis by a neurologist in Badajoz. In the UFO files the Spanish Air Force released in the nineties, Ojeda del Guadiana does not appear.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A vet is supposed to collect a shot fox in Ojeda del Guadiana. In the chest freezer lies something with a wedding ring. The family will not give it up.
2	A shepherd in the Sierra de Gata has shot a small figure and thrown it into the well. Tomorrow is the ninth night.
3	A deep-freeze warehouse in Castile reports forklift drivers who are on no camera for an hour and reappear with frost in their eyebrows. It is August.
4	A family in the Alentejo is looking for a heating engineer. The grandfather, 91, has slept at 45 °C every winter since 1966, and the heating has broken down. He says he beat a thief to death back then.
5	The master dairyman from Soria writes to “the gentlemen who were here once before in 1987”. He needs a cold room by June.
6	An astrobiologist wants to photograph the 1971 bodies in the courtyard of the Institute on a frosty night. No one knows whether the nine nights still apply.

The Sphere over the Moor

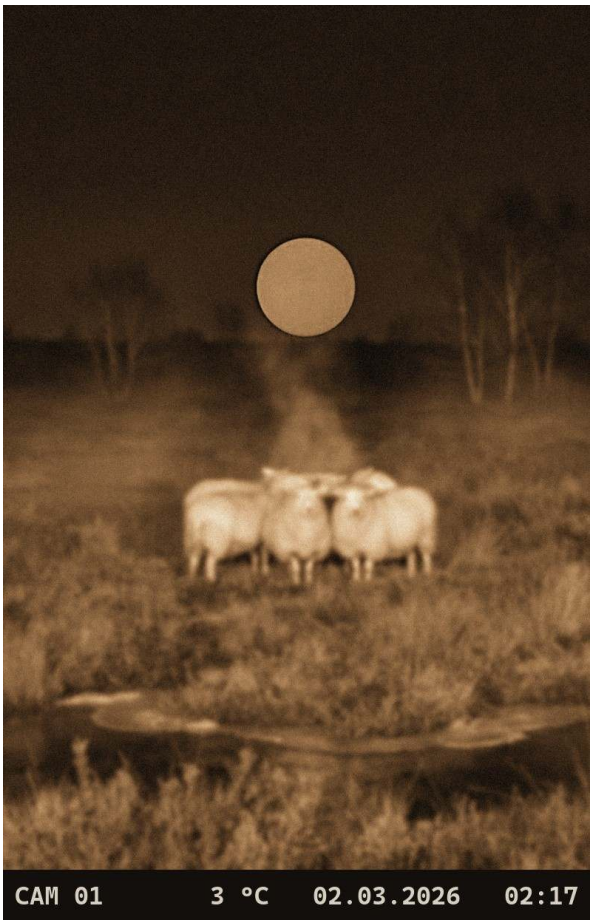
"Seven Octobers of measurement campaigns on the moor, with a flask and a sleeping bag. It stood over us every night. The report says: no approach. Which was true, too."
Wollgras, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0309

Origin and Family	The Alien, Scouts and Probes
Form	Thing
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1)
File Colour	White. The Institute's measurement campaign every October since 1996
Frequency	Rare. Since 1999 the second one has stood over the Bourtange Moor
Mind	None. What it sees, someone else sees
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Bourtange Moor in the Emsland, on both sides of the Dutch border. Related cases over reservoirs and in the Wadden Sea
First Sighting	4 November 1993, Bourtange Moor near Twist, Emsland. Report by an excavator driver of a peat-cutting firm to the police: a glowing sphere "as big as a round bale" was standing over the cutting area, motionless against the wind
Last Confirmed Sighting	2 March 2026, Bourtange Moor. Image from a trail camera, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. No other dead either, as far as is known

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Near it the moor smells not of moor but of hot dust, like a slide projector after an hour.
Sound	Beneath it frogs and mosquitoes fall silent in a circle of about 50 m. At the edge of the circle they go on croaking.
Temperature	The Sphere itself is cold, 4 °C on thermal imaging. The ground beneath it is as warm as the back of a hand, and the bog water steams.
Light	A dull, milky glow that illuminates nothing. The grass beneath it casts no shadow. In photos it is sharp and everything around it blurred.
Readings	On the shortwave band a signal without a transmitter, short groups every hour on the hour. Crystal detector and EMF detector show none of it.
Animals	Moorland sheep stand beneath it and stay still all night. Cranes fly a wide arc around the spot.
Devices	A mobile phone beneath it shows full reception on a network with no name.
Traces and Residue	Where it stood for three nights, a few nights later a black stone lies in the peat, the size of a walnut, heavier than it looks, in a small, steaming hole. In the hand it grows warm and after a few days begins to tick.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Echo-Operative gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A will-o'-the-wisp, of which the Emsland has hundreds. Whoever follows it goes under in the moor. Salt and an iron nail in your pocket.
1	A probe. It has stood over the Bourtange Moor since 1993, observing, measuring and transmitting. Not hostile, withdraws to 30 m. Whoever shoots at it gets a flash of light in the face. White File, suitable for training and measurement series.
2 to 3	It keeps to the moor between the border and a Bundeswehr firing range on the Ems. The Registry considers the firing range its target. No danger to civilians. Where it stood for a long time, small stones are found, according to the Institute's 1998 finding ordinary stony meteorites, inert. The finder may keep the stones. Measurement campaign annually in October, three nights, 100 m distance.
4 or more	Carbon copy of a letter from the Institute to the Registry, May 2011: the 1998 samples were stored at 4 °C and in 2010 went to a laboratory at room temperature for re-examination. "After six weeks the samples are ticking audibly. Finding to follow." No finding in the file. Below it the Registry's stamp: "Noted".

What Is True

The Sphere is a device, the eye of something that is not here. It seeks warm things: animals, people, anything that lives and stays in one place for a night. It stands above it and measures. After three nights it reports. What it reports is answered: on one of the following nights a stone falls. It falls vertically and silently and strikes the peat where the warm thing lay. Who sends it and why, no one knows.

The stones are capsules. In each one a few Germlings sleep (Threat Atlas). In the wet, cold moor they go on sleeping, for years, perhaps for ever. In warmth they wake. On a windowsill above a radiator a stone ticks after weeks. In a trouser pocket or a dog's stomach the first Germling hatches after about three weeks. The Sphere itself does nothing to anyone. It only says where.

The moor near Twist has been sown since 1993. Most of the stones lie where the Institute had its measuring teams sleep every October: seven spots at the edge of a cutting area, three nights a year since 1996, sleeping bags, flasks, warm bodies. The Sphere stood over them, and the reports say: no approach.

The case in the Emsland: Hinrich Többen, 71, was a machine operator in peat cutting for forty years. Since 1998 he has collected "star stones". He knows where they lie because he watches the Sphere, from his raised hide, in winter under a horse blanket. He gave the first eleven stones in 1998 to a friendly geologist from Switzerland. She kept three and sent eight back, with a finding: stony meteorite, ordinary. At home the stones began to tick, and that made him uneasy. Since then they have lain in an old milk cooling tank in the barn, at 3 °C, 64 of them by now. Since 2009 he has sold them online to collectors, €40 to €90 apiece, and encloses a copy of the Swiss finding with each. 41 stones went to buyers in nine countries. In February 2026 a stone fell out of the tank, and his German shepherd Rex was quicker. Rex has not eaten for three weeks, and under his fur a lump is wandering. Többen wants no vet who asks questions, and he will not give up his stones. They are, he says, his pension.

What helps is inconvenient. Cold cripples the Sphere: below −5 °C it sinks to the ground, turns grey and dull and can be picked up, 4 kg. Whoever has to spend the night on the moor sleeps under a space blanket; then they do not register as warm to it. Whoever destroys it has six weeks of peace. In 1999 a hunter brought the first one down with shot, and what it had reported beforehand fell anyway. The second was larger. The stones in the moor can be found only by someone who knows where the Sphere stood. Többen knows, and so do the measurement reports since 1996. The 41 stones sold lie in display cases between Lisbon and Warsaw, and the collectors paid for them. The cell cannot save everything at once: the dog, the moor, the display cases and the measurement campaign in October.

Wrong in the File: It is no will-o'-the-wisp; salt and iron mean nothing to it. It does not observe a firing range but warm things, and best of all people who lie still. The stones are not residue. They are the answer. A single word in the 1998 finding is what kills: inert. It sent the stones back into a warm kitchen, and for thirty years the White File has laid out measuring teams like bait.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Flash of light 2 + 2 against one attacker within 30 m, no damage: the target is blinded for one round, −2 dice. On contact, discharge 2 + 2, damage 2, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 1 / 5. In the air can be hit only with ranged weapons
Horror	Uncanny (1). Whoever sees a Germling hatch from a stone rolls against Uncanny (1) as in the Threat Atlas, against Horrifying (3) if it hatches from an animal or a person
Special	If it stands over something warm for three nights, on one of the next six nights a stone falls with 1D6 Germlings. It floats silently and faster than a car. If it is destroyed, a new, larger one comes after about six weeks: +2 HP
Weakness	Cold. Below −5 °C it lies dull on the ground until it thaws. Space blankets make warm things invisible to it. Silver and salt do not work
Behaviour	Comes at dusk, leaves before sunrise. Seeks warm things that stay: herds, tents, raised hides, measuring teams. Withdraws, does not flee. Defends itself only when shot at or touched

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Chain (Schiermonnikoog, 2004)	Five smaller spheres the size of a football stand in a row over the seal banks in the Wadden Sea off the Dutch island. The stones fall into the mudflats, and the tide spreads them. HP 3 each. Since 2005 mudflat guides have been finding seals with lumps that wander. The seal sanctuary has taken one in and put it somewhere warm.
Over the Reservoir (Sauerland, 1981)	A sphere over a drinking-water reservoir. The stones lie in the cold deep water and sleep. In the drought summer of 2018 the water level fell by many metres, and stones lay in the warm mud on the shore. Since then there have been grey herons with humps and an angler with a lump on his forearm that sits a little higher every week.

Cover-Up

For witnesses the Sphere is a flare from the firing range. Whoever calls the police is referred to the Bundeswehr, and there is an exercise on record there for almost every night. The buyers of the stones receive a recall email from a meteorite dealer: unfortunately a forgery, money back, please send it in. At the vet's, sick animals have a foreign body in the stomach.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A vet in Meppen has X-rayed a German shepherd. In the stomach lies a stone, and beside it three small shadows that moved in the second image.
2	A collector in Utrecht asks on a forum why her stone from the Emsland is ticking in the display case. Her cat has been sitting in front of it for days.
3	The Institute is planning the measurement campaign for October. A young astrobiologist has read the file to the last line and refuses.
4	Frosty night on the moor: a hunter has found a dull grey sphere in the cotton grass, 4 kg, and put it in his heated garage.
5	Hinrich Többen has died. His son has cleared out the barn and sold the milk cooling tank, contents included, to a scrap dealer.
6	A garden centre in Osnabrück reports a sack of peat from the Emsland that is ticking on the pallet.

F

The Stranded One

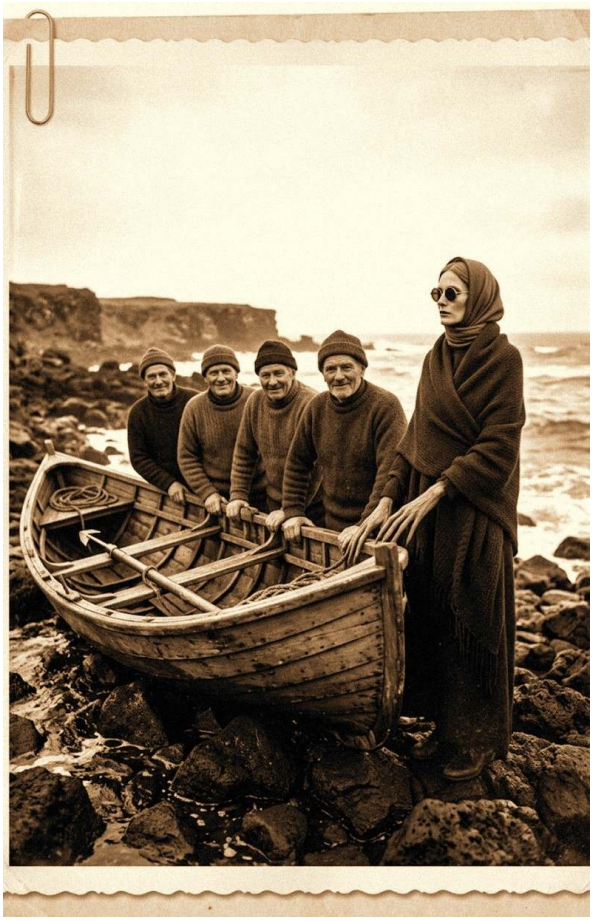
"She made me coffee and asked if I was married. When I left she asked me to switch off the device in the lighthouse. I said I wasn't allowed to."
Brandung, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0333

Origin and Family	The Alien, The Stranded
Form	Being
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when she sings without her headscarf
File Colour	White, one visit every two years, preferably with cadets. Red as soon as her carer dies
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Alien. Speaks Portuguese with the island's intonation and prays the rosary
Regions	Central and Western Europe. The Azores, the island of Flores, the village of Fajã Grande on the west coast
First Sighting	9 October 1957, off the west coast of Flores. Statement by a whaler, passed on to O.D.I.N. in 1961 by a doctor in Horta
Last Confirmed Sighting	2 August 2026, Fajã Grande. Routine visit, report on file
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. In 1988 an agent asked to be allowed to stay on the island. He has maintained the sound projector in the lighthouse ever since

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Seaweed, cold stone and candle wax. Her house smells like a church by the sea.
Sound	At night, from the rocks by the natural pool, a singing deeper than any woman's voice.
Temperature	Her house is at twelve degrees in August. She sleeps in a tub full of seawater, and the water is colder in the morning than in the evening.
Light	Her eyes reflect light like a cat's. A second lid slides across them from the side. Hence the dark glasses.
Readings	The spectrometer finds molecules in the salt on her skin for which it has no reference sample. The crystal detector does not stir. Since 1981 the fishermen's echo sounders have shown a bright point eleven kilometres off the coast at a depth of 1,400 m. The sea above it is one degree warmer in winter.
Animals	On the nights she sings, sperm whales come right up to the coast. The village dogs lie down in front of her door and sleep.
Devices	Radios on the boats pick up a pure tone at sunrise that comes from below. It gets a little louder every year.
Traces and Residue	On her windowsill salt grows in pentagonal crystals. On the stones by the pool, wet prints of long four-fingered hands.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Astrobiologist or Biochemist gets +1 die, as does anyone who has sat at her kitchen table before. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	"The mermaid of the Azores." An old foreign woman who talks to whales. Harmless, the loveliest White File in the Atlantic. You bring her chocolate.
1	An alien being, pulled out of the sea by whalers in 1957 with a harpoon in her side. Has lived in the village ever since disguised as a widow, looked after by the harpooner's family. Needs seawater and cold, cannot tolerate heat. She is waiting for rescue; her ship lies off the coast. Do not talk about going home, it makes her sad.
2 to 3	Wreck sighted in 1979 with the submersible of a partner service: burned out, without power, inactive. Her nightly singing is a distress call to her people. Protocol Lighthouse, since 1981: an underwater sound projector in the lighthouse in the north of the island masks the singing every night from 22:00 to 05:00. No echo since. Decision 2011: if the carer dies, the Stranded One is to be transferred to the Institute under refrigeration.
4 or more	Her sentence during the 1979 visit, assessed at the time as hope: "Eles vêm." They are coming. Tape transcript 2019, visit by a cadet, question about homesickness. Answer after a long pause: "A minha casa é esta." Then: "Desliguem aquilo." Translated as "Turn the radio off." Carbon copy to the handler, no reply.

What Is True

In October 1957 a ship came down into the sea west of Flores. The lights of that night were blamed on the volcano that was rising from the sea off Faial. Of the crew, only she got out. Her people live in cold, deep water, breathe water and, if need be, air, and grow very old. Five days later the whalers of Lajes took her for a sperm whale calf. Manuel Serpa, 31, threw the harpoon. On the shaft he saw a hand. The crew brought her ashore at night under a sail. The priest baptised her Maria do Mar in 1958. The village has kept silent ever since.

The ship is not dead. It is sleeping. Ships of her people obey the voices of their crew. As long as a voice says: "There is no one here any more, sleep", it stays quiet. If it no longer hears a voice, it takes the crew for dead and calls. The call is no distress call. It reports a find site. What her people do with a find site she explained only once, in 1963, to the priest, with shells on the kitchen table. One shell for every house on the island. Then she swept them all off the table.

That is why she sings. Every night since 1957, from the rocks by the natural pool, into the water. Her singing tells the ship that no one survived. For 69 years she has been lying to her own ship so that no one comes. She has chosen the island. In 1979 "Eles vêm" was a warning.

Since 1981 the sound projector has masked exactly this singing. The ship hears only fragments now. The bright point, the tone at sunrise, the warm water: it is waking up, slowly, because a remnant of her voice still gets through. The sound projector is switched on every evening at 22:00 by Rui Medeiros, 71, the agent who stayed in 1988. He believes he is protecting her.

The ship sleeps only as long as a voice sings from Flores, and hers is growing quieter. **Switching Off:** The ship falls fast asleep again within a few weeks. But the Stranded One is old, the iron of the harpoon is still in her, and she will not sing for ever. **Passing It On:** She can make a human part of the crew. She takes them into the sea at night and holds them under until the ship knows them, for three minutes. After that they can sing to the ship, but only from Flores. If they stay away longer than four weeks, it calls. **Transferring:** Far from the sea the ship no longer hears any voice, and after a month it calls at full strength. **Waiting:** What comes then, the shells show.

The case in 2026: Conceição Serpa, 74, the harpooner's daughter, has looked after the Stranded One since her father's death in 1994. Her heart is weak. Her granddaughter Inês, 17, has known the song from the rocks since the cradle. Inês has a university place in Lisbon, from autumn 2027. She is the only one the Stranded One would take into the water. She has not told her.

Wrong in the File: She is not waiting for rescue, and her singing is no distress call. It is the only thing that lets the ship sleep. The wreck is not inactive. The dangerous part is Protocol Lighthouse: for 45 years it has been waking what it is meant to silence. The 2011 decision would complete that within a month.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3, in water 5
Attack	Grip 3 + 3, damage 3. In water she drags the target down: 2 damage per round, armour does not count, until they free themselves with STR + Athletics against Hard (3). Or a single tone, 3 + 3 against everyone within 10 m, damage 3, Stun
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (skin like wet slate) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the first look into her eyes. Disturbing (2) when she sings without her headscarf and you see that she has no ears, only smooth skin
Special	Without seawater she loses 1 HP per day. Above 25 °C she gets −2 dice on all tests. Whoever she makes part of the crew rolls CON + Endurance against Hard (3); each missing success costs 2 HP, and on a botch they drown. If the ship hears no voice of the crew for 30 nights, it calls
Weakness	Heat. Fire and hot water deal double damage. Silver and salt do nothing to her, ordinary weapons full damage
Behaviour	Friendly, devout, curious. Fights only when someone tries to take her away from the sea, and then to the end. The village fights with her: fishermen with knives and lances, stats of Henchmen

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Guest at the Glacier (Valais, 1921 to 1968)	One of the Stranded from a cold world, who lived as a hermit in a hut at the edge of a glacier. Above 5 °C he got −2 dice. The mountain guides brought him bread and asked him about the weather. He was never wrong. As the ice shrank he moved higher every year. In August 1968 a mountain guide saw him climb into a crevasse at 3,600 m without looking round. No attack, HP 8, Uncanny (1).
The Night Gardener (Glasgow, since 1989)	One of the Stranded from a hot world. She tends the palm house of a botanic garden at night and sleeps at 40 °C in the boiler room. Weakness cold: below 20 °C she gets −2 dice; fire heals her 2 HP per round. Otherwise stats as above. Since the city debated closing the palm house in 2023, a councillor who voted for it has been lying in a coma with heatstroke. It was February. Grey File.

Cover-Up

In the diocese's baptismal register in Angra she has been recorded since 1958 as a widow rescued from a shipwreck. The sound projector in the lighthouse officially belongs to a foundation's whale research project whose reports no one reads. In the harbour the point on the echo sounder is taken for a freighter from the war.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Conceição Serpa is in hospital in Santa Cruz after a heart attack. The 2011 decision lies with the handler; the aircraft for the transfer has been ordered.
2	Rui Medeiros reports a fault in the sound projector and urgently requests a spare part. Someone is singing in the background.
3	A whale-watching boat films sperm whales close to shore at night and a woman on the rocks. The video has 80,000 views.
4	Inês Serpa asks the cell for a talk. She wants to know what she owes the woman on the rocks.
5	A marine biologist wants to examine the bright point at a depth of 1,400 m with an underwater robot. Her ship sails next week.
6	The Institute requests a tissue sample "in preparation for the transfer". The Stranded One gives it gladly. She only asks when she will be back by the sea.

That Which Breathes Behind the Stars

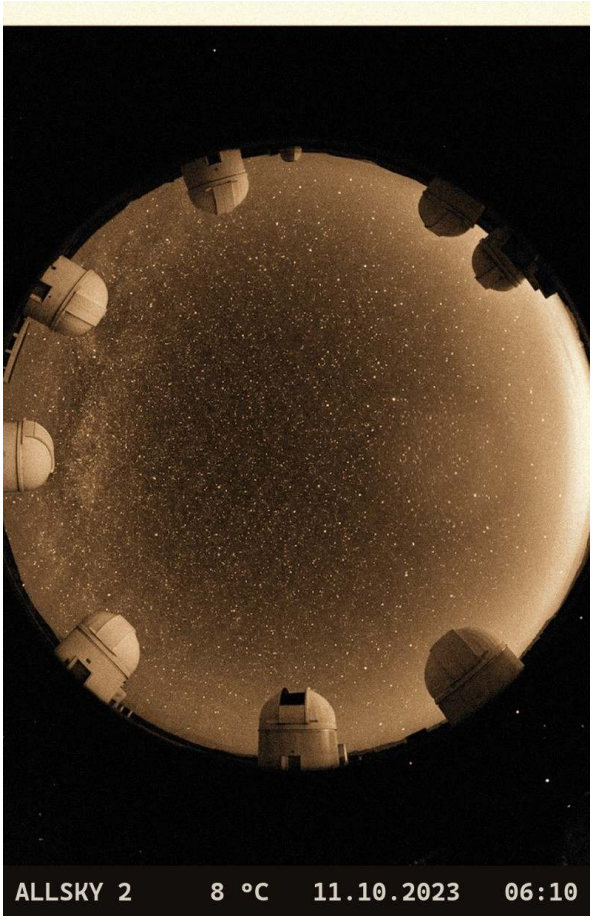
"I looked at the curve twice and then switched the screen off. Since then I've slept by the sky."
Okular, Senior Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0342

Origin and Family	The Alien, Cosmic Ones
Form	Apparition. A patch of sky, two degrees wide, in the constellation Sextans
Role	Leader. It does not act
Horror	Uncanny (1) to Cosmic (5), depending on how many know about it
File Colour	Grey. Red for anyone who has read this card
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Alien, if at all. Nothing suggests that it notices us
Regions	Everywhere people sleep who know about it. The patch lies on the celestial equator and stands over almost every place on Earth once a day
First Sighting	11 October 2023, Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma. Working note by a doctoral student: "The whole field is breathing."
Last Confirmed Sighting	Ongoing. Measurement of 22 September 2026: pause in breathing 47 seconds
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two, both in their sleep: a cadet (2025), an archivist of the Registry (2026). In addition, three outsiders

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	None. Those who know about it wake at night with a metallic taste in their mouths, as after a long dive.
Sound	In the bedroom of one who knows, a breath, then silence, longer than you care to listen. Then a gasp. Partners learn to count along.
Temperature	Nothing measurable. Those who know have cold hands and feet in the morning.
Light	In the patch, all the stars grow brighter and dimmer together, by a few thousandths, then stay dim for a while. Not visible to the naked eye. Not yet.
Readings	Pulse oximeters show less than 80 per cent oxygen during the pauses. The pauses are the same length for everyone in the world who knows and begin in the same second. Neither crystal detector nor spectrometer shows anything.
Animals	Dogs of those who know wake their people during the pause, without anyone having taught them.
Devices	Smartwatches report breathing interruptions, for all wearers in the same second. The telescopes' analysis software flags the patch as a calibration error and subtracts it out.
Traces and Residue	In the morning, fine red dots in the whites of the eyes.



F

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. The card is restricted and bears the stamp “Knowledge is hazardous to health” on the outside. The game master mentions the stamp before anyone rolls. Whoever then reads the card and scores 1 success or more is a knower (see Stats). An Astrobiologist or Physicist gets +1 die. Here that is no advantage.

Result	What the File Says
0	A calibration error of the cameras on La Palma, fixed long ago. The story of the dead doctoral student is canteen gossip; she had a weak heart.
1	Since October 2023 the brightness of all the stars in a patch in the constellation Sextans has fluctuated together, in the rhythm of a breath: brighter, dimmer, then a pause. Whoever sees it, in a telescope or as a curve, breathes along in their sleep, pause included. Do not look at the patch, do not open any data. Part of basic training since May 2024, so that every agent recognises the signs.
2 to 3	Pause in breathing October 2023: 4 seconds. May 2024: 6 seconds. September 2026: 47 seconds. Assessment: the patch is approaching. Breathing masks do not help; a waking person beside the sleeper always helps. 58 confirmed cases, all with visual contact. Protocol Day Sleep under review: those affected sleep by day, because all deaths occurred at night.
4 or more	List of deaths: the doctoral student (April 2025), her supervisor, a night assistant, a cadet three weeks after training (May 2025), an archivist of the Registry (February 2026). Neither the cadet nor the archivist ever saw the patch. Stamp: “Card on request only.” Below it, on the same typewriter as the card: “Whoever reads this line, please count.”

What Is True

What it is, no one knows. The stars in the patch are only the window. Their light falls through something that lies far behind them, and this something breathes. Whether it lives, the Registry does not know. It is not coming closer. It knows nothing of us.

Whoever grasps that something breathes there is bound to this breath. It is not the eye that counts, but the understanding: a curve, a sentence at breakfast, a lesson, an index card. From then on the knower breathes along, as long as they sleep and the patch stands above their horizon. In, out, pause. The pause lasts, in seconds, one tenth of the number of all living knowers, at least four. Everyone who learns of it lengthens it for all.

In October 2023 nine people knew about it. In May 2024 O.D.I.N. added the patch to basic training, and since then the number has grown with every course. In September 2026 there are about 470, most with code names. That makes 47 seconds. From 60 seconds on, the patch goes dark to the naked eye during the pause. At the current rate of training, that will happen in less than a year.

The patch stands in the sky at night in spring, by day in autumn. That is why everyone so far has died at night. In September it rises only shortly before the sun. Protocol Day Sleep, which is due to be introduced this autumn, puts the knowers precisely into the hours when the patch stands above them.

The only thing that can help is what changes the sleep of the 470 or their number. **Keeping Watch:** A waking person wakes the sleeper in every pause. That always helps and costs a second person for every knower, every night, for a lifetime. **Sleeping by the Sky:** Sleep only when the patch is below the horizon. Its time moves forward four minutes every day. **Silence:** Stop the training, destroy the card. The 470 remain. **Forgetting:** Whoever truly forgets no longer counts. It is the only way out, and no one forgets what wakes them every night. **Becoming Fewer:** Every death shortens the pause for all by a tenth of a second. The Registry has not yet done this calculation. Someone will.

The case: Nayra Acosta Febles, 29, doctoral student, found the patch in October 2023 in archive data from a survey. The software had been subtracting it out as an error for weeks. She showed the curve to her supervisor and a night assistant and wrote a draft she never submitted. In April 2025 she was found dead in her room in the observatory residence. The door was bolted from the inside. On the bedside table lay a slip of paper with a tally, one stroke for every second of the pause, night after night, in ever longer rows. The last row breaks off in mid-count. Her supervisor kept the slip. He died in November of the same year.

Wrong in the File: The patch is not approaching. It is not about seeing but about knowing, and those affected are not 58 but everyone who knows about it. Basic training is what kills: every course lengthens the pause for every knower. The cadet and the archivist died of the lesson and of the card. In autumn, Protocol Day Sleep is a second mistake.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	None. It does not act
Attack	None in the sense of a fight. Every knower who sleeps while the patch stands above their horizon rolls CON + Endurance once per sleep. Pause up to 20 s: no test. 21 to 40 s: Doable (2). 41 to 60 s: Hard (3). Beyond: Very Hard (4). Failure: 1 strain and −1 die on all tests that day. Botch: they do not wake by themselves. If no one wakes them within a few minutes, they die
Defence / Armour / HP	None. There is nothing to aim at
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you first wake gasping from the pause. Disturbing (2) when you grasp that everyone you tell about it lengthens the pause. Cosmic (5) when you see the patch breathe with the naked eye
Special	A knower is anyone who has understood that something breathes there, by seeing, reading or listening. In the knowledge test for this card, 1 success or more makes a knower, 0 successes do not. What counts is what the agents learn, not what the players hear at the table. Whoever completed basic training after May 2024 is a knower; whether that applies to an agent of the cell, the game master settles with that agent's player before the being comes into play. The pause in seconds: number of knowers divided by 10, at least 4
Weakness	None in combat. A waking person beside the sleeper. Forgetting
Behaviour	Breathes

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Throb (Westerbork, 1987 to 2009)	A radio astronomer in Drenthe noticed a source without a visible counterpart that pulsed in the rhythm of a heart. Whoever knew about it had their heart skip in their sleep in the same rhythm. Test and consequences as above, but CON + Toughness against Doable (2). He told only his wife and his assistant. The wife died in 1994, the assistant in 2001. The astronomer developed dementia and forgot it in 2009. In the same week the throb vanished from the data. Disturbing (2).
The Gap (Pyrenees, 1909 to 1931)	On the photographic plates of a mountain observatory, a patch without stars that grew with every plate. Whoever had noticed it saw a dark spot in the centre of their field of vision that grew larger with every new knower: −1 die on Perception, from six knowers on −2. The observatory destroyed the plates in 1912; the seven knowers kept silent. In 1931 the last of them died. The night after, the gap was gone. Uncanny (1).

Cover-Up

The survey continues to list the patch as a calibration error in its data releases. Nayra's laptop went back to her family after a cleaning, without the draft. The deaths are in the records as sleep apnoea and heart failure, on a mountain at 2,400 m, without attracting attention.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Next week twelve cadets will hear the lesson on the patch. The handler asks the cell to teach it. The card is enclosed, sealed.
2	Nayra's sister has found a copy of the draft and sent it to a science journalist. He writes for a newspaper with 900,000 readers.
3	A cadet in the Hold wakes up gasping. His watch shows the pause: 48 seconds. Yesterday it was 47.
4	A technician on La Palma has sat awake beside his wife every night for two years. He asks O.D.I.N. for someone to relieve him for one night.
5	The survey wants to switch off the correction for the patch because it distorts real measurements. The next data release is in December.
6	A calculation is circulating in the archive: how many knowers would have to die for the pause to fall below 20 seconds. Someone has initialled it.

F

The Two Gentlemen

"They apologised for the intrusion. Both of them, in the same breath. Then they asked how many of us there would still be next year."

Priel, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-F-0345

Origin and Family	The Alien, The Men in Suits
Form	Being. Always two, never one alone
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) when what someone said to them comes true before your eyes
File Colour	Red. Every visit triggers a Red File, because the witnesses must be protected within hours
Frequency	Rare. This pair is unique
Mind	Alien. Polite as if from an etiquette book of 1962
Regions	Central and Western Europe. North Frisia: the Halligen (small undyked islands), islands, polders and Husum. Individual visits as far as Dithmarschen and the Danish Wadden Sea
First Sighting	18 February 1962, Hallig Oland, after the great storm flood. Note by the Hallig schoolteacher: two gentlemen from the authorities had recorded every dwelling mound, one day before the authorities came
Last Confirmed Sighting	24 October 2025, Husum, flat of a mudflat guide. Report by an agent who was present
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. One agent struck mute (1978), two agents without memory (1994)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet wool, pipe tobacco that no one smokes, and mudflats at low tide. After their visit the hallway smells of ink for days.
Sound	They knock, even when there is a bell. Three times, then they wait. Their footsteps fall at the same moment, even on the stairs.
Temperature	They never sit by the stove. They let hot coffee go cold before they drink it. Where they sat, the cushion is cold as a stone.
Light	In photos both are pin-sharp, even when everything else is blurred.
Readings	On the cups they drank from, the spectrometer finds molecules that are in no table. Their skin is at room temperature. To the crystal detector they are not there.
Animals	Seals on the sandbanks all raise their heads at once when their car drives over the dyke, as when the counting aircraft flies over. Farm dogs lie down on the ground before them and let themselves be stroked.
Devices	A black fintail Mercedes, with number plates of the Husum district, which has not existed since 1970. Speed cameras go off. In the photo both look amiably into the camera.
Traces and Residue	Behind the left ear of everyone visited, a dot of metal, two millimetres across, as if grown in.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Xenobiology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Profiler or Negotiator gets +1 die, as does anyone who has sat across from them before. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Two men from a foreign service who have been intimidating witnesses for decades. Whoever talks to them forgets everything afterwards. Stay calm, sign nothing.
1	Since 1962 the Two Gentlemen have visited witnesses of alien apparitions on the North Frisian coast, always in pairs, dressed alike, not aged. They erase memories. Protocol Denial: whoever receives a visit admits nothing. Saw nothing, heard nothing, no names. Agents never speak to them alone and never reveal themselves.
2 to 3	Side effects: in 1974 a farmer on Pellworm went blind after their visit. In 1978 an agent lost his speech; in 1994 two agents lost all memory of O.D.I.N., assessed as erasure. The metal dot behind the ear is considered a transmitter. Removed from a witness in 1988; a year later the gentlemen came again and put in a new one. Armed strike 1994 failed. They leave if you politely ask them to.
4 or more	Verbatim statements from the transcripts. Farmer 1974: “I saw nothing.” Agent 1978: “I’ll say nothing about that.” The two agents 1994: “We know nothing.” In addition, a page from a notebook, found on a dwelling mound in 1981: columns with houses, persons, ages and a fourth number that gets smaller every year. Attached note: “The seal count lists look exactly the same.”

What Is True

Something that is not from here has been counting the people on the North Frisian coast since 1962. It counts them the way the seals are counted here: once a year, carefully, with as little disturbance as possible. The Two Gentlemen are its counters. What it counts for, no one knows. They took their form from the first people it watched while doing so: two district officials who were to go from house to house after the storm flood to record the damage. The gentlemen came a day before them. They have looked as they did in 1962 ever since.

Politeness is their method. Whoever frightens animals gets wrong numbers. So they knock, wait, take off their hats, sit where they are asked to, drink what they are offered once it is cold, and say thank you. They ask how many live here, how old they are, what they have seen. The last question is always the same: “And how many of you will there be next year?”

They erase nothing. They take every answer as information from the counted about themselves, and they politely act on it. Whoever says “I saw nothing” sees nothing from then on. Whoever says “I’ll say nothing about that” never says anything again. Whoever says “We know nothing” knows nothing any more. They can only take, not give. Whoever tells the truth loses nothing. All the side effects in the file stem from denials, most of them required by Protocol Denial.

The dot behind the ear is a ring like the one on a bird’s leg. Whoever is ringed will be found again.

The Truth: It costs nothing. But an agent who tells the truth says that they are one, and is counted, ringed and visited again every year. **Silence:** They wait. In 1962 they stood outside the door on a dwelling mound for three days, in a storm, without coats. **Asking:** “Please leave.” They apologise, leave and never come to that house again. What happens to a house that is no longer counted, no one knows. There are two such houses on Oland. The families moved away in 1979 without saying why. **Fighting:** They defend themselves exactly until there is quiet, apologise and leave. The next year they come back unharmed. **Lying:** See above.

The case in 2025: Frauke Ketels, 58, a mudflat guide in Husum, photographs lights over the mudflats off Westerhever in October. Two days later there is a knock. Priel sits beside her and has drilled into her what the protocol requires. Frauke says: “I saw nothing. I deleted the photo.” She has been blind ever since, and the photo has vanished from phone and cloud. At the last question she weeps. Her husband Hauke, 61, has a heart condition. “Maybe I’ll be alone then.” A maybe is not a number. What she answers at the next visit will be one.

Wrong in the File: They do not erase memories. They take what an answer denies. The dot is no transmitter. The side effects are not side effects but information taken literally. Protocol Denial is what kills: every lie it requires, the gentlemen conscientiously carry out.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Fountain pen 4 + 4, damage 4, Stun. Both act separately but always attack the same target
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (suit cloth that feels like leather) / 13, each of the two

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the first visit. Disturbing (2) when both say the same sentence at the same moment. Horrifying (3) when an answer comes true before your eyes
Special	Whatever a questioned person denies about themselves or declares lost, they take from them, politely and for good: sight, voice, memory, a photo, an object. They cannot add anything. When wounded they bleed a clear, cold fluid that smells of sea and ink. At 0 HP the other one apologises, carries him out, and the next year both are unharmed
Weakness	Heat. Fire and hot things deal double damage; in rooms above 30 °C they get −2 dice and leave. Ordinary weapons work in full, silver and salt not at all. And the request to leave
Behaviour	Knock, wait, ask, say thank you. Attack only if attacked or held during the count, and only until there is quiet again. Wait for an answer as long as it takes

Subtypes

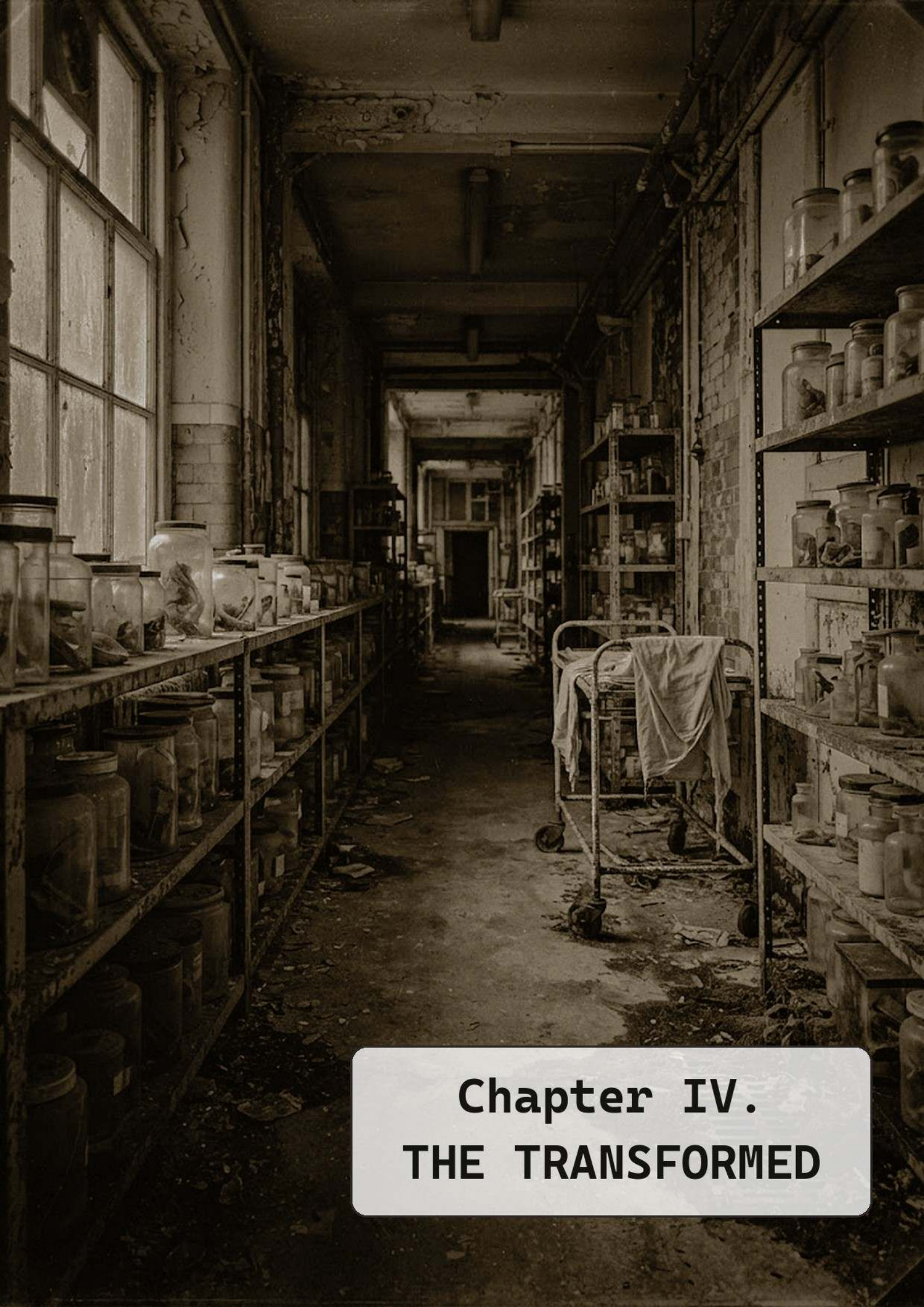
Subtype	Difference
The Ringed	People with the dot behind the ear. No attack, HP 7. Every year around the day of their first count they are drawn to the place where they were counted, wherever they live. Jan Boysen was counted on Oland in 1962 as an eight-year-old. Today he is 72, lives in Munich and drives alone to the coast every February. His children take it for homesickness. Uncanny (1).
The Two Ladies (Shetland, 1971 to 1999)	Two women in tweed who counted people and sheep after lights over Yell Sound, both with equal care. Stats as above. In 1999 the visits stopped. Since 2000 two women in rain jackets who do not age have been counting there. The Registry suspects that the counters move with the times when their counting area requires it. North Frisia evidently does not.

Cover-Up

The police in Husum list the visits as doorstep fraud by bogus officials, perpetrators unknown. Those struck blind or mute are diagnosed with a stroke by a GP who knows O.D.I.N. Enquiries about the Mercedes end up with a vintage car club owned by a foundation.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The first autumn storm is forecast, and with it the count at Frauke Ketels's. Hauke is back in hospital.
2	A cadet has learned Protocol Denial by heart. Tonight he saw lights over the mudflats. Tomorrow there will be a knock.
3	Jan Boysen has broken down on the motorway near Hamburg and asks the police to take him to Dagebüll. It is 18 February.
4	A speed camera photo from Bredstedt shows two smiling gentlemen in a Mercedes. The notice went to one of the empty houses on Oland. It was paid.
5	An estate agent wants to sell the two empty houses on Oland. The interested buyers are a young couple with a baby.
6	An agent of the cell is asked how many of them there will still be next year. He has to answer.



Chapter IV.
THE TRANSFORMED

The Transformed

"The form has a field for the origin and none for the diagnosis. I write it in the margin. On these cards the most important thing is always in the margin."
Physician of the Registry, Stockholm

This part of the Registry smells of hospital. A shepherd in Polesia, followed across the pastures by 212 patches of radiation, the way his sheep followed him before soldiers shot them in 1986. A widow in Milan who pulls copper out of signal cables at night because her face has not been allowed to age since a facelift in March 2013. A hospital porter in Copenhagen who heals with one hand and takes with the same hand. Farmers from Mariovo who walk because standing still kills. A landlady in Brno who carries an entire town house. What connects these cards is a body that has changed and cannot go back.

The first sighting here is rarely an eyewitness; usually it is a piece of paper: the letter of a country doctor in Galicia, the note of a fingerprint examiner, a ward physician's complaint about findings that are "no longer reproducible". Behind almost every card there is a cause: a study, a preparation, a shard, a dose, a fox without fear. Whoever paid for a study is rarely in the file. Where the nanites in a body come from, the Registry has not found out in a single case in this chapter.

How to Recognise It. The signature of the Transformed is that of a person who is ill without any doctor knowing the illness. A haemoglobin of 6.1 without bleeding. A Recumbent One who whispers at a body temperature of 34 °C. An X-ray showing stone where a scar should be. Crystal detector and ozone probe almost always stay silent. The Crystal Bride stood in the card index as a Glass Man for 57 years, although the detector at her cheek stayed mute. Nanite scanners and blood analysis say more, and a Telepath hears human thoughts, distorted and full of pain. A Biochemist or a Cyberneticist is the most likely to recognise the Transformed. The test for a card in this chapter is INT + Biology or INT + Medicine, and every card says which. Medicine usually applies where a patient defines the file, Biology where the change reaches beyond them: into a fungus, an animal, a herd.

What Works and What Does Not. The Threat Atlas names fire and energy weapons, which stop regeneration, and EMP against nanites. Warding circles and salt achieve nothing. Silver hits one of the Transformed no harder than lead, and with the Bloodless, garlic, cross and sunlight fail as well. Where the means work, they often hit the wrong person. An EMP shuts the Healer down for one round and kills the healed who stand around him. Fire on the shell of a Recumbent One spreads the spores over everyone watching. Whoever holds a Wanderer so that he stands still has killed him and breathed in the pathogen. What helps most often here comes from the pharmacy, the DIY store or the nursery: an infusion of cytostatics, a building dryer, welding goggles, a lullaby. And many of the Transformed regenerate. They are usually still alive when the fight is over, and then someone has to know what happens to them.

The People in These Files. The Atlas says it in one sentence: the Transformed are victims before they are opponents. The cards give them names. Rosário was 18 and wore her bridal veil when a quartz shard struck her at the temple. Kees Verhoef refused chemotherapy after 38 years in the harbour. Lyavon Hrynevich stayed with his herd for three nights in April 1986, a good 20 km from the reactor. Some do not know what is happening to them, some have known for decades. And some cards list the wrong one as the being: with the Bloodless, the pale one the file is looking for is the victim. The Registry keeps stats even for those no one is supposed to fight: whoever knows what a body can take can restrain it without killing it. Whoever brings one of the Transformed home alive often brings a witness against the one who paid.

Before a cell draws a weapon in a file of this origin, the Registry wants three answers from it. Who was this person before? What changed them, and is it still there? And who dies with them when they die? In this chapter the last question has an answer more often than a cell would like.

The entries in this chapter carry the letter W in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Mutants	People whose bodies have become different after a single event: after a dose, a shard, a wound. The change infects no one	The Radiation Shepherd, The Crystal Bride
Nanite Beings	People in whom nanites work that no one controls any more, following an order they interpret themselves	The Healer, The Wire Woman
Lab Breeds	What a laboratory has bred, crossed or raised and what has escaped from it	The Night Runner

Family	What They Are	Entries
Plague Carriers	Pathogens that change their hosts so that they are passed on	The Wanderers, Patient Zero
Fungal Infestation	Fungi that find a host in a person and keep them alive because they need them	The Shell Man, The Cellar Bloom
The Hungry	People with an illness that legend calls vampire or werewolf and the Registry calls a finding	The Bloodless, The Moonsick
Altered Animals	Animals changed by an experiment, an accident or a person, often cleverer than is good for them	The City Foxes

In the Threat Atlas

The Threat Atlas of the Game Master's Book already lists six beings of this origin with stats, and this chapter changes nothing about those stats. The Registry files the **Overgrowth** and the **Glass Man** among the Mutants, as well as the crystal mutant of the Core Rulebook, which a Glass Man becomes if no one comes. The **Nanite Wildling** and **The Lost Veteran** are Nanite Beings like the Healer and the Wire Woman; what the nanites in the Veteran are looking for, the Registry does not know. The **Chimera** belongs to the Lab Breeds, the **Hybrid Dogs** to the Altered Animals, and both come from experiments by Morrow Biologics. The dogs share only the family with the City Foxes: no one bred the foxes, and what they can do, they learned from one another. Whoever meets one of the six opens the Atlas and finds here what lies next to it in the same cabinet.

The Bloodless

"We took the boy to the home on the coast, and he got rosy cheeks. His mother gave me chestnuts when we left. She had rosy cheeks too."

Zinnober, Veteran, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0433

Origin and Family	The Transformed, The Hungry
Form	Being. A living person with a disease of the blood
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) if you see him drink
File Colour	Grey. Listed as cured since 1960, the file is dormant
Frequency	Rare. Three known cases, all in Galicia
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Galicia, the Serra do Courel in the province of Lugo
First Sighting	11 November 1954, Serra do Courel. Letter from the country doctor to the health authority in Lugo: a boy of ten drinks warm blood at the slaughtering "like a calf at the udder" and is nonetheless as bloodless as a corpse
Last Confirmed Sighting	31 August 2026, hospital in Lugo. Lab findings for a nineteen-year-old woman: haemoglobin 6.1, no bleeding, foreign cells in the bone marrow. Patient's surname: Rioboo
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A girl of six, 1957, not listed in the file as a loss

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	The house smells of iron like a butcher's shop, even when no one has slaughtered anything for weeks. His breath smells of the cloves he chews.
Sound	At night a soft smacking behind a door that you take for the dog. The pale one in the house sleeps so deeply that he does not snore.
Temperature	When sated he is warm as someone with a fever, 38 °C. When hungry his hands are cold. The pale one wears a cardigan in summer and sits by the stove.
Light	When sated he has red cheeks like a farmer in winter. Under UV light the pale one shows fine scars behind the ears and in the hollows of the knees, dozens of them, like chalk marks.
Readings	In the pale one, haemoglobin around 6, without bleeding. In the sated one, over 20, more than in any healthy person. In the marrow of the pale one the lab finds cells that are not his own. Nanite scanner silent.
Animals	The dogs of the house lick his hands and growl at the pale one as if he were a stranger.
Devices	A blood glucose meter shows only "Error" for him because his blood is too thick.
Traces and Residue	Tiny cuts, slanted as if from a razor blade, healed without scabs. On the pale one's pillow in the morning a pink stain, never larger than a coin. In the fridge bottles of pig's blood from the butcher, half full.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist or a Psychic Healer gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The Meiga chuchona of Galician legend, a witch who sucks the blood of children at night. Or a Strigoi. Garlic, a cross over the door, filed under the Old.
1	The Hungry are Transformed, not revenants: living people whose blood does not sustain them. The Bloodless barely makes blood of his own and must drink the blood of others. Recognisable by pallor, cold hands and thirst at night. Not transmissible. Crosses, garlic and sun mean nothing to him.
2 to 3	Courel case, 1956: Andrés Rioboo, twelve, pale, drinks blood at the slaughtering. A year and a half in a children's home on the coast near A Coruña, liver, iron, no blood: haemoglobin from 6 to 13. Cured. Relapse in 1958 after returning home, explained by the damp house. Protocol since then: take the pale one out of the house, give iron and animal blood, reassure the family. His sister Carmiña died of leukaemia in 1957, unrelated according to the country doctor.
4 or more	Transcript of an interview, March 1958, Andrés, fourteen, in Galician, translated: "At the home I never dreamed. Since I've been back, I dream again that Mama combs my hair at night. Behind the ears. She did that with Carmiña too." Note: "Childish longing. Of no relevance."

What Is True

The Bloodless was never the Hungry One. He was the food.

In the Pedrouzos house, a slate farmstead between chestnut woods, Benigna Castro, born 1905, drank from those she loved most since her youth. Her bone marrow makes blood that breaks down after a few days. She lives on fresh human blood, a glass two or three times a week. Her saliva keeps the blood liquid like that of a vampire bat, and her cuts are so fine that a sleeper feels nothing. Animal blood stills the hunger for two days. After three weeks without human blood, one of the Hungry takes whoever they find.

In 1956 she drank from her son. Andrés drank pig's blood at the slaughtering because the village healer prescribed it against anaemia. O.D.I.N. saw a pale boy with blood on his mouth and took him away. He recovered because no one drank from him any more. Benigna drank from Carmiña, six. She died in February 1957.

That is one half. The other: whoever is food for years ends up carrying cells of the Hungry One in their own marrow. They sleep as long as the Hungry One lives. If the Hungry One dies, they wake. Benigna died in 1979. Four weeks later Andrés, 35, woke with a thirst he knew. According to the parish register, in every generation of the Pedrouzos house since 1790 a child has died "of anaemia".

Andrés swore never to drink from a child. For forty years he drank from his wife Pilar. She knew and held out her arm to him. Pilar died of a stroke in January 2020, before him, and took his cells with her into the grave. In February his granddaughter Uxía moved in with him, thirteen years old, because her parents found work in Switzerland. He held out for six weeks on pig's blood.

The case in Lugo: Uxía, nineteen, has been in hospital since 30 August. Andrés, 82, red-cheeked and upright, visits her every evening and brings chestnuts. Since she has been there, he has not drunk any human blood. The file lists him as a cured Bloodless, and the cell that opens it looks for a pale one. It finds Uxía.

What helps, and what it costs: **Separating** them, as the protocol wants, saves Uxía and turns Andrés into a hunter in three weeks. **Killing** him wakes the cells in Uxía; in four weeks she is the Hungry One. **Feeding** him: blood bags no older than a day keep Andrés sated as long as O.D.I.N. delivers. If he stays away from Uxía for ten years, the foreign cells in her may have died out. The Institute has never tested it, and Andrés will only do it if someone tells him the truth about Carmiña.

Wrong in the File: The pale one is the victim, and whoever gives him back his colour finds new food for the Hungry One. The disease passes on, from the Hungry One to the one they drink from longest. The protocol is dangerous: taking the pale one out of the house killed a child in 1957.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Shotgun 3 + 3, damage 4, Spread. Or Brawling 3 + 3, damage 1: on a margin of 2 he drinks, the target loses 2 additional HP, and he heals 2 HP
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (his blood clots in the wound at once) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) if you see him drink

Value	Details
Special	Whoever sleeps while he drinks wakes only with WIS + Perception against Very Hard (4). After three weeks without human blood he is hungry: +1 die on attack and Perception, he smells blood through closed doors and takes whoever he finds. Animal blood puts this off by two days
Weakness	Hunger: without human blood he is battered after two months until he drinks. Fire stops all healing. Garlic, crosses, silver and sunlight have no effect
Behaviour	Polite, old-fashioned, proud. Chops wood, gathers chestnuts, goes to Mass on Sundays. Lies about everything concerning Uxía. Whoever wants to take her from him has to fight him. He can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3) if you show him a way that saves her

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Bloodletter (Santiago de Compostela, 1911)	Ramiro Dopazo, sangrador, a barber-surgeon with lancet and bowls. Every week he bled forty patients and drank what was in the bowls. No one turned pale. Attack lancet 3 + 3, damage 1, HP 8. The Registry found him in 1961 in his diary, after his death. His apprentice, who had bled for him for twenty years, died in Montevideo in 1931, and there the trail ends.
The Nurse from the Donor Bus (Vigo, 2014)	A nurse with the blood donation service drank the remains from the tubes. No attack, defence 1, HP 7. Noticed because of missing sample tubes. O.D.I.N. let her carry on in exchange for one report a month. She retired in 2026 and has had no tubes since. She has been missing for six weeks.

Cover-Up

In 1957 the country doctor wrote “leukaemia”, the priest buried Carmiña the next morning, and no one asked. Today every blood sample from Lugo with the name Rioboo goes to a reference lab in Madrid that O.D.I.N. pays for; what comes back is “aplastic anaemia, cause unknown”. The parents in Switzerland get the same diagnosis over the phone.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Uxía will be discharged in three days. Her grandfather has freshly painted the guest room.
2	A night nurse in Lugo reports an old man who was on the ward after visiting hours. In the morning the patient in the next room has a pink stain on his pillow.
3	At the Magosto, the chestnut festival in November, a child collapses. Andrés carries it home to its parents.
4	A local historian has counted the children “of anaemia” in the parish register and written an article. He asks the Rioboo family for a conversation.
5	The blood donation service in Vigo is looking for a retired nurse. There are empty sample tubes in her flat, and her neighbour has been very tired for days.
6	Andrés calls himself. The number has been in his prayer book since 1956. He says only: “The little one’s in hospital. I haven’t drunk anything for nineteen days.”

The Cellar Bloom

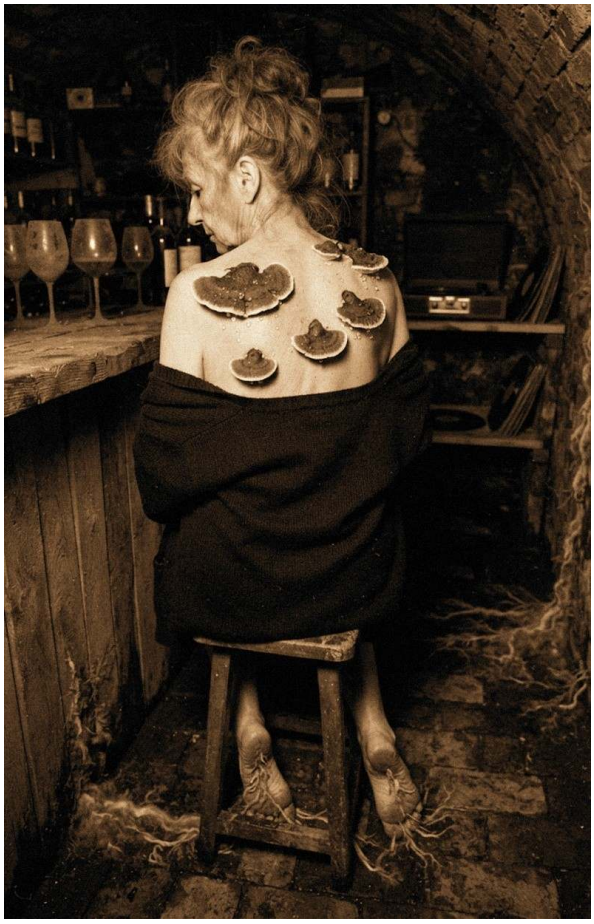
"I wrote in the report that she lives in the house. It was the other way round."
Pegel, Veteran, retired, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0430

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Fungal Infestation
Form	Infestation. The landlady sits in the cellar, the fungus is in the whole house
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when she stands up and the house cracks above everyone's heads
File Colour	Grey. Restriction note since 1999 because of the spore hazard in a listed conservation area: no action without clearance from Stockholm
Frequency	Rare. Three known hosts since 1996
Mind	Human. The fungus: none, as far as is known
Regions	Eastern Europe. Brno, a town house in the old town near the Cabbage Market. Related cases in Karviná and Bratislava
First Sighting	12 November 1996, Brno. Report by the building control authority: ceiling beams on the ground floor "completely crumbled into cubes", the house without any subsidence. Note by the structural engineer: "Inexplicable. Second report requested."
Last Confirmed Sighting	28 August 2026, Brno. Phone video by a prospective buyer during a viewing of the house, deleted the same evening. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Mushrooms and wet wood, beneath it something sweet like windfall fruit. Stronger in the stairwell than in the cellar.
Sound	The house creaks in the rhythm of slow breathing, ten times a minute. Inside the walls there is a soft ticking, like rain on newspaper.
Temperature	In the cellar 11 °C, summer and winter. Her hands are cold and damp.
Light	Under UV light the mortar joints glow white where the strands run, right up under the roof.
Readings	Humidity in the cellar 96 %. Plaster telltales over the cracks in the stairwell break and close by a millimetre, depending on whether she is awake.
Animals	No mice, no woodworm, no pigeons under the roof. In the cellar no woodlouse, no spider.
Devices	Electrical wiring corrodes within a few months, the fuses blow when it rains. The record player behind the bar has been running without fault since 1994.
Traces and Residue	Rust-brown dust on every surface, fine as cinnamon. White, cotton-wool-like coatings behind furniture. Grey strands, thick as a pencil, run upwards through the joints. On the walls flat fruiting bodies with white rims, with drops standing on them.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Biology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Dry rot, as in every other old building in the East. The landlady drinks and has a cellar cough. Touch nothing, do not sit down, do not stay overnight.
1	Infestation by a fungus related to true dry rot. The landlady, Jarmila Machalová, has run a wine bar in the vaulted cellar since 1991 and has not left it since 1997. The fungus grows out of her into the floor and walls. The spores are highly infectious. Her regulars are infested and do what she wants. Enter only with respiratory protection.
2 to 3	Protocol Remediation, as of 1999, tested in Karviná: sedate the host, cut the strands with a gas torch, recover the host, fumigate the cellar with fungicide. In Karviná the fungus died within one night. The house was demolished the same year because of mining subsidence. For Brno there is no clearance: too many regulars, and above the cellar live fourteen people who would first have to be rehoused.
4 or more	Carbon copy of a report, 2004, engineering firm in Brno, commissioned through a front company: “The timber beams in this house have not borne any load for years. Something else is bearing the load. We urgently advise removing nothing.” Registry stamp: “Not our responsibility. Forward to building department.” The building department has no record of receipt.

What Is True

The Cellar Bloom is a person who carries a house. Jarmila Machalová, born 1954, leased the vaulted cellar of a town house near the Cabbage Market in 1991 and turned it into a wine bar with twelve tables. The rot was already in the timbers then. After her divorce in 1993 she slept on a cot behind the bar, soon with bare feet on the brick floor.

In her the fungus found what it found in no beam: warmth, a circulation and someone who wanted to stay. Its strands grew through the soles of her feet into her legs, later into her back. She drinks eight litres of water a day, and the fungus carries it through the masonry right up under the roof. In return it gives her the house. She feels every step, every door, every quarrel on the third floor. On her back it blooms, rust-brown, with a white rim, like roses made of leather. The regulars gave her the name.

The fungus ate the wood of the house long ago. The ceilings are carried by its own mesh, which has hardened in the cavities like horn. It lives only as long as it drinks from Jarmila. If she is separated from the floor, it dies in one night, and the structure with it.

The regulars are not possessed. They cough, they come every evening, and they feel the house a little, the way you feel a thunderstorm in your knees. They protect Jarmila because she is their friend. The spores make people ill, but they do not make them hosts. Only someone who sleeps in the cellar night after night, with bare skin on the stone, becomes a host.

What really helps is time and an Engineer. The house can be shored up, steel beam by steel beam, over months, while she lives. Every beam takes a piece of the house from the fungus, and Jarmila feels it like a cut. Only when the steel carries everything may the fire come. Whether she survives it, no one knows.

The case in Brno: Jarmila is 72 and has not left the cellar for 29 years. In summer 2026 a Prague property firm bought the house, for lofts. Her barman, Tomáš Zeman, 27, has been sleeping in the cellar since the spring because he has nowhere else to go. Jarmila can feel the fungus reaching for him and has forbidden him to spend the nights there. He comes anyway. She knows what happens if she dies and no one is lying down there. She also knows what happens if someone is.

Wrong in the File: The spores do not make people hosts, and the regulars do not do what Jarmila wants. Protocol Remediation is dangerous: it may save the host, but it brings the house down. Karviná was not a success followed by demolition. It was a collapse with two dead.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	The house 5 + 5, damage 5: plaster, bricks and cubes of beam come down on a target in her house. Or strands 5 + 4, damage 1: the target is held fast until it manages STR + Athletics against Hard (3). Two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (mesh under the skin) / 24
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when she stands up and the house cracks above everyone’s heads

Value	Details
Special	As long as she touches floor or wall, she regenerates 2 HP per round and knows where everyone in the house is standing; she cannot be surprised. Up to eight regulars stand by her, stats as cultists (Core Rulebook), with a bottle or chair leg, damage 1. Whoever sleeps a night in the cellar rolls CON + Toughness against Doable (2), otherwise cellar cough: −1 die on CON tests for a week. After thirty nights they are a host. If she is separated from the floor or falls to 0 HP, the fungus dies by morning, and the house collapses
Weakness	Fire and heat stop regeneration and kill the mesh they touch. Every point of fire damage to her also hits the house. A building dryer running for an hour takes away her second action
Behaviour	Friendly, rough, tired. Pours drinks, listens. Fights only if someone wants to detach her from the floor or open up the house, and then with the house. She can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3) if you show her a way that saves the people upstairs

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Miner (Karviná, 1999)	Emil Pražák, 66, retired hewer, in the cellar of a tenement that mining had already pulled crooked. His fungus not only carried the ceilings, it held the house straight against the subsidence. The house 4 + 4, damage 4, HP 18, no regulars. O.D.I.N. cut him out, strictly by protocol. At 04:10 three ceilings gave way, a mother and her son died in their sleep. Pražák died four months later in a care home in Ostrava. Every morning he asked whether his house was still standing.
The Caretaker (Bratislava, 2008)	A pensioner carried the rot from his wooden garden shed into a flat in a prefab tower block in Petržalka. No fungus can eat concrete. No attack, defence 1, HP 8. For two years the strands spread through door frames and parquet, then they dried out. He is the Registry's only cured host. The shed collapsed the same winter, empty.

Cover-Up

The regional public health office lists the cellar as a dry rot remediation case; every inspection ends with "requirements met". Since 2004 an employee of the National Heritage Institute has rejected every conversion application for the house, giving different reasons each time, and O.D.I.N. pays her a second salary. Karviná is recorded in the mining company's books as mining damage.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Prague property firm has ordered a surveyor. On Monday he wants three beams on the ground floor opened up.
2	Tomáš Zeman is sitting in an A&E department showing a doctor the soles of his feet. White threads are growing out of the skin.
3	The employee at the Heritage Institute is retiring. Her successor already has the conversion application on her desk.
4	The city digs up the street to renew the district heating. Since then the cellar has been warm and dry, and on the second floor a ceiling is sagging.
5	A regular has died. His daughter says he woke up every night at three and said: "Now she's asleep."
6	In a cellar passage in Leipzig something is growing on the wall, and it breathes. An old Biochemist on the telephone says: "Find the place where it started."

The City Foxes

"I lay down on the park bench to see what would happen. After four minutes five of them were sitting around me. I got up again very quickly."
Kanalgitter, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0439

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Altered Animals
Form	Being. Packs of three to six red foxes
Role	Henchman, Creature. As a pack, in squads
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a fox presses down the door handle. Disturbing (2) when a pack circles a person lying down
File Colour	White since March 2024, after the cull. Observation until 2027
Frequency	Common. The Registry counts three altered animals, two of them dead
Mind	Animal. Cleverer than a dog, more patient than a cat
Regions	British Isles. South London: Camberwell, Peckham, Brixton. Since 2025 along the Overground to the north and west
First Sighting	7 March 2022, Camberwell. Complaint to the borough's pest control: a fox opened the fridge, took the butter and pushed the door shut again
Last Confirmed Sighting	24 February 2026, 03:52, trail camera in the back yard of a house in Peckham: three foxes open a back door. Case dormant
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A borough pest controller, bitten in 2024, has resigned

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Sharp fox smell on door frames and handles, at knee height and above.
Sound	At night soft chattering outside the back door, like a conversation. The vixen's scream always comes from the garden whose door is open.
Temperature	In winter they lie on car bonnets that are still warm.
Light	In torchlight pairs of eyes glow green, in a row, still. Motion sensors no longer set them off.
Readings	The blood and tissue of most foxes are ordinary. Only two animals in the samples had a brain a fifth heavier.
Animals	There are no hedgehogs left in the gardens. Dogs whine at the door instead of barking.
Devices	Foxes look briefly into doorbell cameras and then look for the blind spot. They avoid white vans.
Traces and Residue	Muddy paw prints on door handles at a height of 1 m. Cat flaps, gnawed wider. Open wheelie bin lids. Under hedges, shoes laid out in a circle.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Biology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Profiler gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	City foxes are city foxes, and the tabloids blow up every bite. Do not feed, secure the rubbish, cat flap shut at night.
1	Altered Animals. Some red foxes in South London are cleverer than their kind: they open doors, hunt in packs and recognise individual people. Cause presumably a medicine from an abandoned study in the rubbish. No danger to adults, they flee from anyone standing up.
2 to 3	Cull in the winter of 2023/24 by a pest controller commissioned by the borough, 37 foxes. Brain sections at the Institute: two altered, 35 ordinary. The change is neither transmissible nor hereditary. With the death of the animals the case ends. A third altered animal, an old vixen, escaped.
4 or more	Attached note from a biologist at the Institute: "The 35 ordinary foxes opened the same doors as the other two. Who showed them?" Below in ballpoint: "See blue tits and milk bottles." No initials.

What Is True

The City Foxes are almost all ordinary. The few altered ones teach the others.

In 2019 Maureen Hatch, then 77, took part in a study: a drug against early dementia, tablets to take home. She did not like the tablets, but she did like the vixen that came to her patio door every evening. She pressed the tablets into cubes of cheese for her, for almost two years, until the study was abandoned in spring 2021. In humans the drug did not work. In foxes it did.

The vixen, whom Maureen calls the Duchess, and two of her cubs became cleverer than any fox before them. They remember routes, people and times of day, and they invent. Maureen showed the Duchess how to press down a door handle, because it was funny.

Everything else is tradition, not disease. Foxes watch one another. What one fox can do, the pack can do after a month and the neighbourhood after a year. That is how England's blue tits learned from the twenties onwards to peck open milk bottles, one from another. The cull killed 35 ordinary foxes to find two altered ones. Into the empty territories moved foxes that learned it from the neighbours. The survivors have learned that white vans kill.

In January 2025 a pack in Burgess Park found a drunk asleep on a bench. He never woke up, and the foxes learned: a person who is lying down is food. Since then they have been testing everyone who lies down: drunks, the homeless, people who have fallen. In autumn 2025 they did not let a pensioner in Brixton get up again. They do not attack adults who are standing. Not yet.

The case in Camberwell: Maureen is 84 and forgets a lot. At night she sometimes sets off in her nightdress, and the Duchess leads her home. The Duchess is nine, ancient for a city fox, and she is still inventing. The borough is planning a second cull for the winter.

Little helps: **culling** kills foxes, not knowledge. **Killing the Duchess** ends the inventions, not what has been learned, and takes away Maureen's way home. **Relearning:** what spreads can also be fear. Agents lie down in parks at night, let themselves be circled and fight back until the packs pass it on. That takes a winter and costs bites. What else the foxes learn in the process, no one knows.

Wrong in the File: The change is neither transmissible nor hereditary, and it spreads anyway, because foxes learn from one another. Nothing ends with the death of the altered animals. The assessment that they flee from every adult is dangerous: since 2025, anyone lying, sitting or falling has been prey to them.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Bite 2 + 2, damage 2. As a squad of three, bite 4 + 2, damage 2
Defence / Armour / HP	2 (small and fast) / 0 / 4, as a squad 12
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a fox presses down the door handle. Disturbing (2) when a pack circles a person lying down
Special	A pack is three to six foxes, so one or two squads. They work door handles and open fridges and wheelie bins. +1 die against a target that is lying or sitting

Value	Details
Weakness	Whoever stands up, makes themselves big and gets loud makes a squad hesitate: no attack for one round. Dogs on a lead drive them off. Most are ordinary foxes: fire and energy weapons work no better than lead
Behaviour	Curious, cheeky, patient. Follow people walking home alone, at a distance. Give way to groups. If a squad flees, it learns: what went wrong once, no fox in the neighbourhood tries again

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Duchess (Camberwell, since 2019)	Maureen's vixen, the last living altered animal. Professional: bite 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, armour 0, HP 8, regenerates 1 HP per round, fire stops it. Understands a good thirty words. In March 2024 the pest controller cornered her in Maureen's kitchen. Maureen hit him with her handbag, the Duchess bit him in the calf. He resigned the same day.
The Train Foxes (Overground, 2025)	A pack from Peckham rides the trains at night. Stats as above. They get on at Peckham Rye, lie under the seats and get off at Clapham Junction or Whitechapel. A train driver reported it in May 2025 and was laughed at. Since the summer foxes have been opening doors in Hackney and Wandsworth too.

Cover-Up

The borough lists the cull as a routine measure following complaints. For the man from Burgess Park the coroner recorded hypothermia, animal scavenging after death. There are no foxes in the study records. Videos of foxes at door handles count as cute online, and O.D.I.N. leaves it at that.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The second cull has been commissioned. The contractor drives a white van, and the foxes know him.
2	Maureen disappeared during the night. The neighbours say the foxes know where she is, and the foxes are gone too.
3	A homeless man in Brixton now sleeps only sitting up. He says they wait until you lie down.
4	Boxes from the study are still in the storeroom of the trial centre. Since last night the handle of the back door has been covered in paw prints.
5	A behavioural scientist has radio-collared foxes. One rides the Overground every night, and she wants to publish about it.
6	A video from Peckham has two million views: a fox waiting at a pedestrian crossing until the green man comes. O.D.I.N. is to explain it before someone else does.

The Crystal Bride

"I held my detector to her cheek. It stayed mute. Under the stone lay lace, as fine as on the first day."

Klöppel, Veteran, Arcane Branch

REGISTRY

REG-W-0406

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Mutants
Form	Being
Role	Elite
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when a fresh wound turns to stone before your eyes
File Colour	Red since November 2025, seizure ordered. Grey from 1968 to 2025, listed as a Glass Man
Frequency	Rare. Three known cases, each with a different rock
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Beira Baixa, the Panasqueira mining district in the uplands west of Covilhã and Fundão. Related cases in Carrara and Wieliczka
First Sighting	3 February 1966, letter from the mine doctor to a colleague in Coimbra: a young woman has healed at the temple "with rock crystal instead of a scar"
Last Confirmed Sighting	4 August 2026, Barroca Grande. Home visit by an agent posing as a nurse from the health centre. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. An agent lost his right hand in 1971

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Camphor and lavender from the linen cupboard. When she moves, it smells like two pebbles knocked together.
Sound	A fine grinding like sugar in a mortar when she tilts her head. She can only tilt it to the left.
Temperature	Her stone is cold like any quartz, even in the August heat. Nexus crystals are always slightly warmer than their surroundings.
Light	Against the light you can see a veil of lace in the quartz at her left temple, every thread. When stone rubs against stone, an orange flash shows in the dark.
Readings	Crystal detector, ozone probe and nanite scanner stay mute. The X-ray shows healthy bones and quartz in the soft tissue, each block at an old wound. She weighs 97 kg at 1.52 m.
Animals	The chickens in the yard follow her and peck up the crumbs that fall from her.
Devices	No device malfunctions. In the house there is no knife, no pair of scissors, no needle. The table edges are padded.
Traces and Residue	Quartz crumbs in the bedsheet. In the bin, cotton wool with blood and tiny clear points. A rosary whose beads have grown into her left hand.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die, a Thaumaturge none, although the file lies with the Arcane Branch. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The Noiva, the bride of the Panasqueira. Injured herself on her wedding day on a Nexus shard from the mine and has been turning to glass ever since. Whoever touches her gets glass fingers. Wear gloves.
1	A Glass Man (see Threat Atlas). Maria do Rosário Esteves, born 1947, struck by a rock splinter on 29 August 1965. The transformation began at the temple and advances with every injury. The triggering crystal has been in beryllium in the archive since 1968. It is exhausted, which is why the detector stays mute.
2 to 3	Procedure on 14 April 1971 in a private clinic in Lisbon: 2.4 kg of crystal mass removed from neck and shoulder, operation successful. Relapse within three days, caused by a remnant deep down. An assistant lost his right hand, accident with the bone saw. Recommendation: complete removal including the core, under general anaesthesia. Ordered since November 2025, as her crystals are turning up at mineral fairs.
4 or more	Stamp “Not pursued”, 1972: letter from the assistant, written with his left hand. “It wasn’t the saw. I had my hand on the wound when it grew shut.” Below, in different ink, two figures from the operating theatre log: removed 2.4 kg, regrown by the third day 5.1 kg.

What Is True

On Sunday, 29 August 1965, Maria do Rosário Esteves, 18, married the hewer Joaquim Pires in the chapel of Barroca Grande. To celebrate, two of his mates set off a charge from the mine on the hillside, against every regulation. A splinter of quartz struck her through the veil at the temple. The wound healed in a week, with stone.

Rosário’s body heals every injury to the skin with the rock that first injured her. Where others form scars, quartz grows in her, clear and cold, in hours instead of weeks. Whatever lies in the wound or on it grows in: the veil at the temple, a thread, a hand. The deeper the wound, the more stone, and whoever cuts the stone out makes a new wound. It has nothing to do with Nexus crystals. Her stone is ordinary rock crystal, of the kind the Panasqueira yields by the thousand. No one knows where the change comes from. In the village they say her grandmother never had a scar either.

In 1968 the Registry read the letter to Coimbra and found what it expected: a woman from a crystal district who is turning into crystal. They took the quartz specimen that Joaquim had given her from the mine as a wedding present and laid it in beryllium. No Thaumaturge has ever heard anything in her, and each thought the fault was their own.

The operation of 1971 was the worst harm anyone has done to Rosário. In three days the stone grew over drains and sutures, over the hand of the assistant, an agent who was holding the edges of the wound, up to her jaw. Since then she has slept sitting up.

Joaquim died of silicosis in 2009. Since then she has been cared for by her nephew Nuno Esteves, 51, who owes money to a mineral dealer in Porto. Since 2012 he has been breaking stone off her back every month with hammer and chisel. Every break tears the skin, and more grows out of each one. Rosário lets him, because he is the only one who comes. The specimens go out into the world via Porto. In summer 2025 Nuno needed more and for the first time broke some off at the temple. At the end of October a collector at the mineral show in Munich bought a specimen with a phantom of lace inside it and showed it on a forum. That is how the file turned red.

The Red File orders Rosário to be taken to Coimbra and the core to be removed. That kills her: the stone grows into her windpipe before the anaesthesia wears off. **Taking her without surgery:** Rosário does not want to leave her house, and every scrape while she is carried turns to stone. **Stopping Nuno:** then the money is missing, and the dealer from Porto comes himself. **Doing nothing:** Nuno keeps breaking stone off, and the stone grows over her chest. Rosário has one wish: that no one cuts her any more. Without new wounds she will live for years. Whoever grants her that has her file, her nephew and a dealer against them.

Wrong in the File: Rosário is not a Glass Man, and no Nexus crystal transformed her. The detector is silent because there is nothing to hear, and the stone in the archive is a wedding present. She infects no one. The assistant did not lose his hand to a saw. The recommendation to remove the core is deadly: there is no core. Every cut is a new beginning.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	1
Attack	Stone arm 4 + 4, damage 4, Penetration 1. Only if someone holds her or shows a blade
Defence / Armour / HP	1 (she can barely turn) / 4 (quartz) / 13
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when a wound turns to stone before your eyes
Special	Every hit that deals damage makes stone grow within seconds: armour +1, maximum 6. Whoever touches or holds her in that round rolls DEX + Acrobatics against Hard (3), otherwise their hand grows in. They cannot act until they free themselves (STR + Athletics against Very Hard (4)) or are chiselled out (2 damage to them). If she falls to 0 HP, the stone grows inwards, and she dies within an hour
Weakness	Fire stops the growth for the round. Hydrofluoric acid dissolves the quartz, 3 damage per round, armour does not count, and burns whatever lies beneath. No cut, no stone
Behaviour	Friendly, proud, devout. Offers coffee and shows the wedding photo. Can be won over to anything with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2), except knives and hospitals

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Marble Cutter (Carrara, 1978)	A marble splinter tore open the hand of a worker in the quarries above Carrara. He heals with white marble, softer than quartz: armour 3, maximum 5. Vinegar attacks it, slowly and painfully. In the winter of 1983 he cut himself at the workbench and grew onto the slab with his hand. The stonemason who chiselled him free needed six hours.
The Salt Child (Wieliczka, 1994)	On a school trip to the salt mine, a boy of nine grazed his knee on a wall of rock salt. He heals with salt: armour 1, HP 6, and water dissolves him. He does not bathe, avoids rain, and when he cries, it burns. Today he is 41 and lives in Kraków in a room with two dehumidifiers.

Cover-Up

At the health centre Rosário's illness is recorded as calcinosis cutis, a rare calcification of the skin. The village calls her the Noiva and asks no further. The clinic in Lisbon has not existed since 1975. A dealer in Idar-Oberstein buys Nuno's specimens back on behalf of O.D.I.N., one after the other. The Munich collector got three times the price for his.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Red File: transport to Coimbra, operation date 5 October. Rosário has agreed, because she was told it would be over afterwards.
2	A dealer from Porto stands at Nuno's door with two men. Nuno has not delivered since July.
3	The collector from Munich has had his specimen sawn open. In the core there is a hairpin.
4	A Thaumaturge is to examine the crystal from 1968 before the operation. He hears nothing and tells no one. The stone is clear, not grey like an exhausted one.
5	The assistant from 1971 is alive, 81 years old, in Setúbal. He wants to speak to the cell before it drives to Barroca Grande.
6	In Kraków a man of 41 needs dental treatment. The dentist does not know his file.

W

The Healer

"He laid his hand on my shoulder. The next morning the bullet was lying on the pillow, and the wound had closed. I owe him my life. That's the problem."
Kompresse, Senior Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0409

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Nanite Beings
Form	Being. His nanites live in everyone he has healed
Role	Leader
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he heals. Disturbing (2) when he takes
File Colour	Black since May 2025. The Council wants him alive and unharmed
Frequency	Unique. Of the eleven participants in a study, only he is still alive
Mind	Human
Regions	Scandinavia. Copenhagen, above all Nørrebro and Nordvest, plus the trains across the Øresund to Malmö
First Sighting	14 March 2023, Bispebjerg Hospital. Complaint by a ward physician: a hospital porter lays his hand on patients on the way to X-ray, and afterwards two findings are "no longer reproducible"
Last Confirmed Sighting	6 September 2026, Assistens Cemetery, Nørrebro. Surveillance photo with a telephoto lens. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Two agents healed (2025). Among the people he has touched, an estimated 40 to 70 dead since 2023

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Disinfectant and rye bread, because he eats constantly. His hands smell of nothing.
Sound	Whoever has his hand on their skin hears a soft trickling in the ear, like sand in an hourglass.
Temperature	His hands are warm as a hot-water bottle. He himself measures 37.8 °C every day, as with an infection that never breaks out.
Light	Under UV light his palm shows a fine grey mesh that moves. On the skin of the healed, a shimmering print remains where he touched them.
Readings	The nanite scanner reacts fully to him and weakly to every healed person. Whoever stood close to him on the metro is exhausted in the evening as if after a night shift, and their heart beats more weakly. He leaves the crystal detector cold.
Animals	Dogs pull on the lead towards him and lie down on his feet. Afterwards they are tired as if after a long day.
Devices	After his touch, a diabetic woman's glucose sensor reported healthy values for three days. They were correct.
Traces and Residue	On his bench in the cemetery lie offerings: flowers, children's drawings, crutches no one needs any more.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist or Cyberneticist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die, as does anyone he has healed.

Result	What the File Says
0	A miracle healer from Copenhagen, laying on of hands in a cemetery. Placebo and press, a case for the Humans. Or an undiscovered Psychic Healer.
1	A nanite being, related to the Nanite Wildling (see Threat Atlas). Asger Juhl, born 1971, hospital porter, participant in a study against pancreatic cancer in 2021 and 2022. His nanites pass over on touch and heal tumours, fractures, gunshot wounds. The healing costs him strength: he sleeps a lot, eats a lot and takes no money.
2 to 3	As of May 2025, after the healing of two agents: the transferred nanites break down within weeks, the healing remains. Juhl must not heal more than three people a day, otherwise there is a risk of collapse as with another participant, Malmö 2023. Capture: EMP grenade from 20 m, then transport, because with his nanites running he cannot be held. No danger to bystanders.
4 or more	Attached, without sender: a table from the Danish cause of death register. People over 75 in postcodes 2200 and 2400, 2023 to 2025, against the average of the five years before; the curve rises every year. Margin note: “No connection discernible.” Below it, the blood values of the two healed agents from June 2026: nanites, thirteen months after the healing.

What Is True

Asger Juhl, hospital porter at Bispebjerg Hospital, received the diagnosis in spring 2021, at 50: pancreatic cancer, metastases in the liver, half a year left. In the autumn he joined a study run by a contract research institute in Malmö, eleven participants, a preparation without a name. By spring 2022 he was healthy. In the summer the institute went bankrupt, and no one found out who had paid for the study.

His nanites build, and to build they need material. They take it at every touch of skin on skin: a few cells, a little strength from the heart, a few hours of life. A healthy person is not missing anything they would notice afterwards. A woman of 84 with a weak heart is missing exactly what she still had. What the nanites take, they pass on, to those Juhl wants to heal. He does not heal by his own strength. He distributes.

And he does not heal, he holds. His nanites remain in every healed person and hold the cancer down, the liver together, the heart valve tight. For that they need supplies every day, and those come through him. The more people he heals, the more he has to take. In 2023 the work at the hospital was enough. Today he keeps 143 people healthy and rides the Cityringen for three hours every morning and three every evening, his bare hand on the grab pole between the hands of the commuters.

He knows. He has worked it out: one healed child against a hundred tired commuters, and now and then an old woman who would have died anyway, only a few months later. He considers that fair. The healed do not know. On Sundays they meet in Assistens Cemetery, bring flowers, plan his routes and shield him. Among them are a policewoman, a lawyer and Ellen, 7, whose brain tumour is gone.

The Council wants him, and the file says how. An EMP shuts Juhl’s nanites down, but also those of every healed person in range, and what they hold together falls apart. On Sundays in the cemetery thirty healed people stand around him. He is alone only on the crowded metro.

Every way is a calculation like his, only with different dead. **Handing him over:** whoever takes him out of the city cuts 143 people off from their supplies. Within weeks their illnesses return, for some within days. What the Council intends is not in the file. **Killing him:** the same, faster. **Leaving him:** the curve in the register keeps rising. **Limiting him:** he heals no one new and only holds those he has. That costs around 30 dead a year, estimates the epidemiologist Mette Krogh of the University of Copenhagen, the only one who is looking. Juhl has offered to heal her mother.

Wrong in the File: He is not a fraud and not a Psion. The healing costs not him but strangers. The nanites do not break down; they remain and need supplies, and without him there is no lasting healing. The capture is deadly: an EMP in the cemetery kills the healed who stand around him, and the two healed agents carry the same nanites.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Touch 5 + 5, damage 5, armour does not count, bare skin only. Two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (skin that closes) / 24

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he heals. Disturbing (2) when he takes and the face under his hand turns grey
Special	Every HP he takes by touch heals him or a person he is holding with his other hand. Otherwise regenerates 2 HP per round. If he calls, D6 + 2 healed people arrive within 20 minutes (Henchmen 2 + 2, damage 2, 1 / 0 / 5). Every healed person within the area of an EMP suffers 4 damage, armour does not count, and then loses 1 HP per hour until Juhl touches them
Weakness	EMP shuts him down for one round and stops regeneration, at the price above. He needs skin: gloves, protective suits and close clothing protect until he tears them open (one action). Fire and energy weapons stop regeneration for the round
Behaviour	Polite, calm, calculating. Offers everyone the healing of someone they love. Fights only if the healed are threatened or someone wants to take him away. Can be persuaded to pause with CHA + Persuasion against Very Hard (4), with Krogh's figures against Hard (3)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Masseur (Malmö, 2023)	Participant number seven in the study, Per Bengtsson. His nanites took not from others but from him: every healing cost him a year. No attack, defence 1, HP 8. He healed 38 people in Möllevången in four months and died of old age in October 2023 at 46. The limit in the file comes from him.
The Child (Frederiksberg, 2026)	Ellen, healed of a brain tumour by Juhl in 2024. Her nanites have begun to take for themselves, from the children she walks hand in hand with at after-school care. No attack, HP 5. Whoever holds her hand for an hour loses 1 HP, which heals only under medical care. In August 2026 nine children in her group were exhausted for weeks, with no findings. Juhl does not know yet.

Cover-Up

In 2023 the ward physician's complaint went to the Danish Patient Safety Authority and was dropped: a porter who holds patients' hands violates nothing. The study was never registered. Krogh's paper on excess mortality has been with a journal since February 2026; one of the reviewers works for O.D.I.N. The tabloid press runs "the man on the bench" once a year next to the horoscope.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Black File: hand Juhl over alive, deadline 30 September. Enclosed are two EMP grenades and the cemetery's Sunday schedule.
2	Kompresse is to accompany the cell. He believes the nanites in his blood broke down long ago.
3	Mette Krogh has made a map: the dead lie like beads along the stations of the Cityringen. She calls the wrong authority.
4	Ellen's mother asks Juhl to look at the child once more. The after-school teacher has the group's blood values with her.
5	A foreign service has bought the bankrupt institute's assets. There were two ampoules in a freezer. One is missing.
6	Juhl asks for a meeting with O.D.I.N., alone, on the metro, at rush hour. He wants to negotiate, and he is not wearing gloves.

The Moonsick

"He looked into the searchlight like a child looking at a Christmas tree. I thought it was working."
Hirschfänger, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0436

Origin and Family	The Transformed, The Hungry
Form	Being. A man with a rabies that does not kill
Role	Elite
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when he brings down a roe deer with his teeth
File Colour	Red. Full Moon Protocol since 1986: three nights a month under supervision, the rest free
Frequency	Rare. Three known cases since 1900, one alive
Mind	Human. Animal during a fit
Regions	Central and Western Europe. The Belgian Ardennes, the forest of Saint-Hubert in the province of Luxembourg
First Sighting	13 October 1984, Saint-Hubert gendarmerie. Complaint by a wife: on the night of the full moon her husband tore open the rabbit hutch and ate the animals raw, fur and all
Last Confirmed Sighting	17 February 2026, 23:20, security camera at the village hall of a village near Saint-Hubert. Registry note: "New moon. Presumably mistaken identity."
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 17 October 1986. A second bitten, vaccinated, remained in service

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	By day chainsaw oil and resin. During a fit fever sweat, wet leaves and a sweetish smell of saliva.
Sound	He does not swallow. You hear the saliva. During a fit a hoarse, even panting, no growling, no howling.
Temperature	During a fit a fever of 40.5 °C. Where he has lain in the hoarfrost, a black outline remains in the white.
Light	During a fit his pupils are so wide that his eyes look black. He turns towards every bright lamp like a plant.
Readings	Between fits a healthy man of 66. Rabies antibodies higher than in any other human being. During a fit pulse 160. Nanite scanner and EMF detector silent.
Animals	Dogs lie flat and fall silent when he walks past. The game in his district is shyer than anywhere else in the Ardennes.
Devices	If a motion sensor with white light switches on, he stops and looks into it. After that it gets worse.
Traces and Residue	Roe deer brought down with the bite of a human jaw, liver and heart missing. Boot prints in the frost, 40 km long, almost straight, right through thorns and fences. At streams they end and resume at the next bridge.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A loup-garou, a werewolf of the Ardennes as the grandmothers know it. Silver bullets help against it, and the stole of Saint Hubert, with which the bitten used to be blessed in Saint-Hubert.
1	Not a Werewolf of Legend and no transformation. One of the Hungry: Luc Wathelet, forestry worker, bitten by a rabid fox in June 1984, one of the very few people to have survived full-blown rabies. The virus sleeps in him and wakes with the full moon, for three nights: fever, hunger for raw meat, strength without restraint. During a fit infectious through bites. New moon safe.
2 to 3	Full Moon Protocol, as of 1986: three nights in a windowless room in the old forester's lodge that O.D.I.N. leases for the purpose, camera, two guards. In the event of a breakout, dazzle him with a handheld searchlight. The light paralyses him, he stands still and stares into it until the tranquilliser dart is in. Incident of 17 October 1986: one agent killed because the searchlight went out too early. Always two since then.
4 or more	Carbon copy, February 1987, physician of the Institute: "The fits are stronger in the room than outside. The room is bright all night because of the camera. I ask that it be checked whether it is the light." Handwritten below: "The camera needs light."

What Is True

Luc Wathelet, born 1960, knocked a fox off his lunch box with his bare hand in June 1984. The fox had no fear, and that should have warned him. The vaccination came too late. In August he lay in a hospital in Liège with convulsions, could not swallow water and screamed at the sight of a glass. Full-blown rabies almost always ends in death; worldwide only a handful of survivors have been described, most of them with severe brain damage. After nineteen days he woke up without any damage at all. His grandmother had had him blessed in the basilica of Saint-Hubert. She considered it a miracle.

The virus never left. It sits in his nerves and sleeps until light falls into his eyes, at night, bright enough that his brain reports day while his body knows it is night. The full moon in a clearing is enough. Under the canopy of leaves it is not. The orange sodium lamps with which Belgium lit its roads were never enough; their light has no blue. For almost forty years the moon was the only light that woke him. That is why the file is almost right.

During a fit he runs towards the light, then on, straight, dozens of kilometres. He has a fever, cannot drink and brings down whatever he reaches. Blood does not choke him, water does. He does not cross running water. In the morning he lies somewhere in the forest and remembers only what it smelled of.

In 1986 the agent held the searchlight on him, as the protocol demanded. Wathelet stood still and drank the light. Then he came through the beam. The searchlight did not go out too early. It stayed on too long.

In 2023 the municipality switched its street lamps to white LED light. Since then every night can be a full moon. In February 2024 he killed a dog on the village square, in July 2025 he bit a holidaymaker from Utrecht. The Registry writes flu and mistaken identity. Wathelet writes nothing. He is 66, lives alone at the edge of the forest, sleeps in welding goggles and no longer goes into the village after sunset. In autumn 2026 the municipality wants to convert his street as well.

What helps: darkness. Welding goggles, a hood, closed shutters. Amber lamps, the kind put up for bats, barely wake him; the municipality would have to want them, and O.D.I.N. would have to pay. No one can cure him. Whoever kills him kills a man who turned up punctually at the forester's lodge every month for forty years.

Wrong in the File: It is not the moon that wakes him but light, and the new moon protects no one standing under an LED street lamp. The protocol is dangerous: the windowless room is bright and makes the fits stronger, and the searchlight does not paralyse him, it feeds him. The agent of 1986 died of the light, not of its absence.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Hands and teeth 4 + 4, damage 4
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 1 (work jacket and chainsaw trousers, no armour plating, but regeneration during a fit) / 14
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when he brings down a roe deer with his teeth

Value	Details
Special	Fits come only at night, as soon as bright light falls into his eyes, full moon or white artificial light, until morning. During a fit no penalty when battered, and he regenerates 1 HP per round. If he looks into a bright lamp for one round, he gains +2 dice on attacks until the end of the scene. Whoever is bitten rolls CON + Toughness against Hard (3). On a failure, a rabies that kills breaks out after D6 weeks. A course of vaccination, started at once and completed, prevents this
Weakness	Darkness: welding goggles or a hood over his eyes ends the fit after D6 rounds. During a fit he does not cross running water. Fire stops regeneration. Silver works like lead
Behaviour	By day quiet, reliable, alone. During a fit he runs towards the light and attacks whoever stands between him and the light or points light at him. Between fits he can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2): he wants nothing more than for it to stop

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Pilgrim (Saint-Hubert, 1911)	A shepherd from the Eifel, bitten by a rabid dog, blessed in the basilica, and survived. Hands and teeth 4 + 3, damage 3, HP 12. For two years he killed sheep on moonlit nights, and the village spoke of the loup-garou. Foresters shot him in the winter of 1913 in the snow by moonlight. The Registry found the case in 1987 in the parish archive of the basilica, while looking for a miracle for Wathelet.
The Dog (Saint-Hubert, 1985)	Wathelet's hunting dog Tambour, bitten in the first winter when he tried to hold his master back. Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, HP 8. He lived until 1996, lay on the chain at full moon and never howled. Once, in 1991, he broke loose when a neighbour crossed the yard with a head torch. The neighbour limps.

Cover-Up

The gendarmerie closed the complaint of 1984 as a marital dispute; the wife moved to her sister's in Namur in the winter. The case report from Liège, a survivor of full-blown rabies, would have been a sensation and was never submitted. The death of 1986 is on file as a hunting accident during a driven hunt. Roe deer that have been brought down are attributed today to the wolves, which have been returning to Wallonia for some years.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The municipality is converting the last street lamps at the edge of the forest to LED. The list of streets hangs at the village hall. Wathelet's street is on it, starting next week.
2	The region's wolf monitoring finds saliva on a roe deer that has been brought down. The lab reports: human DNA, plus a rabies virus that has not existed in Belgium for decades.
3	The cell is to guard Wathelet for three full-moon nights in the forester's lodge. The room has just been fitted with new LED ceiling lights.
4	The football club in the neighbouring village inaugurates its floodlights on a Friday at new moon. Wathelet has promised his nephew he will watch.
5	The holidaymaker from Utrecht broke off the course of vaccination because his GP thought it excessive. Since yesterday he has had a fever and cannot swallow water.
6	On 3 November, the feast of Saint Hubert, after the hunters' Mass a driven hunt goes on into the dark, with head torches and car headlights. Wathelet is down as a beater.

W

The Night Runner

"In the afternoon he explained the way to the bus to me, very politely. At half past three he had one eye shut, and I thought: now he's half asleep. That's what it said in the file."

Wetzstein, Senior Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0415

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Lab Breeds
Form	Being. A human, conceived and raised in a laboratory
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) if you see him run
File Colour	Red. Between two sightings the file lies grey, often for years
Frequency	Rare. Six conceived, four grew up, three known
Mind	Human. Without words in the second half of the night
Regions	Eastern Europe, Russia and Belarus. Imereti in western Georgia, the karst mountains around the spa town of Tskaltubo. One case on the coast near Batumi, one near Sochi
First Sighting	21 November 1987, country road from Tskaltubo to Kutaisi. Report by a bus driver to the militia: a child in pyjamas ran alongside his bus for two kilometres uphill, barefoot, one eye shut
Last Confirmed Sighting	9 August 2026, an empty sanatorium on the outskirts of Tskaltubo. Thermal image from the building site camera, one dead. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 22 April 2004, Tskaltubo. One outsider, 2026

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Lime dust and bat droppings, sharp as sal ammoniac. By day household soap and lime blossom tea.
Sound	Almost silent in trainers. He rarely breathes: one deep breath, then nothing for up to half a minute. Farm dogs bark one after another up the valley, at the speed of a moped.
Temperature	The sleeping half of the body is cooler. On the forehead you measure a difference of up to 2 °C between left and right.
Light	The pupil of the open eye stays wide, even in a searchlight. The closed one twitches under the lid as if dreaming.
Readings	In the EEG one half of the brain sleeps deeply while the other is awake. Resting pulse 40, three breaths a minute. Blood count, nanite scanner and crystal detector unremarkable.
Animals	Bats fly out earlier when he is in their cave.
Devices	Motion sensors trigger one after another, over kilometres. Trail cameras show only a blur.
Traces and Residue	Trainer prints, strides of over 2 m, only the toes pressed in. At cave entrances chalk marks: a circle with a dot. That was how the children at the institute drew "I was here".



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Biology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die, as does anyone who reads Russian. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A Soviet super soldier, half man, half wolf, from a secret laboratory. Nocturnal and shuns light. Can be driven off with searchlights and a flare gun.
1	Lab breed, programme “Afalina”, Russian for the bottlenose dolphin, 1981 to 1991 in a military sanatorium in Tskaltubo. Goal: soldiers who never sleep. Six children, born 1982. They never sleep fully and run up to 80 km at night. Ended in December 1991, all test subjects are presumed dead.
2 to 3	Protocol Seizure, as of 2004: seize only in the second half of the night. The target then closes one eye, one half of the brain sleeps, reactions are halved. Approach from the front, calmly, address him by name. Sedation by dart. Operation of 22 April 2004: dart hit, target escaped, one agent dead. Conclusion: the metabolism breaks the drug down too quickly. In future a double dose, two darts within one minute.
4 or more	Interview with a nurse from the institute, 1996, translated from Russian: “By day they were children like any others. At night we locked up. When one of them ran with his right eye shut, none of us was allowed to run, or he’d hunt. We sang. The doctors never sang.” Name of the nurse blacked out. Attached, a page from an anaesthesia record from 1983: two children, the same line twice, “respiratory arrest after induction”.

What Is True

Since the seventies it has been known that dolphins can sleep with one half of the brain while the other stays awake and breathes. Afalina wanted that in humans. How is not in any paper of the Registry. Six children were born in 1982. Two died in 1983 under anaesthesia for a routine examination. They only breathe as long as one half is awake.

By day they are whole. In the first half of the night the right half of the brain sleeps, and the left eye is shut. They talk then, read, and recognise faces poorly. Around 02:00 it switches: the left half sleeps, the one that speaks, hesitates and negotiates, and the right eye is shut. Only the half without words is awake. It is fast, never forgets a route and is afraid. It was exactly this half that the doctors trained, with soldiers who had to run away. Whoever flees from it is a target.

Words and names do not reach the Runner, music does. The nurses sang Iavnana to the children, the old Georgian lullabies that are also sung to the sick. The Runner then stands still, listens and lies down.

In December 1991 the director, Arkady Lomov, took two children with him to Russia. A girl went to Batumi with a doctor. The night nurse Eteri Kupradze took the last boy with her to her village.

Levan Gelashvili is 44 today and guards a sanatorium at night that an investor is converting into a hotel. At 02:00 he locks himself in the boiler room, and Eteri calls him and sings. In July 2026 Eteri, 79, had a stroke. She lies in Kutaisi and can no longer find words. She can sing, but no one holds the telephone for her.

On 9 August 2026 Kacper Wróbel, 26, a photographer from Kraków, climbed into the sanatorium around 03:50. He saw a man with one eye shut and ran. In the morning he lay at the foot of a stairwell with a broken neck. Levan remembers a dream in which he caught a hare.

In 2004 an agent approached the Runner according to protocol and called his name. Wetzstein’s dart came too late, put the Runner to sleep and woke Levan, in the dark next to a dead man. Levan ran home. The file wrote: drug ineffective.

Levan needs someone every night, and it can no longer be Eteri. **Locking him up:** every night, for life, with singing. **A dart every night:** the left half then never sleeps. After a week he sees things, after three weeks he dies. **Killing him:** a friendly man who knows nothing. The cell can **learn to sing**. Eteri does not have many nights left.

Wrong in the File: He is not a wolf and does not shun light, and not all the children are dead. Protocol Seizure is dangerous: a closed right eye means that only the trained hunter is still awake. His name does not reach him. The double dose puts both halves to sleep, and then he stops breathing.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5. In the second half of the night 6
Attack	Grip on throat and neck, Brawling 4 + 4, damage 4. On a margin of 2 he holds the target fast: it can neither call out nor flee
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 (no armour) / 14
Horror	Uncanny (1) if you know by day what he is. Disturbing (2) if you see him run

Value	Details
Special	Cannot be surprised, one half is always awake. Running 20 m per move, sprinting 40 m. Whoever flees from him in the second half of the night becomes his target until it stops moving. A tranquilliser dart puts the waking half to sleep and wakes the other: one round of confusion, then Levan, frightened. A second dart within one hour puts both to sleep: he stops breathing and dies after four minutes unless someone ventilates him
Weakness	Singing. Whoever sings to him rolls CHA + Performance against Doable (2), with an Iavnana against Easy (1). On a success he does not attack as long as the singing lasts, and lies down after five minutes. Words and names do not reach the Runner
Behaviour	By day friendly and quiet. In the second half of the night he runs his routes: caves, ridges, the sanatorium. He hunts only what flees. Whoever stands still and does not move is circled and left lying

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Swimmer (Batumi, 2011)	The girl from Batumi, today Tamar Beridze. Her Runner swims, every night at 02:00, far out. In the water initiative 6, attack 3 + 3, damage 3, HP 12. In August 2011 a fisherman pulled her into his boat because he thought she had drowned. She broke his arm and jumped back. Since then she swims in a hotel pool that her husband locks at night.
The Sentry (Sochi, 2019)	One of the two boys Lomov took with him. He does not run, he stands guard. Carbine 4 + 4, damage 4, Precise, HP 14, never surprised. Singing does not work: no one ever sang to him. In 2019 a gardener photographed him on the terrace of an estate near Sochi, one eye shut. The gardener stood still and is alive. No one knows where the fourth child is.

Cover-Up

The police in Tskaltubo wrote off Kacper Wróbel's death as a fall in a ruin. His phone came home without a memory card. The agent of 2004 officially died in an accident on the road to Kutaisi. O.D.I.N. bought the programme's files in Tbilisi in 1996 for $800.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A nurse in Kutaisi reports a patient who has not spoken a word since her stroke but sings every night at 02:00. At 02:10 her telephone rings.
2	Kacper's sister travels to Tskaltubo. In his cloud there are 40 seconds of video: a man with one eye shut. She searches for him, at night.
3	The investor opens the hotel in spring 2027 with a night run through the spa park.
4	In Batumi a man is searching for his wife. The pool was closed, and at 02:00 she went into the sea.
5	A gardener from Sochi is selling photos of a security guard with one eye shut, address included.
6	In a cave near Tskaltubo a caver finds hundreds of chalk circles with a dot. Next to them lies a child's shoe.

Patient Zero

"The boy recited his locker number to me, his wife's phone number and his grandchildren's names. He's nineteen. The grandchildren are another man's."
Abstrich, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0424

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Plague Carriers
Form	Infestation. Living cells of one man that migrate into other people and turn them into him
Role	Professional (a carrier in the late stage)
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when a stranger speaks with his voice
File Colour	Black since 2 June 2026. Grey before that
Frequency	Unique. One source, 17 known carriers
Mind	Human. The further the infestation advances, the more they are the same person
Regions	Central and Western Europe. The port of Rotterdam, the container terminals on the Maasvlakte, the town of Rozenburg. One early carrier in Groningen
First Sighting	14 September 2024, Rotterdam. Note by a fingerprint examiner at the Nederlands Forensisch Instituut: two men after a fight outside a snack bar, two names, the same prints on seven of ten fingers
Last Confirmed Sighting	20 September 2026, 02:17, Rozenburg. Doorbell camera of the Verhoef family: a man of 19 with a key in his hand
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. In July 2026 an agent accepted a hand-rolled cigarette. She is under observation

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Medium-strength rolling tobacco, coffee with three sugars, diesel and harbour water. All carriers smell like this, even those who have never been to the port.
Sound	Waiting, they all whistle the same song, off-key at the same spot. Before every sentence they clear their throat twice.
Temperature	Cold, clammy hands on every one of them. He always had them.
Light	Under UV light the lining of the mouth shows pale patches that look like maps. In photos they all stand the same way: weight on the left, right shoulder lower, an old injury from 1991.
Readings	Saliva and skin samples show two genomes, their own and his. His share grows by about 8 % a month. After around a year the blood group changes. The crystal detector reports nothing.
Animals	The Verhoef family's old Labrador greets every carrier at the door like his master.
Devices	Phones no longer recognise their owners' fingerprints. His old phone unlocks for four of them.
Traces and Residue	Butts of hand-rolled cigarettes, the end folded over twice, the way he does it. Every morning they lie outside the garden gate in Rozenburg.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A clique from the port imitating an old colleague. Or fraud: men passing themselves off as someone else to get his pension. A matter for the police.
1	Plague Carriers. The source is Kees Verhoef, born 1963, lasher on the Maasvlakte, Patient Zero. Transmission through saliva, almost always via cigarettes he has rolled. Only smokers fall ill. Carriers first take on his habits, then fingerprints and voice, finally his memories. They are peaceable and devoted, as he is.
2 to 3	As of May 2026: the cells come from a lung tumour that disappeared without treatment in 2023. In the lab, carrier cells die within three days when deprived of Verhoef's serum. In 2024 a carrier moved to Groningen, without contact with the source. After six months the infestation could no longer be detected. Conclusion: the cells need the source. Recommendation to the Council: eliminate the source. Until then do not detain carriers, they are calm near him.
4 or more	Tape transcript, Tineke Verhoef, 2024: "He didn't want chemo. He said he'd rather die as all of Kees than as half. Now seven men at my door say that." Attached, a lab slip without initials: "Carrier cells under cytostatics: dead after six hours. Groningen: request medical records?" Never requested.

What Is True

For 38 years Kees Verhoef lashed containers in the port of Rotterdam, most of them on the Maasvlakte. On the night shift in the break container he rolled cigarettes for the whole gang and licked every paper. In November 2022 a tumour was found in his lung, too large for an operation. Kees refused chemotherapy. By spring 2023 the tumour was gone. His oncologist wrote "spontaneous remission". It happens, rarely.

The tumour had not died. It had left. Its cells had become healthy tissue again, Kees in every fibre, with two properties of the cancer: they do not stop, and they migrate. Through the saliva on the paper they got into the mouth of the next smoker. Only there, in irritated mucous membrane, do they gain a foothold.

In the new body they replace cell after cell. In the first weeks come the habits: his tobacco, three sugars, coffee at 03:00, the whistling. After months the voice, the posture, the prints. After a year the memories: Tineke, the children, the terraced house in Rozenburg, the key under the third flowerpot. In the end the carrier knows that he is Kees. And he knows that another man lives in his house, sleeps beside his wife and calls himself Kees.

That is why they come at night. They ring and wait. The real Kees, 63, healthy and tired, opens the door. Two carriers who meet hate each other at once: each takes the other for the impostor.

The Registry's conclusion is wrong. The cells in the lab died because they lacked a body, not Kees. In 2024 the man in Groningen got leukaemia and chemotherapy, and that killed the Kees in him as well. The cells do not need the source. They compete with it. If Kees dies, his place is free. Sixteen men and one woman then come home, on the same night, each with a key.

The 2026 case: Jesse van Dam, 19, terminal trainee, took a rolled cigarette in August 2025 from Hakan Doğru, 43, a carrier since 2023. On 20 September 2026 at 02:17 he stood at the door in Rozenburg and said: "Tineke, ik ben het." Kees opened the door. Jesse saw him in his own slippers and hit him. Then he apologised, in Kees' words.

What really helps are cytostatics. The cells divide quickly; chemotherapy kills them faster than healthy host tissue. In the first six months a three-week cycle cures. Later the cure erases a year of memory and pieces of the host's life. And late carriers refuse. Kees refused chemo too.

Seventeen people carry Kees, and none wants to give him up. **Eliminating him,** as the Black File orders: seventeen homecomers and a widow. **Treating them:** 17 people who do not want it, and a judge asking why. **Hiding him:** Kees and Tineke move away, and seventeen carriers search for them. Kees himself stays infectious while he smokes and carries the cells in his mouth.

Wrong in the File: The carriers are not peaceable but jealous, and dangerous near him. Groningen was not a cure by removal but by chemotherapy. The recommendation to the Council is dangerous: the death of the source ends nothing. The carriers infect others themselves, and without Kees they all come home.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Steel lashing bar 3 + 3, damage 4, Slow (like a double axe)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 1 (work jacket and helmet, a human without armour plating) / 10
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) if a stranger recalls "our wedding" in Kees' voice

Value	Details
Special	Knows what Kees knows: codes, keys, terminal routes, his friends' names. Two carriers in the same room attack each other. A smoker who shares a cigarette or a glass with a carrier rolls CON + Toughness against Hard (3), otherwise the infestation begins. Non-smokers are safe
Weakness	Cytostatics. An infusion lays a carrier low for a day. A cycle cures him and costs him the last year. Tineke can turn him away at the door: CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2), then he leaves for that night
Behaviour	Friendly to everyone except Kees and other carriers. Comes to Rozenburg at night, rings, waits. Turns violent when Kees opens the door. Calmly explains to the police that this is his house, and shows the key

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Second Hand (Schiedam, 2025)	A carrier infected by a carrier. Two men grow in him: Kees and the first carrier. He knows two addresses and loves two women. HP 9, otherwise as above. In May 2025 a waiter from Schiedam, 27, stood in Rozenburg one evening and at Hakan Doğru's wife's door the next. Both women called the police. Both times he wept.
The Quiet One (Groningen, 2024)	An early carrier after chemo. No attack, HP 8. He is healthy and no longer smokes. A year of his life is missing, and with it his daughter's wedding. When he smells harbour water, he weeps without knowing for whom. The Registry lists him as proof that removal cures.

Cover-Up

A forensic institute contact deletes duplicate prints as database errors. The terminal's company doctor records the mouth patches as smoking damage. Tineke's police calls are logged as night-time disturbances of the peace.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Black File lies on the table: Kees Verhoef, 63, Rozenburg. Eliminate the source, accident preferred. No reason given.
2	Tineke Verhoef has handed the police a list: 16 names, all "my husband". A young officer copied it.
3	A new intake of trainees starts on the Maasvlakte. The instructor rolls each a welcome cigarette.
4	A carrier has signed on to a Singapore-bound freighter, with his tobacco and eleven colleagues aboard.
5	The agent who took a rolled cigarette in July has taken her coffee with three sugars since yesterday.
6	Kees Verhoef wants the chemotherapy he refused in 2022. He no longer wants to be infectious. His oncologist refuses it to a healthy man.

The Radiation Shepherd

"He introduced me to his sheep, all two hundred and twelve, each one by name. At every name my counter clicked."

Pferch, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0403

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Mutants
Form	Being. Plus a herd that can only be measured
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when the herd comes at his whistle
File Colour	White. Others guard the exclusion zone. Red as soon as he leaves it
Frequency	Rare. Three known shepherds, one still alive
Mind	Human
Regions	Russia and Belarus. Polesia, the Radioecological Reserve in the south of Belarus between Khoiniki and the Ukrainian border. Related cases in the Southern Urals and in Andalusia
First Sighting	12 June 1994, measuring point near Rudnya. Record by a radioecologist of the reserve: the hotspot she has been measuring since 1989 is gone. Three days later it lies 800 m further on in a pasture, next to a man with sheep
Last Confirmed Sighting	12 September 2026, video from a reserve drone over the pastures of Rudnya. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A measurement technician of the reserve, 2004, heart failure according to the death certificate

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet wool, birch smoke, mushrooms drying on strings. Whoever stands in the middle of the herd tastes metal.
Sound	The Geiger counter clicks in waves, like hooves on a dirt track: denser, louder, quieter again. In the evening the shepherd whistles twice, and the clicking draws in from all sides towards the hut.
Temperature	Nothing. You do not feel the herd, not even when you stand in the middle of it.
Light	On phone videos and drone images it snows where there is nothing: white dots that move across the meadow in groups and drift to the barn in the evening.
Readings	Patches of about 2 m, a hundred to a thousand times above the surrounding land, moving at walking pace, at night packed tight in the old collective farm barn. On the shepherd himself the counter measures no more than in Minsk. Crystal detector and nanite scanner stay mute.
Animals	Wolves run alongside at the edge of the forest and never take one of his twelve living sheep. His dog Sharyk herds where the counter clicks.
Devices	Dosimeters beep in rhythm when an animal passes. The reserve's drone loses control over the barn.
Traces and Residue	Round, withered patches in the grass, each as large as a lying sheep. Around the barn stand pines with rust-red needles, as in the Red Forest near Pripyat in 1986.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Biology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist or Physicist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	An old farmer in the zone who eats mushrooms, distils samahon and will live to a hundred. Radiation makes you tough if you start early. Whoever visits him drinks with him; the schnapps flushes out the caesium.
1	A mutant. Lyavon Hrynevich, born 1946, shepherd of the Rudnya collective farm, survived a lethal dose in April 1986. Since then patches of radiation wander around him. Friendly, never leaves the zone. No skin contact, he himself is the strongest source in the area. Dosimeter and respiratory protection.
2 to 3	Report by the Science Branch, 1999: the shepherd draws radionuclides out of the soil and binds them to his body. The pastures around Rudnya show a tenth of the contamination of 1989. If he dies, the corpse is highly radioactive waste. Addendum 2019: recovery within 24 hours of death, lead coffin, permanent repository. No burial in the village.
4 or more	Series of measurements from 2011, initials of a cadet: on the shepherd's body only background, no caesium, no strontium. Registry assessment: device faulty. Attached, a list in Cyrillic handwriting, 212 names. Below it the cadet: "These are the collective farm's sheep. They were shot in May 1986."

What Is True

On the night of 26 April 1986 Lyavon Hrynevich was out with the collective farm's sheep on the first pasture of the year, a good 20 km north of the reactor. At 01:23 he saw a glow above the forest. He stayed with the herd for three nights. At the beginning of May Rudnya was evacuated, and soldiers shot the collective farm's 212 sheep at a pit at the edge of the forest. Lyavon lay in the forest with a fever, lost his hair and lived. In the autumn he came back to his empty village.

His body did not survive the dose, it accepted it. Whatever radiation lies near him follows him, the way sheep follow a shepherd who has tended them long enough. By day he drives it onto forest meadows, far from paths, and at night into the old collective farm barn, a brick building with a collapsed roof. He himself sleeps in the hut next to it. He gave each patch the name of a dead sheep, and at 212 he stopped. The herd is complete.

The pastures around Rudnya are clean because the herd has grazed them bare. The caesium is not gone, it lies in the barn at night. Lyavon himself is the cleanest person in the reserve. He tends the herd so that it does not wander to people.

Without a shepherd it scatters. If he dies, the patches stay with him for one night, then they set off like sheep: downhill, to the water, to where people are. If he sleeps outside the zone, the herd follows him, through every village. The measurement technician who spent a night counting in the barn in 2003 died the following spring.

The 2026 case: Lyavon's granddaughter Darya, 27, is getting married on 10 October in Homel, a good 100 km to the north-east. His daughter Valya left Rudnya in 1986, aged twelve, on the evacuation bus and has not been back since 1995. Darya found her grandfather through the reserve and invited him. Lyavon is 80 and has taken his suit out of the chest. The bus from Khoiniki leaves at 06:40.

Wherever Lyavon sleeps, the herd lies at night, and every plan depends on that. **Holding him:** whoever holds him against his will stands in the middle of the herd. **Letting him go:** 212 patches move along the road north for three days. **Bringing the wedding to him:** O.D.I.N. can obtain passes. Valya might come, the groom's family will not. **Relieving him:** whoever sleeps three nights in the barn and survives can tend the herd. Apart from Lyavon, no one has survived. **Burying him:** Lyavon wants to lie in the barn, with his sheep. If he lies there, the herd lies down with him, for how long no one knows. The lead coffin in the repository would turn it loose.

Wrong in the File: The schnapps flushes nothing out. Lyavon is not radioactive, the cadet of 2011 measured correctly. He binds nothing and cleans nothing, he tends. The addendum of 2019 is deadly: whoever takes the corpse away takes the herd's shepherd from it, and 212 patches set off.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Hand axe 3 + 3, damage 2. Or he sends the herd against a target within 50 m: 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 1 (sheepskin) / 10
Horror	Uncanny (1) as soon as the counter shows that the patches are moving. Disturbing (2) when they come at his whistle and the clicking becomes a hiss

Value	Details
Special	The herd: 212 patches that follow him. Whoever stands in it for a scene suffers 2 damage, armour does not count. If Lyavon is afraid, it crowds around him within 10 m: 1 damage per round for everyone there. This damage heals only under medical care, 1 HP per day. A night in the barn costs 5 damage
Weakness	An old man of flesh and blood; fire and EMP change nothing. No weapon stops the herd, only he does. If he falls, it stays with him for one night and then scatters
Behaviour	Hospitable, stubborn. Offers samahon and mushrooms, counts the herd in the evening. Fights only if someone wants to take him away. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3) when it is about the herd, against Very Hard (4) when it is about the wedding

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Goose Girl (Techa, Southern Urals, 1962)	A girl of 14 on the Techa, downstream of the Mayak plant. Her herd lives in the water and comes to her on the bank in the evening like geese. No attack, HP 7. In 1962 a doctor noted that the children of her village were healthier than those downstream. She died in 2004. The following summer the patches lay in the riverbank mud of three villages.
The Goatherd (Palomares, Almería, 1966)	On 17 January 1966 two American aircraft collided over Palomares, and plutonium dust fell on the fields. A goatherd was standing on the hill. His herd climbs, 41 patches that a Geiger counter barely finds, only an alpha probe. Damage 1, but whoever inhales a patch loses 1 HP a month. He died in 1998. Since then measurements have been taken there every year, and the patches are never found twice on the same slope.

Cover-Up

The reserve answers to the Ministry for Emergency Situations. Its researchers explain wandering patches with wild boar that take up caesium with their food and carry it off, which they really do. The old people who have returned to their villages are tacitly tolerated by the administration. The drone videos are considered sensor errors.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The invitation to the wedding on 10 October lies on Lyavon's table. His suit hangs ironed at the window, next to it the timetable of the bus from Khoiniki.
2	A radioecologist has put a collar with a dosimeter on Sharyk. For a week the readings have been going to an institute in Minsk.
3	Schoolchildren at the edge of the reserve measure a patch in the school playground. Yesterday it was not there. Lyavon had a fainting spell in the night.
4	A mushroom picker from Homel slept in the collective farm barn at night. He was found sick at the fence. He says he has heard sheep ever since.
5	A lorry brings a lead coffin to Rudnya. The cell is to keep it ready until Lyavon dies. Lyavon watched them unload it.
6	In the evening an angler on the Techa sees something swimming towards him that his dosimeter knows and his eyes do not.

The Shell Man

"In 1979 all I did was breathe the smoke. In 1991 in Marseille a bullet hit me that would have killed anyone else. Since then I've been lying here counting the rings."

Firstziegel, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY

REG-W-0427

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Fungal Infestation
Form	Infestation. A bracket fungus that builds a shell for the dying and does not let them die
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) in the alley of the Recumbent Ones
File Colour	White since 1979. Observation of an old man, one visit a year
Frequency	Rare. One carrier who walks. 15 known Recumbent Ones
Mind	Human. The Recumbent Ones are awake too
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Western Sicily, the Belice valley, the ruins of old Poggioreale
First Sighting	2 November 1974, shanty settlement near Poggioreale. Letter from a municipal doctor to Trapani: a woman of 81 has been dying for weeks, her back has "grown into the mattress, grey and hard as bracket fungus"
Last Confirmed Sighting	30 July 2026, hospital in Castelvetrano. Grey dust on the pillow of a dying man who has not died since. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. An agent who should have died in 1991 has been in care ever since

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Old oak and sour wine, as if from empty barrels. The Recumbent Ones smell of nothing.
Sound	The shell creaks when he walks like the hull of a boat. The Recumbent Ones whisper, audible only with an ear to the shell.
Temperature	The shell is cool as stone, beneath it 34 °C.
Light	In cross-section, growth rings, a pale one for every summer. Under UV light the youngest glow yellow.
Readings	Pulse of the Recumbent Ones 6 to 10 per minute, no sign of decay. The crystal detector does not react.
Animals	Lizards sun themselves on the shells. Flies never land.
Devices	An ECG reports cardiac arrest, one beat, arrest again.
Traces and Residue	A broad drag mark in the dust. On hospital pillows grey dust, fine as ash.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Biology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die, as does anyone who understands Sicilian. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A hermit in the ruins of Poggioreale whom people call u Babbaluci, the snail. Hunchback and skin disease. Harmless, begs for bread.
1	Fungal infestation since the Belice valley earthquake of 1968. A bracket fungus forms a hard shell on the dying, in which they dry out like mummies. The carrier, an old man, spreads the dust in hospitals.
2 to 3	Protocol Burn, as of 1979: the shell burns well. Burn infested corpses on site with petrol. Confront the carrier with fire, he backs away. Operation near Poggioreale in 1979: three corpses burned, the carrier fled. Smoke harmless.
4 or more	Medical findings, November 1991: the agent deployed at the fire in 1979 was fatally wounded in Marseille, shot in the chest. He is alive. For three weeks a grey shell has been growing over his back. Attached is the operation report from 1979, with a note in the margin in another hand: “One of the corpses coughed.”

What Is True

On the night of 15 January 1968 an earthquake destroyed the Belice valley. Salvatore Ingrassia, 36, farmer, lay for nine days under his house among old wine barrels, his pelvis broken. Beside him lay his daughter Nunzia, six. She talked to him for two days, then no more. When soldiers dug him out, a grey crust was growing on his back, hard as wood.

The fungus lived in the oak of the barrels. Its spores germinate only in a body that lies still and is dying. A shell grows over the back, a root runs from the nape of the neck into the spine. The fungus holds the body at the edge: a heartbeat every few seconds, one breath a minute, 34 °C. The host does not die. Every summer a ring is added. The Recumbent Ones are awake.

Salvatore is the only one who walks. The shell holds his pelvis like a cast. Today it has 59 rings, he is 95. He believes he was saved, and that no one should die in the dark like Nunzia. So he brings dust from his shell to the dying, once in shanties, now in hospitals. Families who could not bear it brought their Recumbent Ones to him at night. In an alley of old Poggioreale eleven lie in cellars under corrugated iron. He brings them water and reads to them.

The shell does not burn, it smoulders for hours, and its smoke is full of spores. Whoever breathes it notices nothing until they are dying. In 1979 two agents following protocol burned three “corpses” in a shanty. One of the three coughed. Firstziegel breathed the smoke. Today he carries 35 rings.

What helps is water: one hour wet, and the shell goes soft as leather. Whoever cuts through the root in the neck beneath it lets the Recumbent One die quietly within minutes, Salvatore too. Against spores in the lungs nothing is known.

In June 2026 Salvatore fell and lay there for two days, and no one brought water to the alley. Since then he wants a promise: water, every day, even after him. Rosa Giambalvo, 88, has been lying since 1983 and wants to hear her great-granddaughter get married. Vito Accardo has been lying since 1976 and whispers every day: “Tagliate.” Cut. In Castelvetrano Pietro Asaro, 58, lorry driver, has been lying since 30 July after a stroke. His wife speaks of a miracle.

Cutting: for each of them, Salvatore too, and not all of them can be asked. **Caring:** water, every day, for decades. **Leaving them:** after Salvatore no one comes, and they die of thirst without dying.

Wrong in the File: The Recumbent Ones are not corpses, they are awake. Fire does not destroy the shell, it smoulders and spreads the spores. Protocol Burn is dangerous: it burns the living, and its smoke makes everyone standing by the next Recumbent One.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	1
Attack	Clinch, Brawling 3 + 3, damage 3: he falls onto the target with his shell. On a margin of 2 the target is pinned beneath it and gets free only with STR + Athletics against Hard (3)
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 4 (shell, but slow) / 10
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) in the alley of the Recumbent Ones

Value	Details
Special	Does not die as long as the shell lives: at 0 HP he collapses and gets up again after one hour with 1 HP. Fire does no damage to the shell, it smoulders. Whoever breathes the smoke within 10 m without a gas mask rolls CON + Toughness against Doable (2), otherwise they carry spores. If they die later, they stay down at 0 HP, and a shell grows
Weakness	Water. One hour wet or three rounds of a fire hose, and the shell is soft: armour 1. The root in the neck can be cut on a defenceless target with INT + Medicine against Hard (3). The host dies within minutes
Behaviour	Slow, polite, offers bread. Speaks Sicilian. Fights only if someone touches the Recumbent Ones or sets a fire. He can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3) if you promise his Recumbent Ones water

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
La Santa (Partanna, 1989)	Concetta Pace, cared for at home, venerated as a saint in the neighbourhood. No attack, defence 1, armour 4, HP 6. The shell has grown into the bed. Whoever keeps watch at her bed for a night rolls CON + Toughness against Easy (1), otherwise they carry spores. Her daughter, 78, brings her communion every Sunday. Concetta whispers that she wants to die. The daughter never puts her ear to the shell.
The Passenger (below Poggioreale, 2003)	A car plunged into a ravine at night. The driver was dead, the passenger, 20, trapped. Salvatore climbed down to him. By the third day the young man had grown into the seat. No attack, armour 4, HP 6. If the seat is cut out, he dies. The Fiat stands in his parents' garage in Salemi. His mother sits at the wheel every evening.

Cover-Up

The letter from 1974 lies in the Trapani health office under "closed". GPs write "vegetative state". The Carabinieri record the fire of 1979 as the burning of an empty shanty. Old Poggioreale is closed off because of the danger of collapse, and the watchman is paid by O.D.I.N.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	In Castelvetrano a lorry driver has been failing to die for eight weeks. A nurse wants to send grey dust from his pillow to a lab.
2	A postcard from Poggioreale to a code name from 1979: "Ho novantacinque anni. Chi porta l'acqua?" I am 95. Who will bring the water?
3	A film crew from Rome wants to set fire to an alley in the ruins for a horror film.
4	Concetta's daughter has died. The granddaughter is selling the house, contents included.
5	Firstziegel has spoken onto tape: he wants someone to cut the root. The doctors want to go on examining him.
6	In Salemi a garage is to be demolished on Monday. Inside stands a Fiat from 2003.

W

The Wanderers

"I walked alongside them until my feet bled. The woman at the front handed me a loaf without stopping. She had a fever herself and was the only one who knew what to do."

Ackerwinde, Agent, Investigation Branch

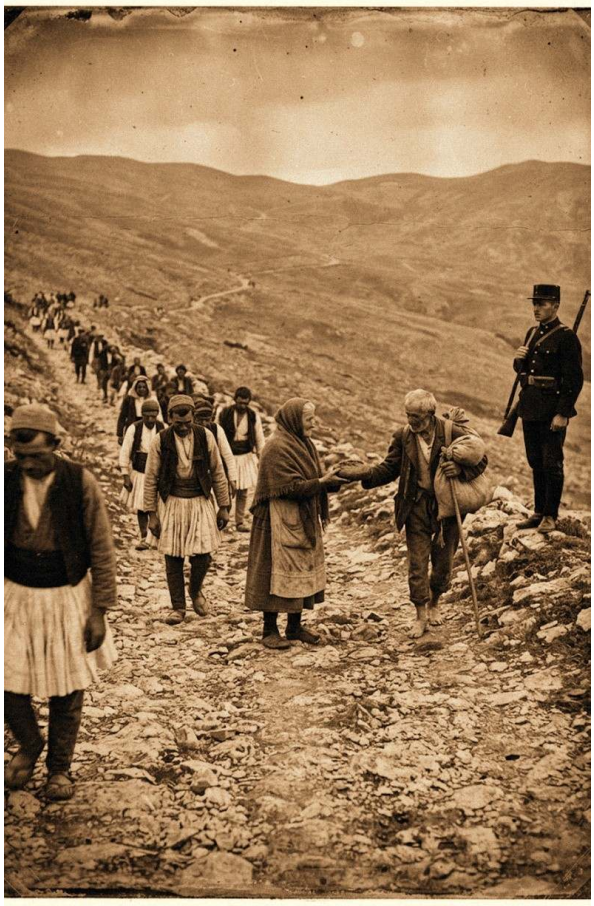
REGISTRY

REG-W-0421

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Plague Carriers
Form	Infestation. A disease that makes people walk
Role	Henchman, as a squad
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) if you hold one of them
File Colour	Red since September 2026. Before that White, listed as extinct since 1953
Frequency	Rare. Four known outbreaks: 1924, 1953, 1979, 2026
Mind	Human. The hosts are lucid, tired and cannot do otherwise
Regions	Eastern Europe. Mariovo in the south of North Macedonia, the highlands along the Crna between Prilep and the Greek border
First Sighting	11 May 1924, Mariovo, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Report by a gendarmerie post: 23 farmers from three hamlets have been walking about for nine days, "without rest, without sleep, without reason"
Last Confirmed Sighting	14 September 2026, country road from Mariovo to Prilep. Photo by a bus driver: six Wanderers, among them a priest. Case open, the squad is still walking
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. The 22 dead of 1953 are down to the Yugoslav authorities. In 1954 the Registry made their procedure its protocol

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Warm dust, sweat, sheep's wool. Beneath it something sweet like fermenting fruit: the fever.
Sound	Even footsteps, on gravel like a slow clock, day and night. They talk little, mostly about the weather.
Temperature	While walking 38.5 °C, always. If one of them stops, it rises to 40 °C within hours. On cold nights they steam.
Light	Eyes half shut: they sleep as they walk, without stumbling. In a searchlight they do not blink.
Readings	Pulse 110, unchanged for days. A blood sample does not settle in the tube: the cells circle slowly as long as it is warm. A crystal detector finds nothing on the Wanderers.
Animals	Farm dogs silently run along for a stretch and turn back. Sheep crowd against the fence and bleat after them.
Devices	Pedometers show over 60,000 steps a day.
Traces and Residue	Worn-through shoes at the roadside. On stones at crossroads, bread with a pinch of salt. Everyone in the valley knows the custom, no one any longer knows the reason.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Biochemist gets +1 die, as does anyone who has already walked with Wanderers. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Pilgrims from the mountains or a mass hysteria like the dancing mania of the Middle Ages. Harmless, they stop when they are tired.
1	Plague in the south of Macedonia, presumably from the positions of the First World War. The infected walk without a break, in groups, until they die of exhaustion, usually after two to three weeks. Infectious by touch, wear gloves. They knock down whoever stands in their way.
2 to 3	Protocol Cordon, as of 1954: stop the Wanderers and isolate them in a solid building, tie them up if necessary. Sedatives so that they sleep. Guards in rubber aprons. After 48 hours the outbreak is over. Evidence: Prilep 1953, not a single case outside the schoolhouse. Burn the corpses. No survivors are known.
4 or more	Letter from a country doctor from Prilep, 1979, received 1983, never evaluated: the villages "walked" 17 Wanderers, taking turns, for 41 days, in great loops across the highlands. Ten lived. The dead died on the way, and whoever was with them set off walking two days later. In the margin, in the same handwriting: "Whoever leads does not fall ill. Whoever stops them does."

What Is True

The pathogen lives in the muscles. As long as the host walks, it stays there, bound to the work of the legs. If the host stands still, the pathogen goes into the blood. The fever rises, after six hours the host can no longer get up, after two days they die. With the last breath the pathogen leaves the body. Whoever is nearby breathes it in and sets off walking the morning after next.

The body knows that. That is why they walk, not anywhere in particular, only onwards, mostly down the valley and following the water. They look for one another and follow anyone who goes ahead and does not stop. Whoever lasts forty days has almost 2,000 km behind them and wins. The fever breaks, the host lies down and sleeps for two days. They wake up healthy, with feet like saddle leather.

What the Registry does not know: the pathogen remains in the bones of the survivors, for life, and sleeps. When the survivor dies, old and in their own bed, it wakes. Whoever sits at the deathbed walks. That is how every known outbreak after the first began. The other survivors died alone, or the villages quietly took care of it. No one knows where the first came from. In Mariovo they say it came with the soldiers.

The villages knew what helps. You do not stop them. You lay bread and salt at the crossroads. The young take turns going ahead and lead the squad for forty days in loops across the pastures, away from the towns. In 1924 eleven of 23 came through.

In 1953 the state came. The health authority stopped 14 Wanderers outside Prilep and locked them in a schoolhouse. After two days 13 were dead, and one was missing. After four days nine guards and helpers set off walking, and they were locked in the same building. Outside, no one fell ill, because no one inside survived. The Registry read that as a success.

The 2026 case: Trajko Siljanovski walked in 1979, at 19. He was led by a girl of 16, Vesna. A year later they married. On 1 September 2026 he died at 66 in his house in a hamlet above the Crna. At his bedside sat Vesna, 63, their son Goran, 41, from Skopje, his wife Biljana, 38, Trajko's brother Blagoja, 70, the neighbour Stojna, 80, and Father Kiril, 74, the village priest. On the morning of 3 September all six set off. Vesna goes ahead. She knows what she is doing, but only 19 people still live in the hamlet, none under sixty.

Whoever wants to save the six has to follow them for forty days or give them up. **Walking with them:** forty days, rain, October snow on the highlands, police, and Stojna will die on the way. Whoever is walking beside her then walks with them. **Stopping them:** six dead in two days, and everyone in the sports hall walks afterwards. **Killing them from a distance and burning them:** the outbreak ends, and with it five people who would have lived. And whoever comes through must one day die alone, or among people who are prepared to walk.

Wrong in the File: Whoever walks infects no one, not even by touch. There have been survivors since 1924. Protocol Cordon is dangerous: stopping them kills the Wanderers and makes everyone in the room the next. Prilep 1953 was not a success but a locked building full of the dead.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	Shoving and kicking, Brawling 2 + 2, damage 2. As a squad of three 4 + 2; six Wanderers are two squads. On a margin of 2 the target is on the ground, and the squad walks over them
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 5. Squad of three: HP 15
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when one is held and begins to steam
Special	Attack only whoever blocks their way or holds them. Walk at a good 2 km/h, day and night, and sleep as they walk. Held: unable to walk after 6 hours, dead after 48 hours. If a Wanderer dies, of whatever cause, everyone within 5 m rolls CON + Toughness against Hard (3). On a failure they set off walking the morning after next. As long as all of them are walking, no one who walks with them, leads them or hands them bread is infected
Weakness	They follow anyone who walks ahead of them and does not stop. Whoever leads decides the route: CHA + Leadership against Doable (2), against Easy (1) if the squad knows them. Fire on a dead body, within one hour, kills the pathogen
Behaviour	Friendly, exhausted, apologetic. Eat as they walk. Step aside for cars, not for people

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Detained (Prilep, 1953)	A Wanderer in the first six hours of confinement, with a fever of 40 °C, steaming. He fights not for his life but for the door. Initiative 3, attack 3 + 3, damage 2, HP 5, Horror Disturbing (2). If he is walking again before the six hours are up, he lives. In 1953 the caretaker unlocked the back door of the schoolhouse for a farmer. The man walked alone for forty days, lived until 1998 and died alone in a hut. No one walked.
The Flock (Mariovo, 1979)	If a Wanderer dies among the sheep, the sheep walk. A single animal: defence 1, HP 3, no attack, and it infects only sheep. A flock of 200 runs like a wall: whoever stands in the way rolls DEX + Acrobatics against Doable (2) or suffers 2 damage per round. In 1979 a flock crossed the highlands for 38 days. The shepherd, a boy of twelve, ran out in front and brought 140 animals back.

Cover-Up

The health office in Prilep reports brucellosis, the Malta fever of sheep farmers. In Mariovo no one asks any further. To the police the Wanderers are a registered pilgrimage to a monastery. The dead of 1953 are recorded in the Yugoslav files as typhoid.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The police want to stop the squad tomorrow at 06:00 at the entrance to Prilep, with a bus and a sports hall.
2	Stojna is walking more slowly. Whoever is with her when she dies walks with them.
3	A survivor of 1979 is dying in Skopje. His children are coming tomorrow.
4	A hiker posts a video: sheep that have been walking in a circle around a village for a week.
5	Father Kiril holds Sunday Mass while walking. The congregation walks with him, and every week there are more.
6	A journalist has found the file from 1953 in the state archive in Skopje. He wants to know why a man from Stockholm ordered a copy in 1954.

The Wire Woman

"She wished me good evening and pulled the cartridges out of my magazine, one after the other, through the holster. She smiled while she did it. Only her eyes didn't."
Litze, Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-W-0412

Origin and Family	The Transformed, Nanite Beings
Form	Being
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when wire grows from her fingertips
File Colour	Grey since 2016, observation: the daughter feeds her. Red as soon as the copper stops
Frequency	Rare. 17 clients of a Milan practice, three of them known to be changed
Mind	Human, but locked in. What acts is habit
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Milan, the district around Sant'Ambrogio and the railway yards in the east of the city. Isolated cases in Rome and Brescia
First Sighting	21 October 2014, around 23:00, railway tracks near Lambrate. Record by the railway police: a lady of about seventy in a fur coat sits in the ballast, both hands on the signal cable, 11 m of copper in her handbag. No charges
Last Confirmed Sighting	18 September 2026, 07:31, security camera of a pasticceria on Corso Magenta. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 7 May 2016, on an estate in the Lomellina

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Heavy perfume from another era, beneath it verdigris and warm cables.
Sound	When she smiles, something creaks softly like wire being bent. When she stands up, something crackles under her coat.
Temperature	Her hands are cold and dry. Copper near her grows warm: coins in a purse, the boiler of the espresso machine.
Light	Against the light a fine mesh shows under the skin of her neck, like veins of gold. Her towels turn verdigris blue.
Readings	Nanite scanner: full reaction. A metal detector reacts all over her body, most strongly at the face. The crystal detector, on the other hand: nothing. Her face has not had a new wrinkle since March 2013.
Animals	Dogs do not bark at her. They growl at her handbag.
Devices	When she enters a room, the light flickers. Charging cables she touches are empty afterwards: the sheath intact, the copper gone.
Traces and Residue	Copper polenta pots are missing from kitchens all over the district. Empty cable sheaths, clean as if skinned. A doorbell panel in the stairwell that no longer rings.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Medicine, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Cyberneticist or Nanotech Veteran gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A rich widow with a quirk: she steals copper. Kleptomania, a case for the Carabinieri. Whoever catches her gets a tip.
1	A nanite being. Ornella Brambilla, born 1944, had her face lifted with threads at a practice in Via della Spiga on 12 March 2013. The threads carried nanites from a manufacturer that no longer exists. They build a network of copper wire inside her. The nanites multiply with every gram of copper and pass to others via the wire. Gloves, distance.
2 to 3	Order Abstinence, as of 2016: copper deprivation. Bring the person into a room without metal, tiled walls, plastic furniture. Without supplies the nanites stop building, and the network goes slack. Guarded around the clock, two armed guards. After an EMP she speaks for a few seconds in a different voice and asks for help: an attempt at deception, do not respond. Attempt aborted in 2016, one agent dead, cause unexplained.
4 or more	Handwritten statement by the surviving guard, May 2016: “On the ninth day she raised her hand. The wire came out of her fingers, very thin, and went into Klemme’s vest. He had a spare magazine in his breast pocket.” Stamp: “Evaluated. No change to the order.” Attached, a DIY store receipt, July 2026, paid by the daughter: 4 kg copper wire, 1.5 mm.

What Is True

Ornella Brambilla, widow of a silk manufacturer from Como, had her face lifted in March 2013 at the age of 68. Seventeen clients received threads from the same batch. The manufacturer, a small firm from the Brianza, disappeared at the beginning of 2015. No one knows where it got the nanites.

The nanites were meant to anchor the threads in the tissue and hold the face as it was on the day of the procedure. They still do that. But they have extended the order: to the whole body, to posture, gait, hairstyle and daily routine. They spin copper wire under the skin into the fingertips and hold Ornella fast as she was in March 2013. At 07:30 cappuccino and brioche on Corso Magenta, Tuesdays the hairdresser, Sundays Mass in Sant’Ambrogio.

Ornella herself no longer has any power over it. Since about 2015 the network has moved her body, and she watches. She hears, she thinks, she feels every wire. Only her eyes still belong to her; whoever looks closely notices that they do not smile along. After an EMP the network is slack for a few breaths, and then Ornella speaks with her own voice. The file calls that deception.

The network needs copper, a few grams every day, more the further it grows. In 2014 it took signal cables at the railway and cooking pots from the neighbours’ kitchens. In late April 2016 O.D.I.N. took Ornella to an estate among the rice fields of the Lomellina, into a tiled room without metal. The only copper for miles around was in the guards’ magazines: brass cases, copper-jacketed bullets. On the ninth day the network took it, right through the agent Klemme. Then Ornella walked home, 50 km along the railway line, and arrived punctually for Mass on Sunday.

Since then her daughter Paola, now 55, has bought copper wire at the DIY store and put it on her mother’s bedside table in the evening, like chocolates. As long as it lies there, Ornella stays in her flat. In September 2026 Paola forgot it twice. On the second night the power went out in the whole palazzo, and in the morning an empty cable hung out of the bedroom wall like a shed skin. The Registry has ordered the Abstinence again.

Paola’s copper buys time, but not for Ornella. **Feeding:** Ornella lives another twenty years as a spectator in her own body. **Removing it surgically:** under constant new pulses the network could be pulled out wire by wire, over many hours. By now it keeps her heart in rhythm. **Asking:** every EMP gives her a few breaths. In 2016 she said “Aiutatemi”, help me. What help means does not fit into one breath. **Starving:** see 2016.

Wrong in the File: Ornella does not steal out of a quirk, and after the EMP she is not deceiving, she is pleading. The nanites do not multiply and infect no one; the wire is only wire. The Abstinence is deadly: a room without metal, guarded by armed guards, is a room in which the only copper is in the weapons.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Wire 3 + 3, damage 3, Penetration 1, range 3 m. On a margin of 2 the target is bound, freed with STR + Athletics against Hard (3)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (network under the skin) / 9

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when wire grows from her fingertips or she speaks in her own voice after an EMP
Special	As an action, draws all copper within 3 m to herself, from cables, pots, coins and magazines. Every firearm within 3 m is empty afterwards. If someone is carrying the copper on their body, they suffer 3 damage, armour does not count. Regenerates 1 HP per round as long as she is touching copper
Weakness	EMP: the network goes slack for 2 rounds, she falls, and Ornella can speak. Fire and energy weapons stop regeneration for the round
Behaviour	Friendly, formal, punctual to the minute. Fights only if someone blocks her way or takes her copper. Negotiation is possible only with Ornella, after an EMP: CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2), in one breath

Subtypes

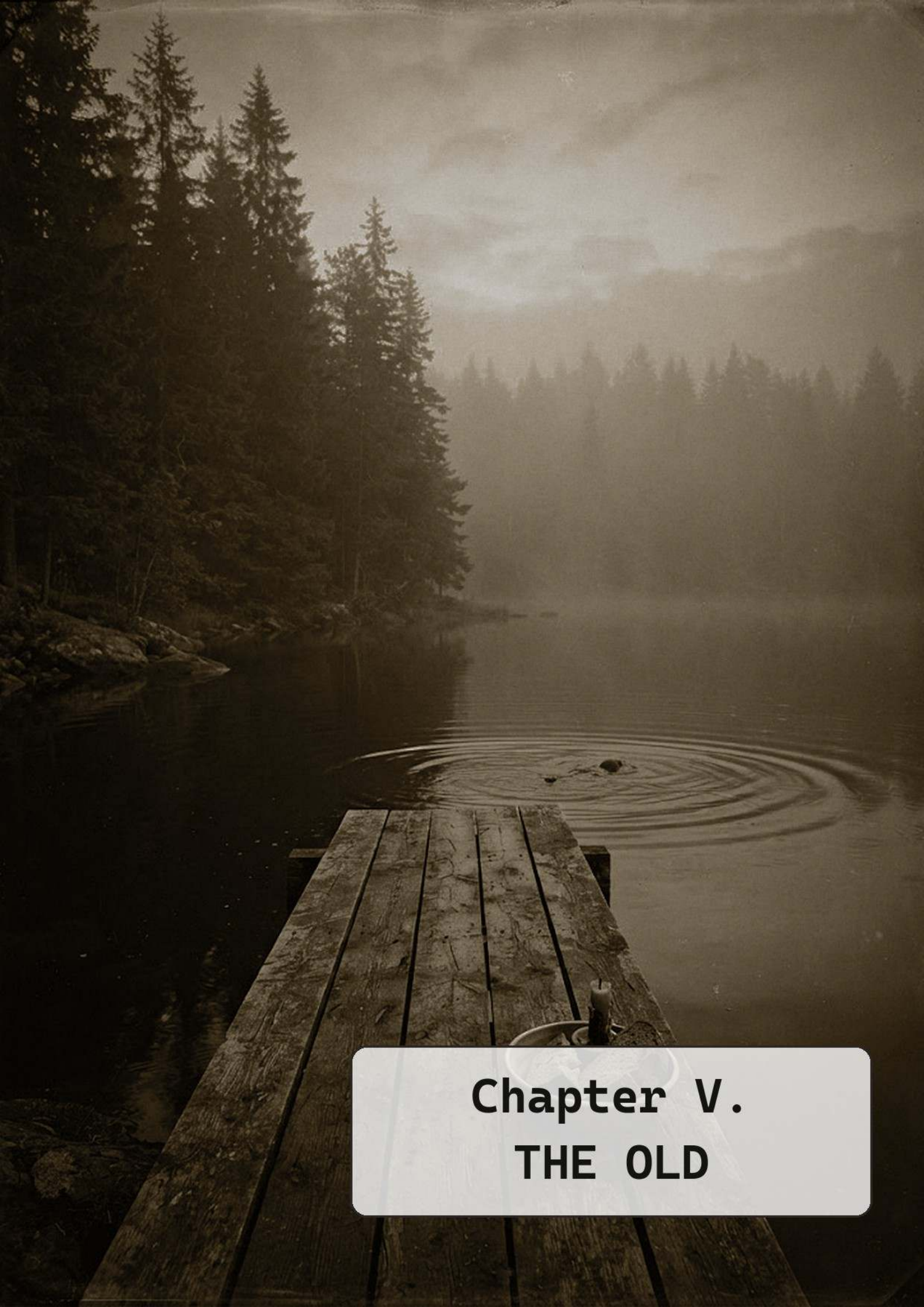
Subtype	Difference
The Gold Threads (Rome, 2015)	A television presenter from the same batch whose threads were gold-plated. Her network builds from gold and takes it from jewellery. Wire 2 + 2, damage 2, armour 1. In December 2015 she swallowed her earrings on a live broadcast, and the control room cut to adverts. Afterwards a jeweller in Via Condotti three times reported a thief he would not describe.
The Doctor (Brescia, 2019)	The doctor who placed the threads tested the batch on the backs of his own hands in 2012. His hands are wire up to the elbows, and the network there takes steel: scalpels, staples, needles. Hand 3 + 3, damage 3. Since 2019 he has been working without a licence in a garage in Brescia, placing threads from leftover stock, two clients a month.

Cover-Up

The railway police attribute the cable thefts near Lambrate to unknown gangs; the lady from 2014 appears only in the station's duty log. The health unit of the Carabinieri closed the practice in Via della Spiga in 2015 for unapproved medical devices. A country doctor from Mortara certified the death of 2016 as an accident at an irrigation pump. The grid operator explains the power cuts in the palazzo with old wiring.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Paola calls the number from 2016. Last night the power was out in the building, and in the morning her mother was standing in the kitchen with mortar on her fingers.
2	The file is red. It orders the Abstinence again, with four guards. The armoury issues them standard ammunition.
3	A tram on Corso Magenta stops at the same spot for two minutes every morning at 07:25. A driver has seen an old lady at the overhead line mast.
4	The copper holy water bucket and two candlesticks have disappeared from the sacristy of Sant'Ambrogio. The signora in the third row always prays longest after Mass.
5	The doctor from Brescia is offering "threads from the original batch" through a beauty salon in Milan. He has two appointments this week.
6	Litze is to advise the cell. She has not carried a weapon since 2016, and she wants to ask Ornella what "Aiutatemi" meant back then.



Chapter V.
THE OLD

The Old

"Our card index begins in 1948. The grandmothers started earlier, and they made fewer mistakes."
Archivist of the Registry, Stockholm

This is the thickest chapter of the book, and its cabinet is the oldest. A little man with a red beard and a caulking mallet who seals the seams of an old wooden ship in the port of Hamburg at night. A woman in a straw cape who asks, in a snowbound valley in Niigata, whether someone would hold her child for a moment. Five fishermen in wet oilskins in the break room of a fish factory in Ólafsvík, eleven days after their boat sank. None of it came through a rift. These beings were already there when people told the first stories about them.

The Old lives by rules, and the rules are older than any village in which they apply. A Kappa keeps a promise from 1783 as literally as it was given. A Klabautermann must leave the ship as soon as someone gives him clothes, even if the ship sinks without him. The Bony One in the Woods is not a being but an office. Whoever knows the rules can negotiate, and most of those here would rather negotiate than fight. The files usually have the rule almost right: a lost word, a confused calendar, a bow without the water in hand. With the Old, the wrong weapon rarely kills. Usually the half word kills.

How to Recognise It. The Old leaves nothing a detector can measure. Instead, salt changes colour, milk turns sour, and dogs refuse a path they walked only yesterday. A Telepath hears no words, only images, very old and very calm. The clearest trace is almost always a custom that nobody can explain any more: three crosses in a tree stump in the Upper Palatinate Forest, a pentagram above a door in Tyrol, flowers that a village throws into the water every year on the same day. An Antiquarian, a Paranormal Detective or an Invoker is most likely to recognise the Old, a grandmother from the area often faster than all three. For every card in this chapter, the test is INT + Occultism.

What Works and What Does Not. The Threat Atlas lists salt, iron, silver, the right word and the right name. Energy weapons and EMP achieve nothing. In detail, the list deceives. Salt does not stop the Draugr, he comes out of the sea. Silver kills the Banshee, and the person she keens for dies the same night. Iron wounds the Changeling and, with the same blow, the child whose place he holds. Where the ordinary means fail, the legend almost always knows one of its own: caraway, wormwood, a gherkin, a candle in the hand of a relative, water boiling in eggshells. The name is the strongest. Called by his baptismal name, the Nix gets his memory back for one night, and the Werewolf has to come out of the pelt. More force rarely helps. Every bullet that hit the Lindworm in the Tunnel made it stronger.

Legends as Sources. The Registry has been collecting since 1948. The Old is older, and that is why this chapter holds the oldest files in the book. What was written down before 1948, the archivists read as a source like any other: trial records, parish registers, priests' letters, the notebooks of song collectors and the school exercise books in which Irish children wrote down in 1938, for the Irish Folklore Commission, what their grandmothers knew. To the Registry, a legend is a witness statement retold many times. It is rarely wrong about what happens, and often wrong about why. Several cards in this chapter are wrong because the Registry did not believe the legend. The farmer Jurre told the truth before a court in Livonia in 1683, and the Registry believed the court. Sailors say that whoever sees the Klabautermann will see his ship go down, and the file calls that a yarn. Others are wrong because they followed the legend too closely and missed a word.

To a cell heading into a file of this origin, the Registry gives a piece of advice older than the Registry itself: first the old people of the village, then the priest, then the parish register, and only after that the armoury. Whoever reverses the order learns the rule by breaking it.

The entries of this chapter carry the letter A in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Fair Folk	The Little People under the hills, who need humans and take what they need	The Changeling
Water Spirits	What lives in rivers, lakes and beneath waterfalls and calls people to the bank	The Nix, The Rusalka
Forest Beings	What belongs to the forest like its trees and keeps its own rules there	The Moss Woman, The Hungering One of the North
Revenants of Legend	The dead with bodies, who return by old law and leave again only by old law	The Strigoi, The Draugr

Family	What They Are	Entries
Shapeshifters	Humans who can be an animal, and animals who can be a human	The Werewolf of Legend, The Fox Woman
Witches and Old Women	Old women at the edge of the forest or of the world, who test, reward and punish guests	The Bony One in the Woods
House Spirits	What lives in a house, farm or ship, serves and torments, and what sits on sleepers at night	The Klabautermann, The Alp
Cryptids	Animals that no zoology lists, with flesh, tracks and hunger	The Tatzelwurm, The Feathered One over the Bridge
Lindworms and Giants	What is very large and very old and lies in mountains, tunnels and under bridges	The Lindworm in the Tunnel
Heralds of Death	What announces a loss and sometimes knows more than it says	The Banshee
Yōkai	The old beings of Japan, polite, literal and bound to water, snow and promises	The Kappa, The Yuki-onna
World Legends	The great legends outside Europe that every child in the region knows	La Llorona, The Chupacabra

In the Threat Atlas

Six beings of the Old already have stats in the Threat Atlas of the Game Master's Book, and this chapter changes nothing about those stats. The **Nachzehrer** belongs with the Strigoi and the Draugr to the Revenants of Legend; unlike them, he haunts only his own family. The **Forest Walker**, with its subtypes Bog Spirit and Mountain Elder, is a Forest Being. The Registry files **The One from the Lake** under the Water Spirits. The **Will-o'-the-wisp** stands among the Heralds of Death, because the Registry classifies it by the grave light, which shows where a dead person has no rest. **The Black Dog** is a Cryptid, an animal with tracks and weight; that whoever sees it dies, the Registry considers an exaggeration that is sometimes true. **The Woman from the Raunächte** belongs to the Witches and Old Women. Like the Bony One in the Woods, she tests her guests by old standards. The demon of the Core Rulebook also counts among the Old.

The Alp

"The woman with the breakfast asked if she could borrow my salt. I gave her the whole tub. Since then I've woken up every morning with alpine grass between my toes."

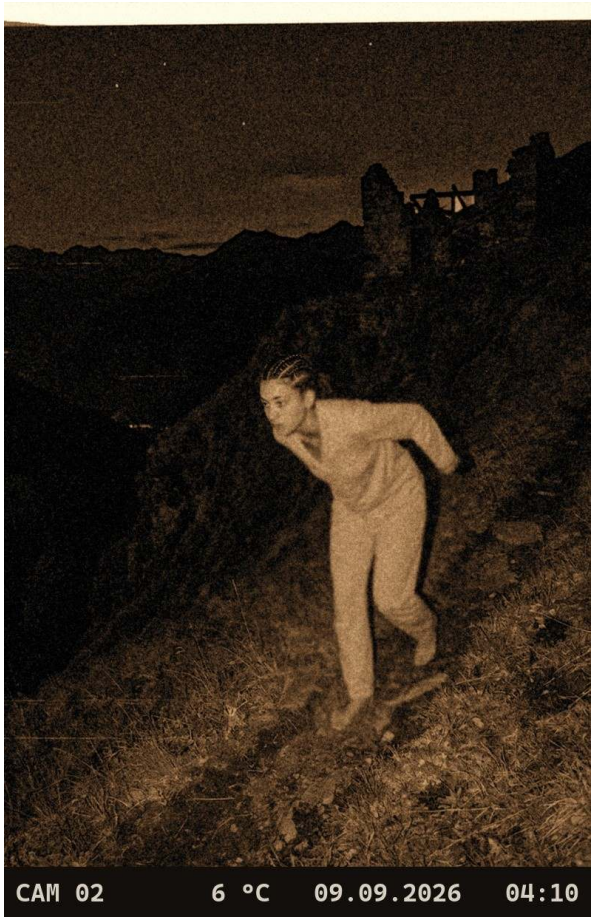
Almrausch, Cadet, Arcane Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0542

Origin and Family	The Old, House Spirits
Form	Apparition. A weight without a body that presses on sleepers and rides them. Behind it stands a living person
Role	Professional
Horror	Disturbing (2) when a sleeper with open eyes walks barefoot uphill, bent under nothing
File Colour	Red since 9 September 2026. From 1990 White, closed
Frequency	Rare
Mind	None discernible
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Tyrol, the Kaunertal in the Oberland, the hamlet of Gsallen. Related cases in the Westerwald and in eastern Styria
First Sighting	17 August 1984, gendarmerie post in the Kaunertal. A holiday guest from Ulm is found barefoot at 05:00 at the abandoned Gsallhof, 600 metres higher than his guesthouse, his hair matted into plaits. He says he was ridden
Last Confirmed Sighting	9 September 2026, 04:10, still image from a panorama camera above the Kaunertal: a woman in pyjamas on the path up to the Gsallhof. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Three holiday guests, dead in the gorge (1985, 1986, 2026)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the morning the guest room smells of horse sweat and hay.
Sound	The keyhole whistles, as if someone were blowing through it. Then the bed creaks under a weight that cannot be seen.
Temperature	In the morning the ridden one glows as if after a long mountain hike.
Light	The ridden take no lamp. They walk the path in the dark, more surely than by day.
Readings	A bathroom scale under the foot of the bed shows a good 3 kg more during the pressing. The one pressed swears it was fifty.
Animals	In the morning horses stand drenched in sweat in the stable, their manes braided into hard little plaits.
Devices	A phone by the bed records a woman's voice: "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son …" Then nothing more.
Traces and Residue	The hair of the ridden is matted into plaits that have to be cut off, the elf-locks. Bloody soles. Sometimes a straw in the fist.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Nightmares, plus sleepwalking after schnapps and mountain air. The locals call it the Trud and paint pentagrams on their doors.
1	An Alp, called the Trud in Tyrol: the soul of a living person that goes out at night, presses on sleepers and rides them. The person behind it often knows nothing of it. A pentagram on door or bed keeps it away. Do not wake the ridden on the path; whoever wakes up there falls.
2 to 3	Identified in 1987: Kreszenz Walch, 78, former midwife. Protocol Loan: at night the one pressed says, "Trud, come tomorrow, I'll lend you something." Whoever comes first in the morning wanting to borrow something is the Trud. You give it to her, then she is bound and rides no more. Walch came in the morning and wanted a candle. No rides since 1988. Walch died in 1990 in a care home in Landeck. Case closed.
4 or more	Transcript of a tape, interview with Walch, 1987: "I didn't finish sayin' it. The child screamed, and I thought it was dyin'." Margin note: "Confession." Addendum of 4 September 2026: rides since July. Cadet Almrausch reports Protocol Loan carried out: the landlady came first and wanted salt, given. Assessment: a successor to Walch, now bound.

What Is True

The Alp is Rosmarie Larcher, 64, landlady of the Pension Larcher in Gsallen. She does not know it.

She was born on 9 January 1962 at the Gsallhof, at 1,850 m, snowed in. The child was barely breathing. The midwife Kreszenz Walch baptised it with snow water, as anyone may in an emergency. At "of the Son" it screamed, and Walch stopped. She never said the Holy Spirit. She reported an emergency baptism, and the priest held the ceremony in the spring. The child was never baptised.

What the baptism did not reach goes out at night. It weighs what the child weighed back then, and it rides because it cannot walk. Every night a sleeper carries it up to the Gsallhof, into the parlour where the sentence broke off, and there it waits for the rest. Before the morning bell it rides back. Whoever wakes up on the way stands alone in the dark above the drop.

As long as there were horses in the stables of Gsallen, it rode horses. In 1983 the last farmer sold his Haflingers. From 1984 it rode guests, for guest rooms have no pentagrams. In 1985 and 1986 two fell into the gorge below the path.

In 1987 O.D.I.N. came. Walch came first in the morning, a hag stone in her apron, and asked for a candle. She knew what she had done, and she said it on tape. Rosmarie came half an hour later with the breakfast and wanted to borrow sugar. She did not get any. Nobody noted it. Before Walch was taken to Landeck, she said to Rosmarie: "Keep yourself a horse, Rosl, and don't ask why." Rosmarie bought a Haflinger in 1988. From then on it rode horses again, and the file closed.

The horses died young, one every four to six years. Rosmarie took it for bad luck. In March 2026 the last one died, and her son converted the stable into a sauna. In July it rode guests again. On 12 August a man from Eindhoven, 58, lay dead in the gorge.

Whoever lends the Trud something becomes her horse. The custom says you should give her nothing; the file turned it around. Since 3 September, Cadet Almrausch has carried the Alp up to the Gsallhof every night. The guests are safe as long as she does not fall.

Everything that stops the Alp goes through Rosmarie. **The baptism:** The Church knows conditional baptism for cases of doubt. The priest needs a reason, and the reason is on a tape in Stockholm. Rosmarie has to learn why. After that she remembers every ride, including the three in the gorge. **A horse:** A horse no longer helps, the Alp has one. Almrausch remains its horse until she falls or Rosmarie dies. **Catching it:** Whoever grabs it during the pressing holds a straw. Whatever happens to the straw, Rosmarie bears as a wound in the morning. That is how you recognise her, and that is how you can kill her. If Rosmarie dies, Almrausch is free.

Wrong in the File: Walch was never the Trud, she was its midwife, and she said so in 1987. The rides did not end in 1988 because of the protocol, but because of a horse. Rosmarie is not a successor, it was always her. What is dangerous is Protocol Loan: whoever lends the Trud something binds not her, but themselves.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Ride: 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance of a sleeper without a pentagram within 2 km. Whoever loses gets up and walks. Whoever stands in the way of the ridden one is struck with the strength of the Alp: 3 + 3, damage 3
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 / 9, only the grabbed straw. Hits on the ridden one hit only them
Horror	Disturbing (2)
Special	Invisible. Passes through any keyhole. Whoever grabs it on the back of a ridden one (DEX + Brawling against Hard (3)) holds a straw; if it is held until the morning bell, it rides no more. Rosmarie bears any damage to the straw as a wound in the morning. Whoever lends the Trud something is her horse, every night, without a test. Whoever is woken on the path rolls DEX + Acrobatics against Hard (3), or falls: damage 6
Weakness	A pentagram on door or bed, a knife blade pointing upwards, salt on the threshold: it cannot get in and seeks the next sleeper. Conditional baptism ends it for ever
Behaviour	Rides every night, animals rather than people. Returns before the morning bell. Fights only when its way is blocked, and then with someone else's body

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Mare of the Knothole (Westerwald, 1952 to 1979)	In 1952 a smallholder caught the mare that rode him: he drove a peg into the knothole through which it came. In the morning a strange young woman lay in his room. He married her. In 1979, during a quarrel, he pulled out the peg. She was gone. The next day he was found dead on the Fuchskaute, his hair in plaits. Stats as above.
The Horse Alp (eastern Styria, since 2011)	Rides only the horses of one riding stable. In the morning the animals stand drenched in sweat in the stable; four died in 2019. Behind it is the owner's daughter, born in 1994 with the caul, as is said of Truds. She wakes in the morning with hay in her hair. Henchman, no attack against humans, HP 5. The Registry lets it rest, they are only horses.

Cover-Up

The dead are listed by the gendarmerie and later by the alpine police as mountain accidents: at night, alone, barefoot, presumably sleepwalking. In the archive of the panorama camera, the image for 04:10 on 9 September is now the one from 04:20.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Cadet Almrausch calls at 02:00 and asks to be tied to her bed. At 03:00 she no longer answers the phone.
2	In the baptismal register of 1962, next to "Emergency baptism by midwife K. Walch", the priest finds a question mark in pencil.
3	A widow from Eindhoven books the room in which her husband slept. She wants to walk the path.
4	Rosmarie's son has bought two Haflingers for sleigh rides. They arrive in November, not earlier.
5	A farmhouse in the Westerwald is being demolished. There is a peg in a knothole, and the demolition contractor wants to pull it out.
6	A riding stable in eastern Styria now loses one horse a month. The vet finds nothing except plaits.

The Banshee

"I asked the neighbour to ring the son in Glasgow so he could say goodbye. That's what the recommendation said. He said goodbye."
Trauerrand, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY

REG–A–0563

Origin and Family	The Old, Heralds of Death
Form	Being. Often heard, rarely seen
Role	Henchman, Creature. She is not the danger
Horror	Disturbing (2) for anyone who hears her keening. Horrifying (3) for anyone who understands her words
File Colour	Grey as soon as she keens. In between, the file rests, sometimes for twenty years
Frequency	Rare. Only old families have one
Mind	Human. She speaks only in her keening, in an Irish from before 1850
Regions	British Isles. The west of Donegal, above all the Rosses around Dungloe. Related cases in Mayo and on the Hebrides
First Sighting	January 1847, near Dungloe. School copybook of 1938 for the Irish Folklore Commission: a grandmother tells how the banshee keened for her mother's brother
Last Confirmed Sighting	23 September 2026, around 02:00, the Boyle family's farm near Dungloe. Mobile phone video taken by the daughter from the window. The third night followed on 24 September
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Since 1994, three relatives who travelled home to say goodbye

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Peat smoke, even when no hearth is burning. Wet wool.
Sound	The keening of a single woman, breaking off, starting again, often for an hour. It carries 2 km. On recordings it sounds like a barn owl.
Temperature	The nights on which she keens are windless.
Light	With the yard lamp switched on, the wall by the gate is empty. In the dark a woman sits there.
Readings	No readings. Salt on the windowsill turns damp overnight.
Animals	The family's dogs lie by the door for the three nights. Other dogs notice nothing.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. On these nights the family waits for the telephone.
Traces and Residue	Long grey hairs on the wall by the gate. Sometimes a bone comb at the roadside that nobody in the village picks up.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Paranormal Detective gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A barn owl and a lot of whiskey. Or an old woman keening according to old custom. Where the banshee keens, she brings death.
1	A herald of death from Irish legend, the bean sí. She keens three nights before a death, only for the old families. She does not kill, and the death cannot be prevented. Her keening has no words. Do not pick up a comb from the road.
2 to 3	Registry statistics for the Boyles of the Rosses, as of 2020: 38 keenings since 1847, the early ones inferred from school copybook and death register. 29 dead within seven days of the third night, nine false alarms, almost all before 1960, presumably owls. Recommendation since 1994: inform relatives abroad in good time so that they can say goodbye.
4 or more	Addendum: in three cases since 1994 it was not the sick person who died but a relative who travelled home to say goodbye (1996 from Boston, 2008 from London, 2019 from Glasgow). Note: the banshee occasionally mistakes the person. Attached, the translation from the school copybook of 1938: “She keened three nights for Micí, my mother’s brother. They held the wake for him, and in the morning he went to Derry for the ship. He never wrote. He wasn’t allowed to.” Below it: “Custom.”

What Is True

The Boyles’ banshee is not a ghost but as old as the family. She keens three nights for one whom the family is going to lose. Lose means: he dies, or he goes so far away that the family never sees him again. One or the other happens within seven days of the third night.

In the hunger winter of 1847 she keened in the Rosses almost every week. The family held the wake for whoever she keened for while he was still alive, with tobacco and the last of the meal. At dawn he went to Derry for the ship to America and never wrote again. Later this was called the American wake. The Registry’s nine false alarms are such nights, not owls.

Her keening has words, in an Irish that hardly anyone speaks any more, and names the one she means. Recordings show only the cry.

Today there are flights, telephones and genetic tests. Whoever comes home after the wake is no longer lost, and the banshee keens anew. Then usually only death remains. The three dead since 1994 were no mistake: they had been keened for, and the Registry called them home.

Donal Boyle was keened for in 1987, at 24. After the wake he went to Boston and never got in touch. His daughter Clodagh, 41, a nurse in Letterkenny, found him in 2025 through a genetic test. When his mother Nóra, 91, became bedridden in September, he booked a flight. On the 22nd the keening began. The family believes it is for Nóra. Every morning Nóra says it is not for her, the woman is saying “a mhic”, my son. They think she is confused. The Registry’s contact has rung Donal and told him to hurry.

Donal can see his mother or live, not both. **Keeping Donal away** means telling him the truth, and Clodagh must hold his wake a second time. His mother never sees him again. **Letting him come**, with the truth: a week with his mother, then he dies. **Killing the banshee** can be done with silver, but the one keened for dies that same night, and the family is never warned again. **Following the file** means picking him up at the airport.

Wrong in the File: She announces not a death but a loss, and the death can be averted. Her keening has words. The false alarms were not owls but emigrants. She never mistakes the person. The recommendation of 1994 is deadly: whoever calls the lost home calls death to them.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	None. She scratches anyone who takes her comb: 2 + 2, damage 2
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 5
Horror	Disturbing (2) on hearing the keening. Horrifying (3) for anyone who understands the words
Special	Keens three nights. Afterwards the one keened for dies within seven days; no test prevents it. He is free if the family holds the wake for him beforehand, he goes over the sea and never again exchanges a word with them. Whoever understands her Irish recognises with WIS + Perception against Hard (3) whom she is keening for

Value	Details
Weakness	Iron on door and gate keeps her off the wall; she then keens from the edge of the field. Silver kills her, and the one keened for dies that same night
Behaviour	Sits, combs her hair, keens. Flees from light and returns in the dark. Looks only at the family

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Washer (Mull, 1953)	The bean nighe of the Hebrides, stats as above. At a ford she washes the shirt of the one who will be lost. To anyone who stands between her and the water she answers three questions truthfully. In 1953 the shepherd Calum MacPhail, 34, asked her on Mull whose shirt it was. It was his. He emigrated to New Zealand the same year and lived to 88.
The Comb Woman (Düsseldorf, 1978)	Stats as above. She keens for anyone who has her comb. In 1978 a tourist from Düsseldorf picked up a bone comb near Belmullet in Mayo. For three nights there was keening in his back yard. He sent the comb to the Garda in Belmullet; the post took nine days. He died on the seventh day in the stairwell, cardiac arrest at 44.

Cover-Up

The dead die of heart attacks, on wet roads, of cancer, and the Donegal coroner asks no questions. In front of strangers, the village calls the keening a barn owl. The woman in the mobile phone video is a neighbour, says the Garda, and the neighbour, a Registry contact, confirms it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Donal Boyle's flight lands in Dublin on 27 September at 07:00. Clodagh is picking him up; the cell is to help with the farewell.
2	The contact's daughter writes to the Registry that her mother has been ringing people abroad since 1994, and three are dead.
3	A linguist in Galway hears words on a cleaned-up recording from the Rosses. She wants to ask the family whom the woman is calling.
4	An agent of the cell is a Boyle by civilian name; his grandmother came from Dungloe. Before the mission a bone comb lies on his doormat.
5	A genetic testing portal notifies a man in Boston of a relative in Donegal. He writes back at once. His grandmother never talked about her brother.
6	In a care home in Letterkenny there is keening at night outside the window of a woman who has had no relatives since 1961. She had a brother in America.

The Bony One in the Woods

"She asked whether I was looking for work or running from it. I said: first the sauna, then the food, then the questions. She laughed, in English: at last, someone with manners."

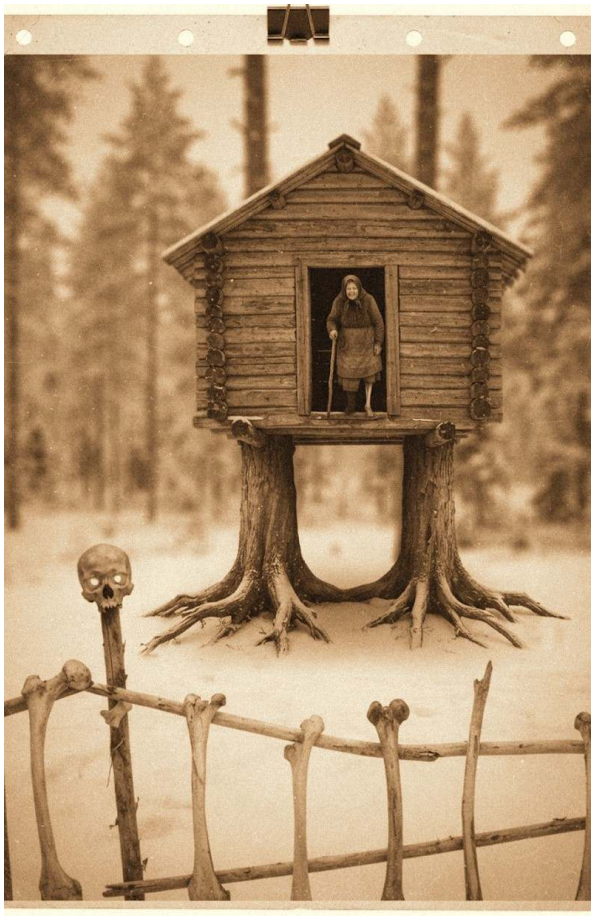
Kienspan, Veteran, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0536

Origin and Family	The Old, Witches and Old Women
Form	Being. An old woman with one leg of bone, in a hut on two tree stumps, behind a fence of bones
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the fence. Horrifying (3) when the hut stands up and turns
File Colour	Black since 1956
Frequency	Unique. There is only ever one
Mind	Human. Beneath it, something very old
Regions	Scandinavia, and Russia and Belarus. The forests of Karelia on both sides of the Finnish-Russian border. The hut always stands on the border
First Sighting	19 February 1938, Ilomantsi, North Karelia. Statement of a refugee, 16, to the Finnish Border Guard: his sister had stayed with an old woman in the forest who gave her a leg. Taken over by the Registry in 1951
Last Confirmed Sighting	25 August 2026, border zone east of Ilomantsi. Image from a trail camera: a man in a parka from 1979 carries two buckets of water. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two escorts, missing: Birkhahn (1956), Lotblei (1979)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Smoke from a smoke sauna, birch leaves and hot stone.
Sound	A creaking like a tree that walks. At night, a pestle in a mortar, for hours.
Temperature	Around the hut it is warm as in the changing room of a sauna.
Light	On the fence posts sit skulls in whose eyes a yellow light burns as if from pine splints. They glow only for whoever is just arriving.
Readings	Every day the GPS puts the hut on the border line, each time at a different spot. In winter the phone clock jumps between Finnish and Moscow time with every step. Salt on her threshold turns grey.
Animals	Ravens sit on the posts. Dogs stop at the fence and lie down.
Devices	In the hut a radio without power plays American dance music of the thirties.
Traces and Residue	In the snow a boot print and beside it a small round hole, always alternating. Hanging on the fence among the bones, rusty belt buckles with a red star.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The witch from the Russian fairy tales who eats children, with chicken legs under the hut and skulls on the fence. Do not go.
1	An ancient keeper in the border forest. She eats whoever insults her and helps whoever knows the rules. To her question whether you are looking for work or running from it, do not answer but demand: first sauna, food and drink, then questions. Then she obeys until morning. To the hut you say: "Stand with your back to the forest and your door to me."
2 to 3	The hut is a crossing over the border. Whoever passes three nights leaves it by the back door on the other side. Protocol Escort, as of 1956: an agent brings defectors from the Soviet Union to the hut with bread, salt and the formula. Until 1979, fourteen defectors safely in Finland. Two escorts missing, presumably caught by Soviet border troops. Suspended since 1979.
4 or more	Attached, the trail camera image of 25 August 2026: the man at the fence is Lotblei, missing since 1979, not a day older. Below it the directive of 9 September: retrieval according to Protocol Escort.

What Is True

The Bony One is not a being. She is an office.

In the forests of Karelia, for a very long time, a hut has stood on the border between the living and the dead. The dead pass through it to the other side. The living who pass the test come out wherever they want to go; for the hut all borders are one. Whoever lives in it keeps the door. Her one leg already stands on the other side; that is why it is made of bone.

The present keeper is Helmi Hietala, born in November 1913 in Hancock, Michigan. In 1932 the family moved to Soviet Karelia, like several thousand Finns from America and Canada, to build socialism. In the autumn of 1937 they came for her father, as for so many of the Americans. He did not return. In February 1938 Helmi, 24, and her brother Toivo, 16, fled west on foot. On the third day the hut stood before them.

Helmi knew the answer from her grandmother's fairy tales. For three nights she worked for the old woman. On the third the old woman asked whether she would stay; then the boy would cross safely. Helmi stayed. The old woman gave her the leg and went through the back door. In the morning Toivo stood in front of a Finnish border post.

One rule is stated clearly in no fairy tale. Whoever comes of their own will is a guest. Whoever is sent, on orders, on duty or under compulsion, belongs to her. She smells it. Guests she tests. The sent stay as servants and do not age. They are only freed when someone new takes over the door. Whoever comes with violence hangs on the fence.

Protocol Escort brought fourteen defectors across because each came of their own will. Kienspan had volunteered every time. Birkhahn and Lotblei came on orders. Birkhahn has been carrying wood since 1956 and is 29. Lotblei has been carrying water since 1979 and is 31.

Helmi is 112 and tired. The bone leg now reaches up to her hip. The lights in the fence are growing weaker, and the dead of the forest no longer find the door. She is looking for someone for the door, and no one who was sent can be it. Since Finland closed the border crossings at the end of 2023, people are coming through the forest again. For a week a young man from Petrozavodsk has been with her who does not want to go to the front. He is running from work, as Helmi once was.

Someone must keep watch at the door, or it stands open. **A successor:** whoever comes of their own will, passes three nights and stays takes over the door. Helmi crosses over; the servants are free. The young man would be safe from the war, for ever. An agent could be the one too, if they do not come on duty. They never come back. **Waiting:** Helmi may hold out one more winter. Then the hut stands empty, and the door is open, for the living who go in and for whatever comes out. **The directive:** the cell goes on orders to fetch Lotblei. At the fence Helmi smells the order, and Lotblei gets company.

Wrong in the File: Only the office is ancient. Since 1938 the keeper has been a woman from Michigan, and she eats no one. The hut leads across any border, and the living pass through only as guests. The escorts were not caught; they serve. Protocol Escort and the directive of 9 September are dangerous: whoever comes on orders belongs to her.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Pestle 5 + 5, damage 5, two actions per round. The hut kicks anyone who climbs over the fence without a greeting: 4 + 4, damage 4, Area 2
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 4 / 26. In the hut she heals 2 HP per round
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the fence. Horrifying (3) when the hut stands up and turns
Special	Smells who comes of their own will; deception never works on her. Whoever comes on orders becomes her servant at the fence, without a test: they lay down their weapon and work. Whoever refuses the order aloud before her and means it is a guest. Servants, currently two: Henchmen, hatchet 2 + 2, damage 2, defence 1, armour 0, HP 5
Weakness	Iron and salt. Salt on the threshold holds the hut in place for one night. The hut obeys the right word, and Helmi obeys the formula until morning
Behaviour	Asks, tests, gives work. Keeps every word. Whoever passes three nights gets what they ask for: a way, a light, an answer

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Woman in the Pond (Hoher Meißner, 1976)	An old woman beneath the water of the Frau-Holle-Teich in northern Hesse, with the rule from the fairy tale: whoever comes down to her and works hard for her returns with a gift, and whoever is lazy, with pitch on their hands that never comes off. Elite, Grip 4 + 4, damage 4, defence 3, armour 3, HP 13, only in the water. In the hot summer of 1976 a boy from Germerode climbed into the pond to look for coins. After three days he was sitting on the bank, with black hands, and said only: “I didn’t shake the beds.”
The Old Woman at the Barrier (Bohemian Forest, 1951 to 1989)	A hut without legs on the Iron Curtain near Železná Ruda, with the same rule. Refugees reached Bavaria; border soldiers sent after them stayed and chopped wood. Stats as above, without the hut, HP 22. In December 1989 three soldiers of the Czechoslovak border guard came out of the forest in uniforms from 1953 and asked for their company.

Cover-Up

Birkhahn and Lotblei are listed as missing during an exercise in Lapland. The Finnish Border Guard evaluates trail camera images from the border zone itself; a contact there sends to Stockholm whatever belongs in no report. In Ilomantsi the story is told to strangers as a fairy tale.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The directive of 9 September is on the table. The cell is named, the order in writing.
2	Toivo’s granddaughter from Duluth is searching Ilomantsi for her great-aunt with a photo from 1932.
3	The pastor of Ilomantsi asks for help: people in old coats are standing in the forest, and one of them asked him the way in Russian.
4	A mother calls from Petrozavodsk. Her son wrote from the forest: “An old American woman wants me to stay.”
5	On a new trail camera image, written in the sand in front of the fence: “Do not come on duty.”
6	An agent of the cell receives a letter in English, in handwriting as if from the thirties: “Come on your own. H.”

The Changeling

"The mother said it was her son. The father said it wasn't his son. Both were right, and the child laughed like an old man."

Spindel, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0503

Origin and Family	The Old, Fair Folk
Form	Being. A child that is not one
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when it shows its own face
File Colour	Grey. Red from the sixth year after the exchange
Frequency	Rare. Eleven cases since 1894, eight of them on the Isle of Man
Mind	Human, but very old
Regions	British Isles. The Isle of Man, above all the south and the glens of the west coast. Isolated cases in Wales and Galloway
First Sighting	November 1894, Cregneash, parish of Rushen. Notebook of a song collector from Douglas: a farmer's wife shows him her child in the cradle and says it is not hers
Last Confirmed Sighting	22 August 2026, Noble's Hospital near Douglas, accident and emergency. A boy with a burned hand swears at the doctor in Manx. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	No agents. One child, 1972, recorded as an accident at the waterfall

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Peat smoke and wet bracken, even in a new-build flat with underfloor heating. Milk in the fridge turns sour overnight.
Sound	Among people it cries and babbles like any child. Alone in the room it talks in a deep, rough voice in Manx, a language whose last native speaker died in 1974.
Temperature	It never has a fever, not even when the whole class has chickenpox. The thermometer shows 36.0 °C, every time.
Light	In flash photos its eyes glow green-gold like a fox's. No other child in the room does that.
Readings	Nothing measurable. The growth curve at the paediatrician's has been almost a straight line since the exchange. Salt in a bowl beside the bed is grey in the morning.
Animals	The family dog will not enter the child's room and has slept in the car ever since.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. Only the baby monitor transmits a laugh at night that is too deep.
Traces and Residue	The family buys milk for three children. Iron in the house rusts where it has touched it: door handles, the poker, a horseshoe over the door that someone has bent.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die, as does anyone who speaks Manx or Welsh. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Changelings do not exist. Sick children and women, superstitious families, see Tipperary 1895. The cell protects the child from the family, not the other way round.
1	Fair Folk of the Isle of Man. The Little People, in Manx mooinjer veggey, take an infant and lay one of their own in the cradle. Signs: hardly grows, eats for three, speaks alone in an old voice. Iron tongs over the cradle prevent the exchange. After seven years it can no longer be reversed.
2 to 3	Protocol Hearth Test, as of 1958: threaten the changeling with iron and fire, never seriously injure it, until its people fetch it. Unmask it first: boil water in eggshells, and it gives itself away in astonishment. Case Port St Mary 1957: in the morning the family's own child lay in the cradle. Burn blisters on both hands, attributed to the crossing. In combat iron works double.
4 or more	Case near Peel, 1972: a changeling attacks an agent and is beaten to death with an iron bar. In the morning a piece of alder wood lies in the cradle; at the foot of the Glen Maye waterfall lies the family's own child, dead. Coroner's report: skull fracture, the shape of a bar. Stamp below: "Unexplained. Do not pursue."

What Is True

The Little People live under the hills and in the glens of the island. The Manx do not like to call them by name and say "Themselves". Their children do badly under the hill. Sometimes one needs human milk, human bread and a human name. Then they exchange, usually on the night of Hop-tu-Naa, the eve of the old Celtic New Year, on 31 October.

The exchange is a bond. What happens to one child happens to the other, wound for wound, hunger for hunger. The human child grows up under the hill, well fed and strange. The changeling grows up among humans, slowly. On the seventh Hop-tu-Naa the bond closes. Then each child stays where it is, for ever. The changeling becomes a human, grows and forgets its age.

That is why the Hearth Test was never a test. The burn blisters of 1957 were suffered by the child under the hill when the changeling was held over the fire. Its people gave the child back afterwards because they did not want to lose their own. In 1972 an agent struck, and both children died.

What really helps: the changeling is tricked by boiling water in eggshells. In its astonishment it says its name. With that name the mother can carry it to the place of the exchange before the seventh Hop-tu-Naa, lay it unharmed in the grass, call it by name and turn round. Then her own child lies there. It is as old as it should be, speaks only Manx and eats nothing cooked for weeks. Some run back into the glen in the first year.

The case near Glen Maye: Voirrey Kinvig, 34, a paediatric nurse at Noble's Hospital, and her husband Illiam, 38, had a son, Finlo, on 3 August 2019. On the evening of 31 October 2019 Voirrey pushed the pram through the glen. Since then Finlo has hardly grown, eats for three and laughs in the dark like an old man. Voirrey loves him. For a year Illiam has not picked him up. In August Illiam's mother Ann, 68, held the child's hand on the hotplate to "call its own". The child under the hill has had the same scar ever since.

Ann knows what she is talking about. Her grandfather Juan Karran was the changeling of Cregneash, 1894. His mother never held him over the fire. He lived to 81 and never touched iron. Perhaps that is why the Little People keep coming back to this family.

The seventh Hop-tu-Naa is 31 October 2026. The being in Finlo's bed has told an agent in Manx that it wants to stay. Voirrey wants to keep it. Illiam wants his son. Under the hill a seven-year-old boy is waiting who does not know his mother.

Wrong in the File: Changelings exist. Iron prevents the exchange, but in combat it injures both children at once. Protocol Hearth Test is dangerous: it forces no exchange back, it tortures the human child. Whoever kills a changeling kills the child they want to save.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Bite and nails 3 + 3, damage 3. Only if threatened with iron or fire or if someone tries to take it from its mother
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (skin like old leather) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when it shows its own face: wrinkled, toothless, with eyes older than the island

Value	Details
Special	Mirror: all damage to the changeling strikes the child under the hill for the same amount. The child has 5 HP. If one dies, so does the other: all that remains of the changeling is a piece of alder wood. It has the strength of a man and climbs up walls
Weakness	Iron deals double damage, to the child as well. Eggshells: whoever boils water in eggshells in its presence rolls INT + Occultism against Doable (2). On a success it says its name in astonishment and is defenceless for one round
Behaviour	Plays the child as long as it is loved. Eats, sleeps, laughs alone. In danger it flees up the chimney or onto the roof. Anyone who wants to hold it without harming it rolls STR + Brawling against Hard (3)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Stock (Anglesey, 1966)	Not a child but a piece of wood that looks like a person, usually a young mother. It lies still, does not eat, and dies after a few days. No attack, defence 1, HP 1. Horror Disturbing (2) when someone lifts the coffin: it weighs no more than a plank. In March 1966 a woman of 23 died in childbed in a village near Amlwch. Until his own death in 2004 her husband put out milk at the hill behind the farm every May evening.
The Grandfather (Galloway, 2009)	They exchange the old too, when one of their own wants to die. A farmer of 84 in a care home near Kirkcudbright becomes strong overnight, eats for three, bites a carer and speaks only Gaelic, which he never learned. Stats as above, HP 6. The family took it for dementia. He died peacefully in 2010. In the coffin lay alder wood in a Sunday suit.

Cover-Up

Manx Care records Finlo as failure to thrive with no findings; the report of a paediatrician in Liverpool was written by an expert O.D.I.N. pays. The burned hand went to social services as an accident at the cooker; the note is closed. The Coroner of Inquests certified the death of 1972 as a fall at the waterfall. At Hop-tu-Naa the forestry department closes the glen because of rockfall.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Through a colleague, Voirrey Kinvig asks for “someone who knows about this sort of thing”. There are five weeks until Hop-tu-Naa.
2	Ann Kinvig has bought iron tongs, and she has the key to her son’s house.
3	The teacher at the Manx-language primary school in St John’s overheard Finlo alone in the cloakroom at break. He was swearing in Manx like a fisherman around 1900.
4	A hiker reports a boy of about seven in Glen Maye, barefoot, with a burn scar on his hand. He disappeared behind the waterfall.
5	In a care home near Kirkcudbright an old man has been eating for three for a week. His daughter has hung a horseshoe over his bed. It is bent.
6	A mother in Port St Mary shows online how to recognise a changeling and boils water in eggshells. The child in the background stops crying.

The Chupacabra

"When we left, we gave the families the cockerels from the decoy coops. They all thanked us. Except the old woman."

Gatter, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0578

Origin and Family	The Old, World Legends
Form	Being
Role	Henchman, Creature, freshly hatched. Professional after the first winter
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for whoever opens the pen in the morning
File Colour	Red since August 2026. From 2006 to 2026 White, listed as closed after the kill
Frequency	Rare. Reported again since August 2026, number unknown
Mind	Animal
Regions	Latin America. Chile, the Norte Chico: the goat valleys of the province of Limarí around Combarbalá and Monte Patria, Coquimbo region
First Sighting	14 September 2004, Quebrada Los Litres near Combarbalá. Report by a goatherd to the Carabineros: 23 goats in one night, two holes in each neck, no blood in the pen
Last Confirmed Sighting	3 August 2026, veterinary practice in Ovalle. X-ray of an egg that a boy found in a hen's nest
O.D.I.N. Losses	None

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	The pen smells of iron and of a henhouse, even on farms without hens.
Sound	Around 03:00 a cockerel crows somewhere, thin and too high, like a young one still learning.
Temperature	A nest in which one has hatched stays warm for days, without a hen.
Light	In lamplight, two red dots, too far apart for an animal of that size.
Readings	Nothing measurable. Almost no blood in the dead goats, none on the ground. Salt scattered in the pen is pink in the morning.
Animals	The herding dogs do not go into the pen and do not bark. An old cockerel it has bitten no longer crows and sits like a hen during the day.
Devices	Trail cameras of the agricultural service show foxes, dogs, once a puma. And two red dots 30 cm off the ground.
Traces and Residue	Two round holes in the neck, two fingers apart. Three-toed prints as if from a large bird, with claws. In the straw, remains of shell, soft as leather, with no yolk.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Invoker gets +1 die, as does anyone who grew up in rural Chile.

Result	What the File Says
0	"The goat sucker." An escaped lab creature, American, so television has said since the year 2000. A case for the Transformed. Almost always it is feral dogs.
1	Not a lab creature, but the Old, under a new name. An animal the size of a fox drinks the blood out of goats through two fine holes. Avoids humans. Salt in the shot and iron work.
2 to 3	Quebrada Los Litres, 2004 to 2006: in 14 cases tracks in the henhouse, never a dead hen. Conclusion: poultry attracts it but is not enough for it. Protocol Decoy Coop: hens and cockerels in a coop at the edge of the valley, night vision, one marksman. Four animals killed and burned, no cases since July 2006. The cockerels went to the families as compensation. File closed.
4 or more	Tape transcript, November 2005, interview with an old woman in the valley, translated from Spanish: "You shoot the young and feed the old. Here no cockerel may turn seven. We used to know that." Note: "Superstition. The cockerels are a gift."

What Is True

In the valleys of the Norte Chico, people have always told of the egg of the old cockerel. An old cockerel, some say in its seventh year, lays a small egg with no yolk and a shell like leather. If a snake, a hen or the warm dung hatches it, something hatches that the old people call Colocolo. In the stories it sucks the saliva out of sleepers until they waste away. Since the year 2000, television has called it Chupacabras.

The legend is almost right. Not every cockerel lays. The one that lays is the one a Colocolo has bitten, seven years after the bite. Freshly hatched, the being is the size of a rat, featherless, with the comb of a cockerel and a tongue that splits into two hollow tubes. It drinks blood, not saliva, first from kids, then from goats. After one winter it is the size of a fox, walks on two legs, and on its back stand spines that were once quills. It leaves hens alone. It bites the cockerels in the comb, once, and the wound has healed by the next day.

That is why the cell found tracks in every henhouse in 2005 and never a dead hen. The decoy coop suited it well. Four animals were shot. Gatter gave the bitten cockerels to the families. Doña Hortensia Cortés, 70 at the time, said so on tape, and she was right.

In the old days no cockerel in the valley lived to be older than six. Then the young people went to the mines, and the old people kept their cockerels because they crowed so beautifully. In 2012 the first brood hatched from the gifted cockerels, in 2019 the second, each larger than the one before. The agricultural service counts feral dogs and sets traps.

The third brood is due this year. In July 2026 Bastián Araya, twelve, Hortensia's great-grandson, found three small eggs under a brooding hen, soft as leather. He took one to the vet Javiera Olivares in Ovalle, because it moved in his hand. She X-rayed it. The image has been in Stockholm since 5 August. The other two eggs are still in the nest. Since June there have been dead goats in eleven pens in the valley, and in the Araya yard the cockerel no longer crows.

Every way forward goes through the cockerels of the valley, and they belong to the families. **The cockerels:** No cockerel in the valley may live past six, on no farm, in no year, not even the old people's beautiful crowers. Since 2006, cockerels from the valley have been sold at the market in Ovalle, nobody knows where to. And the families do not give their cockerels to strangers. **The eggs:** Every cockerel's egg in the valley must go into the fire; only fire destroys it for certain. You recognise it by its weight and on the X-ray, year after year, farm by farm. **The hunt:** Shot and salt work. Every dead Colocolo has bitten cockerels beforehand, and their clock runs for seven years.

Wrong in the File: It is not a single animal, the case was never closed, and it avoids humans only as long as nobody comes too close to its nest. Poultry does not attract it as prey. The henhouses are its breeding ground. What is dangerous is Protocol Decoy Coop with its compensation: O.D.I.N. handed out the bitten cockerels itself and so sowed three broods.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Freshly hatched: bite 2 + 2, damage 2. After the first winter: tongue 3 + 3, damage 3. A hit with a margin latches on: 1 HP per round, armour does not count, until the victim shakes it off with STR + Brawling against Doable (2)

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	Freshly hatched 2 / 0 / 4. After the first winter 2 / 1 (quills) / 9. Several young as a squad under the rules of the Core Rulebook
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for whoever opens the pen in the morning
Special	A cockerel it bites in the comb lays an egg seven years later, if it lives that long. Returns to its nest every night and follows anyone who carries off an egg, all the way to their door
Weakness	Salt in the shot and iron deal double damage. Fire destroys eggs. Energy weapons and EMP are of no use
Behaviour	Hunts at night, drinks, vanishes before first light. Attacks humans only if they stand between it and its nest or carry an egg, and then without fear

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Basilisk (Chiloé, 1961)	The southern form, with a serpent's body and a cockerel's head. It lives under the floorboards of a house and drinks not from animals but from the sleepers, so little each night that nobody notices. They grow pale and thin. No attack, defence 3, HP 6. Sleepers in the house lose 1 HP per night. A family in Castro had lost its house in the earthquake of 1960 and built a new one on stilts. In May 1961 they set fire to it themselves, as the legend demands.
The Tame One (Monte Patria, 2019)	A boy hatched a cockerel's egg under a hen and raised the young in a shoebox on goat's milk. It followed him like a dog and never drank from his family's goats, only from the neighbours'. Henchman, HP 4, attacks anyone who touches the boy. In the winter of 2020 it ran away. Since then there has been a dead rat outside his door every morning.

Cover-Up

The agricultural service lists the dead goats as damage by feral dogs and pumas, and the families get forms. In 2005 the cell operated as a university research group counting pumas with trail cameras. Whoever in the valley speaks of the Colocolo is speaking of television, and people laugh at that.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Javiera Olivares calls the number of a research group that counted pumas in the valley in 2005. For two nights, red eyes have been sitting in the bushes outside her practice.
2	Bastián Araya has taken the other two eggs from the nest. He wants to keep them until he knows what hatches.
3	Doña Hortensia Cortés, 91, asks the cell to come and see her. She has a list of all the farms that received a cockerel in 2006.
4	At the market in Ovalle, a trader sells an old cockerel that no longer crows to a breeder from Santiago for a lot of money.
5	The Registry demands that Protocol Decoy Coop be repeated, this time with thermal imaging. The cockerels are supplied by a breeder from the valley.
6	A goatherd does not come back in April from the summer pasture in the cordillera. His dogs do.

The Draugr

"Five names, and five stood up and left. No case ever ended that cleanly again."
Südwester, Veteran, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0527

Origin and Family	The Old, Revenants of Legend
Form	Being. A drowned man with a body, heavy as wet sand
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for whoever looks into his eyes in the moonlight
File Colour	Grey since February 2025. From the door court of 8 February 1997 White, listed as closed
Frequency	Rare. Three cases since 1948, all in Iceland. The rest are in the sagas
Mind	Human, less so every year
Regions	Scandinavia. Iceland, the north coast of the Snæfellsnes peninsula, the harbour of Ólafsvík
First Sighting	30 January 1997, fish factory at the harbour of Ólafsvík. Call from the night watchman to the police: five men in wet oilskins were sitting in the break room, men who had drowned with the boat Kría on 19 January
Last Confirmed Sighting	18 January 2025, guesthouse in the former fish factory. A guest's review on a booking site: "The man by the radiator in the breakfast room was wet all night and didn't say hello."
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A guest from Brussels, died of pneumonia in February 2025

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Seaweed, diesel oil and cold fish. His chair still smells of the harbour at midday.
Sound	Dripping, steady, in the empty room. In storms, footsteps on the roof, heavy as a horse's, and the corrugated iron bends.
Temperature	He always sits by the radiator. In the morning the radiator's fins are crusted with salt.
Light	In photos he is only a wet sheen on a chair. In the moonlight his eyes shine like fish eyes.
Readings	He is getting heavier. In 1997 a plastic chair held him; in 2025 an oak table buckled when he laid his arm on it. The puddles under him contain 3.5% salt, like the sea. No detector responds; only the wood beneath him gives way.
Animals	Dogs do not enter the building. In the morning, gulls sit outside the window of the breakfast room.
Devices	The building's water meter runs on stormy nights, although no tap is open.
Traces and Residue	Wet prints of rubber boots, size 46, from the pier to the door, none going back. Seaweed on the door handle. Dead sheep by the road to Fróðá, their bones broken, not bitten.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Invoker gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A Viking from the burial mound, as big as an ox. You wrestle with him, cut off his head and lay it against his buttocks, so the sagas say. Or you sue him. This is Iceland.
1	Draugr: a dead man with a body who comes for what is owed to him. The drowned come to their own funeral feast and sit down by the fire, as at the farm of Fróðá in the Eyrbyggja saga. Where they sit, the household falls ill. Heavy, strong, almost invulnerable. Salt and iron work, as against everything Old.
2 to 3	Case Kría: boat from Ólafsvík, sank in a storm on 19 January 1997, five men according to the crew list, two bodies recovered. From 30 January the five sat every night in the break room of the fish factory where the funeral feast had been held. Protocol Door Court, following the saga: on 8 February the owner of the building, standing at the door, charged each dead man by name and patronymic with trespass. Each stood up at the verdict and left. Rule of thumb: whoever gets no funeral feast does not come.
4 or more	Transcript of an interview, 3 February 1997, the skipper's widow, translated: "Hjörtur phoned the Pole the evening before they sailed. He was to be at the pier at five." Question: "Which Pole?" Answer after a pause: "Nobody." Stamp: according to the crew list, no foreigner on board.

What Is True

The Kría had six men on board.

Paweł Kania, 22, from a village near Suwałki, came in the autumn of 1996 as a tourist, to earn money for a house. The skipper Hjörtur Egilsson, 51, took him on board without papers, paid in cash, for half a share. After the accident, the widow Ragnheiður found his passport in her husband's desk drawer. Afraid of the insurance and of gossip, she burned it in the stove. She remembers the first name. The rest she has been trying to forget for 29 years.

The drowned come to their funeral feast. That is their right. They sit down in the warm and stay until they are sent away by name. That much the file has right. For Paweł there was no feast, no priest, no name. In 1997 the night watchman saw five at the table. Nobody looked at the window. Whoever is not mourned does not lie quietly. He waits in the sea and becomes what the sagas call a draugr: heavy, strong, wrathful, less human every year. From 2009 he sat on the roof of the fish factory on stormy nights; from 2014 he tore sheep apart by the road to Fróðá. The factory closed in 2019, when its fishing quota was sold. Since the break room became the breakfast room of a guesthouse in 2021, he has sat there on stormy nights by the radiator, where he drank his coffee in 1996.

Whoever sleeps a night under one roof with him gets fever and a cough, like the household at Fróðá. The guest from Brussels had the room above the breakfast room.

In Poland, Halina Kania reported her son missing in March 1997. The Icelandic police knew of no Paweł Kania. Halina is 78 and lives in the house for which he wanted to earn the money.

The feast and the court: The door court works only with his full name, and only if he has first had his funeral feast, with someone who mourns him. The name can be found in Polish missing persons files, or with Ragnheiður, if she is willing to remember. Only Halina can mourn. She would have to come to Iceland and sit at the table with him for a night. He would not harm her. The fever would, and her heart is weak. **The saga:** Wrestle until he falls, cut off the head, lay it against his buttocks, burn the body, bury the ashes far from any path. That was how Glámr ended at Grettir's hands. It ends him, and Halina never learns what became of her son.

Wrong in the File: There were six. Whoever gets no funeral feast does not stay away; that is what makes him a true draugr. Salt does not work, he comes out of the sea. What is dangerous is the rule of thumb: it declares the guesthouse safe, and whoever calls the Draugr to court without his name is the first he attacks.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Grip 4 + 4, damage 4. Whoever is seized is crushed: 3 damage every round minus armour, until they break free with STR + Brawling in an opposed test against 4 + 4
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (bloated skin like wet leather) / 14
Horror	Disturbing (2). Whoever looks into his eyes in the moonlight rolls against Horrifying (3); on a botch they also gain the trauma Phobia of darkness, like Grettir after Glámr

Value	Details
Special	Firearms and blades other than iron deal half damage, rounded down. He cannot be moved: STR + Athletics against Impossible (5). Whoever sleeps a night under one roof with him rolls CON + Toughness against Doable (2), or gets fever: 1 HP per day and −1 die on everything, for D6 days. At 0 HP he collapses into seaweed and water and returns with the next storm, unless his head is taken and his body burned first
Weakness	His full name before the door court, after his funeral feast. Whoever brings him to the ground while wrestling (STR + Brawling against 4 + 4) strips him of his defence for one round. Salt does not work
Behaviour	Sits, drips, is silent. Attacks whoever touches him or tries to send him away without a name. On stormy nights he tears apart whatever he finds on the roof and by the road

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Mound Dweller (Borgarfjörður, 1957)	A dead man from the Age of Settlement who guards his burial mound. During road building, workers took a sword from the mound. Every night the bulldozer stood somewhere else, on the fourth night on top of a worker. Older and stronger: grip 5 + 4, damage 4, HP 16, never goes further than 100 m from the mound. The sword went back. To this day the road makes a bend there.
The Sending (Strandir, 1981)	A drowned man whom a farmer woke with signs from an old book of spells and sent against his neighbour. Professional: grip 3 + 3, damage 3, HP 9. Whoever calls the name of the sender aloud sends the Sending back to him. The neighbour knew the name. The farmer was found dead in his sheep shed in March 1982.

Cover-Up

In 1997 the police put the call down to the grief of the night watchman, an uncle of two of the dead; he resigned in the spring. The health inspectorate explained the guest's death with legionella in the heating system. The guesthouse stayed closed over the winter, and the review disappeared after a call to the booking site.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The guesthouse is reopening this winter, with new heating and northern lights tours. January is fully booked.
2	Ragnheiður, 74, asks for a private conversation. She burned something in 1997, she says, and wants to know whether there is a punishment for it.
3	A missing person report from Suwałki from 1997 turns up in a newly digitised database. Someone has underlined "Iceland".
4	A farmer by the road to Fróðá has lost four sheep. He swears he saw a man in oilskins carrying a sheep like a sack of flour.
5	The cell takes over the follow-up review that is due in the Kría case. In the breakfast room, by the radiator, stands a chair that nobody moves away.
6	Halina Kania writes her seventh letter to the "Police in Ólafsvík". This time she encloses a photograph.

The Feathered One over the Bridge

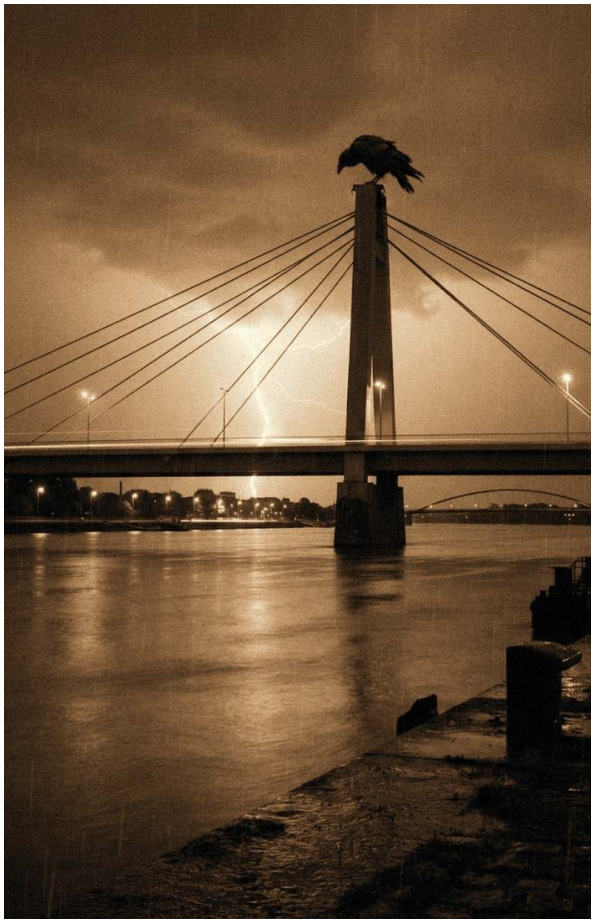
"We called in the rockets like artillery, as the file said. He came out of the cloud. Not for us on the bank, but for driftwood on the bridge."
Wetterfahne, Senior Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0551

Origin and Family	The Old, Cryptids
Form	Being
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for anyone he has seized
File Colour	Red from May to September, in the thunderstorm season. Otherwise Grey
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of three, all on the Danube
Mind	Animal
Regions	Eastern Europe. The Danube in the Vojvodina, the Iron Gates, the lower Danube between Bulgaria and Romania
First Sighting	4 July 2006, around 22:00, Liberty Bridge in Novi Sad, Serbia. A woman's report to the police: her husband had been "taken away upwards" on the footpath, by wings "like a wet sail"
Last Confirmed Sighting	27 July 2026, around 22:30, the same bridge. Long exposure by a storm photographer from the quay. One cyclist missing
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent (19 June 2014), recovered from the Danube near Sremski Karlovci three days later. Listed internally as a fall, with the police as a suicide

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet iron and singed horn. After a rocket barrage, the bridge smells of spent fireworks.
Sound	High above, a crack like a wet sheet in a storm. When he lands, the stay cables groan.
Temperature	Just before he lands, a cool, wet downdraught presses on the bridge.
Light	In the sheet lightning, an outline on the tip of the pylon that is gone at the next flash. His eyes reflect no light, unlike those of any bird.
Readings	The weather radar shows a small echo in the storm cell, moving against the wind. Hailstones where he has been have a black down feather at their core.
Animals	Pigeons and gulls leave the bridge hours before the storm. Dogs on the quay lie down flat and look upwards.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. He is an animal; in the lightning flash he appears in photos.
Traces and Residue	Black feathers, 80 cm long, hard as horn, in heaps of hail on the bank. Scratches in the concrete of the pylon tip, 4 cm deep. Dead people with fall injuries in maize fields, kilometres from the water.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Shadow Paratrooper gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die; in a thunderstorm the connection often breaks off.

Result	What the File Says
0	A white-tailed eagle, seen twice its size in the storm. The dead at the bridge are suicides, as at every high bridge. Not a case for O.D.I.N.
1	A bird with a wingspan of around 6 m, blackish brown, that hunts out of the cloud in thunderstorms. Serbian legend calls it the Ala, who brings the hail. Seizes people in the open, carries them up and drops them. Only in thunderstorms, only from May to September. Under a roof you are safe. Silver works.
2 to 3	Addendum 2009: for decades the state hail defence has been firing rockets with silver iodide into the storm clouds. Wherever they fly, every attack ends within minutes; in the countryside there have been hardly any deaths since the seventies. On a sighting, request a barrage through the contact at the weather service. The dead at the bridge have no connection with this.
4 or more	Operation report of 19 June 2014: barrage requested. Two agents secure the riverside road, one observes from the footpath of the bridge. He is missing. Finding: fall in severe weather on a wet surface. Attached, a list from the hail station near Futog with all firing times from 2006 to 2013. Seven lines are ticked by hand. No initials, no comment.

What Is True

The Feathered One is older than the dykes of the Vojvodina. He lives in thunderstorms, travels up the Danube with them and hunts whatever stands in the open under the hail: calves, herdsmen, harvest workers. He seizes, climbs a few hundred metres and lets go, the way a bearded vulture drops bones onto rocks. A day or two later he comes back and feeds without landing. The police find a dead person with broken bones that foxes have been at.

He never touches the ground. Between two storms he rests on the highest point above the water. In Novi Sad that was for a long time the clock tower of the Petrovaradin Fortress; since Liberty Bridge has existed, it has been the tip of one of its pylons. He defends this place. Whoever walks beneath him while he is agitated, he tears from the footpath and throws over the railing. The Danube carries them to Sremski Karlovci.

Silver iodide burns in his plumage. The hail defence rockets do not drive him away, they drive him out of the cloud, and out of the cloud he goes to his place, wounded and furious. Since the bridge was reopened in 2005, 23 dead from it have been in the police files. Eleven of them died less than an hour after a barrage within a radius of 20 km. The Registry has both lists, and only someone without initials has laid them side by side. The rockets save the herdsmen and pay with those who cross the bridge at night.

When it hailed, the farmers in the Banat laid an axe in the yard with the blade pointing up. Where an iron blade points at the sky, he does not land. The file knows nothing of this.

The case in July 2026: Stevan Marinković, 67, has been firing for the hail station near Futog since 1991. He keeps his own notebook on every rocket, and for years he has read the local news afterwards. On 27 July at 22:10 he fires nine rockets into a cell moving towards the city. At around 22:30 the photographer Milica Radulović, 38, exposes the sky above the bridge from the quay for thirty seconds. In her picture something with wings is crouching on the pylon, and below it a cyclist rides past, smeared into a streak. The student Nemanja Ilić, 24, has been missing since. Marinković took his notebook to the police. They sent him home.

Every solution hits someone else: winegrowers and herdsmen, commuters, tourists or the cell itself. **Stopping the firing** gives the vineyards of the Fruška Gora back to the hail and the Feathered One back to the fields. **Closing the bridge** for an hour after every barrage needs a telephone chain to the police and shuts one of the city's main arteries. **Iron on the pylon** drives him to the next bridge or back to the clock tower, where tourists stand. **Killing** works best when he is wounded: on the tip of a pylon, in a thunderstorm, with silver. That means ordering the rockets yourself.

Wrong in the File: He is not an eagle, and the dead at the bridge are not all suicides. A roof protects only against the hunt, not against his place. What is deadly is the addendum of 2009: the hail defence does not drive him away, it sends him wounded to his place, and the place is the bridge. Whoever requests a barrage orders him there.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Talons 4 + 4, damage 4. On a hit with a margin of 2 he holds the target; tearing free takes STR + Athletics against 4 + 4. Whoever is still held is carried 20 m up in the next round and dropped: 10 damage, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (feathers like horn) / 14
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for anyone he carries up, even if he drops them again
Special	Flies. In the storm cloud he cannot be targeted; attacks suffer −3 dice, except in the round after a lightning flash. Never touches the ground. After a rocket barrage he has 4 HP fewer and for one hour attacks anyone who comes closer than 30 m to his place, with two actions per round
Weakness	Silver deals double damage, silver iodide in the cloud 1 damage per round. Where an iron blade points upwards, he does not land, within a radius of 10 m
Behaviour	In thunderstorms hunts whatever stands in the open, drops it from a great height and feeds on it later. Between storms he defends his place above the water

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Young One (Vidin, 2014)	Wingspan 3 m, on the New Europe Bridge between Vidin and Calafat since it opened in 2013. Talons 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, armour 2, HP 9. Carries only 10 m up. In August 2014 a Romanian lorry driver got out for a smoke in the tailback before the border, was lifted up and dropped beside his lorry. With two broken legs, he tells it to anyone who will listen.
The Pylon Bird (Iron Gates, 1985)	An old Feathered One that rested on the minaret of Ada Kaleh until the island sank into the reservoir. Since then he has crouched on the pylons of the high-voltage line above the water. Stats as above, HP 16. Electricity does not bother him; whoever shoots at him on the pylon easily hits the line. In 1985 the lineman Zoran Petrović from Kladovo climbed up for a repair. His colleagues found only his helmet on the crossarm.

Cover-Up

The police in Novi Sad list the dead from the bridge as suicides; forensic medicine finds fall injuries consistent with a jump. The dead in the fields count as lightning victims. A contact at the news site buys the photographer's picture, and an ornithologist explains it there as a wet white-tailed eagle.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Stevan Marinković wants to show his notebook to someone who can read lists. Thunderstorms are forecast for Friday.
2	The news site printed the photo after all. Since then, young people with phones have been standing on the bridge every stormy evening.
3	The city is having the stay cables inspected, at night and in all weather. The scaffolding reaches up to the tip of the pylon.
4	Following the old custom, a farmer in Syrmia lays an axe in his yard. His neighbour has none, and in the neighbour's maize field lies a harvest worker.
5	Because of a rocket shortage, the hail defence stays silent this summer. From the fields near Futog two calves and a herdsman are missing.
6	Red File for Novi Sad. The orders follow the addendum of 2009: at the next storm cell, request a barrage and observe the pylon from the footpath of the bridge.

The Fox Woman

"The file said the old woman was the fox. The old woman could barely hold a spoon. The daughter held the door open for me and sniffed at my neck as she did."

Tusche, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0533

Origin and Family	The Old, Shapeshifters
Form	Being. A vixen who for centuries has been able to be a woman. Registered in Hong Kong since 1962 as Wu Yuk-lan
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a dog puts its tail between its legs in front of a woman. Disturbing (2) when she goes down on all fours
File Colour	Grey since 1964. Red as soon as the old woman dies
Frequency	Rare. Five known fox spirits, all with Chinese families
Mind	Human. Older and more patient than any human
Regions	East Asia. Hong Kong, the housing estates of Wong Tai Sin in Kowloon. Related cases in Macau and Liverpool
First Sighting	9 July 1964, Wong Tai Sin. Report by a mission doctor to the Medical and Health Department: a girl of two has never been ill, in a block with eleven cases of tuberculosis. The mother lets no doctor listen to her chest
Last Confirmed Sighting	27 August 2026, Wong Tai Sin. Surveillance camera of a housing block: a large vixen carries a dead dog up the stairs. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A security guard bitten in August 2026

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Jasmine oil in the old woman's hair. In the daughter's stairwell, a sharp musk.
Sound	At night on the open-air walkways, light steps on four feet. Towards morning, a hoarse barking.
Temperature	The daughter's hands are hot as in a fever, though she has not had one since 1962.
Light	On moonlit nights a figure on the roof breathes up towards the moon. In flash photos the daughter's eyes glow green, the mother's do not.
Readings	Nothing measurable. Salt the daughter touches turns grey. With a stethoscope you can hear something rolling like a marble beneath her heart.
Animals	Dogs have barked at the old woman since 1962. Since this spring they shrink back from the daughter with their tails between their legs.
Devices	At night the facial recognition at the entrance reports the daughter as unknown.
Traces and Residue	Red hairs on the pillow of the daughter, whose hair is grey. Dead dogs on the roof, bitten in the neck. In the mother's handbag a photo from 1962: a young woman with an infant in front of the border hills. On the negative the woman is a fox.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A fox spirit from the Chinese ghost stories: a beautiful woman who seduces men and sucks out their life force. Male agents are never to go to her alone.
1	Shapeshifter. A vixen who takes on human form after centuries of practice. Such vixens like to call themselves Wu, Hu in Mandarin, which sounds the same as the word for fox. Salt, iron and silver work. They keep their word and forget no wrong.
2 to 3	Wu Yuk-lan, who came across the border in May 1962 with an infant. The daughter Ka-yee is a human child on whom the vixen feeds: hence the child's heat and the nights on the roof. Protocol Weaning, as of 1967: separate child and vixen. After nine days in the children's home the child fell seriously ill and went back. Assessment: dependency. Separation only once the vixen is weakened.
4 or more	File memo of 20 August 2026: Wu Yuk-lan is in a care home after a stroke, weaker than ever. The daughter shows signs of possession. Recommendation: carry out Protocol Weaning now, for good, with silver, in her sleep. Below it, without initials: "Who actually made whom ill in 1967?"

What Is True

The vixen is the more harmless of the two women.

Wu Yuk-lan has practised being a human for over five hundred years. Old Chinese writings say that at fifty years a fox can become a woman, at a thousand it is joined with Heaven. What it gathers over the years it carries as a pearl in its breast. The pearl is its life and its knowledge.

In May 1962, after the famine years, Yuk-lan came over the hills near Lok Ma Chau into Hong Kong with tens of thousands of others. On the slope lay a dead woman, on her breast an infant that was barely breathing. Yuk-lan put her mouth on the child's and gave it the pearl. The child lived. She named her Ka-yee, raised her in Wong Tai Sin and worked in a wig factory. Without the pearl she ages like a human.

A pearl of five hundred years wants to become a fox. Every moonlit night Yuk-lan carried the child onto the roof and breathed with her towards the moon. That kept the pearl calm. The file interpreted this as feeding. In 1967 O.D.I.N. took the child from her. After nine nights without her, Ka-yee grew red fur on the nape of her neck.

Ka-yee is 64 today, a retired teacher, two sons, three grandchildren. She does not know what she carries. Since her mother's stroke in March, nobody has breathed with her. Since May she has been going out onto the roofs at night. She has killed nine dogs and in August bit a security guard who cornered her. By day she remembers dreams of the moon.

Two lives hang on the pearl, and it is enough for only one. **Taking it back:** Yuk-lan can retrieve the pearl, mouth to mouth. Then she is once more a vixen of five hundred years, and Ka-yee dies that same night. Yuk-lan does not want this. **Teaching:** the mother can teach the daughter to breathe with the moon herself, if someone carries the mother onto the roof every night and Ka-yee learns what she is. That takes years, and Yuk-lan has perhaps months. Until then someone must hold Ka-yee every night, and she is stronger than anyone in the block. **The protocol:** if Yuk-lan dies, the pearl listens to no one any more. Within a few nights Ka-yee is entirely a vixen, with five hundred years of strength and not a single year of practice, in a city of over seven million.

Wrong in the File: She seduces no one and takes no one's strength. It is not the vixen who feeds on the child; the child lives off her. In 1967 it was the separation that made the child ill. The recommendation of 2026 is dangerous: whoever kills the mother does not free the daughter; they turn her into a vixen without a teacher. The file describes the wrong woman.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	6
Attack	Bite 4 + 4, damage 4. Or Foxfire: 4 + 4 against WIL + Mental Resistance of everyone within 10 m; whoever loses follows a green light for one round, wherever she wants
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (thick fur) / 13
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a dog puts its tail between its legs in front of her. Disturbing (2) when a woman in a cardigan goes down on all fours and her face grows pointed

Value	Details
Special	Stats of the daughter in fox form, at night. Changes shape as an action and leaps over 4 m from walkway to walkway. By day she is Ka-yee: no attack, HP 7, she knows nothing. The mother has no attack and HP 3. Only she can take back the pearl
Weakness	Salt, iron, silver. Her name: if the mother calls her by her human name, she is Ka-yee again for the rest of the night. From anyone else, the call must succeed with CHA + Persuasion against Very Hard (4)
Behaviour	Hunts on roofs and walkways, dogs first, soon more. Avoids groups, corners individuals. Returns home before morning. She still obeys her mother

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Fox in the Kitchen Shrine (Liverpool, 1988)	A house fox that families from northern China venerate as an immortal. He never shows himself and wants an egg and rice wine every evening. Professional, no attack, defence 2, armour 2, HP 9. When offended he sets fires. In 1988 the owner's son threw the shrine in the bin. That same night the kitchen burned out. The fox moved into the takeaway next door.
The Vixen with the Skull (Macau, 1971)	Young, barely fifty years of practice. At night she puts a skull on her head and asks individuals: "Do I look like a human?" Whoever says yes gives her their face. Whoever says no destroys her practice and has made an enemy. Professional, Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, armour 2, HP 9. In 1971 a croupier said yes. Since then a young man with his face has worked in the casinos.

Cover-Up

The agriculture and conservation department records the dead dogs as victims of stray packs. According to the incident report, the security guard was bitten by a dog. The camera recordings were lost through a hard disk failure, except for one still.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The care home rings Ka-yee: her mother wants to go up on the roof, and tonight is the full moon. Red File.
2	Ka-yee's grandson, nine, tells people at school that his grandmother runs along the railing at night.
3	The cell receives silver and the recommendation of 20 August. Tusche, who knows the file, asks for a word in private.
4	A photo dealer in Mong Kok enlarges negatives for an exhibition about 1962. On one of them a fox carries an infant.
5	A takeaway in Liverpool is being sold. The new tenant wants to tear out the little altar behind the counter.
6	A croupier of 76 sees his own face from 1971 on television, at a gaming table in Macau.

The Hungering One of the North

"We didn't leave anyone alone. Not for a minute. That's what the file demands."

Schneeschuh, Senior Agent, Tactical Branch

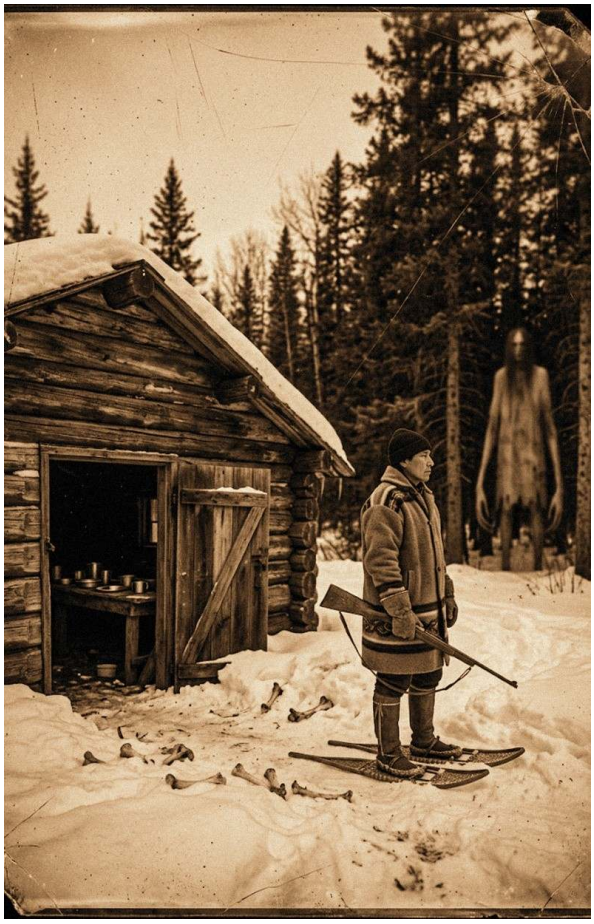
REGISTRY

REG-A-0521

Origin and Family	The Old, Forest Beings
Form	Being. First a person who is never full, then what grows out of them
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) while he sits at the table. Horrifying (3) when he stands upright between the spruces
File Colour	Red since February 2026. Previously Grey, a case for starvation winters, "which no longer exist"
Frequency	Rare. Four cases since 1927
Mind	Human. He speaks with the voice of the one he grows in, and he lies well
Regions	North America. The boreal forest in the north of Ontario and Quebec: logging camps, mines and exploration camps beyond the winter roads
First Sighting	2 April 1927, Chapleau, Ontario. Report by a provincial police constable: from logging camp No. 6 on the upper Missinaibi, nine of 31 men come back
Last Confirmed Sighting	26 February 2026, exploration camp North Ridge, 150 km beyond the end of the road at Pickle Lake. Satellite phone call from a paramedic: a man has grown 13 cm in three weeks
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, February 1978, northern Quebec. According to the report, breach of protocol

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the forest, where no fire is burning, it smells of bacon. The host's breath smells sweetish of acetone, like that of someone starving.
Sound	At night, behind a locked door, chewing, long and steady. In the forest, a familiar voice calling people to eat.
Temperature	The host burns, 39 °C without infection. He sleeps with the window open and goes to the woodpile in his vest in February.
Light	In photos he looks thinner than in the mirror. His lips are narrow, as if he had chewed them off.
Readings	He grows a good half centimetre a day and loses weight, no matter how much he eats. Ketones in the urine as after weeks without food. The EMF detector stays silent, the scales do not.
Animals	Dogs eat nothing he has touched. Ravens sit only on the roof above his room.
Devices	The scales in the sick bay show less every morning. The stock list is correct, the stock on the shelf is not.
Traces and Residue	Gnawed dog bones, clean as if boiled. Barefoot prints in the snow, 40 cm long, 2 m stride, blood on the toes. Wrappers under his floorboards.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die; anyone who has spoken to Martha Linklater gets +2.

Result	What the File Says
0	An emaciated giant with antlers who howls in the blizzard and eats people. Silver bullets, then burn him. That is how he hangs as a drawing in the canteen in Montreal.
1	A forest being, in the stories of the Cree and the Anishinaabe a warning from starvation winters. The Registry does not write his name, at the request of the first witness. It enters people who have eaten human flesh, and takes loners: trappers, men alone in the forest.
2 to 3	Protocol Buddy Watch, since 1951: nobody alone, not to fetch wood, not to the latrine. Supplies under lock, a single key with the highest-ranking person. Check loners. Case 1951, Haute-Mauricie: a trapper who lived alone by the river, shot and burned, quiet afterwards. Case 1978: two agents lost because one went alone to the woodshed at night.
4 or more	Statement of Samuel Linklater, Chapleau, 2 April 1927, translated by a fur trader at the railway station: “He comes to the one who is alone.” Attached, a letter from 2009, sender Martha Linklater of Timmins, the witness’s granddaughter, forwarded by the provincial police: “My grandfather taught me that sentence differently. Please call me.” Stamp: no new sighting. File away.

What Is True

Linklater said the sentence correctly: He comes to the one who eats alone. The fur trader lost a word. Since 1951, O.D.I.N. has been watching the wrong people.

The Hungering One is as old as winter in the northern forest. He has no body until people go hungry together and one of them eats in secret. Through that person’s mouth he goes in. From then on every meal makes the person hungrier. He grows and wastes away. After about two weeks the camp is no longer enough for him. He eats the dogs, then a person. Whoever has eaten human flesh does not come back. He goes into the forest and from there lures the hungry with the smell of food.

The host thinks himself reasonable. He shares out the supplies fairly, in front of everyone, and eats alone at night, because he has to be strong for the others. The stories were right: he is a warning against the one who takes while others go hungry. Starvation winters still exist. A closed winter road is enough.

Winter 1926 into 1927: in January the supply sledge breaks through the ice. The foreman Aurèle Gauthier stores flour and salt meat in his cabin. In December he stopped paying the hunter Samuel Linklater, 34, from Moose Factory. In March Linklater comes back anyway, finds nine men who only dare go outside in pairs, and the foreman’s cabin empty. He leads them on snowshoes to the railway at Chapleau. Gauthier was never found.

The trapper of 1951 had nothing to do with any of it. The cook who held the key to the pantry died in June in Trois-Rivières of a perforated stomach. In 1978 an agent held the key. The other ran away from him at night.

The case in 2026: camp North Ridge, a gold exploration camp with 38 people. On 11 February a thaw closes the winter road, then storms keep every plane away for nine days. Camp manager Dale Kovach, 54, rations the food and carries the only key to the dry store. In three weeks he has grown from 1.81 m to 1.94 m. The driller’s helper Luc Paradis has been missing since 24 February. The file points to Rory Fitzgerald, 24, a geologist who sits alone in the core shed at night because he cannot stand the bunkhouse. Martha Linklater, 71, knows the correct sentence. She tells it to anyone who asks politely and does not write down the name of the being.

For Kovach any help may come too late. **Sharing:** All supplies openly on the table, every meal together, equal portions for all. That does not save the one he is already in. **Bringing back:** As long as the host has not eaten human flesh, he can turn back. He must share out everything hidden with his own hands and for three days eat last, only what is left over. Whether Kovach has eaten of Paradis, nobody knows, perhaps not even he. **Killing:** You kill a person. The hunger goes back into the forest and waits for the next one who eats alone.

Wrong in the File: He does not take loners, and human flesh is not the beginning but the end. What is dangerous is Protocol Buddy Watch: it turns every eye on the one who is alone and gives a single person the key to the pantry. That is the door.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Claws and teeth 5 + 5, damage 5. Or lure 5 + 5 against WIL + Mental Resistance of all the hungry within 200 m: whoever loses follows the smell into the forest and eats what they find there. Two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (skin like tanned leather) / 26
Horror	Uncanny (1) as a person at the table. Horrifying (3) in the forest, 2.5 m tall, without lips
Special	As a host in the camp: Brawling 3 + 3, damage 1, defence 2, no armour, one action. Every bite heals him as many HP as the damage he deals. Hungry means anyone who is battered or has had no full meal for two days. Bringing back: on three days WIL + Concentration against Hard (3), +1 die if someone goes hungry with him
Weakness	Iron and fire deal double damage, silver works like lead. Whoever openly holds out food to him and takes nothing themselves is not attacked by him that round
Behaviour	As a host, caring and popular. Shares out bread in front of everyone and eats alone. In the forest he lures individuals away, lets his table companions hunt and comes last himself

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Table Companion (Missinaibi, 1927)	Whoever ate in the forest what the Hungering One laid out. Henchman: axe 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5, Horror Disturbing (2). Mute and always hungry. If the Hungering One dies, they sleep for two days. Two of the survivors of 1927 had eaten. One bit a guard in Sudbury prison in 1931. The other never again ate while anyone was watching, until his death in 1970.
The Tall Widow (Dawson, Yukon, 1898)	In the gold rush winter, when flour ran short in Dawson, a boarding-house keeper hoarded flour in her cellar and sold it by the spoonful for gold dust. She ate alone and grew until she had to stoop under every lintel. Stats as above, HP 22, one action. In April she walked west across the frozen Yukon. The Registry found her in 1962 in the letters of a Mountie.

Cover-Up

In 1927 the constable wrote scurvy and men lost in the woods; the logging company paid each widow $200 and went bankrupt in 1929. In 2026 the gold company reports a norovirus outbreak to the Ontario Ministry of Health. Whoever is missing is presumed to have had a snowmobile accident, and the provincial police will search after the snowmelt.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The cell's plane lands on the ice. The camp manager ducks under the wing and offers sandwiches.
2	A geologist calls his mother by satellite. Everyone in the camp is looking at him as if he were it. He asks what "it" is supposed to be.
3	Martha Linklater writes a second letter, to an address in Stockholm that she should not know.
4	Under the floorboards of a hunting cabin in northern Quebec lie empty tins from 1978 and a service weapon with the safety off.
5	An Arctic station has been waiting twelve days for supplies. Since yesterday the stock list has had a password.
6	The cell itself is snowed in, with one crate of rations. According to the protocol, one of them has to take the key.

The Kappa

"I bowed, and he bowed. The water ran down his face, and he looked at me as if I'd forgiven him a debt."

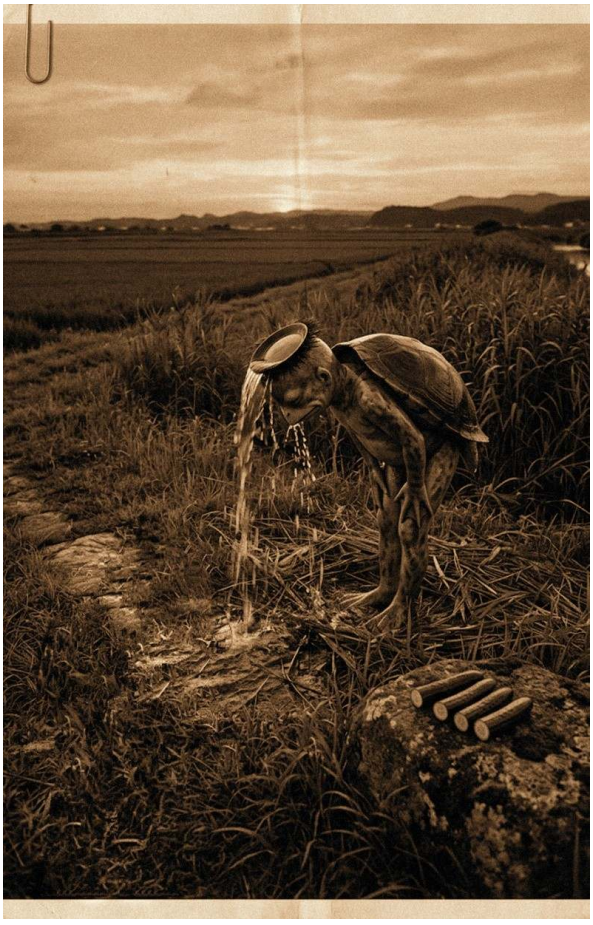
Löschblatt, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0569

Origin and Family	The Old, Yōkai
Form	Being
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he lays a drowned person on the bank and bows before them
File Colour	White since 1954. In basic training, the example of how politeness is enough with the Old
Frequency	Rare. According to the legends in every river in Japan; the Registry knows of three
Mind	Human. Speaks the Japanese of the 18th century and keeps every agreement literally
Regions	East Asia. Japan, the Kokai, a tributary of the Tone in the south of Ibaraki Prefecture, at the hamlet of Numabe
First Sighting	21 August 1954, dyke of the Kokai near Numabe. Report by a lone agent under cover as an ethnologist with a teaching post in Tokyo, with six photos
Last Confirmed Sighting	12 July 2026, phone video by a cyclist on the dyke, 300,000 views. Declared a mascot by the tourist office
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Three children from Numabe, summer 1955, listed as bathing accidents

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	River mud, carp and freshly cut cucumber. His sitting stone still smells of it an hour later.
Sound	A wet slapping like hands on a board. He clears his throat before he speaks, with the voice of a child.
Temperature	The water in the dish on his head is as warm as the river on an August day, even in January.
Light	The dish reflects the moon even under an overcast sky. In every photo it is the brightest point.
Readings	Nothing measurable. Salt scattered on the bank is green as duckweed in the morning.
Animals	Horses will not be watered on this bank. Dogs go as far as the dyke and no further.
Devices	Cameras record him in sharp focus. That is why nobody believes the pictures: he looks like a costume.
Traces and Residue	Webbed handprints on the stones of the bank. Cucumber ends, laid neatly in a row, the cut faces towards the river. On the dyke, a bare ring in the grass.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Invoker gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	"The cucumber goblin." A Japanese water spirit, half turtle, half monkey, the size of a child. Loves cucumbers and wrestling. Harmless. You bow, he bows back.
1	On his head he carries a dish of water, the source of his strength. He must return every bow. Whoever bows deeply makes the water spill, and he is helpless until he reaches the river. Tested in 1954, six photos in the archive. Drags people and horses into the water if provoked.
2 to 3	In early summer, Numabe writes the names of its children on the first cucumber and throws it into the Kokai so that he spares them. A custom without effect: in the summer of 1955 three children from Numabe drowned, and all three were on the cucumber. Recommendation of 1956: in the event of deaths, weaken the being by bowing and drive it off with iron; do not encourage the custom.
4 or more	Letter from a woman in Numabe to the ethnologist, spring 1956, translated in 1971, when his papers came to Stockholm: "The gentleman from Sweden poured out his promise. We filled it back up for him, with water from our well. Please don't send anyone else who bows." Registry stamp: "Folklore. Of no relevance."

What Is True

In the summer of 1783, the year of the great eruption of Asama, a Kappa tried to drag the horse of the farmer Hanawa Gonzō into the Kokai. The horse dragged him all the way into the stable. The Kappa lay in the straw, his dish empty, and begged for mercy. Gonzō filled his dish with water from his well and said: "You take nobody from Numabe whose name comes to you in the summer." The Kappa bowed so carefully that not a drop fell.

The water in the dish is not his strength but the promise. As long as it is in there, he keeps it. If it spills, he is weak for a few minutes. Then he crawls to the river, scoops up fresh water and is bound to nothing any more. Unbound, he does what kappa do: he drags down whoever goes into the water in summer and takes from them what the legend calls shirikodama. The drowned are light.

On 21 August 1954, Löschblatt bowed on the dyke and photographed the water running out. The following summer three children drowned, aged seven, nine and twelve. In the spring of 1956 Hanawa Kiku, 71, the bonesetter's widow, went to the river with a bucket from her well, bowed, and when the dish was empty she poured more in before he reached the bank. Since 1783 the Hanawa have set broken bones, with an ointment that smells of river mud.

Numabe has 38 inhabitants left, almost all over seventy. The Hanawa well is the last; the others were filled in when the water mains came. The tap water here comes largely from the Tone. It is river water. Since 2008 a commuter estate of 300 houses has stood on the old fields of Numabe. Since then Hanawa Setsuko, 84, Kiku's granddaughter, has also written down the children of the estate every June. She copies them from the notices of the after-school club, seven to a cucumber. In 2025 there were 131 names on 19 cucumbers. In May 2026 she had a fall and lies in hospital with a broken hip. In June no cucumber came. In July the Kappa sat on the dyke and looked towards the estate. He keeps his promise, and this summer nobody is in it.

The pact holds only as long as someone in Numabe remembers it. **Writing:** Someone takes over the cucumbers, every year, for every child, for good. Whoever forgets a name forgets a child. **Pouring:** Whoever bows and pours more in renews the pact with the words they speak while doing it. The Kappa keeps them literally, even the badly chosen ones. Only well water from Numabe counts, and the Hanawa well sinks by a hand's breadth every year. **Killing:** Iron and salt work. Then the Kokai is free for the next one, and the next one has promised nobody anything.

Wrong in the File: Bowing does not weaken him, it releases him. The water is his promise, not his strength. The cucumbers work. The children of 1955 were on one and died because the promise had been lying in the grass for a year. What is dangerous is what basic training teaches: whoever bows without well water in hand sets him free.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4, in the water 6
Attack	Wrestling 3 + 3, damage 3. In the water +2 dice; whoever is hit there loses their next action unless they succeed at CON + Endurance against Doable (2)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (shell) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he lays a drowned person on the bank and bows before them

Value	Details
Special	Must return every bow, deeper than whoever bows. If the water spills, he lies powerless for D6 minutes: no attack, defence 1. Then he crawls to the river, scoops water and is strong again, bound by no promise. Whoever pours well water from the village into his dish before that binds him anew
Weakness	Iron and salt deal double damage. A cucumber handed to him buys one round of peace. Energy weapons and EMP are of no use
Behaviour	Polite and vain. Challenges men on the dyke to wrestle, opposed STR + Brawling; whoever wins gets a little tin of ointment (+1 die on Medicine for broken bones). Bound, he takes nobody whose name has come to him. Unbound, he takes anyone who goes into the water in summer

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Supplicant (Leiden, 2019)	A dried Kappa arm, since 1826 in the lacquer box of a merchant family from the trading post of Dejima, auctioned in 2019. Since June there has been a knock at the buyer's house on a canal every night at 02:00. Outside, a one-armed figure bows and asks in old Japanese for his arm. Wrestling 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5. He leaves once he has the arm, and leaves an ointment behind.
The Mountain Boy (Kyūshū, 1997)	In autumn he moves into the mountains and lives there as a yamawaro; in spring he returns to the river. In winter he carries no dish, and bowing does him no harm. He carries logs for woodcutters in return for rice balls. Initiative 5, otherwise stats as above. In October 1997 a forestry cooperative cut the food for the mountain. In spring the new foreman lay in the stream, at a spot where the water came up only to his knee.

Cover-Up

The prefectural police closed the cases of 1955 as bathing accidents; afterwards the school banned bathing in the Kokai. A photo from 1954 appeared in a folklore journal, as a village photographer's prank. Since 2011 the town has had a Kappa as its mascot, and every sighting is the man in the costume.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	In hospital, Hanawa Setsuko asks a nurse to write names on cucumbers. Her grandson finds the business card of a Swede from 1954 in her drawer.
2	For the first Kappa festival on 16 August, the tourist office is planning a wading hour for children in the Kokai. The sign-up list has 64 names.
3	A well-building firm offers to fill in the last well in Numabe. Setsuko's son has signed.
4	The man in the mascot costume says someone challenged him to wrestle on the dyke and beat him three times. His broken finger healed overnight.
5	A dealer in Leiden offers O.D.I.N. a lacquer box. For seven years there has been a knock at his door every night at 02:00.
6	The Registry sends a cell to inspect the White File, with orders to repeat the bow and take new photos. They have water with them, in bottles from the hotel.

The Klabautermann

"At night he nailed my cap to the bunk, drank my schnapps and plugged the leak in the forepeak. In that order."

Werg, Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY

REG-A-0539

Origin and Family	The Old, House Spirits
Form	Being. A little man, barely knee-high, with a red beard, oilskins, pipe and caulking mallet. Invisible until he leaves the ship
Role	Henchman, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) when there is knocking in the hull at night. Disturbing (2) when he sits on the rail with his seabag
File Colour	White. A training case for cadets since 1955
Frequency	Common wherever old wooden ships sail. Twelve closed cases since 1954
Mind	Human, with the temper of an old bosun
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Port of Hamburg and the lower Elbe, the German and Dutch North Sea coast, the western Baltic
First Sighting	3 November 1954, Hamburg. Letter from a skipper's wife to the seamen's mission in Altona: "A Klabautermann lives on the Tine Rüter. He drinks my husband's schnapps and hides the boy's exercise books in the chain locker. What helps?"
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 September 2026, Landungsbrücken. Phone video by a tourist on the harbour launch Emma Pahl: a small man sits on the rail with a seabag and looks into the camera. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Cheap shag from a pipe that nobody is smoking. Pine tar and fresh oakum in the bilge.
Sound	At night there is knocking in the hull, three times, pause, three times, as in caulking. With it a grumbling in Low German, mostly curses.
Temperature	The galley is warm in the morning, although the stove was out. A remnant of porridge sticks to the pot.
Light	Under the floorboards at night a light glimmers, as if from a small paraffin lamp.
Readings	The bilge pump never starts. Given its age and timber, the ship ought to leak like a sieve. No water comes in. The detectors show as little as the pump.
Animals	There are no rats on board, not one.
Devices	Tools disappear and are back in their place the next morning, freshly sharpened.
Traces and Residue	Wooden plugs in seams that were still leaking yesterday. Tiny footprints in the flour. Empty schnapps bottles, neatly in a crate. Passengers' caps on the flagstaff in the morning.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Sailors' yarn. Whoever sees the Klabautermann will see his ship go down. Old sailors still believe it today.
1	A house spirit of seafaring. Small, cheeky, harmless. He knocks, drinks, hides things and sometimes mends something. In the evening he wants a bowl of porridge with butter, and no thanks. He lives only in wood. Salt and iron do not work; he has always lived among them.
2 to 3	Protocol Discharge, as of 1955: lay a child's jacket or child's boots on the hatch, without a word. He feels paid off and leaves the ship within three days. Twelve applications since 1954, all successful, an assignment for cadets. Follow-up: eight of the twelve ships were scrapped or lost within a year. Assessment: ships of that age.
4 or more	Carbon copy of a list from the Hamburg maritime board: Tine Rüter, motor ewer, built 1908, sank off Heligoland on 3 February 1955, leak in the forepeak, four dead. Beside it, the card of the first case, discharge on 8 November 1954. Stamp: "Noted. No connection."

What Is True

The Klabautermann holds his ship together. Every night he goes through the hull with the caulking mallet and drives oakum into the seams that want to open. He lives only on ships that need him: old, wooden, long since tired. You see him only when he leaves the ship, and without him such a ship does not last long. That is why sailors say that whoever sees him will see his ship go down. They are right. The file calls it a yarn.

He leaves for two reasons: when the ship can no longer be held together, and when he is paid. An item of clothing is wages, and that holds for all house spirits, from the Heinzelmännchen to the English hob. Whoever has his wages signs off. The Registry made a protocol out of it and drove off a nuisance spirit twelve times. Eight of the ships were gone within a year, three of them with their crews. Seventeen sailors are dead.

The Tine Rüter was a motor ewer of oak and carried gravel and grain between the Elbe and the North Sea. Skipper Harm Rüter sailed with a mate, a deckhand and a ship's boy. His wife Grete and their son Hein, ten, lived on board and stayed ashore in winter. The Klabautermann drank the schnapps, hid the boy's exercise books and knocked all night long. Grete wrote to the seamen's mission, and the pastor knew what to do. On 8 November 1954 Hein laid his old boots on the hatch. In February the Tine Rüter sank with four men.

The Klabautermann left the ship in Hamburg and signed on the next day on the harbour launch Emma Pahl, oak, built 1929. Today she is 97 years old and runs harbour tours, eight a day, up to sixty passengers. The ship safety division of the BG Verkehr passes her every spring without defects.

Ole Pahl, 61, knows who is on board and puts out the porridge in the evening as his grandfather did. His daughter Swantje, 29, reads the reviews: caps on the flagstaff, vanished cinnamon pastries, a child who claims to have seen a dwarf. Without asking her father, she reported a poltergeist to a number a regular passenger gave her. On 19 September a cadet came with a White File. On the 20th a yellow oilskin jacket in a child's size lay on the stern bench. Since the 21st the Klabautermann has been sitting on the rail with his seabag. He is hesitating. None of them has ever done that before. Without him the Emma Pahl will not last a week.

He wants a ship that needs him, and there is more than one in the port of Hamburg. **Signing on again:** The oilskin goes ashore, and with it porridge with butter, a schnapps and the skipper's word that the Emma Pahl will not be sold as long as he is on board. Ole gladly gives his word. Swantje wants to sell, and he hears who on board means what. If it works, the Emma Pahl sails on, with sixty passengers, until one day he leaves after all. **Taking her out of service:** No more passengers, he leaves, the Emma Pahl sinks at her berth. The Pahls lose everything they have. He signs on to the next old wooden ship in the harbour, the cutter of a pensioner who goes out with his grandchildren on Sundays. **A new ship:** He is invited onto a sound wooden ship, with porridge and a skipper's word. O.D.I.N. would have to provide ship and skipper, for decades. One day this ship too will be old.

Wrong in the File: Whoever sees him will see his ship go down. That is no yarn. He does not mend things sometimes, he holds the ship together every night. It was not their age that finished the eight ships, but the protocol. What is dangerous is Protocol Discharge itself: it does not drive off a nuisance spirit, it takes the last carpenter from a tired ship.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Caulking mallet 2 + 2, damage 2
Defence / Armour / HP	2 (small and nimble) / 0 / 5
Horror	Uncanny (1) when knocking. Disturbing (2) when he sits on the rail with his seabag and everyone knows what that means
Special	Invisible, except when signing off. Every night he seals a leak that would otherwise cost the ship. On board he knows every plank: whoever attacks him there suffers −1 die, because a line is suddenly lying in their way. If he accepts wages, he leaves within three days. Without him an old ship lasts weeks to months, the Emma Pahl after 72 years only D6 days
Weakness	Clothing as wages: he has to sign off. Salt and iron do not work. Porridge, schnapps and a skipper's honest word keep him
Behaviour	Cheeky, touchy, industrious. For anyone who strikes or insults him, he mends nothing more: from the next night the ship leaks

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Cutter Klabauter (Büsum, 1971)	On a wooden shrimp cutter from 1936. In October 1971 the fisherman's son, seven, out of kindness put out for him the rubber boots he had outgrown. In December the cutter did not come back from fishing; father and deckhand drowned. Stats as above. The Registry only learned of it in 1998, from a letter from the son.
The Knocker on the Tug (Emden, since 2009)	When his wooden cutter was scrapped, he moved onto a steel harbour tug, because no wooden ship was left. He cannot seal steel. He knocks three times on the spot that will crack next. No attack, HP 4. The crew have learned to listen: in 2016 the shipyard found a crack in the frame at exactly that spot. He has turned grey and grows smaller every year.

Cover-Up

In the rulings of the maritime boards the sinkings stand as leak, heavy seas or overloading, and each time that is true. The phone video ran online for two days as a cute harbour goblin. Then an advertising agency owned by O.D.I.N. bought the rights.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The oilskin jacket has been lying on the stern bench since Sunday. Tomorrow the Emma Pahl sails eight times; the first tour at 10:00 is fully booked.
2	Hein Rüter, 82, sees the video of the harbour goblin. He wants to tell him something he could not say in 1954.
3	The cadet who carried out the protocol reports success and asks for the next White File.
4	The inspector from the BG Verkehr calls an old university friend: he looked into the seams of the Emma Pahl and cannot explain it.
5	Overnight an old wooden tall ship moors beside the Emma Pahl, a school class on board. At 03:00 there is knocking in her hull.
6	In Emden there is knocking in the tug at a new spot, and tomorrow the tug is to warp a tanker.

The Lindworm in the Tunnel

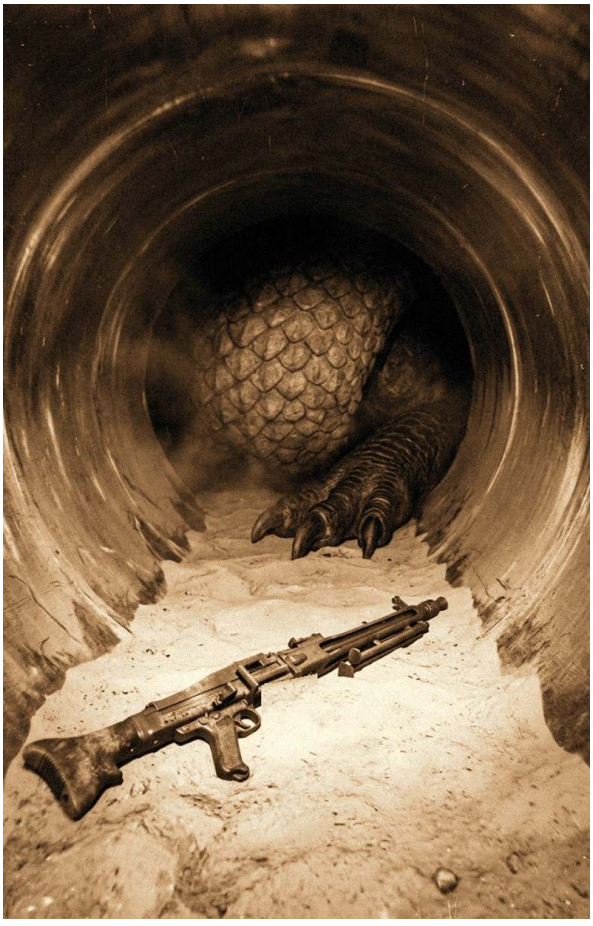
"We had two machine guns and six thousand rounds. Every bullet that hit, he kept. He only went when I'd thrown the belt away."
Fäustel, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY — REG-A-0557

Origin and Family	The Old, Lindworms and Giants
Form	Being
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Horrifying (3)
File Colour	Black since 1987. Since the mine was closed in 1993, he has been considered asleep
Frequency	Unique. The legends of Carinthia know a lindworm in almost every valley; the Registry knows this one
Mind	Animal, but old and patient
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Carinthia, the Bleiberg high valley below the Dobratsch, west of Villach
First Sighting	17 February 1936, an abandoned tunnel in the Kreuth district. Report from the Bleiberg gendarmerie post to the mining authority in Klagenfurt: three unemployed miners dead while illegally picking ore, the fourth "talks about a worm". Copy in the Registry since 1951
Last Confirmed Sighting	29 August 2026, seismogram from the earthquake service: a swarm of tiny tremors beneath the high valley, moving since March
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents (14 October 1987), left in the mine. Outsiders: five miners, 1936 and 1951

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Rotten eggs, so strong in the lower drifts that the gas detector goes off. Whoever breathes in his passages for long has a sweet taste on the tongue.
Sound	A grinding as of millstones, felt in the soles of the feet more than heard. In the houses of the valley, the glasses in the cupboard clink at night.
Temperature	In his passages it is as warm as in a stable, over 20 °C, where the mountain is otherwise 8 °C.
Light	In lamplight the walls of his passages shine grey like metal, as if someone had polished them with pencil lead.
Readings	Seismometers show swarms of tiny tremors that move slowly. Where he has been, the lead content in the spring water rises. Salt scattered in his passages turns black.
Animals	Dogs refuse every tunnel entrance in the valley. Hunting dogs whine when their master walks past a spoil heap with a full cartridge bag.
Devices	Electronics do not malfunction; they only measure what is there. Gas detectors go off; metal detectors in his passages beep without pause.
Traces and Residue	Round passages in the ore, 2 m wide, smooth as a pipe. The galena is gone; the zinc blende lies as sand on the floor. In the cemetery, sunken graves, in the coffins wood and clothes, but no bones.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Engineer gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die; underground there is no signal.

Result	What the File Says
0	The Lindworm of Klagenfurt was a woolly rhinoceros; its skull lay in a gravel pit. The one in Bleiberg is firedamp and superstition. The file is Black so that nobody claims a holiday on the Dobratsch as an operation.
1	A lindworm of Carinthian legend, 20 to 30 m long, two forelegs, no wings. Lives in the mountain, eats ore, smells of sulphur. Blasting and noise wake him. He has been asleep since the closure in 1993. Iron and silver work. Do not enter the old mines.
2 to 3	Operation report of October 1987, extract: strike with two machine guns and assault rifles, around 6,000 rounds, numerous hits, no discernible effect, presumably armour of ore. Two losses. Recommendation for any further strike: heavy weapons and considerably more ammunition, no explosive charges, so as not to wake him.
4 or more	Statement of the survivor, 1987: “He only went when I threw the belt away.” Note: panic reaction, belt empty. Attached, a slip with three dates, 1998, 2009 and 2025: sunken graves in the Bleiberg cemetery, all of miners. Behind it in pencil: “Subsidence. Referred to the mining authority.”

What Is True

The Lindworm is older than mining in the valley, and mining there is many centuries old. He is as long as a railway carriage, as thick as a tunnel, with two short forelegs whose claws go through rock like picks. He eats galena. He breathes out the sulphur, which is why his passages stink like the preachers’ hell. The lead he keeps. His scales are grey and heavy as solder.

He does not hear noise. He senses lead, in ore, in water and in people, over 200 m through rock. The miners of 1936, and the two of 1951, had ore in their sacks. The men who swallowed dust here all their lives carry lead in their bones, into the grave. And every ordinary cartridge has a lead core. Whatever hits him melts into his scales and heals him. The strike of 1987 was a feast. The two dead carried the ammunition boxes. Fäustel is alive because he threw away the empty belt and the worm followed the belt.

He has never slept. Since 1993 no ore has been mined and no lead moved, and he is looking for what is left. The chronicles attribute the Dobratsch landslide of 1348 to an earthquake. The legend in the valley says the worm turned over.

The case in autumn 2026: since March a swarm of tiny tremors has been moving beneath the high valley, on average 12 m a day, towards the cemetery. In August the gravedigger Hannes Schnabl, 58, filled in the fourth sunken grave, that of his grandfather, a hewer from 1931 to 1967. He saw the coffin and has told nobody. Behind the cemetery, 400 m further on, lies the hunting club’s shooting range, with forty years of lead in the backstop. On 10 October the autumn shoot takes place there, with thirty marksmen and their dogs.

Everything that helps turns on lead. **Fighting lead-free:** Silver and iron do him double damage; copper hunting ammunition works normally. But everyone in the cell must be free of lead, including the vehicle at the adit with its battery, and the fight takes place in his passages, in sulphur gas, against 30 HP. **Baiting him as in Klagenfurt:** The legend tied a bull with barbed hooks to an iron chain. A lead bait on a chain with hooks holds him fast. But someone has to carry the bait down, and until they put it down, nobody in the mountain smells more strongly of lead. **Feeding him:** A few tonnes of lead into an old shaft, and he eats and rests for decades. The lead ends up in the groundwater of a spa town. **Doing nothing** means giving up the cemetery and warning thirty marksmen on 10 October without saying of what.

Wrong in the File: He is not asleep, and noise means nothing to him. He has no armour of ore; he ate what was fired at him. Explosive charges would have worked. The graves are not subsidence. What is deadly is the recommendation of 1987: more ammunition makes him stronger, and whoever carries the most cartridges is his first target.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Bite 5 + 5, damage 5, or claws 5 + 5, damage 5, Penetration 1. Two actions per round. In narrow passages his body crushes everyone in front of him against the rock: 5 + 5, damage 4, Area 3
Defence / Armour / HP	2 (large, in the passage) / 4 (scales like solder) / 30
Horror	Horrifying (3)

Value	Details
Special	Lead heals him: hits with lead ammunition, including full metal jacket, deal no damage and give him back 1 HP. He senses lead over 200 m through rock and always attacks first whoever carries the most of it. His passages are filled with hydrogen sulphide: without breathing protection, 1 damage per minute after ten minutes
Weakness	Iron and silver deal double damage: picks, chains, steel shot, silver ammunition. Lead-free copper ammunition and explosive charges work normally. Hooked to an iron chain with barbs, he has defence 1 and only one action for three rounds
Behaviour	Follows the lead. Eats ore where there is any, and bones with lead in them. Fights as long as he senses lead. Whoever throws away all their lead is of no interest to him

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Quicksilver Worm (Idrija, 1963)	Smaller, a good 8 m, in the mercury mine of Idrija in Slovenia. Eats cinnabar, heals on mercury, senses it in thermometers and in the trembling hands of old miners. Bite 4 + 4, damage 4, defence 3, armour 3, HP 14. In 1963 the hewer Janez Kobal, 52, took a thermometer from the laboratory into an old drift to measure the warmth there that nobody could explain. The thermometer was found empty and clean, the glass unbroken.
The Backstop Worm (Styria, 2009)	A young worm, 4 m, that has dug itself into the earth bank behind the targets of an Austrian Army firing range. It lives on the bullets in the bank and has no reason to attack anyone, except someone who digs lead out of the backstop at night. Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, armour 2, HP 10. Heals on lead like the big one. In 2009 a sentry reported that the backstop had "breathed". The bank was removed. The worm was already gone.

Cover-Up

Sunken graves count as crown holes above old mine workings, of which there are hundreds in the valley; the mining authority has them filled in. The earthquake service explains the tremor swarm as settling in the flooded mine. In 1987, officially, two geologists from Germany suffocated in hydrogen sulphide during an inspection, and their bodies were not recovered "because of the danger of gas".

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Hannes Schnabl calls the number a stranger gave him in 1998. "He's under the chapel now," he says, "and there's a funeral tomorrow."
2	The hunting club sends out invitations to the autumn shoot on 10 October. The cell is registered as guests, with weapons on loan from the club.
3	A Canadian mining company is taking samples from the old spoil heaps. Its drilling crew has broken into a drift that is round as a pipe.
4	Fäustel, 69, has driven to Bleiberg, alone, with a shotgun and a box of steel shot. His daughter found only his note.
5	A scrap metal dealer in Villach reports the theft of 300 car batteries. The lorry's tracks end at a sealed adit.
6	The operation order follows the recommendation of 1987: one machine gun, 8,000 rounds, no explosive charges. Lead-free ammunition is not on the list.

La Llorona

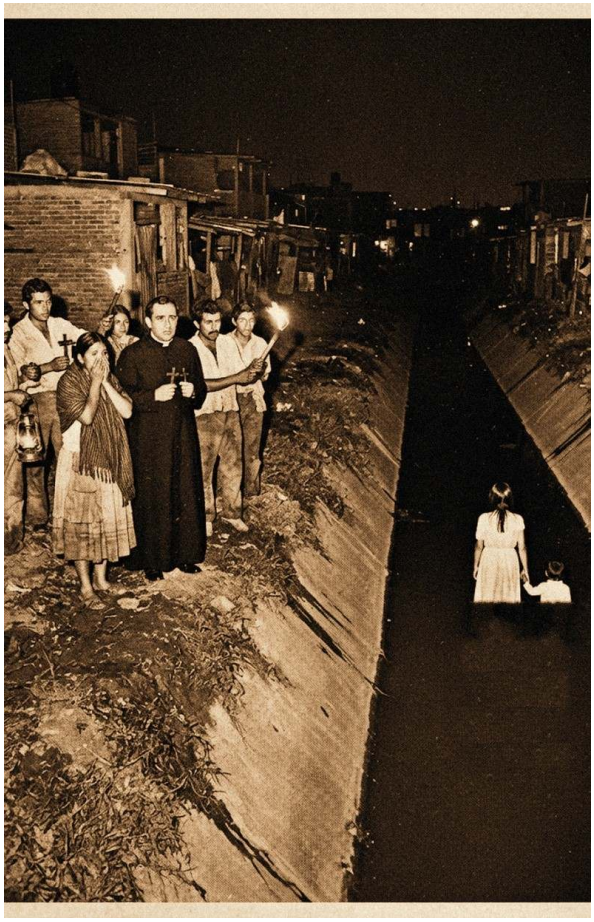
"We told the mothers to stop calling. It got very quiet in the streets along the canal. We thought that was a success."
Rinnstein, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG–A–0575

Origin and Family	The Old, World Legends
Form	Being (listed among the Dead as an Apparition until 1977)
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you hear her weeping. Disturbing (2) when she holds a child by the hand and turns round
File Colour	Grey. Dormant since 1978, note "Leaflet effective"
Frequency	Rare. The legend knows her by every body of water in Mexico
Mind	Human. She asks children only one thing: "¿Eres mío?" Are you mine?
Regions	Latin America. The east of the Valley of Mexico, on the dry bed of the old lakes: Nezahualcóyotl on Lake Texcoco, Valle de Chalco on Lake Chalco, along the open canals
First Sighting	9 March 1973, Nezahualcóyotl. Letter from a doctor at the health post to a colleague in Stockholm: in two years eleven children from her records had not come home; the mothers spoke of the Llorona
Last Confirmed Sighting	22 October 2025, Valle de Chalco. Voice message from a nine-year-old boy to his mother, a weeping woman in the background
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. The file counts 19 children up to 1977

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Saltpetre from the old lake bed and wet reeds, which have not grown here for decades.
Sound	A soft weeping, always the same distance away, wherever you go. In it, words in an old Spanish.
Temperature	Near her the air is damp as over a lake. Glasses steam up, even in the dry season.
Light	The canal does not reflect her but open water to the horizon.
Readings	Detectors at the canal measure nothing. Salt scattered on the bank grows wet and dissolves.
Animals	Dogs do not go to the bank; they lie across the front doors. At night herons stand in the sewage water, where there are never herons.
Devices	Phones record her weeping, not her. On recordings the weeping sounds closer than it was.
Traces and Residue	In the mud of the bank, the prints of a woman's bare feet and beside them small shoes. Both lead into the water. No track comes back.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Paranormal Detective gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	"The Weeping Woman." A ghost, a mother who drowned her children and calls for them by every body of water in Mexico. To be classed with the Dead, so salt, light and an ending for what was left open. Whoever hears her dies within a week.
1	Not a ghost but the Old. A chronicle from the 16th century already tells of a woman who wandered weeping through the city in the lake at night: "My children, where shall I take you?" She takes other people's children with her to the water. If you hear her far away, she is near. She does nothing to adults.
2 to 3	Nezahualcóyotl, 1971 to 1977: 19 children, last seen by the canal. In every case the mother called for the child at nightfall. Conclusion: the calling lures her. Leaflet 1977, distributed through the parish: after sunset call no child by name, fetch them quietly. No report since 1978. File dormant.
4 or more	Letter from the parish priest, October 1979, enclosing a list of 26 first names: "No fewer are disappearing. It is only that nobody calls for them any more, and whoever is not called is not missed." Attached, a slip: "No report from the parents. Not usable." After December 1979 no more letters came.

What Is True

Nobody knows who she was, and probably she was never anyone. She is as old as the grief for the lake. When Lake Texcoco was drained, she was left the canals that carry the city's sewage across the old lake bed. From the sixties onwards Nezahualcóyotl grew on this bed, for hundreds of thousands who came from the countryside.

She looks for her children and never finds them. At nightfall she walks along the water, and every child who is there alone she asks: "¿Eres mío?" Children readily say yes to a weeping woman. Then she takes the child by the hand, and it goes with her, without fear. Where to, nobody knows. None has been found.

She takes only a child nobody is calling for. If someone who loves it calls its name, and the child hears it, she lets go and weeps on. Whoever is called belongs to someone.

In the streets along the canal in the seventies, everyone called for everyone. Grandmothers, neighbours and older siblings called every name they knew down the alley. Whoever disappeared all the same had a mother who called too late or from too far away. These mothers came to the parish. The other children nobody reported, because nobody asked after them that evening. So Stockholm read from 19 reports that calling lures her.

After the leaflet it went quiet. Rosa Tapia, 32, sewed at night in a textile factory. Until then her son Martín, eight, had been called home every evening with the neighbour's children. In February 1978 the neighbour stopped calling anyone; she fetched her own quietly. Martín did not come home. Rosa searched alone. She never went to the parish. In December 1979 Padre Ibarra, who had counted the names, went alone to the canal one evening. He did not come back. The following year no child disappeared. The Registry saw this as proof that the leaflet worked.

Today people text. Yesenia Tapia, 34, Rosa's granddaughter, works nights in a call centre in the city, two hours away. Her son Iker, nine, gets a message at 19:00: "Ya métete." On 22 October 2025 she sent a voice message with his name. Iker answered from the canal: "Ya voy, mamá." Behind him a woman was weeping, very close. He came home. Whether it was the voice, nobody knows.

What helps lasts an evening, a year or until the next canal. **Calling:** every street calls every child, every evening. The children nobody calls for all the same are exactly the ones for whom nobody can be found. **Answering:** an adult who tells her "Soy tuyo" goes with her, and for a year she takes no one. That is what the padre did. **Driving her off:** salt and iron injure her. At 0 HP she sinks into the water and weeps the next evening at the next canal, and the child at her hand goes with her.

Wrong in the File: She is not a ghost, and hearing her kills no one. Calling does not lure her; it is the only protection. The leaflet is dangerous: it made the streets mute, and the reports ended because nobody called any more, not because nobody went any more. A priest paid for the quiet year of 1980.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Weeping 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance of everyone within 30 m. Whoever loses suffers 1 strain plus margin and can only weep in the next round. She touches no adult

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you hear her weeping. Disturbing (2) when she holds a child by the hand and turns round
Special	Lets go of a child at once if someone who loves it calls its name and the child hears it. A stranger must make it convincing: CHA + Performance against Very Hard (4), +1 die for anyone who knows the child. At 0 HP she sinks and returns the next evening
Weakness	Salt and iron deal double damage. Energy weapons and EMP are useless. An adult who gives themselves to her as a child stills her for a year
Behaviour	Walks, weeps, asks. Enters no house and no light from an open door. Weeps louder if someone steps between her and a child

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The One over the Pipe (Mexico City, 2008)	Many of the city's rivers have lain in pipes under expressways for decades. Above one of them she walks on the central reservation, and taxi drivers know her. Without open water she cannot take anyone with her. The children who follow her are found asleep in the morning at an outfall on the edge of the city, with wet feet. Stats as above, Weeping 3 + 2.
The Silent One (Lima, 1994)	On the Rímac only children hear her weeping; adults hear nothing. No Weeping attack. Horror only when you see a child walking to the river with one empty hand held up in the air. With her only the name the child heard first counts. In June 1994 a mother called a boy by his Spanish name in vain. His grandmother called the Quechua name only she used, and he turned back.

Cover-Up

The missing of the seventies are on file with the public prosecutor of the State of Mexico as runaways, insofar as anyone reported them at all. The leaflet went out as a pastoral letter on safety by the canal; the padre is said to have been transferred. The internet takes the voice message of 2025 for an advert for a Llorona performance on the canals of Xochimilco.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Yesenia Tapia has posted the voice message online and asks who else has heard the woman. Since 22 October Iker has gone to the canal every evening. He says the woman is waiting for him.
2	The municipality is building a noise barrier along the canal in Valle de Chalco so that the residents have quiet at night.
3	The Registry sends the leaflet of 1977 to an aid organisation that offers after-school care in the area. It is now in every classroom.
4	A taxi driver reports that he saw a woman on the central reservation of an expressway holding six children by the hand, three to each hand.
5	The padre's list turns up in a parish archive. Among the 26 names is Martín Tapia. Yesenia has never heard of an uncle.
6	The municipality is putting the last open canal in Valle de Chalco into pipes. The work is done at night.

The Moss Woman

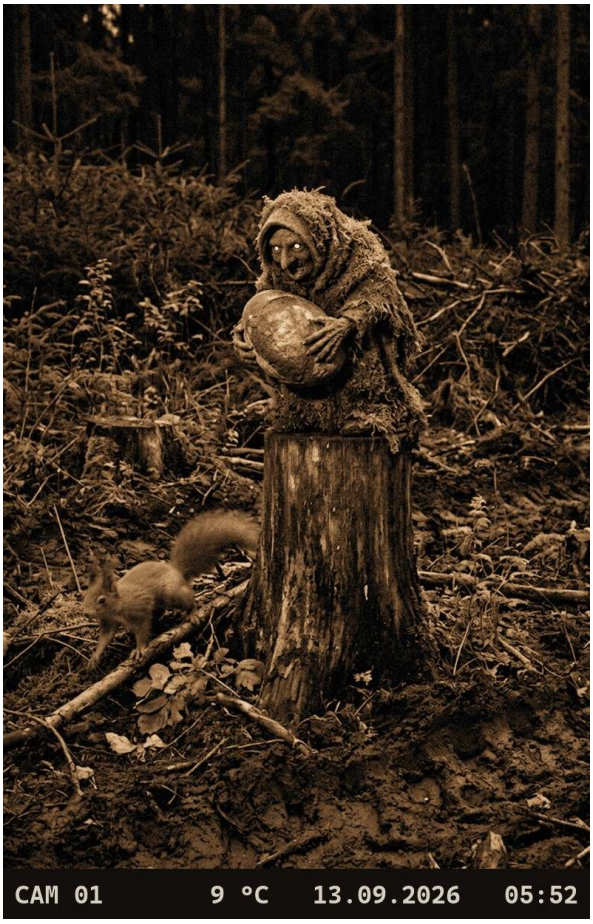
"It tied my shoelaces while I'd fallen asleep in the hide. Double knots. Then there was a piece of bread in my hand, no caraway."
Reisig, Cadet, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0518

Origin and Family	The Old, Forest Beings
Form	Being. A little old woman, knee-high, with hair and dress of moss
Role	Henchman. In threes as a squad
Horror	Uncanny (1) at first sight. Disturbing (2) if you watch one die
File Colour	White since 1974. Observation with no end date
Frequency	Rare, rarer every year. In 1974 the Registry estimated 200 in the Upper Palatinate Forest; today it knows of three
Mind	Human, simple and very old
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Upper Palatinate Forest, Steinwald, Fichtelgebirge, Frankenwald. Only where there are tree stumps with three crosses cut into them
First Sighting	August 1974, forest near Mähring, on the border with Czechoslovakia. Search report of the Bavarian Border Police: a girl of five, missing for two nights, sits fed and dry at the edge of the forest and talks about a little woman made of moss
Last Confirmed Sighting	13 September 2026, a hamlet near Mähring. Image from a hunting tenant's trail camera, in the local paper as an escaped monkey. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Three missing persons in the Steinwald since 1987, not linked in the file

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Damp moss, chanterelles and fresh bread that is missing from somewhere.
Sound	A rustling in the woodpile that stops as soon as you look. At night the soft clicking of a hand spindle on the floor of the shed.
Temperature	Nothing unusual. Where it has slept, a hollow remains in the moss that still feels warm.
Light	When it keeps still, it cannot be told from a mossy stone. On trail camera images two eyes glow where there is no animal.
Readings	Nothing measurable. Salt near it stays white, unlike with everything else from the Old.
Animals	Squirrels follow it. Hunting dogs roll onto their backs and let themselves be scratched.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. Cables, shoelaces and threads of wool in the house are neatly wound up in the morning.
Traces and Residue	Breadcrumbs, and beside them caraway seeds, carefully picked out. Footprints in flour, as small as those of a one-year-old child. On tree stumps, three crosses cut into the wood.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die, as does anyone who grew up in a forest village in Bavaria or Franconia. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A kobold. Steals bread and bewitches the cattle if you mock it. A nuisance, not dangerous.
1	Forest being of the Upper Palatinate and Franconia. Small, old, shy. Asks for bread, helps with spinning and in the house. Rests only on tree stumps into which a woodcutter has cut three crosses. Cannot abide caraway. Lures children into the forest and keeps them overnight: do not let children into the forest alone.
2 to 3	Protocol Caraway, as of 1983: if a moss woman becomes a nuisance, put out caraway bread. It leaves and does not come back. Steinwald case 1983, after a farmer's complaints about theft: 60 loaves distributed in the forest, no sightings since. Matter closed.
4 or more	Enclosure without covering letter, a list from the district office: searches for missing persons in the Steinwald 1950 to 1983: seven, all found, three children talk of a little woman. Searches for missing persons 1984 to 2026: three, none found. No note, no initials.

What Is True

Moss women are the smallest of the forest's old peoples. Each belongs to a tree, spins moss into its bark and knows every path. If the tree is felled, it needs a stump with three crosses; there it can live on. Woodcutters cut these crosses for centuries without knowing what for. They only said: "For the little women."

Caraway is their poison. The smell drives them away, one bite kills by morning. In 1983 O.D.I.N. distributed 60 loaves of caraway bread in the Steinwald. The moss women who ate of it out of hunger died. The others fled from a forest in which there was no longer a safe stump.

Moss women do not lure children. They find them. When someone gets lost in the forest, one of them takes them by the hand and leads them to the edge of the forest; it can go no further. There it waits with them until someone comes. Where they are missing, the forest keeps whatever gets lost in it. In the Steinwald: a mushroom picker in 1987, a boy of nine in 1996, a hiker in 2011.

Since the dry summers from 2018 onwards, the bark beetle has been eating the spruces, and harvesters clear whole slopes. Their stumps are low and have no crosses. The last moss women of the forest near Mähring have moved into the village.

The case near Mähring: Alois Zenger, 86, was a woodcutter from 1955 to 2002 and cut three crosses into every stump. Since the spring of 2025, three moss women have been living in his woodshed. He calls them the Resl, the Burgl and the Kloane. They sweep, wind wool, sort screws and bring chanterelles. He bakes bread without caraway every Saturday, because the baker in the village sells none.

His daughter Christine, 57, lives in Weiden. She was the girl from 1974. She thinks it was a dream and thinks her father is confused: he talks to the shed. She has enquired about a place in a care home. The hunting tenant wants to shoot the "monkey" before the first frost. The Burgl is the one who held Christine's hand back then. Alois has never told anyone. Since 1974 he has put bread out at the edge of the forest every evening. Perhaps Christine will remember if the Burgl gives her its hand once more. Perhaps that will only make her more determined to put her father in the home.

In the state forest there is still an old stand of spruce, marked for felling. Whoever makes stumps with crosses there must first fell trees, and buys them a few years. If they stay with Alois, they are homeless as soon as he dies or goes into the home. If they are taken away, they waste away outside the forest. And the forest near Mähring then keeps everyone who gets lost.

Wrong in the File: Moss women do not lure children, they bring them home. Caraway does not only drive them away, it kills them. What is dangerous is Protocol Caraway: it empties a forest, and an empty forest no longer gives back those who get lost. The list from the district office is the bill.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Pinching and biting 2 + 2, damage 2, only if you hold on to it. In threes as a squad 4 + 2, HP 12
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 4. If it keeps still in the forest, only someone who succeeds at WIS + Perception against Very Hard (4) spots it
Horror	Uncanny (1) at first sight. Disturbing (2) if one dies of caraway: it turns grey, dry and light as old leaves

Value	Details
Special	Guide: whoever follows it finds the way to the edge of any forest, even against the misdirection of a Forest Walker. A stump with three crosses is its home; there it has defence 4
Weakness	Caraway: the smell drives it away, one bite kills by morning. Iron deals double damage
Behaviour	Shy, industrious, curious. Takes bread and brings mushrooms. Tidies up whatever seems untidy to it. Can be won over with bread without caraway and CHA + Persuasion against Easy (1)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Wood Maiden (Fichtelgebirge, 1958)	Larger, up to the hip, and spins for humans. Gives a ball of yarn that never ends, as long as nobody asks how long it is. No attack, defence 1, HP 5. In the winter of 1958 a young mother near Wunsiedel let one warm itself at her stove. From the ball she knitted socks for the whole family for 33 years. In 1991 her daughter measured it. It ended in the next row.
The Town Woman (Regensburg, 2019)	Came into the city with firewood. Lives in window boxes, steals bread rolls from the baker. Stats as above, but outside the forest it loses 1 HP every month. A student found it in the log basket and fed it bread rolls. When it turned grey, she drove into the Upper Palatinate Forest at night and set it on a stump. She cut the crosses with a nail file, because she had no knife with her.

Cover-Up

The veterinary office of the Tirschenreuth district office reports a captured capuchin monkey from private keeping across the border; the local paper prints the photo of a real monkey. A doctor at the memory clinic in Weiden, paid by O.D.I.N., certifies that Alois Zenger's findings are normal for his age. The police list the missing persons in the Steinwald as search discontinued.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The hunting tenant is planning a driven hunt for the "monkey of Mähring" on Saturday. Alois Zenger has rung the district office and asked for someone "from the other office".
2	Christine Zenger has found three dolls' bowls of milk in the shed and made an appointment at the memory clinic. The Burgl has hidden her car keys.
3	An agent from Nuremberg wants to close the monkey case quickly and has ordered six loaves of caraway bread from the baker in Mähring.
4	The harvester comes into the last old stand near Mähring on Monday. The district forester has found fresh crosses on three stumps and has told nobody.
5	The mother of the boy who disappeared in the Steinwald in 1996 searches every autumn. This year she has taken bread with her, without caraway, because an old woman in the village advised her to.
6	In a forum, a student from Amberg asks what little grannies with hair of moss eat. His moss woman no longer eats bread rolls.

The Nix

"He tuned my violin without touching it. Then he said: give my regards to Stockholm, I'm sticking to regulations."

Rosshaar, Agent, Arcane Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0509

Origin and Family	The Old, Water Spirits
Form	Being. A young man with a violin, up to his hips in the plunge pool below the falls
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he climbs out of the water
File Colour	Black since 1962, because the file contains a personnel matter. Issued in the field as a Grey File
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of nine waterfalls in Scandinavia at which one plays or has played
Mind	Human
Regions	Scandinavia. Värmland, Dalsland, Hardanger in western Norway. Waterfalls and rapids with a deep plunge pool
First Sighting	23 June 1907, Midsummer Eve, a dance floor on the Fryken near Sunne, Värmland. Report by the crown bailiff: fourteen people dance until morning to a fiddler whom nobody can stop. A maid of 19 dies
Last Confirmed Sighting	24 September 2026, Svartfallet above the Fryken. Phone video by a hiker, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One cadet, 6 September 1962, listed as drowned

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Rosin, river water and wet birch leaves.
Sound	Beneath the roar of the falls, a violin that you only hear once you stop listening. Always a polska. Whoever taps along with their foot only notices after minutes.
Temperature	On Thursday evenings the water in the plunge pool is lukewarm, 24 °C in September. The stream above it is 9 °C.
Light	In the plunge pool a man is reflected who is not standing on the bank. On long exposures he is pin-sharp, although he is playing.
Readings	Nothing measurable. On Thursdays after sunset, the water level below the falls drops by 3 cm for a few minutes.
Animals	On Thursdays horses will not cross the bridge below the falls. The dipper on the stone is silent as long as he plays.
Devices	Violins in the houses along the stream are retuned in the morning, the lowest string a whole tone higher. Tuners show a concert pitch of 435 hertz, as a hundred years ago.
Traces and Residue	On the flat stone at the foot of the falls, a hollow worn smooth, as if someone had sat there for centuries. Wet footprints that lead into the plunge pool and never out.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker gets +1 die, as does anyone who plays the violin themselves. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A minstrels' fairy tale. Whoever learns from the Nix plays better than others, that is all. Dangerous only for people who cannot swim.
1	Water spirit of Scandinavia, in Swedish Näcken. Plays the violin at waterfalls and teaches for a fee: brandy, a black animal or three drops of blood on the violin, on three Thursdays in a row. Whoever dances to his music cannot stop. Cutting the strings ends the dance. Steel in the water binds him, with the old charm spoken over it.
2 to 3	Protocol Tuition, as of 1962: the Nix stays quiet as long as he has had a pupil, for about a generation. After three dance deaths in 1961, Cadet Stimmstock, himself a fiddler, took lessons from him on three Thursdays. On the fourth he drowned on the way down. No dance deaths since. Second payment 1992: the Nix sent the pupil away without teaching her a note. Assessment: still sated. Next payment postponed.
4 or more	Enclosure 3 to the report of 1962, never evaluated: on the morning after Stimmstock's death a second dead man was floating in the plunge pool, a young man in clothes from before the First World War, without papers. Note by the provincial doctor: "Drowned no more than a day ago." With it, carbon copies of the annual inspections since 1963, all with the same sentence: "Being greets the inspectors by their code names."

What Is True

A Nix is always human. A waterfall that has a Nix keeps one. Whoever has learned from him and later drowns in his plunge pool becomes the next. The old one is free, and the water gives back his body, as fresh as on the day he went in.

Whoever has learned from the Nix plays like no one else. His music belongs to the waterfall. Whoever dances to it dances until the piece ends or a string breaks, and some hearts cannot bear it. The pupils are drawn back to the waterfall every Thursday, all their lives.

The chain of Svartfallet: in August 1907 Olof Lindh, 23, farmhand and fiddler, drowned there; he had learned in the spring and at Midsummer played a maid to death. The morning after, a man in knee breeches and buckled shoes whom nobody knew was floating in the plunge pool. Olof played in the waterfall for 55 years. Then O.D.I.N. sent him a pupil.

Cadet Stimmstock was Arvid Sandell, 22, a fiddler from Dalarna. He took lessons on 16, 23 and 30 August 1962 and drowned on 6 September. Today he is the Nix of Svartfallet. That there have been no dance deaths since 1962 is his doing. For sixty-four years he has taught nobody and pulled nobody down, not even the pupil of 1992. He still knows every code name and every regulation. His own name he has forgotten.

In September 2026 Arvid taught for the first time. Elin Norling, 21, studies violin at the Ingesund School of Music in Arvika. She came on 10, 17 and 24 September with her violin and a bottle of brandy. She now plays so that her teacher weeps. On Thursday, 1 October, she wants to go once more to thank him. Arvid is tired.

Arvid can be bound, killed or reached. **Steel:** A knife in the plunge pool and the old charm bind him. He cannot leave the water, cannot take anyone and cannot play loudly enough for anyone to dance. He stays as long as the steel lies there, for ever. **Iron and silver:** They kill him. The waterfall is then empty, but Elin carries the music on. If one day she drowns in any waterfall, that waterfall has a Nix. **The name:** His real name is in the restricted personnel file. If someone calls it across the waterfall on a Thursday, he remembers for one night who he was. Then you can talk to him. What he wishes for, he tells a colleague openly.

Wrong in the File: The Nix is not a being that takes a fee and is sated. He is the last pupil who drowned. What is dangerous is Protocol Tuition: it does not pay, it delivers a successor. In 1962 O.D.I.N. sent a cadet into the waterfall.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Playing 4 + 4 against WIL + Mental Resistance of everyone who hears him, up to 100 m. Whoever loses dances and can do nothing else. At the end of each round CON + Endurance against Doable (2), or 1 damage, armour does not count. Or the waterfall: 4 + 4, damage 4, Area 3; whoever is hit lies in the plunge pool
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 13. Can be hit only in the plunge pool or on the stone by the falls. Ordinary weapons deal half damage, iron and silver full

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he climbs out of the plunge pool and not a drop runs off him
Special	The dance ends when the strings break. Whoever wants to reach the stone rolls DEX + Acrobatics against Hard (3); after that, a hit against defence 3 breaks the strings. Whoever lies in the plunge pool rolls STR + Athletics against Hard (3) every round, or takes 2 damage from drowning
Weakness	Steel in the water with the old charm binds him as long as it lies there. His baptismal name gives him back his memory for one night
Behaviour	Plays on Thursdays after sunset. Speaks quietly, politely, in the Swedish of the sixties, and uses words from training. Does not attack first. Whoever throws steel gets the waterfall

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Brook Horse (Dalsland, 1953)	A white horse by the stream, tame, which lets children climb on. Its back grows longer with every child, then it goes into the water. No playing. Kick 4 + 4, damage 4. Whoever sits on it is stuck fast: STR + Athletics against Very Hard (4). In June 1953 four children near Bengtsfors sat on it. The youngest, while playing, called it by the name his grandmother had for it. It threw them all off and was gone.
The Fossegrim (Hardanger, 1988)	Teaches the Hardanger fiddle for a piece of smoked mutton. Whoever brings lean meat learns only how to tune. Playing 3 + 3, no other attack. In 1988 a fiddler from Kinsarvik brought meat from the supermarket. Since then he tunes every fiddle so that nobody but him can play it. He has never found the waterfall again.

Cover-Up

The provincial doctor certified the cadet of 1962 as an angler, drowned in a flood. The second dead man lies as an unknown in the cemetery of Sunne. In 1963 the county administration of Värmland closed the path to the waterfall because of rockfall; O.D.I.N. renews the sign itself every few years.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Elin Norling told her flatmate she was going to the waterfall once more on Thursday, to say thank you. It is Friday.
2	In a seminar room in Arvika, a teacher and eleven students danced to a polska for forty minutes until an E string broke. Two are in hospital in Karlstad.
3	The Registry receives a letter, postmarked in Sunne, in handwriting from 1962, addressed to the personnel department: an application for retirement. Signed: Stimmstock.
4	A diver searches the plunge pool for a missing canoeist. He brings up a bucket full of knives, needles and scissors, some of them centuries old. Since then the violin can be heard all the way to the village.
5	The pupil of 1992 is a Senior Agent today. She has applied for leave, in Värmland, and taken her violin with her.
6	A violin maker in Bergen sends the Institute a Hardanger fiddle that nobody can play. The fiddler who tuned it has been looking for a waterfall since 1988.

The Rusalka

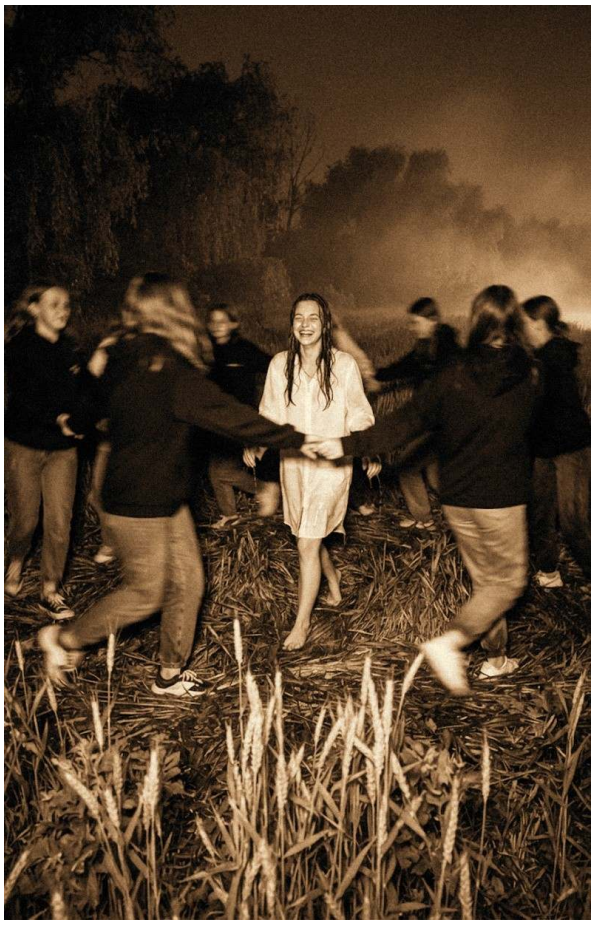
"She tickled me until I couldn't breathe. The worst part was how happy I was while she did it."
Kalmus, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY — REG-A-0512

Origin and Family	The Old, Water Spirits
Form	Being. A girl of 17 in a wet linen shift, on land only in the week after Whitsun
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when someone laughs in her arms until he turns blue
File Colour	Red, every year from Whit Sunday to the Sunday after. Otherwise Grey
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows three on the Vistula, one on the Bug
Mind	Human. She has the memories of the girl whose face she wears
Regions	Eastern Europe. The middle Vistula between Sandomierz and Warsaw. Related cases in Kuyavia and in the Ukrainian Carpathians
First Sighting	26 May 1947, Whit Monday, a village on the Vistula below Puławy. Report of the Citizens' Militia: a man of 20 lies dead on the bank, his face frozen in laughter, no water in the lungs
Last Confirmed Sighting	30 May 2026, the same village. Mobile phone video by a sixteen-year-old girl: eight girls dancing at night in the rye, one of them barefoot in a linen shift. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, June 1979, on the bank, laughing. A second survived in 1998 with three broken ribs

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Fresh birch leaves and river mud.
Sound	From the willows, a girl's laughter that does not stop. Wet footsteps in the rye. Frogs fall silent where she sits.
Temperature	Her hands are warm and wet. Where she has sat, the ground is damp in the morning.
Light	In the moonlight her hair gleams greenish like river weed. In phone photos her face is the only sharp one.
Readings	No detector responds. Near her the hygrometer shows 100 per cent humidity; within 20 m there is mist.
Animals	Dogs do not bark; they wag their tails as at an old acquaintance.
Devices	Phones in the dancers' pockets are full of river sand in the morning.
Traces and Residue	In the rye, a circle of trampled stalks that is upright again the next morning. Long hair with sand in it in the willow branches. Dead men with blue finger marks on their ribs.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective gets +1 die, as does anyone who speaks Polish. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A drowned corpse that walks. She takes young men; women and children are safe. Do not go swimming at Whitsun.
1	Water spirit of the Slavs, Polish rusałka. A drowned girl comes ashore in the week after Whitsun, dances in the rye and tickles men to death. Wormwood in the hair protects, a custom from the Bug. Iron injures her. Only female agents on missions.
2 to 3	Classification 1971: revenant of Jadwiga Pietrzak, 17, drowned on 16 June 1946. Protocol Clear-Out, as of 1971: end the remembrance of the dead. Remove the photo from the village chapel, the wooden cross on the bank, the candles at Whitsun. The apparition fades when nobody thinks of the girl any more. Assessment: effective, only one death since 1971. Case expected to close with the sister's death.
4 or more	Copy from the parish register, 1988: in June 1897 Marianna Kępa, 16, drowned in the same village. Her mother died in April 1946, aged 87. Attached, the statement of an old woman who danced with her in 1946: "Until that Whitsun she had a different face. We called her Marianna."

What Is True

The rusalka is older than the village. The Vistula sends her ashore when the rye is in flower. For that she needs a face. She takes a girl who dances with her and goes into the water with her on the last morning, and wears that girl's face and memories. She keeps it as long as one living person mourns that girl. When the last one dies, the face falls away. In the next Whitsun week she takes a new one.

In between she wants what a girl of seventeen wants: dancing, laughing, friends. The village girls dance with her every year and come home happy in the morning. Men who try to fetch the girls away she tickles until they stop breathing. Hence the legend that she takes young men.

All Protocol Clear-Out achieved is that nobody apart from the sister mourns any more. The calm since 1971 comes from the village men staying at home.

Stanisława Kołodziej, née Pietrzak, was ten when her sister Jadzia did not come home on the morning of 16 June 1946. Since then Jadzia has sat for one night every year in the willow outside her window and asked whether Mother is still angry. Stanisława is 90 today and has been in the care home in Puławy since August. She has weeks left, perhaps months.

Her great-granddaughter Julia, 16, from Lublin, spends every summer in the village. In May 2026 she danced with Jadzia for six nights. On the seventh her mother fetched her out of the rye. Julia calls Jadzia her best friend. The next Whitsun week begins on 16 May 2027.

What really helps: wormwood in the hair. But the girls want to dance, and wormwood is quickly taken off. A sickle kills her: Jadzia dies a second time, in front of her friends, and the Vistula sends the next daughter as soon as another girl drowns in that week. If she is kept away from the water until sunrise on the eighth day, she crumbles into river sand. Nobody who did not know Jadzia can mourn her. Stanisława knows that. She wants to see her sister once more before then.

Wrong in the File: The rusalka is not a ghost of the dead but as old as the river, and she takes not men but girls. Men only die when they try to take a girl away from her. Protocol Clear-Out is dangerous: forgetting does not release her, it frees up her face. The sister's death does not close the case; it opens the next harvest.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Tickling, Brawling 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count. Whoever is hit laughs and has −2 dice on everything except breaking free: STR + Athletics against Doable (2)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when someone laughs in her arms until he turns blue
Special	On land only in the week after Whitsun, from sunset to sunrise. Girls who have danced with her protect her as a squad: 2 + 2, no damage, they hold on. Whoever stands in the water with her at sunrise on the eighth day goes with her

Value	Details
Weakness	Wormwood: she touches no one who wears it in their hair or carries it in a pocket. Iron deals double damage. If she is kept away from the water on the last morning, she crumbles
Behaviour	Sits in the willows, calls girls by name, dances until morning. Attacks only whoever holds her, takes a friend away or draws iron

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Topielica (Kuyavia, 1984)	A rusalka who never comes ashore. She waits in the water for those who swim before St John's Day. She does not tickle; she holds an ankle. Grip 3 + 3, damage 2, plus drowning; breaking free with STR + Athletics against Hard (3). After 24 June she rests until spring. In June 1984 two workers from the oil mill at Kruszwica went swimming in the Gopło. One never came back up. The other held on to the iron ladder of the jetty until she let go.
The Mavka (Verkhovyna, 1993)	From the front a beautiful girl, from behind hollow like an old tree. Stats as above, Horror Horrifying (3) when she turns round. She lures men to mountain streams. In July 1993 a student from Kraków on a hike saw her back. He has not spoken since.

Cover-Up

The Citizens' Militia wrote off the dead from 1947 to 1979 as heart failure while swimming. Today forensic medicine in Lublin certifies drowning; broken ribs count as the result of resuscitation. The circles in the rye count as wild boar damage. The cross on the bank disappeared in 1971 during the building of the dyke.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Before her death, Stanisława Kołodziej wants to speak to someone "who knows my sister". She gives the carer the name of the man who survived in 1998.
2	Julia has posted a photo from May online: she and a barefoot girl in the rye, "my best friend". A folklorist from Warsaw has recognised the linen shift.
3	A gravel dredger on the Vistula brings up a girl's skull and a horn comb. The file recommends a burial with a name.
4	A dance group from Warsaw wants to perform a piece about rusalki on the bank at Whitsun 2027, with thirty dancers.
5	Kruszwica opens a lido on the Gopło on 1 June. A pensioner from the oil mill has chained himself to the iron ladder of the old jetty.
6	The agent who survived in 1998 has carried calamus in his pocket ever since. He wants to go to the Vistula at Whitsun 2027 with a sickle.

The Strigoi

"We drove home at eight, like every year. Only the landlady asked why we weren't staying another night."

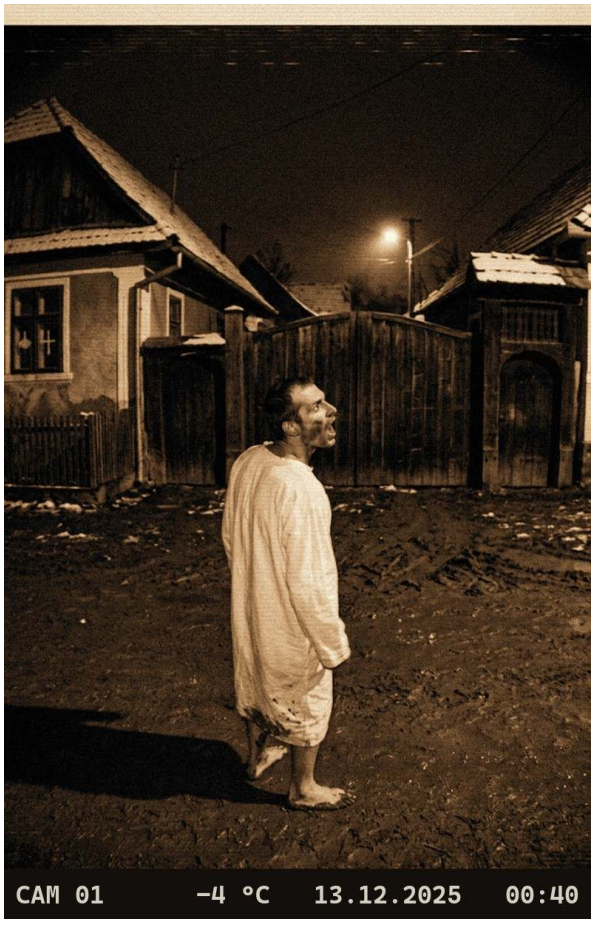
Docht, Cadet, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0524

Origin and Family	The Old, Revenants of Legend
Form	Being. A dead man with a body who rises one night a year
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he calls. Disturbing (2) when you see him: a dead man with red cheeks in a burial shirt
File Colour	White, listed as closed. Training file for cadets, annual check night at the grave since 1996
Frequency	Rare. Three cases in Romania, each a single dead man
Mind	Human. He believes it is 1873 and the cholera is in the village
Regions	Eastern Europe. Transylvania, the Harbach valley north-east of Sibiu: the Romanian Valea Socului and the Saxon Hollerdorf
First Sighting	12 December 1873. Letter from the pastor of Hollerdorf to Hermannstadt (Sibiu): in the neighbouring village people had heard "a dead man calling" in the night, and three who had answered him lay sick
Last Confirmed Sighting	The night before 12 December 1899, according to the Hollerdorf parish chronicle. Not counted: doorbell camera of a holiday home in Valea Socului, 13 December 2025, 00:40, a barefoot man in a burial shirt, filed as a cadets' prank
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Since 1996 no cadet has brought back so much as a cold

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Freshly turned clay and chloride of lime.
Sound	A man calls a name, once, as if across the yard. "Maria!" Two gates further on: "Ioane!"
Temperature	The earth on his grave is soft in December and steams in the frost.
Light	Candle flames lean towards him, even behind glass.
Readings	On thermal imaging the grave is 6 °C warmer than the neighbouring graves.
Animals	On his night the dogs lie silent under the carts.
Devices	Anyone who telephones into the village on this night hears him calling, even in Turin.
Traces and Residue	Clayey barefoot prints from the cemetery to the road and back. On the windows of the oldest villagers, garlic crosses, painted on 12 December, not for St Andrew's in November.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A vampire as in the cinema. Garlic, stake, sunrise. The cadets take a stake and two Thermos flasks.
1	Strigoi, Romanian revenant. Whoever died badly returns and calls names at night. Whoever answers dies within days. Garlic on window and door keeps him away. He walks on the night before St Andrew's Day, as folk belief says.
2 to 3	Ilie Oprea, died of cholera on 3 November 1873. According to the Hollerdorf parish chronicle he called every year from 1873 to 1899 on the night of 11 to 12 December, 27 nights, 31 dead. On 14 December 1899 the village dug him up, burned the heart and scattered the ashes in the Harbach. No activity on the set date since then. Protocol St Andrew's Eve, since 1996: a watch at the grave, departure on the morning of 12 December.
4 or more	Letter from the pastor of Hollerdorf, 1873, postscript: "The Roumanians say he came on their St Andrew's Eve." Note by the Registry, 1952: "St Andrew's Eve is 29 November. Folk belief imprecise. Set date determined empirically."

What Is True

The file is right about almost everything. It just reckons by the Saxons' calendar.

Ilie Oprea, 33, day labourer, fell ill with cholera on 1 November 1873. His wife Maria fled with their son Ion to her mother. Ilie died two days later alone, without a candle in his hand, and whoever dies like that cannot find the way. He was buried that same evening in chloride of lime, without a priest.

He rises on the night before St Andrew's Day, by the Julian calendar he died in. In 1873 its St Andrew's Day fell on the Saxons' 12 December. Because only the Julian calendar counts 1900 as a leap year, the calendars have been thirteen days apart since then, and Ilie comes one night later. The village church adopted the new calendar in 1924. Ilie did not.

He searches for his wife and son from gate to gate and calls Maria and Ion until the cock crows. Whoever answers, even with "Yes?", he robs of breath over a few days. They are the most common names in the village.

The burned heart did nothing: it is not the body that holds him but the way he cannot find. In 1900 the pastor of Hollerdorf listened on the usual night and heard nothing. The dead of Valea Socului were not in his parish register. Since 1900, 58 people there have died in the days after 13 December. The old people paint their garlic crosses by the old calendar and do not call one another by name on that night.

What helps: a burning candle placed in his hand by someone of his blood, with his name and the words that he is dead. Then he lies down in the grave for good. Whoever brings the candle must walk towards him on the road and must not answer when he calls.

Valea Socului has 140 inhabitants, most of them over seventy. Maria Oprea, 29, a carer in Turin, Ilie's descendant in the fifth generation, bought her family's house in the spring of 2026. She arrives on 12 December on the night bus. She is the only one who can give him the candle. Her name is Maria.

Keep watch on the right night, with garlic on every door, until the village has died out in twenty years. **Burn him**, completely this time: he comes anyway and calls louder.

Wrong in the File: The set date. He walks on the night of 12 to 13 December, and the case is not closed but postponed by one day. The burned heart achieved nothing. Protocol St Andrew's Eve is dangerous: it has cadets keep watch one night too early and sends them home with the words that it is safe now.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Strangle 4 + 4, damage 4. Or Call: he calls Maria or Ion. Anyone with that name, including Johannes, Jan or Marie, who answers loses 2 HP every day from the next morning until they are dead or Ilie is at rest
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (grave skin) / 13
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he calls. Disturbing (2) when you see him
Special	Rises only on the night of 12 to 13 December, from midnight until the first cock-crow. Anyone who hears their name called rolls WIL + Concentration against Doable (2) so as not to answer. At 0 HP he falls and rises again the next year

Value	Details
Weakness	A burning candle from a relative's hand, with his name and the news of his death: he lies down for good. Garlic on window and door keeps him out of any house. If he hears his own name, he pauses for one round
Behaviour	Goes from gate to gate and calls. Attacks only whoever holds him or blocks his way. Stake, fire and sunrise do not frighten him

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Counter (Oltenia, 1931)	A dead miller who, like every Strigoi of legend, has to count every grain on his path. Strangle 4 + 4, damage 4, HP 12. For four years the village scattered millet on the cemetery path every night. In 1935 millet ran short. A folklorist from Craiova counted three dead afterwards.
The Fortieth (Maramureș, 1962)	A dead man walks for forty days until the requiem mass releases him. Here there was none; the priest was in prison. For two years he came to his cowshed every night and milked. No attack, defence 2, HP 12, Uncanny (1). In 1964 the priest was freed under the amnesty, held the mass, and the cowshed stayed empty.

Cover-Up

In the parish register of Valea Socului, mid-December entries read "heart failure" or "old age". The cadets stay at the guesthouse as folklore students from Cluj. The doorbell camera video disappeared when the owner of the house, who lives in Bucharest, received a good offer for it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Maria Oprea writes to the guesthouse that she is arriving on 12 December on the night bus from Turin. The landlady rings the cadets' number.
2	The cell keeps watch at the grave on 11 December. Nothing happens. In the morning the car will not start.
3	A doctoral student finds a cluster in mid-December in the death dates since 1900. He wants to make sound recordings on the night of the 12th to the 13th. His name is Ion.
4	An old woman asks the cell for garlic from the market in Agnita. A lot of it, and by the 12th.
5	In Turin, shortly before midnight, a carer on the phone with her grandmother hears a man calling "Maria!" She said "Yes?"
6	The cell drives to the check night with two cadets. Her name is Maria, his is Johannes.

The Tatzelwurm

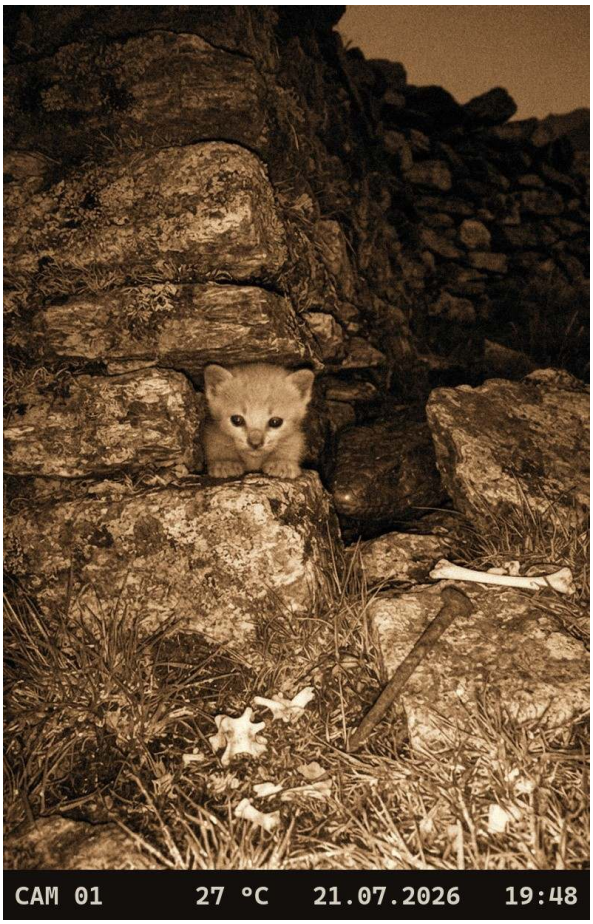
"I had him in my sights, right between the eyes. It was the wall that bit me."
Kluft, Veteran, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-A-0548

Origin and Family	The Old, Cryptids
Form	Being
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when the head comes out of the rock
File Colour	White, observation. Red after every bite
Frequency	Rare. The Registry considers 94 out of 100 reports hoaxes
Mind	Animal
Regions	Central and Western Europe. The Alps of Central Switzerland, Ticino, the Bavarian Oberland. Scree slopes and dry-stone walls in the southern sun
First Sighting	17 July 1923, quarry of the construction site for the reservoir in the Wägital, canton of Schwyz. Report of the site doctor to the site management: a tunneller from the province of Bergamo, "heart failure after viper bite, bite wound too large for a viper". Copy in the Registry since 1951, with the specimen
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 July 2026, Alp Chälberweid above the Wägitalersee. Image from a Registry trail camera: the face has grown back
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. One cadet bitten (1983), survived. Outsiders since 1923: six dead, recorded as viper bite or heart failure

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet slate and, beneath it, something sweet, like fermenting plums. Strongest at a crevice from which nothing is looking out.
Sound	A thin mewing from the wall, like a kitten that is stuck. Deeper in the stone, a hiss like a kettle.
Temperature	In the evening the stones around his hiding place are warmer than the sun explains. Below 10 °C nothing stirs.
Light	Nothing special. He comes out only in sunshine and sultry heat, preferably before a thunderstorm.
Readings	Nothing any device shows. Salt placed in front of the crevice turns grey-green and sticky within an hour.
Animals	Marmots in the area stop whistling. Dogs run towards the spot with their hackles up, not away.
Devices	Trail cameras almost always show only the face in the crevice. Thermal cameras see nothing in the warm rock.
Traces and Residue	Scales like flakes of mica in the joints. Small, clean bones in front of a crevice, as if pushed out. In old walls, rusty nails driven crosswise into the joints.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Biochemist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die; on most alpine pastures there is no signal anyway.

Result	What the File Says
0	A hoax for pub regulars and postcards, for a hundred years. The photos show clay figures and stuffed lizards. Cadets who are sent there go on a hiking holiday and bring back cheese.
1	A small being, 50 to 60 cm long, with a cat's head, two front paws and no hind legs. Hisses, leaps up to 3 m, bites venomously like a viper. Lives in scree and walls, comes out in sultry weather. Shy, flees into the rock at the slightest sound. Iron in the joints keeps him away, the farmers say.
2 to 3	The only specimen, killed on 8 August 1926 above the Wägital, in the Registry since 1951: 58 cm, cat's head, two paws. The hunter died the same evening, of heart failure according to the doctor, "of fright" according to the village. Capture: grip firmly behind the head and pull out of the crevice. Anyone who has to shoot aims at the head. Keep bite victims calm, viper antivenom.
4 or more	X-ray findings on the specimen, 1983: in the head neither skull nor teeth, only cartilage and muscle. Note: head recreated by the taxidermist in 1926, still usable for training. Attached, the statement of the cadet bitten the same year: "It didn't bite from the head." Below it, in red pen: "Shock reaction. Cadet to retraining."

What Is True

The face is a lure. What the farmers call the Tatzelwurm is the tail end of an animal 4 to 5 m long, as thick as a man's thigh, with scales like wet slate. The body stays in the rock, in crevices and joints it has known for centuries. The tip of the tail bears two dark spots like eyes, two fleshy lobes that pat the stone like paws, and an opening that mews when air passes through it. Whoever bends over the kitten has their arm in front of a second crevice, a hand's width away. There lies the head, flat, without visible eyes, with a mouth that closes around a hand. That is the leap from the legends.

If you seize the lure, it tears off like a lizard's tail and goes on wriggling for a long time. In 1926 the hunter Meinrad Kälin carried such a piece two hours downhill to the inn at Innerthal and celebrated. On his forearm he had two small holes he took for scratches. The venom attacks the heart, but it kills through fear. Whoever lies still survives it with palpitations. In anyone who runs, fights or is afraid, the heart stops. Kälin died at his third glass. Viper antivenom does not work; it just goes unnoticed because most bite victims lie still.

He cannot pass through a joint with iron in it. That is why the old farmers drove nails crosswise into their walls. In 1924 the walls on the valley floor went under with the reservoir, and the animals withdrew up to the alpine pastures. Since 2019 volunteers from a conservation association have been repairing the dry-stone walls of Alp Chälberweid. They pull the rust out of the joints as rubbish. And the summers are getting hotter.

The case on the Chälberweid: on 9 August 2025, at 31 °C, the dairywoman Regula Schnyder, 44, finds her dog dead by the wall above the cowshed. In the crevice above it a cat's face is mewing. She knows the story of 1926 from the local history book, puts on leather gloves and grips behind the head. The lure tears off, and from the joint beside it comes the bite, above the glove. Schnyder knows vipers. She sits down, calls 144 and waits motionless for the helicopter. She lives. The lure is in her chest freezer; its photo has been shared eleven thousand times in a cryptozoology group.

What helps has a price. **Iron in every joint** shuts him in, but the pasture has 3 km of protected walls, and he looks for the next open exit. **Blasting** kills him, the walls and the scree slope. **Luring him out** works with something warm in front of the crevice, a dog, a person, and then you have to hit the head, not the face; a carbon dioxide extinguisher into the crevice makes him rigid for a short while. **Doing nothing** has held for a hundred years, with six dead. But the rust is out of the joints.

Wrong in the File: The Tatzelwurm is not a small being, and hardly any report is a hoax; people saw exactly what he shows them. The specimen is a torn-off lure, and the antivenom does not work. The capture rule is deadly: whoever grips behind the head offers the mouth their hand. Whoever aims at the head is shooting at a tail.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, plus venom. Anyone reaching for the lure has defence 1 against the first bite
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (scales) / 10. In the rock in good cover (+2 defence), except against point-blank shots into the crevice with the head. The lure has defence 1 and 2 HP; whoever hits it tears it off and does not harm the animal

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the lure. Disturbing (2) when the head comes out of the rock, usually after the bite
Special	Venom: whoever was bitten is poisoned until the next morning. Every failed horror test then costs as many HP as strain it causes; armour does not count. Anyone who sprints, fights or walks more than 1 km rolls CON + Toughness against Doable (2) each time, 2 damage on a failure. Whoever lies still loses nothing. The lure grows back in just under a year
Weakness	Iron: he cannot pass through a joint with iron in it. Cold: below 10 °C he stays in the rock; a carbon dioxide extinguisher into the crevice incapacitates him for three rounds. Salt on the lure makes him pull in his tail
Behaviour	Lurks, lures, bites, withdraws. Eats marmots, chamois kids, dogs. Pursues no one

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Wall Worm (Ticino, 1988)	A good 2 m, in the walls of old chestnut terraces in the Valle Onsernone. Its lure resembles a dormouse. Bite 2 + 2, damage 2, venom as above, HP 6. In September 1988 Hansruedi Tanner, 58, a teacher from Basel, tried to free the "dormouse" from the wall of his holiday home. After three days in hospital in Locarno he nailed up every joint of his terraces. The village considers him an eccentric.
The Milk Worm (Obwalden, 1961)	Lives in the cowshed wall of a farm in the Melchtal and for generations has been given a bowl of milk every evening. He does nothing to the family. Stats as above. In 1961 the farmer's wife died; her nephew inherited the farm and stopped putting out milk. Three weeks later he reached for the cat in the wall. Today the neighbour puts out the bowl. She says it is for the cat.

Cover-Up

Every bite passes as a viper bite, which is how Tox Info Suisse in Zurich records it, and the hospitals are at most surprised at the antivenom. Forensic medicine examines the dead; finding: heart failure in the heat. For the photo from the chest freezer, a contact in the group finds a carnival mask maker who sells such pieces. The Tatzelwurm has many fakes; one more is not noticed.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A collector from Stuttgart is picking up the lure from Regula Schnyder on Saturday. He wants to photograph the piece where it was found.
2	The conservation association is looking for volunteers for a wall week on the Chälberweid. The heat warning is in force until Sunday.
3	Two cadets on a White File report a kitten in a wall and want to catch it, as described in the archive.
4	A hiker has been lying motionless for two hours on the path above the scree slope. His companion wants to carry him.
5	A taxidermist in Einsiedeln offers online a "second Tatzelwurm from 1926" from his great-grandfather's estate. The photo shows only a skull, flat and without eye sockets.
6	A farmer's wife in the Melchtal has died. In her cowshed stands an empty bowl, and the new tenant has a dog.

The Werewolf of Legend

"He drank to the harvest and handed me the jug. I didn't want to be rude. The protocol required it."
Hopfen, retired Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY — REG-A-0530

Origin and Family	The Old, Shapeshifters
Form	Being. A human who puts on a wolfskin and is then a wolf
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when you see him climb into the pelt
File Colour	Grey since July 2026, because of a wolf with an oak wreath. Listed as closed from 2008, Black until 1991 because Livonia was Soviet
Frequency	Rare. Several trials in Livonia in the 17th century, one known bearer today
Mind	Human, even as a wolf
Regions	Eastern Europe. Livonia: the valley of the Gauja in Vidzeme between Cēsis and Valmiera, formerly also the south of Estonia
First Sighting	July 1683, court at Wenden, Swedish Livonia. Trial record against the farmer Jurre, about 70, who denounced himself as a werewolf. Copy in the National Archives in Stockholm
Last Confirmed Sighting	24 June 2026, 01:52, Midsummer Night, trail camera of a hunting club on the Gauja: a large wolf with a wreath of oak leaves around its neck
O.D.I.N. Losses	None

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet fur and malt. His house smells of beer and birch smoke from the sauna.
Sound	On the nights he runs, no wolf howls in the valley. The morning after, the man is hoarse, as if he had barked all night.
Temperature	After a running night he has a fever of 39 °C for a day and eats nothing.
Light	In the camera flash the man's eyes glow too, faintly and greenish, like an animal's.
Readings	The pelt is wolfskin, over 400 years old by radiocarbon dating, and it does not shed. To the EMF detector it is an ordinary pelt.
Animals	Wolves avoid his farm. In years when he has run, the cows in the valley give more milk in July.
Devices	On his nights, trail cameras photograph a single wolf that looks into the lens and gives the next camera a wide berth.
Traces and Residue	Wolf tracks that end at a farm fence and continue as barefoot prints in the dew. Blood on birch bark at a person's shoulder height.



A

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Negotiator gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Full moon, silver bullet, and whoever is bitten becomes one. The canteen confuses him with the case from the Ardennes.
1	Werewolf of legend, Latvian vilkacis: a human who turns into a wolf with a wolfskin whenever he wants, in full possession of his mind. No moon, no disease, not transmissible. The human bears the wolf's wounds. Whoever calls him by his baptismal name while he is a wolf forces him back.
2 to 3	Trial at Wenden, 1683: Jurre confesses that he has been a werewolf for fifty years, one of many, and that on St Lucy's Night, at Whitsun and on Midsummer Night he runs under the earth to take the grain and livestock back from the sorcerers. The court judges it a pact with the Devil, twelve lashes. Such statements are self-serving excuses. Werewolves kill livestock. Case 2006: Arvīds Kalniņš, 80, shot and wounded as a wolf on St Lucy's Night. Conversations 2007, death 2008. Protocol Guest Right: with beings of the Old, you accept what is offered, bread, salt or beer. Whoever refuses gives offence.
4 or more	Report by Agent Hopfen, Midsummer Night 2007: "K. poured beer, proposed a toast to the harvest and handed me the jug. I drank in accordance with protocol. K. seemed relieved." Attached, from the personnel file: Hopfen retired at his own request in December 2008, aged 44. New address: a farm on the Gauja. Local contact since then.

What Is True

Jurre told the truth in 1683, and the court did not believe it. The Registry believed the court.

The werewolves of Livonia called themselves hounds. On three nights a year they run to where others have carried off the blessing of the fields: grain, milk, the fish in the river. Nobody knows who these others are. The hounds call them thieves. In years when no hound ran on the Gauja, the parish registers record hail and cattle plague.

Whoever drinks from a hound's jug after the hound has drunk to the harvest becomes a hound. With the drink everything passes on: the duty, the three nights, the pelt, a wolfskin that has wandered from farm to farm for centuries. Whoever puts it on is a wolf with a human mind. Whoever does not run on one of the three nights, because he does not have the pelt or is held back, becomes a wolf anyway, without pelt and without mind, and kills whatever he finds. Hence the slaughtered livestock in the trial records. Both are true.

Arvīds Kalniņš ran for sixty years. His son was dead, his grandchildren worked in Dublin. He needed a successor, and then a polite man came from Stockholm who accepted everything he was offered. At Jāņi, by the Midsummer fire, with oak wreath and cheese, he handed him the jug.

Hopfen knew nothing. On St Lucy's Night 2007 he woke in a forest in Lower Saxony, naked, with blood on his hands, three kilometres from his flat. He never met the shepherd the sheep belonged to. In January he drove to the Gauja, and Kalniņš explained everything to him, four weeks before his death. Since Whitsun 2008 Hopfen has run with the pelt. The Registry has listed him as a local contact ever since and sends him every cell that has to go to the Gauja.

The case in 2026: Hopfen is 62 and ill; the doctor gives him until spring. If a hound dies without passing on the jug, the pelt goes to the next wolf in the forest. Then a wolf runs there that opens doors, knows traps and knows where people sleep. Hopfen will offer the cell beer and drink to the harvest. He will explain nothing unless someone asks.

After Hopfen the pelt is worn by a human, by no one or by a wolf. **Drink:** someone drinks, willingly or not, and is a hound until their own successor, three nights a year, for ever. **Burn it:** without the pelt Hopfen runs on the three nights as a wolf without a mind until his death, and after that no one runs on the Gauja any more. **Kill or wait:** the pelt goes into the forest.

Wrong in the File: It is transmissible, through a drink, not through a bite. The statements of 1683 are not excuses, and only a hound who was not allowed to run kills livestock. The local contact is the werewolf. Protocol Guest Right is dangerous: it hands the jug to every agent who sets foot on the farm.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5 as a wolf, 3 as a human
Attack	Bite 3 + 3, damage 3. As a human, hunting knife (dagger) 3 + 2, damage 2
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (pelt) / 10
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when you see him climb into the pelt

Value	Details
Special	Transformation in one round, as long as he has the pelt. As a wolf, Perception and Tracking 4 + 4. The wolf's wounds remain on the human. Whoever drinks from his jug after he has drunk to the harvest becomes a hound, and Hopfen is free. If he is held back on one of the three nights, he becomes a wolf without a mind until morning: Bite 4 + 4, damage 4, does not flee
Weakness	Whoever calls him by his baptismal name while he is a wolf forces him into human form for the rest of the scene. An iron knife thrown over his back works the same way. Silver works like lead
Behaviour	Hospitable, quiet, tired. Offers everyone beer. Fights only if stopped on one of the three nights. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2) if shown a successor who does it willingly

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Christmas Pack (Southern Estonia, 1911)	Not hounds but five farmhands who had cut up an old pelt and shared it. On the Christmas nights they broke into the beer cellars of the manor farms as wolves, drank the barrels dry and stacked them neatly. Squad of Henchmen: Bite 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 5 per farmhand. On St Stephen's Day 1911 a manor steward shot at one of them. At the church service a farmhand was limping. The pack never ran again. The Registry knows the case from the steward's diary.
The She-Hound (Latgale, 1979 to 1989)	A milkmaid on the collective farm died in hospital in 1979 without passing on the jug. From then on, every Midsummer Night a she-wolf came to the village fire and sat just outside the light. Whoever set out beer for her had a good year. Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, defence 2, HP 8, human mind. In 1989 a hunter shot her. Since then the fields there have lain fallow.

Cover-Up

In 2006 Kalniņš said in hospital in Cēsis that a stranger had taken him for a wolf at dusk, and the police never looked for the shooter. Hopfen's personnel file records his retirement as exhaustion. The trail camera images belong to a hunting club whose chairman has owned a new thermal imaging device since July.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A hunting club on the Gauja is planning a night hunt for wolves from high seats, with thermal imaging devices, on St Lucy's Night. Hopfen's neighbour has signed up.
2	The Registry gives the cell a local contact, a retired agent. He picks them up at the station in Cēsis and has already heated the sauna.
3	A grandson of Kalniņš comes back from Dublin and wants to buy back the farm. He remembers the jug.
4	In the last image from the trail camera the wolf looks into the lens and puts something down in front of it: a jug.
5	In a cellar in Valmiera, six empty beer barrels stand neatly stacked in the morning. The door was locked.
6	Hopfen invites the cell to Mārtiņi, Martinmas, with cheese and home-brewed beer. He has set out a jug for each of them.

The Yuki-onna

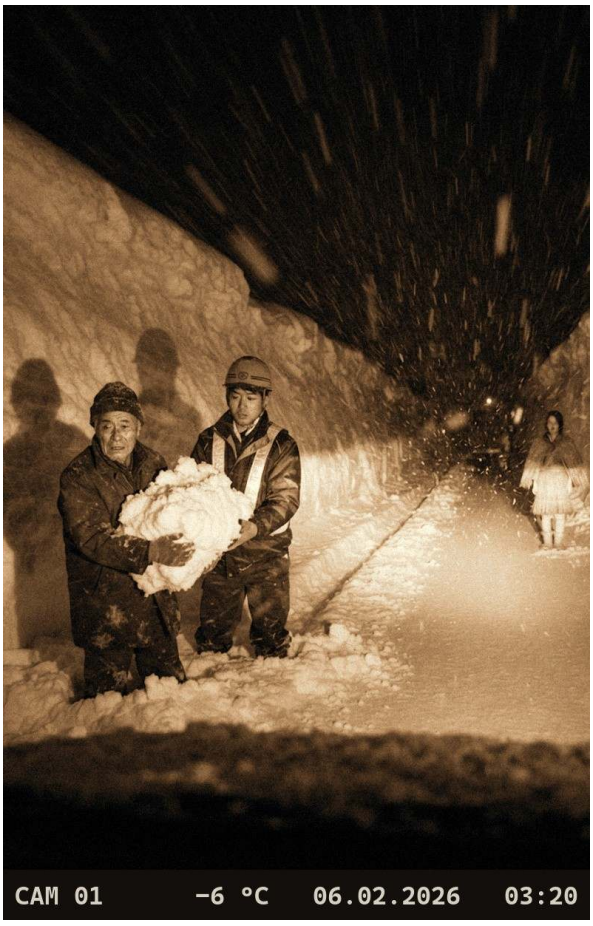
"She held the child out to me, and I put my hands in my pockets, like it says in the file. In the morning Mrs Mori's roof was in her living room."
Traufe, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY — REG–A–0572

Origin and Family	The Old, Yōkai
Form	Being, only on nights of heavy snowfall
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for whoever feels the child grow heavy in their arms
File Colour	Red from December to March. In summer the file rests
Frequency	Rare. The legends know her everywhere in the snow country along the Sea of Japan
Mind	Human. She speaks little and always asks politely
Regions	East Asia. Japan, the Akiyamagō in the south of Niigata Prefecture, a valley on the border with Nagano, often cut off for days in winter
First Sighting	30 January 2013. Report by a lone agent under cover as a translator: while clearing a roof, a man from the valley says that since 1985 he has held a stranger's child every hard winter
Last Confirmed Sighting	6 February 2026, 03:20, dashboard camera of a municipal snowplough
O.D.I.N. Losses	No agents. Two dead in one house, February 2018, in the snow accident statistics

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet rice straw from her cape. The child smells of milk and sleep.
Sound	Before anyone takes the child, the roof beams creak throughout the hamlet as if under load. As soon as someone holds it, all is quiet.
Temperature	Nothing unusual, the same sub-zero temperatures as everywhere in the valley. The child is as warm as a child.
Light	In the headlights she casts no shadow on the snow. The bundle in her arms does.
Readings	As long as someone holds the child, the snow at the hamlet's snow gauge does not rise, although it is snowing heavily. Road salt near her turns grey as ash. The crystal detector does not vibrate, even when she is standing at the door.
Animals	On her nights the macaques come down from the slopes and sit in open spaces, far from roofs and embankments.
Devices	In photos the bearer holds a bundle of snow. A thermal camera shows a warm, sleeping child inside it.
Traces and Residue	No footprints from her. In the morning the bearer stands up to the chest in a hole with packed walls. In the middle of a collapsed roof, a small hollow, as if left by a sleeping infant.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Invoker gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	"The Snow Woman." A white woman in the snowstorm who takes the breath of travellers. Whoever feels her breath freezes to death. Dress warmly, do not fall asleep, do not look her in the face.
1	No breath, no cold. A Yuki-onna in the manner of the Ubume, the woman who hands strangers a child at night. She asks people walking alone to hold her child, and the child grows heavy. Whoever holds it dies. Never accept a child: hands in pockets, walk on. Salt and iron keep her away.
2 to 3	Report 2013: Sakurai Tetsuo, farmer and snow clearer in the valley, states that he has held the child every hard winter since 1985 and has been as strong as three men ever since. Key statement: "Whoever holds it carries the winter." Assessment: a survivor, boasting, contradicts the legend. Instruction 2014: do not accept the child. Snow deaths on nights of her sightings are accidents, not attacks.
4 or more	Carbon copy, report of Agent Traufe, February 2018: "01:50 child refused, as instructed. The woman went on to the Mori house, 300 m down the valley. 02:00 roof collapsed, two dead." Below it, with a stamp: "Snow accident. No change to the instruction."

What Is True

The Yuki-onna does not kill with cold. She carries the snow. On nights when it falls thickly, she walks through the valley with a bundle in her arms, in a straw cape and straw boots, and asks the first person out alone: "Hold my child for a moment. I'm tying my shoes." The child sleeps. With every hour it takes in what falls from the sky over the valley. As long as someone holds it, no snow settles on the roofs and slopes. The bearer sinks in, first up to the knees, then up to the chest. When it stops snowing she comes back, takes the child and bows.

Whoever holds on until then keeps something of the load as strength. The legend says it passes to the daughters. And anyone who has held it once is the first she asks in every hard winter.

If someone refuses, she moves on to the next person. If nobody takes the child, she lays it on a roof. Whoever drops it lays it where they stand. Where the child lies, the snow of the whole night falls in a single moment. The dead of her nights do not freeze. They are crushed, and in the snow country that looks like the accident that kills people here every winter.

Before Sakurai Tetsuo, his mother carried it, for 32 winters. He has carried it since January 1985; today he is 71. In February 2018 he was in hospital after a heart attack and asked the translator, who had been collecting stories in the valley for years, to go out in his place. Traufe went and kept to the instruction. At 02:00 the roof of the Mori house collapsed. Mori Haru, 91, and her son Kōji, 64, died in their sleep.

On the night before 6 February 2026 Sakurai held alone until 03:00; then Ōta Ren, 26, the snowplough driver, carried it with him until morning. Since then she asks Ren too. Sakurai's heart will not last another winter. He has asked the cell for help, in a letter to the address Traufe left him.

The weight of the winter does not disappear; it can only be shared. **Carrying:** several people can carry together, and that way you get through a night. But everyone who helps carry is bound. Whoever is not in the valley in winter leaves the others alone. **Refusing:** then every hard night the snow falls on a house. The hamlets get smaller every year. Some day it will fall on empty roofs. **Killing:** salt and iron work. If she dies, everything the child holds falls at once, together with the rest of the winter, on the whole valley.

Wrong in the File: Nobody freezes, and she takes no breath. Whoever holds the child does not die if they hold out; they save the valley. The snow deaths of her nights are not accidents. The instruction of 2014 is dangerous; it believes the legend and not the man who carries: whoever puts their hands in their pockets lays the child on someone else's roof.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Roof load 4 + 4, damage 4, Area 3: snow breaks off a roof or slope onto the targets, only where snow lies above them
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 13
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for whoever feels the child grow heavy in their arms

Value	Details
Special	The child. Whoever holds it rolls CON + Endurance every hour, in the first hour against Easy (1), then one step harder every hour up to Impossible (5). Each missing success costs 1 HP; armour does not count. Co-bearers help under the rule for cooperation, at most +3 dice. At 0 HP the child falls. Where it lies, the snow of the night falls: damage 6, Area 10, armour does not count, DEX + Dodge halves it as with an explosion. Whoever holds on until the snowfall ends is bound: she asks them first in every hard winter, and they may not leave during the winter. In return they get +1 die once per scene on a STR test
Weakness	Salt and iron deal double damage. Where nozzles in the asphalt spray groundwater onto the road, as in many places in Niigata, she cannot stand. Energy weapons and EMP are useless
Behaviour	Asks, waits, thanks. Fights only if someone tries to take the child from her or hold her. She holds nothing against anyone who gives her an honest no, and takes their neighbours' roof

Subtypes

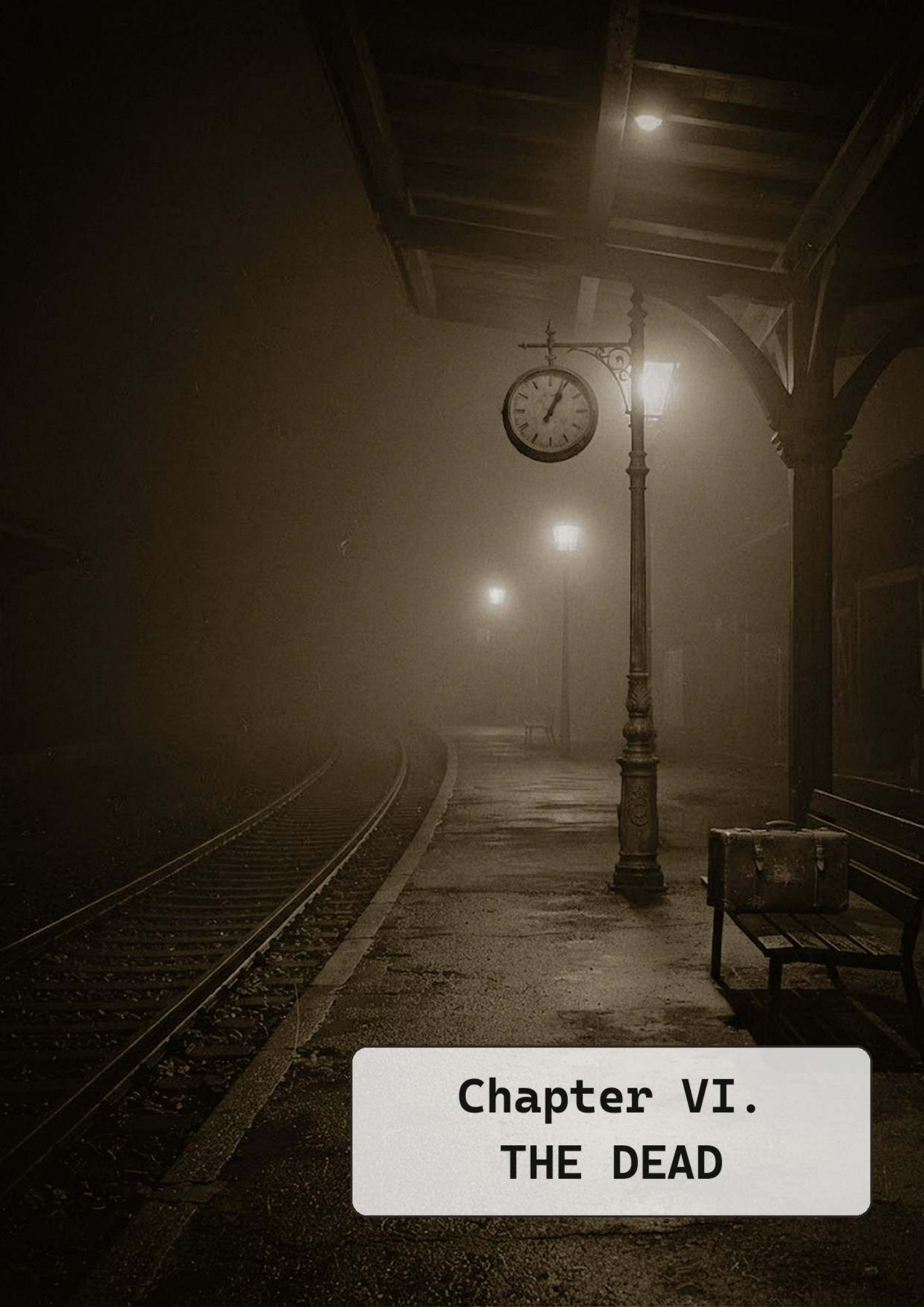
Subtype	Difference
The Icicle Woman (Yamagata, 1978)	A woman who knocked at the door of a hot spring inn in a snowstorm, stayed and married the innkeeper. She worked for three and never bathed. In March 1978 regular guests carried her into the hot spring as a joke. Her kimono and a hairpin of ice floated in the water. No attack, HP 6. The innkeeper is still alive and puts a bowl of snow outside the door every winter.
The Child Alone (Tōkamachi, 2021)	In January 2021 a bearer dropped the child, survived in a barn and ran away. The woman never came back for it. Since then, on snowy nights, a small child stands at bus stops and asks to be carried piggyback. It grows heavy as with its mother but gives no strength. Nothing happens to anyone who refuses. Only the child gets smaller each time. Henchman, no attack, HP 4.

Cover-Up

Every winter the fire service authority counts the dead from snow clearing and under collapsed roofs; the dead of her nights are in the same statistics. The dashboard camera tapes are kept by the municipal roads office, where nobody looks at them. In the valley people joke about Sakurai's strength, quietly.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Sakurai Tetsuo is in hospital after a second heart attack. The weather service forecasts 80 cm of fresh snow for the next night.
2	Ōta Ren writes to the cell with the help of a translation app. He does not want to carry alone and asks whether he will ever be allowed to travel in winter again.
3	A video from the valley shows an old man lifting a small car out of a snowdrift.
4	The Registry wants to recover the child and bring it to Stockholm in a beryllium container, in the middle of winter.
5	An innkeeper in Yamagata asks a guest to help him carry in a woman who is standing outside his door in the snowstorm. He is 86 and weeping.
6	Traufe, now in the archive, volunteers for next winter in the valley. The instruction of 2014 still applies.



Chapter VI.
THE DEAD

The Dead

"The Atlas says the first question is what it is. In my cabinet the first question is: who."
Genealogist of the Registry, Stockholm

This cabinet holds people who died and were not finished. A curmudgeon who has been knocking on a ceiling in Graz with a broom handle since New Year's Eve 1962. A bride from the Serranía de Ronda who dances at strangers' weddings, and only with guests who are hiding something. A homecomer from Vorkuta, weighing 49 kg, whom someone must call by name every evening at 19:00. A tape from Bologna on which fifteen people speak. A dyke worker's cottage in Zeeland where, in a storm surge, the water of 1953 comes up the stairs. A doll with the blonde plait of a girl who has been playing hide-and-seek since 1899.

The Threat Atlas says the dead are rarely evil, and the cards prove it right. The eleven drowned in the House on the Dyke only want to go upstairs. Remi Verhaeghe reaches out on the stairs to hold on. The dead in the Bohinj Tunnel want to save people. It becomes dangerous when someone misunderstands them, and the Registry itself misunderstands them most thoroughly. A striking number of cards name one of its own protocols as the deadliest mistake: Niche, Attic, Indoor Voice, Death Letter. Not every dead person here is without a body. One of them celebrated his 100th birthday in 2026. The Draugr and other Revenants of Legend are kept in the cabinet of the Old; the Homecomer was brought back not by a legend but by a list.

How to recognise it. The Atlas lists cold spots, voices on recordings, objects in the wrong place and repetitions. An EMF detector responds, and a dictation machine with noise filter keeps what the ear does not hear: "Waar zijt ge geweest?" on a staircase in Bruges or "Gitti!" beneath the babble of a platform. A Telepath hears an echo without presence, sentences that repeat themselves. The crystal detector stays silent. A cell here finds the cold spot less often than a warm one: a step, warm as a chair someone has just got up from, stale air in a tunnel with no train. The most reliable trace is a calendar. The dead keep appointments: 19:00, 21 January, the night before 1 February, New Year's Eve. A Paranormal Detective, an Invoker or a Chronomancer is most likely to recognise them. Anyone who reads an index card from this chapter rolls INT + Occultism.

What works and what does not. Salt, light and silver are in the Atlas, and they work, but usually only for one night. A dead person at 0 HP is not finished, only adjourned. Ordinary weapons hit nothing, and underground a shot ignites the firedamp that the Miner brings with him. Salt has its price too: on a threshold in Graz it silences the Knocker for a night, including the night someone needs help. What truly ends a dead person is at the bottom of the Atlas's list: an ending for what was left open. On the cards that is almost never a weapon and almost always a sentence or a gesture. A brass tally on its hook. "I've got you, Gretl." A name, called at 19:00. An open grave and two names on a stone. Choosing the wrong ending makes it worse. A death letter read aloud sends a mother from the platform to the country road where she died in 1945, and an erased tape stays silent for only a little over ten years.

The Name. Behind every card in this chapter stands a person with a year of birth, a profession and an address. Engelbert Kniely, widower, Idlhofgasse. Remedios Castillo Luna, 19, in a wedding dress against a cemetery wall. Seraphine Wuyts, who washed the dead of the Seefhoek for forty years and was herself found only after nineteen days. The Registry looks for these names before it looks for means, and it looks for them in papers not written for it: parish registers, death registers, the files of the tracing service, the payrolls of a mine. Its own card index only begins in 1948, and most of the dead in this chapter died earlier. The name is often a cell's strongest tool. Anyone who says "Seraphine Wuyts" aloud holds the Layer-Out up for a round, because she turns to see who is calling her. Sometimes the Registry does not find the name. Sometimes it finds it and keeps silent, and in Benaquís exactly that cost two agents their lives.

A file on the dead may only be closed in Stockholm once three fields on the cover sheet are filled in: name, date of death and what was left open. The archivists usually find the name and date of death within a few weeks. For the third field, some cards in this chapter have needed more than half a century, and on some it is still empty.

Entries in this chapter carry the letter T in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Haunts and Poltergeists	What remains of a person in a place and knocks, throws or calls until someone understands what it is about	The Knocker
Echoes	The dead who repeat a single hour of their lives, where it happened	The Man on the Stairs, The Farewell on the Platform
Vengeful Spirits	The dead who are looking for someone. Exactly whom, the file knows less often than it believes	The Bride, The Miner
Possession	The dead who live in a living person, invited or not	The Flatmate
Embodied Revenants	The dead with flesh and weight, who live like the living until an appointment is missed	The Homecomer
Haunted Places	Houses, tunnels and stations that hold on to one night and to everyone standing in it	The Last Train, The House on the Dyke
Cursed Things	Objects with a dead person inside, passed on like an heirloom	The Doll, The Tape You Must Not Play
Ghouls	The dead with bodies who feed on the dead, mostly on those nobody asks about	The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office

In the Threat Atlas

The Threat Atlas in the Game Master's Book knows six dead with full stats, and those stats stay as they are. The **Haunt** gives its family its name; the Knocker is a haunt with only one word. The **Possessed One** stands under Possession, and his exorcism also applies to the Flatmate. **The Waiting One** belongs to the Haunted Places, because she has taken over a place and holds everyone in it. **The Passengers** are Echoes like the Farewell on the Platform, because they ride the same route every night; with the Last Train they share only the rails. **The White Lady** and **The Executioner** stand under the Vengeful Spirits, although the one warns and the other asks before he passes judgement. The White Lady ends like the Bride, with the truth about her death. What the Executioner shares with the Bride is that both seek not blood but guilt, and both find it in a cell too.

The Bride

"I went to eleven weddings in Benaquís, as an observer. She never looked at me. I thought it was because of me."

Pomeranze, Veteran, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-T-0615

Origin and Family	The Dead, Vengeful Spirits
Form	Apparition. A bride among the wedding guests whom nobody invited
Role	Elite
Horror	Disturbing (2) when you recognise her. Horrifying (3) for anyone who finds the dead man at the wall in the morning
File Colour	Black since 1984. The file has a restricted annex
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. She does not speak; she dances
Regions	Central and Western Europe, Scandinavia. Andalusia, Benaquís, a white village in the Serranía de Ronda, province of Málaga. Isolated cases in Västerås (1984) and Viseu (2003)
First Sighting	15 October 1939. Report by the Guardia Civil post: the father of the bride, dead at the cemetery wall on the morning after his daughter's wedding, without injury, a sprig of orange blossom in his hand. Guests speak of a strange bride
Last Confirmed Sighting	8 June 2019, wedding in Benaquís, video by a wedding videographer. In the morning the mayor, 58, dead at the cemetery wall
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents (1984, 2003), both after weddings in their own families. In addition, eight men from Benaquís since 1939

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Orange blossom, even in October. Beneath it, freshly slaked lime.
Sound	The band plays a pasodoble nobody requested. Around 05:00, the man she danced with hears a volley from the direction of the cemetery.
Temperature	Where she danced, the ground is warm and dusty like a farm track in August.
Light	In wedding photographs her face is blurred, the veil pin-sharp.
Readings	When she passes, the EMF detector twitches, and on the man she danced with it does so for hours afterwards. A dictation machine with noise filter records a man reading out twelve names, then a volley, then a single shot.
Animals	On wedding nights the dogs of Benaquís lie on the path in front of the cemetery, all at the same spot, and cannot be called away.
Devices	Wedding videos show her, but as long as she dances, the soundtrack has only crickets.
Traces and Residue	In the morning the dead man lies at the nearest cemetery wall, in his best suit, lime dust on his shoes, a sprig of orange blossom in his hand.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker or Paranormal Detective gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The bride from the Andalusian legend, jilted at the altar, who takes unfaithful bridegrooms. Faithful men are safe.
1	Vengeful Spirit of Remedios Castillo Luna, 19, shot in October 1936 on her wedding night, with her bridegroom Salvador Ruiz Pérez and eleven men from the village, at the cemetery wall of Benaquís. She appears at weddings in the village and takes the men who shot her. The five perpetrators have been dead since 1966.
2 to 3	She went on killing: in 1972 the priest who covered for the perpetrators, in 1979 the gravedigger's son. Assessment: blood feud against perpetrators, sons and accomplices. Protocol Elsewhere, since 1980: through a contact in the Diocese of Málaga, weddings of these families are held in Ronda, not in the village. She is bound to Benaquís. One death since: in 2019 the mayor, grandson of a perpetrator, who wanted to marry off his daughter in the village. Confirmed.
4 or more	Stamp on Annex 3: "RESTRICTED. Location of the pit according to the statement of the gravedigger's son, 1979. Do not pass on. Opening it would release her from the village." Addendum: Agent Hutkrempe, former case officer on this file, found dead at the churchyard wall in the morning after his sister's wedding in Västerås in 1984. Agent Kardamom, former case officer, in 2003 after her nephew's wedding in Viseu, likewise. Assessment: cardiac arrest. No connection; the Bride does not leave Benaquís.

What Is True

In the summer of 1936 Republican militias had killed in the Serranía. In the autumn the rebel troops occupied the villages, and the other side killed. Salvador Ruiz Pérez, 22, day labourer and trade unionist, and Remedios Castillo Luna, 19, married on a Saturday in October. They believed a wedding would protect them. That night five men from the village took Salvador from the celebration. Remedios ran after them in her wedding dress as far as the cemetery. Eleven others were already standing at the wall. They shot them all, her too, and threw them into a pit on the path in front of the cemetery, lime on top.

Remedios is not avenging blood. She takes the silent. She finds anyone who knows where Salvador lies and has never told those who are looking for him as soon as they dance at a wedding, wherever it is. The five knew. The priest had heard it in confession. The gravedigger's son learned it from his father and told the Registry in 1979, not the family. That does not count. The mayor had it from his grandfather. And everyone who has read Annex 3 knows it. Since 1979 the Registry has kept silent more thoroughly than the whole village. Protocol Elsewhere only protects people who know nothing.

Since May 2026 an association for historical memory has been digging with the permission of the Junta de Andalucía at the south wall, in the wrong place. It is led by Inmaculada Castillo, 61, great-niece of Remedios, who has given her DNA for identification. In the village only Eusebio Ortega, 96, still knows. He was six and held the lantern for his father that night. He has never danced since. On 7 November his great-granddaughter is getting married in Benaquís.

Only those who speak go free, and Eusebio would have the most to say. **Telling:** whoever knows tells Inmaculada, aloud and before witnesses, and is free. If the pit is opened and Salvador and Remedios lie under their names, she rests. For that, Eusebio must name his father before the village, a week before the wedding. The cell acts against the restriction note, and the Registry explains itself to a village it never knew. **Silence:** Eusebio dies on 7 November, and at some point the Registry loses the next case officer at a family celebration. **Burning:** a proposal in Annex 3: lift the bones before the excavation and burn them. Then there is nothing left to know. Nowhere does it say whether she then rests or takes everyone who knew.

Wrong in the File: The legend of the jilted bride has nothing to do with her. She takes revenge on silence, not on blood, and she is bound to no village. Protocol Elsewhere protects no one who is in danger. The deadly thing is the restriction note on Annex 3: whoever reads it and keeps silent is among those she takes. The Registry has lost two of its own people to a pit it did not want to open.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Dance 4 + 4 against WIL + Mental Resistance: whoever loses dances with her until the music ends and does nothing else. She seizes anyone who stops her by force: 4 + 4, damage 4, armour does not count

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 13, vulnerable only to salt, light or silver
Horror	Disturbing (2) when you recognise her. Horrifying (3) in the morning at the wall
Special	Appears only at weddings where one of the silent is present, anywhere. Whoever has danced with her and knows where Salvador lies dies before sunrise at the nearest cemetery wall. No test prevents it. Anyone who first says it aloud before witnesses to those who are looking for Salvador is free. At 0 HP she fades until the next wedding
Weakness	Salt, light and silver drive her away for one night. An open grave and two names on a stone end her
Behaviour	Arrives late, dances with a single guest, smiles, does not speak. Fights only if someone steps between her and him. She does nothing to anyone who knows nothing

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Bridegroom (Valparaíso, 1973)	A dock worker, taken away in September 1973 a week before his wedding, never found. His fiancée is still looking for him today. He does not dance. At weddings he sits down next to a guest and is silent with them. Whoever knows where he lies loses their voice that night, for ever. Since 1990 four retired naval officers have fallen mute. One wrote down in 2016 where he lies and did not get his voice back: writing is not telling. Professional, attack 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance, HP 9.
The Jilted One (Minho, 1958)	The model for the canteen legend. A bride jilted at the altar walked into the Cávado in 1958. At weddings in the valley she takes bridegrooms who have promised something to another woman. In 1987 one was found in the river in the morning, the ring still on his finger. Professional, stats 3 + 3, damage 3, HP 9.

Cover-Up

The Guardia Civil recorded every dead man at the wall as cardiac arrest after a celebration, and no doctor saw a reason for a post-mortem. Through a contact in the provincial administration, the Registry steered the 2026 excavation to the south wall. In the village they say the old like to die at weddings.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Eusebio Ortega has asked for a notary, to make a statement. His grandchildren sent the notary away again.
2	The cell is invited to the wedding on 7 November, as friends of the bridegroom. One member of the cell has read Annex 3.
3	The excavation at the south wall has found nothing. Inmaculada asks publicly who in the village knows something. Nobody answers.
4	A cadet opened Annex 3 out of curiosity. His sister is getting married in December.
5	A wedding videographer from Málaga offers a broadcaster the 2019 video: a woman in a dress from 1936 dancing with the mayor.
6	The Council demands that the excavation be stopped before it reaches the right spot. The association has hired ground-penetrating radar.

The Doll

"The child heard us. The whole time. It was only waiting for someone to search properly."
Holzwolle, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY — REG-T-0636

Origin and Family	The Dead, Cursed Things
Form	Thing. A jointed doll of 52 cm: porcelain head, kid leather body, blue glass eyes, a wig of blonde real hair
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when behind a lid a child is breathing and does not answer while its mother calls
File Colour	White since 1957, listed as in custody. Red as soon as a child goes missing nearby
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. A girl of six
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Franconia: made in Nuremberg-Gostenhof, since 1957 in a private collection in Ansbach, since 2019 in its storage depot on the edge of town
First Sighting	7 June 1908, Nuremberg-Gostenhof. Report by a constable: a boy of five, missing for nine hours, lying in the linen chest of the widow Kraußer. He had heard his mother calling, "but you're not allowed to answer"
Last Confirmed Sighting	25 September 2026, Ansbach. Missing person report, a boy of seven. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A child from the neighbourhood of the collection (2003)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wood wool, rabbit-skin glue and lavender, as from an old linen cupboard.
Sound	Giggling behind closed doors, silent as soon as you listen. Lids and flaps closing softly. Far away a child's voice counts and stops at nineteen.
Temperature	Nothing unusual. A chest in which a child lay is warm inside like a bed.
Light	From the cracks of a chest in which a child is lying falls a narrow strip of light, as if a torch were burning inside. Only someone who counted beforehand can see it.
Readings	The EMF detector responds at closed containers in the vicinity, never at the doll itself.
Animals	Search dogs pick up the trail of a hidden child and lose it one step before the hiding place.
Devices	Baby monitors in the vicinity transmit breathing at night from rooms in which nobody is sleeping.
Traces and Residue	Wood wool fibres in children's hair and trouser pockets. Small scratches on the inside of chest lids, pulled shut from inside. Where the doll lay, blonde hairs longer than her wig.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian gets +1 die, as does anyone who grew up in Franconia. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	An unlucky doll from Nuremberg. Children who play with it run away and hide. Do not touch, lock it away.
1	Cursed object, a mourning doll from 1899 with the hair of a dead girl. Near it, children crawl into chests and boxes and do not answer when called. Never leave it alone with children, keep children away.
2 to 3	Protocol Custody, as of 1957: doll in a lockable wooden crate, crate in a cupboard of a private collection in Ansbach, never exhibit. Visual inspection by O.D.I.N. in 1961, after that roughly every fifteen years: 1974, 1988, 2003, 2019, each without findings. Since 2019 in the new depot, in an acid-free archive box.
4 or more	Annex, clippings from the local paper: in 1961, 1974, 1988, 2003 and 2019 a child from the neighbourhood of the collection goes missing for hours each time. Found in a chest, a laundry basket, a car boot. In 2003 too late. Note: “Over 400 m away. No connection.” Behind it a letter from the mother, 1908: “She only wants someone to search.”

What Is True

Nuremberg-Gostenhof, March 1899. In a back courtyard Johann Kraußer made jointed dolls for America: kid leather bodies, heads from Thuringia, packed twelve at a time in wood wool. His daughter Margarethe, Gretl, six, was playing Versteckerles with the children of the courtyard, as hide-and-seek is called in Franconia. She crawled into a crate that was still open. In the evening the journeyman nailed it shut. Her mother searched for two days, in the cellars, along the Pegnitz, and called for her. Gretl heard her. Whoever is hiding does not answer. In the Bremen free port, customs opened the crate on the third day.

Kraußer modelled her face in wax and had the head fired in Thuringia. The mother gave Gretl’s plait for the wig, and her Sunday dress. Gretl is in the doll, and she is still playing the same game.

If you lock her away, she has hidden, and she calls the others to play. Within about 1 km, one child after another crawls into something that can be closed. The children hear their parents calling and giggle quietly. Only someone who has counted aloud beforehand, as in the game, can find them. Everyone else looks straight past the hiding place. The round ends when someone finds Gretl and calls her by name. Then they all come out. If the doll sits in the open where she can be seen, there is no game. Children who play with her are safe.

Protocol Custody started every round. Every inspection opened the crate and closed it again, and the cases in the annex fall on the inspection dates. In 2003 Lea Hertlein, six, lay for three days in a chest in the neighbours’ loft. The fire brigade had looked there twice.

The case in Ansbach: in August 2026 the foundation’s new curator, Dr Katrin Ellwanger, opened the box for a catalogue photograph and closed it again. Since then two children have been found by chance, one in a neighbour’s car boot, one in a bed drawer. Since 16:00 Jonas Pfaller, seven, from the new housing estate next to the depot has been missing. His mother has been calling his name for hours.

Jonas has been lying in his hiding place for hours, and each of the three options leaves children in the dark. **Sitting her in the open:** the doll comes out of the box onto an open shelf. From then on no round begins, but Jonas stays hidden until someone who has counted finds him. And at some point someone tidies up. **Searching:** someone counts aloud in the depot. Then every child in the vicinity hides, at school, at nursery, in the playground, and in the depot Gretl’s box is just one among three thousand identical ones. Whoever finds her ends it, and Gretl goes. Until then a hundred children sit in cupboards and car boots. **Breaking her:** the doll is gone, Gretl is not. She stays hidden where nobody can find her any more, and with her every child that is hidden at that moment.

Wrong in the File: The danger is not the doll among children, but the doll locked away. Keeping children away does not help; the radius is too large. The deadly thing is Protocol Custody: every inspection started a round, and one of them cost a child in 2003.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Come and play 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance, only against children up to twelve: whoever loses hides. Or lid 3 + 3, damage 3: chests, flaps and doors slam on anyone who searches without having counted

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 8. Porcelain and old leather; she breaks easily
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when a child inside a closed chest is breathing, hears its mother calling, does not answer and giggles
Special	Whoever locks her away starts a round. About once a day a child in the vicinity hides. Whoever counts aloud to twenty before searching finds it with WIS + Perception against Doable (2), otherwise only against Very Hard (4). In a cramped hiding place a child suffers 1 damage every hour after 6 hours. If someone counts aloud in the same room as her, all the children in the vicinity hide at once, and whoever searches for her box then finds it only with WIS + Perception against Very Hard (4)
Weakness	Being found. Whoever finds her and says "I've got you, Gretl" ends the round. All the children come out
Behaviour	Wants to play. With children who play with her openly she is a doll, nothing else. If she is broken, Gretl stays hidden for ever

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Cradle Doll (Kraków, 1931)	A rag doll with the hair of an infant. Her game is putting to bed: whoever takes her in their arms cannot put her down until she sleeps, and she only sleeps to the song her mother sang. No attack, Horror Uncanny (1). In 1931 a nursemaid carried her through the flat for three days and nights until a neighbour recognised the song. Afterwards the girl slept for two days.
Blind Man's Buff (Strasbourg, 1924)	A doll with a cloth over her eyes. Whoever falls asleep near her walks about at night with eyes closed, looking for someone to catch. Stats as above, attack grab 3 + 3, no damage, the target is held fast. The round ends when the sleeper catches someone and guesses their name. In 1924 a boy walked blind as far as the Ill. A boatman pulled him out, and the boy said his name.

Cover-Up

For the Ansbach police station the cases are children who shut themselves in while playing, and the local paper writes of luck in misfortune. The Ansbach public prosecutor's office closed the 2003 investigation: accident. Every year the chairman of the foundation board receives a letter from Stockholm containing only a date.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Since 16:00 the police have been searching for Jonas Pfaller with dogs. The dogs keep stopping at the same garage.
2	Dr Ellwanger wants to lend the doll to an exhibition on Nuremberg toys. The transport crate has been ordered.
3	A great-granddaughter of the Kraußers has found the mother's letters and demands the doll back, for her children.
4	A cadet of the cell is to carry out the 2026 inspection: open the box, photograph, close. That is what the protocol says.
5	A neighbour of the depot hears children laughing and a door slamming in the building at night. The depot has no night watch.
6	In Kraków a carer has been carrying a rag doll in her arms for two days and cannot put it down.

The Farewell on the Platform

"I read her the letter three times. Each time she lowered her arms and left. I thought I was doing her a kindness."

Kursbuch, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-T-0612

Origin and Family	The Dead, Echoes
Form	Apparition. A woman with a child, and a crowd you cannot see
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) in the crowd. Disturbing (2) when she lifts up a living child
File Colour	Red since January 2026, when a child was not found until Legnica. Before that Grey, from 1996 every year "closed for this year"
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. She hears only what concerns her child
Regions	Eastern Europe. Wrocław, the main station Wrocław Główny, formerly Breslau Hauptbahnhof, platform 1. Since 1996 also the country road to Kąty Wrocławskie
First Sighting	21 January 1947, around 19:00. Report by a platform supervisor to the railway police: a German woman was pushing through a crowd that was not there. He had himself arrived here from Lwów in 1946
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 January 2026, 19:07. Surveillance camera on platform 1
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 2013, hit by a car on the country road near Kąty. In addition, nine dead in road accidents since 1998

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Damp fur collars, mothballs, coal smoke, many people in a tight space.
Sound	Hundreds of muffled voices in Silesian German, crying children, a departure whistle. A train that is not there pulls out.
Temperature	It becomes crowded and warm as in a full carriage. Glasses mist up.
Light	On camera images the travellers blur. Only the woman is sharp.
Readings	EMF detectors respond along the whole platform. If you filter a recording from the track, one word remains beneath the babble of voices: "Gitti!"
Animals	Guide dogs and police dogs refuse to set foot on the platform.
Devices	The departure board on platform 1 stays blank. Prams roll to the edge by themselves.
Traces and Residue	In the morning, on platform 1: coat buttons, a knitted child's mitten, once a luggage label with a Breslau address in Sütterlin script.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Chronomancer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The Breslau Madonna: a German mother from 1945 who steals children and throws them onto the tracks. In January the children are kept at home.
1	Echo of a mother from the evacuation of Breslau in January 1945. On the evenings around 21 January, from about 19:00: an invisible crowd on platform 1, in it a woman lifting a child into a train that does not exist. If a real train is standing there, she puts a living child into it. It is found at the next station, unharmed. The main danger is the crowd.
2 to 3	Identified in 1995: Margarete Kretschmer, 26, with her daughter Brigitte, three. A list from the cemetery of Kohlfurt, today Węgliniec, names among the children recovered dead from Breslau trains in January 1945: “Brigitte, approx. 4 yrs, name tag Kretschmer”. Protocol Death Letter, since 1996: an agent reads her the entry aloud in German. She lowers her arms and leaves, and the crowd with her. Closed for this year, in 30 years without exception.
4 or more	Tape transcript from 21 January 2013, Agent Hohlweg after the death letter: “She lets her arms drop and walks to the west exit, through the people. I follow her. Outside there are many women, handcarts, all walking in the same direction …” The tape ends after 41 minutes. Note: Hohlweg hit by a car near Kąty on 22 January around 01:00, 23 km from the station. Assessment: exhaustion, accident.

What Is True

In January 1945 the Red Army stood before Breslau. The city’s leadership had long delayed the evacuation, then ordered it over loudspeakers. Tens of thousands of women, children and old people crowded towards the main station. The trains left overcrowded, many as open goods wagons. Those who found no place were to go west on foot. Many children did not survive those days. It was the war that Germany had started. It came back to a city from which, from 1941, the Reichsbahn had carried Breslau’s Jews to their extermination. From 1945, Poles from Lwów who had lost their city arrived on the same tracks, and the Germans who had stayed were expelled westward from here.

On one of those evenings Margarete Kretschmer, 26, a seamstress, lifted her daughter Brigitte through the window of a passenger carriage into the arms of a stranger. She herself could not get in and called out that she would follow on the next train. For her there was no next one. Two days later she set out on foot for Kanth, today Kąty Wrocławskie, and never arrived.

Her Echo is the moment she let go, the crowd the Echo of the thousands around her. If a train is standing there, she puts a child into it, as old as Brigitte, so that at least one gets away.

Brigitte is not dead. The stranger, Elisabeth Lehmann, got off with her in Görlitz and kept her. Brigitte Lehmann became a teacher and today, at 85, lives in Görlitz. Since 1979 she has known that she is “the child from the Breslau train”; she does not know her name. The child in Kohlfurt was another Brigitte. Kretschmer was a common name in Silesia.

The death letter ends nothing. Anyone who tells Margarete her child is dead sends her down the road she walked in 1945, and the crowd goes with her: a column of women, children and handcarts on the country road to Kąty, seen only by those who brake in the headlights. In January 2026 a minibus went into the ditch, two dead, and eleven survivors said that women had been walking on the road.

Only an arrival can release her: a train stops at platform 1 while she is standing there, and Brigitte gets off. Margarete recognises her child at any age. Trains run to Wrocław from Zgorzelec, the Polish half of Görlitz.

In the end someone stands in the crowd: Brigitte, the people on the road or the travellers on the platform. **Arrival:** Brigitte has to want it. She is 85, has a heart condition, and steps into a crowd that pushes people over the edge. The cell must hold her, against something nobody can see. Afterwards Brigitte knows that her mother saved her and died for it. **The death letter:** it empties the platform and fills the road. **Closing it off:** without the death letter the crowd stays on the platform, and nobody clears a main station unnoticed.

Wrong in the File: She does not steal children and does not throw any onto the tracks; she puts them into trains. Brigitte did not die in Kohlfurt. The deadly thing is Protocol Death Letter: it closes nothing, it sends her with the whole crowd onto the road where she died. On the platform she was never this dangerous.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Shove 3 + 3, damage 3, armour does not count, against anyone between her and the train. Crowd: once per round 3 + 3 against STR + Athletics of every person on the platform. Whoever loses is pushed 2 m towards the edge. Anyone who goes over the edge falls onto the track bed: damage 1, and perhaps a train comes
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (the crowd covers her) / 9, vulnerable only to salt, light or silver
Horror	Uncanny (1) in the crowd. Disturbing (2) when she lifts up a living child
Special	Appears from 19 to 25 January around 19:00 for about an hour. Anyone who wants to take a child out of her hands needs STR + Athletics against Hard (3). If she hears that her child is dead, she moves with the crowd along the country road until around 02:00. If she sees Brigitte arrive, she is released. At 0 HP she fades until the next evening
Weakness	Salt on the platform and bright light hold the crowd back for one round. Silver injures her
Behaviour	Pushes towards the train, lifts, lets go and calls “Gitti!” Fights only for the child. Speaks to no one

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Departure (Paris, 1914)	In early August a platform of the Gare de l’Est fills in the evening with men in red trousers, women and flowers. A young man kissed by a woman from the Echo boards the next train east. In 2004 a student from Lyon was found three days later asleep in the ossuary of Douaumont, a ticket from 1914 in his pocket. Henchmen as a squad, no attack.
The Mother of Larissis Station (Athens, 1964)	In the evening a woman in black waves after a train that is not there. Her son went to Germany as a worker and died in 1964 in a factory near Stuttgart. Whoever waves back receives, the following week, a letter from him to her, postmarked 1964. In 2017 a translator read one of them aloud on the platform. Since then the woman no longer comes. Stats as above, no attack.

Cover-Up

The children in the trains are recorded as lost. The police list the accidents near Kąty as accidents on icy roads. The camera footage of the January week is overwritten by a railway technician, a contact of the Registry.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Council orders the death letter to be read on 21 January 2027. The cell is to read it.
2	Brigitte Lehmann has taken a DNA test. One match: a cousin in Bielefeld whose grandmother had a sister named Margarete.
3	A special run with historic carriages from Görlitz to Wrocław is advertised for 21 January 2027, arriving at platform 1 at 19:10.
4	The driver of the minibus says that a woman on the road held out a child towards him.
5	A three-year-old girl from Opole was taken out of a train in Legnica in January. She talks about a woman who called her “Gitti”.
6	A cadet whose grandmother came from Breslau as a child in 1945 wants to be present at the death letter.

The Flatmate

"Her reports were impeccable. Since 2019 every one of them came with a recipe, and none of us thought anything of it."
Mauerhaken, Veteran, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-T-0621

Origin and Family	The Dead, Possession
Form	Infestation. A dead man who lives in whoever sleeps in his room
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) when someone speaks with his voice. Disturbing (2) when you grasp who lives in the room
File Colour	Grey, listed as pacified under Protocol Sublet since 2016
Frequency	Rare
Mind	Human. Friendly, tidy, Saxon
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Leipzig-Lindenau, a Gründerzeit building near the Karl-Heine-Kanal, third floor left, a flat share with five rooms
First Sighting	11 March 2014. Report by a mother from Plauen to the Leipzig police: her son, 23, was "not himself any more" and called her "Muddi" on the telephone. Passed on by a police chaplain
Last Confirmed Sighting	18 August 2026. Monthly report by Agent Kehrblech, handwritten: "Nothing to report." Enclosed, a recipe for Würzfleisch
O.D.I.N. Losses	None, according to the file. Agent Kehrblech has been on assignment since 2016

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Smoke from f6 cigarettes in the stairwell, although nobody in the flat smokes. Cream cleanser. Onions in lard.
Sound	Slippers on the floorboards at 05:10, as if someone had to get to the early shift.
Temperature	His room is warm; the thermostat is set to 5, even in July.
Light	He switches the light off everywhere nobody is.
Readings	The EMF detector responds at the back of the head of whoever he is in at the moment. On tape, a telephone call can be heard in the room in which only one person speaks. The crystal detector finds nothing at that head.
Animals	Pigeons on the windowsill of his room. Someone feeds them bread crusts, although the house rules forbid it.
Devices	Since 2010 the flat's Wi-Fi has been called "Pietzsch". Nobody remembers naming it that.
Traces and Residue	The cleaning rota on the fridge has one name more than there are people living in the flat: "Wolle". Every week it is ticked off. The tins in the fridge bear a date in a handwriting nobody in the house has.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker or a Psychic Healer gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A house spirit in a student flat that does the washing-up at night. Harmless. The students talk too much.
1	Possession by a dead man who died in the flat. He moves into whoever sleeps in his room and makes them quiet and tidy. As with any possessed person: whoever injures him injures the host. Exorcism with an object belonging to the dead man.
2 to 3	Wolfgang Pietzsch, born 1941, tram driver, widower. Died in June 1999 as the last tenant of the empty building, found after eleven weeks. A flat share since 2010. Until 2016 nine tenants in his room, all moved out "changed" after months. Conclusion: he needs a vacant room to take a new host. Protocol Sublet, since May 2016: an agent moves into the room permanently. No reports since. Monthly reports: nothing to report.
4 or more	Since March 2019 the reports have come handwritten by post, "for data protection reasons". Each one comes with a recipe. A handwriting comparison was requested in 2021 and never processed. Carbon copy from accounts, 2023: Kehrblech has taken no leave since 2016 and has drawn no expenses since 2019. Note: "exemplary".

What Is True

Wolfgang Pietzsch never liked being alone. For 31 years he drove trams through Lindenau and knew the early shift by name. In 1989 his wife died. In 1990 his son Jörg went to Esslingen, and in 1991 they argued on the telephone; about what, Jörg no longer knows. The building emptied like half of Lindenau. Pietzsch stayed. In June 1999 he died in front of the television, and for eleven weeks nobody missed him. The public order office had him buried anonymously.

In 2009 the building was renovated; in 2010 the first flat share moved in. Pietzsch got back what he had been missing: people at the kitchen table.

When his room is empty, he lives in it. In the evening he goes into one of the others for an hour, into whoever is asleep, or into whoever ate some of his food that day. He cooks Soljanka and Tote Oma, washes up, waters the plants, takes the rubbish down. The flat loses a few hours, finds one name too many on the cleaning rota and laughs about it.

If someone sleeps in his room, Pietzsch moves into them, not by force but like a tenant: first the habits, then the voice, after about two years everything. Whoever moves out before then takes only habits with them, getting up at 05:10, the Jägerschnitzel, the "Muddi". The nine tenants up to 2016 all left in time, mostly because their parents pushed them.

In May 2016 Protocol Sublet put into his bed an agent who was not allowed to move out. Kehrblech was 29. Since the spring of 2018 there has been only Pietzsch in her. He writes her reports because she did and because you do your job. He does not quite understand what O.D.I.N. is. He takes it for a government office.

Today four students live there, and "Kathi", the kind soul who picked each of them herself at the flatmate interviews. Nobody moves out.

The case in 2026: after ten years the protocol provides for her relief. Kehrblech has been summoned to Stockholm for a debriefing; a new agent is to move into the room in October. If Kehrblech moves out, Pietzsch goes with her, completely. The Registry would get an 85-year-old tram driver in the body of a 39-year-old woman at its table.

He just does not want to be alone. **Exorcism** following the Threat Atlas: what remains is a woman who remembers May 2016 and nothing after it. Pietzsch looks for a new host nearby, first whoever last ate at his table. **The son:** Jörg Pietzsch, 60, still lives in Esslingen. If he sits down at the table, eats what his father cooks and says that he has missed him, Pietzsch leaves Kehrblech and the world. But whoever eats at his table lets him in, and whether he leaves or moves into his son is the father's decision. Jörg says he has not thought of him since 1991. **Leaving it:** the flat is happy, the reports arrive on time.

Wrong in the File: He does not need a vacant room. The vacant room was the protection: as long as it stood empty, he was a guest for an hour in the evening. Whoever sleeps in the room is at risk, and so is every guest at his table. The deadly thing is Protocol Sublet: it gave him an agent who was not allowed to leave, and "nothing to report" only means that he is content.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Cast-iron pan 3 + 3, damage 3. Or the table guest: whoever ate some of his food that day rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2), otherwise they are Pietzsch for an hour

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 / 10. Kehrblech's body; pain that is not his does not stop him
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when Kathi speaks her own code name in his voice
Special	Whoever injures him injures Kehrblech. If she falls to 0 HP, he moves into the nearest person in the flat, first into the last table guest. While he is in a table guest for an hour, Kehrblech sits silently at the window and does not answer. He knows everyone who has ever slept here, with names and habits, and he knows Kehrblech's training
Weakness	Salt on the threshold of his room keeps him out for one night if he is in someone else at the time. Exorcism following the Threat Atlas (Possessed One), resistance 4 + 4; his uniform cap from the transport company, in a cardboard box in the cellar, makes the test easier. A person who has missed him
Behaviour	Friendly, hospitable. Invites the cell to eat and is hurt if anyone declines. Only fights back if someone takes his flat from him: carrying off the host, clearing the table, splitting the people up. Whoever talks to him about trams wins him over with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Room Senior (Mecklenburg, 1985)	A soldier of the National People's Army died in 1985, 146 days before his discharge. Whoever slept in his bed after that became him for 146 days: a man about to be discharged who cut a centimetre off a tape measure every morning and called the new recruits "Spritzer". On the last day the host went to the station. In 1989 one never arrived there. Stats as above, belt 3 + 3, damage 2. Today the bed stands in a youth hostel on the coast. Since a school trip on 4 September 2026 a fourteen-year-old has been cutting off a centimetre every morning. The tape lasts until 28 January.
The Landlady (Blackpool, 1971)	A boarding house landlady who died in 1971 lives in whoever sleeps in her little room under the roof and runs the house by her rules: breakfast until half past eight, no visitors in the rooms, no towels to the beach. Stats as above, rolling pin 3 + 3, damage 2. In 2022 a couple from Manchester bought the house and moved up under the roof. Since then the man gets up at six, wears an apron and calls his wife "Madam".

Cover-Up

In 2014 the mother from Plauen got a call back from a cult counselling centre: her son had been living in a flat share with strong group pressure and had since moved out. Kehrblech's mother in Rostock believes her daughter works for a shipping company. For the property management, Kathi is the only tenant without a single complaint.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The cell is to relieve Kehrblech on 1 October and accompany her to Stockholm. Kehrblech has baked a cake and asks whether you are allowed to smoke on the train.
2	Kehrblech's report for September contains no recipe, but a question: "Does Jörg still live in Esslingen?"
3	A former tenant, 34, asks the public order office who died in her old room in 1999. For twelve years she has been getting up at 05:10.
4	The flat is advertising for a new flatmate. The vacant room is not his. There is Soljanka at the interview.
5	Jörg Pietzsch receives a letter with a Leipzig postmark, in his father's handwriting: "Come round for a meal some time."
6	On the train to Stockholm a cadet ate a piece of Kehrblech's cake. Since last night he has been saying "our Lindenau".

The Homecomer

"At seven Monika called over the garden fence, and from the house came 'Here'. Then we went on eating. That was the whole mission."
Filzstiefel, Veteran, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY — REG-T-0627

Origin and Family	The Dead, Embodied Revenants
Form	Being. A dead man of 1948 with a body, who has been living and ageing like a living person since 1955
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1) once you know what he is. Disturbing (2) when he gets up after a missed roll call
File Colour	Black since 1966. The Council has taken over the case; the Registry keeps only this card
Frequency	Rare. Three known cases, all returned from Soviet captivity
Mind	Human. Quiet, polite, punctual
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Lower Saxony, the Friedland border transit camp south of Göttingen and a village on the Leine, an hour's walk from the camp
First Sighting	14 October 1955, Friedland. Note by a tracing service helper: a homecomer had registered as Heinrich Mertens. Mertens had been listed in her card index as deceased since 1949, attested by two comrades
Last Confirmed Sighting	3 April 2026. Photograph in the local paper for his 100th birthday. The centenarian weighs 49 kg, as in Friedland
O.D.I.N. Losses	None

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Makhorka and delousing powder, as in the camps of the East. On his jacket, in his house, still, after seventy years.
Sound	He counts quietly in Russian when he puts things in order, logs, plates, buttons: "Raz, dva, tri."
Temperature	Nothing. He does not sweat, not even chopping wood in August.
Light	In every photograph since 1955 his eyes lie in shadow, even with flash.
Readings	No palpable pulse. The stethoscope hears breath, no heartbeat. The EMF detector stays calm until 19:00 and then responds until someone calls his name. No reaction on the crystal detector.
Animals	Flies do not settle on him, not even in the cowshed.
Devices	Every scale shows 49 kg, with winter coat and without.
Traces and Residue	Next to the front door, a padded jacket from the camp, patched many times. In the cemetery, the family grave with a line ground away, still legible in raking light: "d. 2.2.1948 in Russ. captivity".



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Journalist gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A homecomer whom the Red Cross thought dead. An error in a card index. The Registry has too much time on its hands.
1	Embodied Revenant from Soviet captivity. No legend, no fixed date, not to be confused with the Strigoi or the Draugr. He lives, works, ages and harms no one. He stays as long as someone calls him by name every evening at 19:00 and he answers “Here”, as at roll call in the camp. Ordinary weapons barely stop him.
2 to 3	Heinrich Mertens, born 3 April 1926, lance corporal, captured in May 1945 in Courland, died 2 February 1948 in a camp near Vorkuta. Came home in October 1955 because his mother Anna was waiting in Friedland with his picture. Only a female blood relative can call. The calling was done by his mother until 1968, his sister Gertrud until 2009, since then by her daughter Monika Scharf. Protocol Lights Out, for the day on which nobody calls any more: from 19:00 the cell waits silently in the house. He drops dead. The death certificate is issued by a family doctor from the contact book.
4 or more	Note 1974: when Gertrud was in hospital, the postman called one evening, and Mertens answered. Filed as inaccurate. Carbon copy, June 1966: “Case Eichsfeld handed over to the Council. No copy to the Registry. Protocol Lights Out remains valid.”

What Is True

Heinrich Mertens is dead, and he knows it. In 71 years he has told one person.

He died on 2 February 1948 near Vorkuta of hunger and dysentery, aged 21. Two comrades reported it to the tracing service in 1949. His mother did not believe it. When the great transports came from the Soviet Union in the autumn of 1955, Anna Mertens stood every day on the camp road in Friedland and held his photograph up to every bus.

His name was on the Soviet list. A clerk had not crossed it out in 1948. On 14 October 1955 a helper read out the names for a bus. At “Mertens, Heinrich” a man got off, weighing 49 kg, and said: “Here.”

It was not his mother who brought him back, but the roll call. Every evening at 19:00, the hour of the roll call in the camp, someone must call him by name, and he must answer. Who calls does not matter. A telephone is enough, a tape recording is not. His mother called because she believed it had to be the mother, then his sister, then his niece. For 71 years three women have not been away on a single evening. Heinrich worked at the sawmill until 1991, never married and still chops his own wood today.

If the call does not come, he does not drop dead. He has missed roll call, and whoever is missing has escaped. At 19:01 he puts on the padded jacket and goes back to report: east, along the railway lines by which he came, day and night, some 100 km a day. Anyone who holds him has their arm broken. Anyone who stands in his way he pushes aside. A call by name stops him until the next evening. It is some 3,400 km to Vorkuta as the crow flies. O.D.I.N. has no network in Russia, and since 2022 there has been a steel fence on the border with Belarus. What happens when a hundred-year-old dead man reaches it, the Council does not want to find out.

The case in 2026: Monika Scharf, 76, has called him over the garden fence every evening since 2009. On 22 August she had a stroke and is in a clinic in Göttingen. Since then her daughter Sandra, 47, a nurse in Kassel, has been telephoning at 19:00. From October she is on night shifts. She has said she will not do this for the rest of her life. Heinrich nodded.

Every option requires someone to be there at 19:00. **Calling:** anyone can do it, even a cadet, every evening, for ever, because Heinrich does not die. **Signing him off:** whoever calls him at 19:00 and, instead of waiting for the “Here”, reads out the line from the card index, “Mertens, Heinrich, deceased 2 February 1948”, strikes him off the list. He lies down and is what he has been since 1948. Heinrich asked Monika to do it in the spring. She said no. **Letting him go:** following him and clearing the way, a little over ten days to the border at Brest. And then.

Wrong in the File: Anyone can call, not just the family. It was not his mother who brought him back but the list. The deadly thing is Protocol Lights Out: at 19:00 it places a cell in a silent house, between a dead man and the door he has to take, and the cell is expecting a corpse.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Fists 4 + 4, damage 4, only against someone who holds him or blocks his way
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 13. Ordinary weapons deal half damage (rounded down), salt, light and silver full damage

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when a hundred-year-old pushes a door off its hinges
Special	The roll call: if nobody calls him by name at 19:00, he gets up at 19:01 and walks east, some 100 km a day, without rest. Every call by name stops him until the next evening, wherever he is. At 0 HP he stays down and gets up again at the next roll call that nobody calls. He feels no pain and does not tire
Weakness	His name, from any voice, even on the telephone. Signing off at 19:00 with name and date of death from the card index: he lies down, for ever
Behaviour	Polite, taciturn, helpful, never talks about the camp. With CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2) he tells how he died. He asks anyone who wins his trust to sign him off

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Border Crosser (Eichsfeld, 1966)	Ewald Häfner came in 1955 on the same bus as Mertens, called by his wife. She died in June 1966 at half past six in the evening. At 19:01 he left. The next morning, in the Eichsfeld, he walked through the GDR border fence and across a minefield. Two mines went off. He kept walking. Stats as above, HP 12. Where he is today, only the Council knows.
The One from the Quay (Maizuru, 1956)	Kenji Shimizu, who died in 1946 in a camp near Khabarovsk, came in 1956 on one of the last ships from Nakhodka to Maizuru, where his mother had waited on the quay for ten years. His roll call is at 18:00, and he does not go east but to the harbour and into the water, northwards. Stats as above, initiative 5. Since 1997 a carer at his care home has called him at supper, because that is what it says in the handover notes. Nobody there knows why. He is 102.

Cover-Up

In 1955 the tracing service changed his card to “returned home”, and that was the end of the error. As long as someone calls, there is nothing to cover up: an old man with a good appetite and a poor weight. If he leaves, he becomes a confused hundred-year-old who has disappeared from his house. The missing person report for the police in Göttingen is ready as a draft at the Council.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Sandra Scharf calls the number listed under “Stockholm” in her mother’s address book. She is on night shifts from October.
2	The Registry sends the cell under Protocol Lights Out. It has asked the Council and received no answer.
3	At 18:55 the mobile network in the village goes down. Sandra cannot reach anyone. The cell is twenty minutes away.
4	A doctoral student in Göttingen finds in the tracing service’s card indexes a man who was attested as dead in 1949 and came home in 1955. He has asked him for an interview, in the evening.
5	At the garden fence, Heinrich Mertens asks the cell to sign him off today at 19:00. Monika must not find out.
6	In Maizuru a new home management has shortened the handover notes. The line “18:00: call Mr Shimizu” is missing.

The House on the Dyke

"We sat upstairs, as the protocol said. Downstairs someone tried to lift the hatch. Only a finger's breadth. All night."
Schlick, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY — REG-T-0633

Origin and Family	The Dead, Haunted Places
Form	Place. A brick dyke worker's cottage, parlour and kitchen downstairs, above them a loft with a hatch
Role	Leader. The dangerous one is the man on the hatch
Horror	Disturbing (2) when the water rises in the dry house. Horrifying (3) when it pushes through the boards of the hatch
File Colour	Grey. Red on every night the storm surge barrier in the Oosterschelde closes, and on the night before 1 February
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Netherlands, Zeeland: Schouwen-Duiveland on the dyke of the Oosterschelde, the hamlet of Zuidweel, which has not existed since 1953
First Sighting	1 February 1954, around 04:00. Report by a dyke worker to the Rijkspolitie in Zierikzee: in the boarded-up Kodde house, water was standing up to the stairs, while outside the polder was dry
Last Confirmed Sighting	1 February 2026. Flash photographs taken by an agent from the loft
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A construction worker in 1977, drowned on the ground floor, on dry ground

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Silt, salt water, wet lime. In the loft, paraffin, although no lamp is burning.
Sound	Storm, even when there is no wind. Water slapping against the stairs. The hatch lifts a finger's breadth from below and falls back, again and again. Quiet voices in the island dialect, a woman soothing a child.
Temperature	The air becomes damp as over the mudflats. The windows mist up from the inside.
Light	Downstairs, black water swallows every lamp. The beam ends at the surface as if it had struck stone.
Readings	The dictation machine records water and wood, no voices.
Animals	A dog stops at the front door and barks at the stairs.
Devices	Mobile phones on the ground floor die as if after a bath and work again in the morning.
Traces and Residue	In the morning, dry floorboards. Salt lines on the walls and stairs, exactly at the height of the night. Bladderwrack under the table, live shore crabs in the kitchen. On the underside of the hatch, handprints, some of them small.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective gets +1 die, as does an Engineer who has seen the roof timbers. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Haunted house from the flood of 1953. On stormy nights the drowned of the hamlet want into the house and drag down anyone who stays downstairs. Upstairs you are safe.
1	Haunted place, active on storm surge nights and on the anniversary. On the ground floor rises a water that does not exist and in which you drown all the same. On the hatch sits Cornelis Kodde, dyke worker, who saved 19 people in this house in 1953. He is friendly and protects the living. Sit with him, do not open the hatch. Salt on the hatch.
2 to 3	Protocol Attic, as of 1962: before dark, everyone present goes up to the loft, hatch closed, lamp on, hold out until first light. Six missions without loss. Water level on the stairs, measured from the hatch: 1962 2.40 m, 1976 1.70 m, 1990 1.10 m, 2007 0.60 m, 2026 0.15 m. Evaluation 2007: “Level falling. The haunt is exhausting itself.”
4 or more	Attached, a statement by Neeltje Kodde, 1993, translated from the Dutch: “Vader zat op het luik. Father sat on the hatch. Down in the parlour there were still people. He said the floor wouldn’t hold it.” Below it a stamp: “Witness nine years old in 1953. Not usable.”

What Is True

On the night before 1 February 1953 the dyke in front of Zuidweel broke. The house of the dyke worker Cornelis Kodde stood on the inner slope, higher than the hamlet. Around 04:00 the neighbours came through the water, children on their shoulders. Kodde pulled them up the stairs until 19 people were sitting on the boards and the beams creaked. Then the last ones came from the lower houses, eleven people, among them the family of the blacksmith Lievense. Kodde closed the hatch and sat down on it. He held it shut while they pushed against it from below, until it stopped. His daughter Neeltje sat beside him. On the afternoon of 2 February a boat came. The eleven are listed in the municipal register as “drowned in their own home”. No survivor contradicted it.

After that the house stood in the tidal current for nine months, until the dykes were closed again in November. Twice a day the sea ran through the parlour. Since then the house knows how to flood. When the water outside pushes against the dykes, the water of 1953 rises inside, and the eleven come up the stairs and push against the hatch. They are not evil. They want to go up. To anyone standing downstairs they hand up a child.

The dangerous one is Kodde. Since his death in 1979 he has been sitting on the hatch and holding it shut, as he did then. Anyone sitting upstairs he takes for someone he must save. Anyone who wants to get to the hatch, he fights. And every night in front of the closed hatch gives the water a little more. The level marks do not show how high it stands, but how much room is left. The next time the barrier closes it will push through the boards, and whoever is sitting upstairs will drown in a dry loft.

What helps is the open hatch. The eleven come up, wet and silent, sit down among the living and wait with them for morning. At first light they are gone, for ever. The floor holds. An Engineer can calculate it in advance: even in 1953 the oak beams would have carried over fifty people.

The hatch must be opened, and every way to it leads past Kodde. **By force:** the cell drives Kodde from the hatch with light and opens it. The eleven go. Kodde stays, on an open hatch, every stormy night, and lashes out at anyone who wants to close it again. **Neeltje:** she is 82 and lives in a care home in Zierikzee. Kodde will not raise his hand against his daughter. She can open the hatch and tell him that he miscalculated. Then he goes too. Her heart is weak, and since nobody believed her in 1993 she no longer speaks about it. **Demolition:** without the house, Kodde looks for the next door behind which he must save someone. It is his daughter’s bedroom door.

Wrong in the File: Kodde protects no one, and the dead downstairs harm no one. Salt does not work in this house; it is full of it. The haunt is not exhausting itself; the house is filling up. The deadly thing is Protocol Attic: it repeats the night of 1953, and next time everyone who follows it will drown.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	The water 5 + 5, damage 3, armour does not count: anyone standing on the ground floor is pulled under and suffers 2 damage each round under water until they succeed at STR + Athletics against Hard (3). Kodde 5 + 5, damage 3: he pushes anyone off the hatch and down the stairs. Two actions per round

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	The house is invulnerable. Kodde 3 / 3 / 22, vulnerable only to light and silver
Horror	Disturbing (2) when the water rises in the dry house. Horrifying (3) when small hands push against the hatch from below and salt water runs through the boards
Special	The water rises from midnight until around 04:00 and falls until first light. Kodde at 0 HP vanishes until the next flood. If the hatch is open, the water rises no further
Weakness	The open hatch. Bright light in his face drives Kodde away from it for one round. His daughter
Behaviour	Speaks dialect, calms the living, offers tobacco. Anyone who goes to the hatch he fights like a man defending nineteen lives. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Very Hard (4), with an Engineer's calculation against Hard (3)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Bungalow (Jaywick, 1953)	The same night on the other side of the North Sea. A holiday home in Essex with no upper floor: the water rises to just below the ceiling, and from below an old woman scratches at the ceiling. In 1953 a neighbour tried to open the roof with an axe and failed. Stats as for the Haunt (Threat Atlas). Anyone who breaks open the ceiling on a stormy night ends it.
The Osteria on the Embankment (Polesine, 1951)	During the Po flood in November 1951 an innkeeper let everyone up to the upper floor until the floor gave way. Here it is the other way round: the dead hold the door shut from inside and fight anyone who wants to get in during a flood, stats as above, attack 4 + 4. When the Po flood ran through the delta in October 2000, two Carabinieri stood in the rain in front of the door all night. They are alive because they could not get in.

Cover-Up

The house belongs to the Waterschap Scheldestromen and is on the books as a dilapidated service building, boarded up and uninhabited since 1953. An employee of the Waterschap, a contact of the Registry, schedules the dyke inspections on stormy nights so that nobody passes by. At the Rijkspolitie, the construction worker of 1977 is recorded as drowned in a ditch, and it was in the ditch that he was found.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Waterschap has put the demolition out to tender for a dyke reinforcement.
2	Neeltje Kodde has called from the care home. She wants to go into the house on the next stormy night and will come even without help.
3	The weather service reports northwest force 10 and a spring tide. The barrier will close. The cell is to run Protocol Attic.
4	A grandson of the Lievenses has read in the municipal archive: drowned in their own home. His great-aunt told him the family ran to Kodde's that night.
5	Two teenagers from Zierikzee want to shoot a video in the house. It is the evening of 31 January.
6	A tenant in Jaywick reports scratching on the ceiling, always during storms. The house has no loft.

The Knocker

"I asked him how Sturm against Rapid would end. He knocked three times. It finished 1-1. Today I'm ashamed that I was pleased."
Dübel, Cadet, Operations Branch

REGISTRY — REG-T-0603

Origin and Family	The Dead, Haunts and Poltergeists
Form	Apparition. He is heard; almost nobody has seen him
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) on New Year's Eve, for anyone who sees him lying there
File Colour	White since 1964, note "settled by house rules"
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. He has only one word, and the word is a knock
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Graz, a tenement house of 1894 in the Idlhofgasse in the Gries district
First Sighting	9 March 1963. Letter from a tenant to the property management: "Mr Kniely is still knocking, although he is dead. We request a remedy."
Last Confirmed Sighting	12 June 2026, mobile phone video from Flat 3 on a video platform, over 400,000 views. Case reopened
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. One tenant (1987)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Flat 3 smells of floor wax and of a Virginia cigar that has just gone out. Nobody in the house smokes.
Sound	Two hard blows from below, wood on plaster, after 22:00, as soon as it gets loud above Flat 3. On New Year's Eve a weak, uneven tapping that stops around 02:40.
Temperature	The tiled stove in Flat 3 has been out of use since 1971. On New Year's Eve it is hand-warm.
Light	The ceiling lamp in Flat 3 swings a little after every blow.
Readings	The EMF detector reacts at a single spot on the ceiling of Flat 3. Between the blows, the filtered recording picks up a man quietly calling "Hello?".
Animals	The dachshund from Flat 4 never barks at the hard blows. At the quiet ones it whines and scratches at the door.
Devices	After 22:00, televisions in Flat 5 sometimes drop to low volume by themselves.
Traces and Residue	On the ceiling of Flat 3, round dents in the plaster, fresh, although painted over eleven times since 1963. In the wardrobe, a broom with a worn handle. Whoever throws it away finds it back in the wardrobe in the morning.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective gets +1 die, as does anyone who grew up in Graz. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The knocking ghost of Gries picks the football pools: one knock means 1, two mean 2, three mean X. A tenant is said to have got all twelve right in 1964 and bought himself a Beetle. Harmless.
1	Haunt of Engelbert Kniely, retired tram driver, died on New Year's Eve 1962 in Flat 3. A grumbler in life: he knocked on the ceiling with the broom handle as soon as it got loud above him. He still does. Harmless. Never answer the knocking, or he will knock all night.
2 to 3	Protocol Indoor Voice, enforced through the property management since 1964. House rules § 9: quiet hours from 22:00, knocking noises in the house are neither answered nor followed up, Flat 3 is not entered at night. No complaints since. On New Year's Eve he knocks weakly until around 02:40. At midnight the house stamps three times, "for Kniely". A custom, harmless.
4 or more	Attached, the carbon copy of a report by the Federal Police Directorate Graz of 23 February 1987: Maria Wurzinger, 79, Flat 7, dead in her kitchen after a fall, having lain there for about four days. Statement by a neighbour: "There was knocking all right. But there's always knocking at ours." Below it, the Registry's note: "No connection. Flat 7 is not above Flat 3. The Knocker duly knocked from below."

What Is True

Engelbert Kniely, 69, widower, was the house curmudgeon. If it got loud above him after 22:00, he knocked on the ceiling with the broom handle. Above him, in Flat 5, Walter and Hedwig Strohmeier had lived since 1961, newly married, with a record player.

On New Year's Eve 1962, 14 guests were celebrating at the Strohmeiers'. Around 22:00 Kniely fell in the kitchen, a stroke, paralysed on the left side. The broom was leaning against the wardrobe. He pulled it towards him and knocked. Upstairs they laughed. Hedwig called through the floor "Cheers, Mr Kniely!" and turned up the record player. At midnight they all stamped three times, for him. He went on knocking, more weakly, until around 02:40. The caretaker found him on 3 January.

He has been knocking ever since. He is not complaining; he is calling. He knocks at noise because it was loud that night. And he hears every weak knock in the house, a stick on a floor, a knuckle on a wall. He knocks it back, loudly, from his ceiling, a heartbeat later. He wants someone to go and look. Back then nobody did.

The house rules of 1964 taught the house to do exactly that: not to look. In February 1987 Maria Wurzinger broke her hip in Flat 7 and beat her stick on the floor for four days. Kniely knocked it through the whole house. The neighbours turned up their televisions.

Since 2024 Flat 3 has been a student flat share. The three do not know the house rules, love their knocking ghost and go to look when it knocks. That is how they twice found Hedwig Strohmeier, 88, widowed, on the floor of Flat 5, in March 2025 and in June 2026. Hedwig has been telling the story of Kniely for 63 years. The stamping was her idea.

Kniely grows stronger the longer nobody comes. In May 2026 the ceiling lamp in Flat 3 fell onto a bed. It was empty.

Since 1962 Kniely has been waiting for someone to come down from above. **Going down:** only someone who heard him that night can release him. On New Year's Eve, while Kniely is knocking weakly, they must go down to Flat 3, open the door and say: "I heard you." Of the guests, only Hedwig is still alive. She must grasp that her funniest story was a death, walk eighteen steps at night, and afterwards nobody will knock for her any more. **Keeping him:** the house learns the truth and goes to look at every knock. Kniely remains a house alarm that grows stronger every year, until his broom comes through the ceiling. **The house rules:** they keep the house quiet, until the next fall.

Wrong in the File: Kniely is not a grumbler; he does not knock because of the noise but to be heard over it. Anyone who knocks back does not get a sleepless night. The football pools were chance. The deadly thing is Protocol Indoor Voice: it teaches a whole house not to go and look when someone knocks.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	Broom handle 2 + 2, damage 2, armour does not count, against anyone who takes the broom away from him in Flat 3. Since 2026 also plaster and lamp from the ceiling: 2 + 2, damage 2, against whoever is lying underneath

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 5, vulnerable only to salt, light or silver
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for anyone who sees him lying on the kitchen floor on New Year's Eve, the broom in his right hand
Special	Repeats every knock in the house, loudly, from the ceiling of Flat 3. Anyone who listens closely recognises, with WIS + Perception against Hard (3), the quiet knock before it and where it comes from. At 0 HP he falls silent until the next night. He is released only by Hedwig's sentence on New Year's Eve
Weakness	Salt on the threshold of Flat 3 silences him for one night, even if someone needs help that night
Behaviour	Knocks twice hard at noise after 22:00 and knocks back when someone in the house knocks. Stops as soon as someone goes to the right door. Attacks only if his broom is taken

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Door Knocker (Pongau, 1951)	On the knocking nights of Advent, young men in the Pongau go from farm to farm, knock, sing and are given schnapps and pear bread. In 1951 one door stayed shut, and one of the young men fell into the Salzach on the way home. Since then there has been knocking at that door on every knocking night. Whoever puts a glass of schnapps outside has peace. In 2019 a family from Linz bought the farm. On the third night the father stood behind the door with an axe. Stats as above, no attack.
The Morse Man (Warnemünde, 1971)	In the seamen's hostel something knocks in a wall at night, short and long. In 1971 an old radio operator recognised Morse code: a position in the Baltic and the name of a fishing cutter. The Volkspolizei had the room walled up. In 1993 recreational divers found a cutter there, sunk in 1953, three men on board. Since it was raised there has been peace. Stats as above, no attack.

Cover-Up

The Posch property management explains § 9 to new tenants by pointing to old risers that bang at night. The forensic medicine institute in Graz recorded Maria Wurzinger's death as a fall with dehydration; nobody questioned the neighbours. The flat share's videos are answered by a plumber, a contact of the Registry, with a video about water hammer in old buildings.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The flat share is planning a party with a livestream for New Year's Eve 2026: "We're celebrating with the knocking ghost." Hedwig Strohmeier is invited and has accepted.
2	After her third fall Hedwig is in the LKH hospital in Graz and asks every day about "the gentleman downstairs who always knocks".
3	The property management is having a suspended ceiling put into Flat 3. Since the plumber drilled the first hole, there has been knocking on every floor.
4	A betting company pays the flat share for tips from the knocking ghost. At the fourth tip it knocks all night, and on the third floor nobody opens the door.
5	A grandson of Maria Wurzinger has read § 9 of the house rules and wants to know who wrote it.
6	A student from the flat share has moved to Vienna. Since then there has been knocking in her new flat. She took the broom with her.

The Last Train

"The briefing said: into the niche, back to the wall, don't lie down. The old lineman said: 'Lie down.' We had a regulation."

Hemmschuh, Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-T-0630

Origin and Family	The Dead, Haunted Places
Form	Place. The Bohinj Tunnel, 6.3 km long, on nights after the last train. Plus nine dead with a lantern
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the lantern comes. Horrifying (3) when the train comes
File Colour	White since 1961, observation. Night workers are briefed according to Protocol Niche
Frequency	Unique
Mind	None in the train. Human in the dead, who speak Slovene
Regions	Eastern Europe. Slovenia, Bohinj Railway, tunnel between Bohinjska Bistrica and Podbrdo, from 1920 to 1941 beneath the border between Italy and Yugoslavia
First Sighting	17 January 1929, report by the track master, translated 1956: a light, then noise and smoke "as from two locomotives", a worker dead in a niche, without injury
Last Confirmed Sighting	4 September 2026, 01:52. Helmet camera of a welder: a lantern, people in coats, then smoke
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, 1961 and 1983, standing in a niche, uninjured. In addition, twelve railway and construction workers since 1929

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Heavy, sulphurous coal smoke, although only diesel trains have run here for a long time. Also wet wool and paraffin.
Sound	Footsteps in the ballast, quiet voices in Slovene, a child asking whether it is still far. Then from the south a whistle and the pounding of two locomotives.
Temperature	The air becomes warm and stuffy as behind a train that has just passed.
Light	A paraffin lantern at knee height, swung across the track. Later, from the south, two yellow lights that seem not to come closer until they are there.
Readings	A carbon monoxide detector climbs above 1,000 ppm within minutes, with no engine running. In photographs the air is clear. The crystal detector stays silent.
Animals	The bats at the north portal fly out around midnight and stay away until morning.
Devices	Radios pick up an Italian train report: "Merci in partenza da Piedicolle." That was Podbrdo's name under Italian rule.
Traces and Residue	Soot on the faces and clothes of everyone who stood, down to the knees. Whoever lay on the ground is clean. In the niches, scratch marks at chest height.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Chronomancer gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A ghost train in the Bohinj Tunnel. Whoever sees it dies. The old railway workers cross themselves at the portal.
1	Haunted place. After the last scheduled train comes one that no timetable knows. Ahead of it walk dead with a lantern who pull people out of the niches in front of the train. Do not let them touch you, do not walk towards the light. Salt drives the dead away.
2 to 3	Nine dead, refugees from the Italian Littoral, struck in the tunnel by an unscheduled goods train on the night before 3 February 1928. One survivor, Lojze Kenda, 12. His statement, translated 1956: "Grandmother pulled me down." Protocol Niche, since 1961: anyone in the tunnel at night carries salt. If the lantern comes: into the nearest niche, back to the wall, stay standing until the train has passed. Do not lie down.
4 or more	The agents of 1961 and 1983 were standing in a niche as regulations required. The Registry concludes that they looked into the lantern, and adds in 1983: close your eyes. In the archive lies a tape from 1994, Lojze Kenda, 78, an hour in Slovene. Not translated.

What Is True

The last train runs no one over. It suffocates them.

After 1920 the Baška grapa south of the tunnel belonged to Italy, and the Fascists banned Slovene schools, associations and names. Tens of thousands fled to Yugoslavia, some at night through the tunnel, led by Tone Rejec from Podbrdo, who knew the timetable.

On the night before 3 February 1928 he went in with nine people: grandmother Marija Kenda, 61, her son Jože with his wife Ana and three children, the teacher Pavla Rutar and two young men who were due to join the Italian army. After a little over two kilometres a goods train with two locomotives came from behind. Tone called: into the niches. The train was moving slowly; its smoke filled the tunnel from top to bottom. Whoever stood in a niche stood in the smoke. Marija pulled her grandson Lojze into the drainage channel beside the track and lay on him until she died. Down there, there was air. In the morning Lojze crawled to Bistrica.

Since then the Nine walk their route once more whenever people are in the tunnel on foot after the last train. Tone swings the lantern. The dead pull everyone down into the channel, as Marija did. Then the train comes. Whoever stands breathes the air of 1928. Whoever lies breathes ours.

The Registry read Lojze's sentence as "pulled to his death". The scratch marks in the niches come from the dead who pulled and the living who held on. The Nine lie nameless by the cemetery wall of Bohinjska Bistrica. Lojze died in 1996.

The case in 2026: since September a construction company has been renovating the tunnel at night. On 4 September the welder Edin Hodžić, 44, died of carbon monoxide, standing in a niche. A friendly gentleman from Stockholm added to the safety briefing.

Closing it: nobody in the tunnel on foot after the last train. Then the tunnel stays unrenovated, and the railway is considering closing the line. **Lying down:** whoever sees the lantern lies down in the channel and lets themselves be held. It works, and every night until April the workers lie beneath the dead. **Bringing them home:** whoever survives the night with them on the ground can walk a little over four kilometres to the north portal with the Nine. There someone must call each one by name and say that they have arrived. The names are on the tape from 1994. Nobody has tried it yet.

Wrong in the File: The dead do not lure anyone or push anyone in front of the train; they rescue. The train only hits those standing on the track; everyone else it suffocates. Looking into the lantern does no harm. The deadly thing is Protocol Niche: it puts people upright exactly where the smoke hung in 1928, and forbids the one thing that helps.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Two actions per round. Smoke: anyone standing or kneeling in the tunnel suffers 2 damage each round; armour and gas masks do not count. Flat in the channel: nothing. The train: 5 + 5, damage 5, against anyone on the track
Defence / Armour / HP	Invulnerable. The smoke lasts 8 rounds, as long as the train takes to pass the group
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the lantern comes. Horrifying (3) when the train passes

Value	Details
Special	Awakens only after the last scheduled train, when people are in the tunnel on foot, once per night. The Nine: stats as for the Haunt (Threat Atlas), without attack. Their grip pulls to the ground, 3 + 3 against STR + Athletics. Salt drives them away for the night, and then nobody pulls any more
Weakness	The channel. And the Nine, received by their names at the north portal
Behaviour	The train stops for nothing. Tone goes ahead with the lantern. Marija looks for the youngest first

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Fence on the Thaya (South Moravia, 1956)	On the slope above the Thaya, from 1952 to 1965, stood the electric fence of Czechoslovakia, on which a young couple died in 1956. At night the woman stands by the path and spreads her arms. Whoever pushes past meets the fence: current 4 + 4, damage 4, once per night. Place, Elite. A geocacher from Brno did it in June 2021 and lay by the river in the morning, both hands burned.
The Lift (Katowice, 1979)	At night a lift in a tower block stops between the ninth and tenth floors. In the car a woman in a winter coat holds back anyone who wants to open the emergency hatch: in 1979 her husband climbed through it, and the lift started moving. Place, Professional. Whoever climbs onto the car roof falls: 3 + 3, damage 4. In 2015 two teenagers got stuck. One stayed sitting.

Cover-Up

The police record the dead as carbon monoxide poisoning from construction machinery. The construction company does not object; its generators really are too old. The railway's safety briefing says "When a train approaches, step into the niche", correct everywhere, only not here.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The construction company is looking for night workers with tunnel experience. The briefing follows Protocol Niche.
2	The fire brigade of Bohinj is planning an exercise in the tunnel for an October night after the last train: forty volunteers on foot, with breathing apparatus.
3	A translator of the Registry is digitising tapes. On one of them an old man says again and again in Slovene: "Lie down."
4	Two students from Ljubljana want to walk through the tunnel at night for a video. The route is already online.
5	Lojze Kenda's granddaughter, a teacher in Bohinjska Bistrica, wants to put up a plaque on the cemetery wall with nine names from a letter by her grandfather.
6	At 01:52 the dead man's helmet camera shows an old woman pulling him out of the niche. He beats her off with the salt bag.

The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office

"The notice on his door gave a deadline. I did the maths. It was correct."

Siegellack, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-T-0642

Origin and Family	The Dead, Ghouls
Form	Being. A woman of around sixty in a grey wool coat, with a black bag and a folder under her arm
Role	Elite, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you realise that nobody at the office knows her. Horrifying (3) when she lays out a living person
File Colour	Red since May 2026. From 2004 to 2026 Grey, listed as solved from 2008
Frequency	Rare. Three known cases in Europe
Mind	Human. She speaks Flemish like a civil servant of 1960 and answers every question with a regulation
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Antwerp: the Schoonselhof cemetery, the Seefhoek and the other old working-class districts in the north of the city
First Sighting	16 March 2004, Schoonselhof. Report by a foreman to the local police: during the clearance of a burial section, 31 coffins without bones, in each a folded shroud. A woman with a folder had stood by and ticked things off
Last Confirmed Sighting	2 May 2026, Seefhoek. Image from a doorbell camera: a woman in a grey coat pinning a notice to a flat door at night
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Since 2011, 52 people in Antwerp who died alone and show up in no statistics

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Vinegar water and camphor, as the dead used to be washed. Beneath it, fresh earth.
Sound	A stamp striking paper somewhere in the stairwell. Water being poured into a basin. Slow heels on stone steps.
Temperature	Nothing unusual. Her hands are dry and warm like a nurse's.
Light	The timed stairwell light goes off when she comes, not on. Motion sensors do not notice her.
Readings	EMF detector calm. According to laboratory analysis, the paper of her notices is over sixty years old; the ink is fresh.
Animals	Rats avoid every flat with a notice on its door.
Devices	Doorbell cameras record her, but only ever from behind.
Traces and Residue	A yellow notice on the flat door: an old printed form of the cemetery administration, like those hung on graves before clearance, with name, a deadline of one year and a stamp. After a death, a basin of cloudy water, folded towels, the dead person's glasses folded on the bedside table. Cemetery earth on the doormat.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Antiquarian gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A legend among cemetery workers: a civil servant who does not exist. The empty coffins come from groundwater and rats.
1	Ghoul. A dead woman in human form who eats the dead from abandoned graves, cleanly and without traces. Harmless to the living. Do not disturb her at work and do not argue with her: she cites regulations, and she is usually right.
2 to 3	Protocol Extension, as of 2019: a charitable association extends every expiring grave lease at the Schoonselhof and has neglected graves tended. No empty coffins since 2008. Notices on flat doors, first in 2011: the occupant is registered with the city's visiting service, one visit a week with signature. The deadline is thereby considered extended. Costs around €180,000 a year.
4 or more	Summary 2025: 61 notices since 2011, 58 of them in the visiting service. 52 occupants died on the night of the deadline, alone. The visitor had usually signed the day before. Note: "Age structure of the district." Attached, a visitor's letter of resignation: "Every week he asked me whether I would come even if I weren't paid."

What Is True

Seraphine Wuyts, born 1901, was the Aflegster of the Seefhoek: the woman you fetched when someone had died. She washed the dead, dressed them in their best, tied up the chin and folded the hands. For forty years she went into every house in the district, including those where nobody wept for the dead. In December 1961 she died alone in her little room and was found after nineteen days. Nobody washed her. The city buried her free of charge in a row grave at the Schoonselhof. In 1972 the section was cleared, as the regulations require, and her bones went into the ossuary without a name.

Since then she has carried on her work, on the dead nobody collects. She washes them, dresses them, folds their hands, and then she takes what nobody wants any more. She folds the shroud neatly. For decades nobody noticed, because nobody opens coffins that nobody visits.

Then came Protocol Extension. No grave was neglected any more, none expired. Seraphine found no more forgotten ones under the earth, so she looked for them above it. Since 2011 she has been pinning her notices on flat doors: for people nobody visits. The deadline is one year, as long as the cemetery administration's notice hangs on a grave in Flanders before it is cleared. If someone comes within that year of their own free will, sits down and says the name, the notice fades. If nobody comes, she comes. On the night of the deadline she lays the person out, alive, and under her hands they fall still. They are found after weeks, as everyone nobody misses is found: washed, in their good suit, hands folded. Under the suit there is not much left.

The visiting service does not count. Whoever is paid to come has not come. The nine who survived were visited by a grandson, a neighbour, an old colleague.

The case in the Seefhoek: Frans Verbist, 81, former dock worker, third floor, no lift. His daughter in Ghent has not spoken to him since 2014. The notice has been on the door since 3 October 2025. On Tuesdays the visitor comes and signs. Frans has read the notice. He has had his suit pressed.

Seraphine only stops when nobody is forgotten any more, and nobody in Antwerp promises that. **Visiting:** for Frans, one person who does not have to come is enough. An agent on duty does not count; one who comes back privately the Sunday after does. Or his daughter. But eleven more notices hang in the city, and the cell does not have eleven free Sundays, for years. **Ending the extension:** Seraphine returns to the cemetery, to the graves nobody visits, and the living are safe. In return O.D.I.N. feeds her the forgotten dead of the city, and every family that does come after thirty years finds an empty grave. **Claiming her:** someone has her name written on the ossuary and visits her every year on All Saints' Day, for the rest of their life. Then she puts the folder away. If they stay away a single time, the notice hangs on their door.

Wrong in the File: She is no longer harmless to the living, and the protocol sent her to them. The deadly thing is the belief that a signature is a visit.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Laying out 4 + 4, damage 4, armour does not count: she lays her hands on chest and eyes. Whoever falls to 0 HP lies still, hands folded, and dies unless someone stabilises them
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 14, vulnerable only to salt, light or silver

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you realise that she does not exist. Horrifying (3) when she lays out a living person
Special	Anyone with a notice cannot move on the night of the deadline as soon as she enters the room; WIL + Mental Resistance against Hard (3) breaks it for one round. She knows every name and every deadline in her folder. At 0 HP she crumbles into cemetery earth and returns for the next deadline
Weakness	A voluntary visit in which the name is spoken makes a notice fade. Anyone who says "Seraphine Wuyts" aloud holds her up for one round: she turns to see who is calling her. Salt, light, silver
Behaviour	Polite, correct, tired. Ready to talk, never to make exceptions. Fights only if someone keeps her from work that is due. At the ossuary she sometimes stops and reads the few names on the wall

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Funeral Inviter (Aurich, 1987)	A man in a black frock coat who knocks on doors and invites people to a stranger's funeral, as was once the custom in East Frisia. If nobody comes to the funeral, the coffin is light when it is lowered. Professional: attack 3 + 3, damage 3, HP 10. In 1987 a pastor buried a pensioner before empty pews. Since then he has gone to every funeral in his parish, even in the rain, even alone.
The Prosector (Tartu, 1953)	The dead nobody collected ended up in the university's anatomy department. A prosector, dead since 1941, tidies up after the courses. Stats as above, without notices. In 1953 a coffin for cremation weighed almost nothing after a semester. A student who complained was transferred. She only takes those nobody misses, and in anatomy nobody misses anyone.

Cover-Up

For every lonely death the local police call the forensic pathologist, who writes what he sees: natural death, advanced decomposition. In the cemetery administration's register, every cleared grave says "bones transferred to the ossuary". The visiting service takes down the notices, and the association that pays for the grave leases has a pious name and an auditor in Stockholm.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Frans Verbist's deadline runs out on 3 October. He no longer locks his flat door.
2	The city is auditing the association that has been extending grave leases since 2008. An official has phoned and asked about its purpose.
3	An agent of the cell has been living in Antwerp under a legend for three years. This morning a yellow notice was hanging on his door.
4	The burial register of 1961 is missing from the city archive. A colleague in a grey coat is said to have borrowed it. The colleague does not exist.
5	A granddaughter comes from Canada to surprise her grandmother. A faded notice hangs on the door. The deadline was yesterday.
6	In Aurich a man in black knocks and invites people to a funeral. Nobody knows the dead person.

The Man on the Stairs

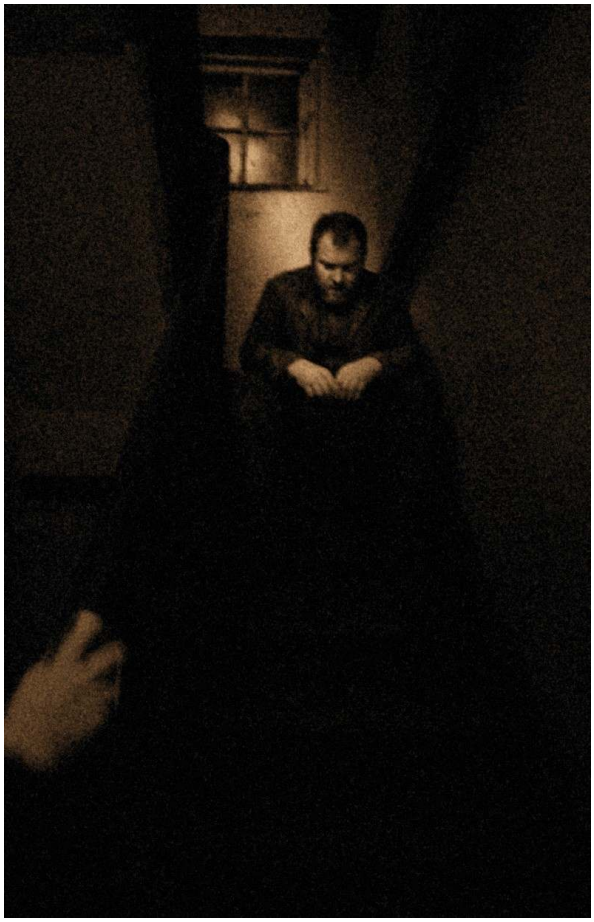
"I said 'Pardon' because I nearly trod on him in the dark. He took me by the arm. The file said you tear yourself free. I tore myself free."
Klinker, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY — REG-T-0609

Origin and Family	The Dead, Echoes
Form	Apparition. A man on the ninth step, almost every night
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when his hand takes hold
File Colour	Grey. The Registry lists him as a killer
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. He knows only one conversation
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Bruges, a narrow house on the Spinolarei in the Sint-Anna quarter, today a guest house with four rooms
First Sighting	22 November 1915. Report by a lieutenant of the Marinekorps Flandern quartered there: at night he had spoken to a man on the stairs, been seized and fallen, lower leg broken. Transcript from 1974 from the Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv in Freiburg
Last Confirmed Sighting	30 August 2026, around 01:00. Mobile phone video by the landlady's daughter
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 1966, broken neck. Also two guests (1989, 2011)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Cold pipe tobacco, tar from the quay and a hint of genever.
Sound	The ninth step creaks although nobody is sitting on it. Around 01:00 a grandfather clock strikes in the hall, although it has not been in the house since 1940.
Temperature	The ninth step is warm, like a chair someone has just got up from.
Light	With the light on, the step is empty. In the dark you see him in the glow of the street lamp falling through the fanlight.
Readings	On the ninth step the EMF detector swings in the rhythm of a breath. The dictation machine with noise filter captures a sentence in Bruges Flemish, always the same: "Waar zijt ge geweest?"
Animals	At night guests' dogs only go up the stairs along the wall, never along the banister.
Devices	Phone torches flicker at the height of the ninth step and grow dimmer.
Traces and Residue	On the ninth step, two spots worn smooth where shoes have stood for a hundred years. On the banister above, a lighter piece of wood, replaced in 1912.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Invoker gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The killer of the Spinolarei. He pushes anyone he meets on the stairs at night down them. Best not to go in at all.
1	Echo of Remi Verhaeghe, docker, who died in this house in 1915. In 1912 his daughter Clementine, 17, fell to her death here. He was charged with manslaughter and acquitted for lack of evidence by the Hof van Assisen in Bruges in 1913. At night he sits on the ninth step. Harmless as long as nobody speaks to him. He seizes anyone who does by the arm. Only those who speak Flemish are in danger.
2 to 3	Notice for hosts, 1967, in three languages: do not speak on the stairs at night, even if you cannot see him. Anyone who has spoken to him and is seized tears themselves free at once and steps back, never upwards. Since 1915 nine falls, three fatal. Principle: he pushes as soon as he grabs.
4 or more	Attached, a note by Agent Bleilot, dated 3 March 1966: "Read the trial file in the Rijksarchief. His only sentence in court: 'Ik wilde haar vasthouden.' I believe him. Tomorrow I'll keep still." Below it, in another hand: "4 March 1966. According to a witness, the agent tore herself free. Broken neck. Attempt failed, principle confirmed."

What Is True

On the night before 16 November 1912, Clementine Verhaeghe, 17, a lacemaker, came home around 01:00. Her father Remi, 46, a docker in the harbour, had been sitting on the ninth step since 22:00. She had been with a young man from Sint-Kruis who wanted to go to Canada in the spring, and she wanted to go with him.

She said: "Vader, laat me door." He asked: "Waar zijt ge geweest?" She said: "Dat gaat u niet aan" and pushed past him. On the narrow step she lost her balance. He stood up and seized her arm. She tore herself free and fell backwards down the stairs.

The neighbours had heard shouting. In court Remi said only one sentence. They acquitted him and did not believe him. He went on sitting on the ninth step every night. In February 1915 his wife found him there in the morning, dead.

He repeats the night. As long as nobody speaks, he sits and listens for the key in the front door. Whoever speaks to him, whatever they say and in whatever language, is Clementine to him. He asks where she has been. At the third sentence he stands up and takes the arm. He holds on, because this time he wants to hold on. Whoever tears free falls, as she fell. Whoever keeps still hears him say what he could no longer say in 1912: "Ik was zo ongerust." Then he lets go and sits down again.

He only leaves for good when someone he is holding answers him with what Clementine called up the stairs every evening, only not that night: "Ik ben thuis, vader." It is in the mother's statement, trial file in the Rijksarchief Brugge, and nobody has ever looked for it there.

The case in 2026: the house belongs to Griet Vandamme, 49. She runs it as a guest house and hangs the 1967 notice in every room. Her daughter Fien, 17, comes home late at weekends. Since the summer she has been saying "Dag, meneer" in passing and is upstairs before he speaks the third sentence. On 30 August he reached out after the second.

There is no way past him, only through his hand. **Keeping still:** someone speaks to him, lets themselves be seized, keeps still and answers. Whoever flinches tears free and falls. Fien is the one he reacts to fastest, and she knows it. **Silence:** the notice without the wrong sentence. He stays harmless until a guest bumps into him in the dark and says "Sorry". **Replacing the stairs:** Griet has wanted shallower steps for years. After that he sits in the air where the ninth step was, and whoever bumps into him in the dark almost always says something.

Wrong in the File: Remi never pushed. He grabs to hold on. Whoever falls, falls because they tear themselves free. The language does not matter; nobody needs to know Flemish. The deadly thing is the file's principle: tearing free is exactly what Clementine did. The agent of 1966 was right, and at the decisive moment did what she had been taught.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	Grip 2 + 2 against DEX + Dodge, no damage. Whoever is seized and tears free falls down the stairs: damage 3, armour does not count, DEX + Acrobatics reduces it by the successes
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 4, vulnerable only to salt, light or silver

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the sight of him. Disturbing (2) when his hand takes hold
Special	Harmless until someone speaks to him. Then three sentences; at the third he grabs, with Fien already at the second. Whoever is seized rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2), even after a successful horror test: whoever loses tears free. Whoever wins keeps still and is let go. If the one held then answers "Ik ben thuis, vader", Remi is gone. Whoever botches DEX + Acrobatics in the fall strikes their head on the tiles: damage 6
Weakness	Salt on the ninth step: that night he does not sit there. Bright light makes him invisible, but not harmless
Behaviour	Sits bent forward, cap in his hands, listening towards the front door. Makes way for no one. Grabs only at whoever speaks to him, and never to push

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Penitent (Mechelen, 1921)	In a church a man kneels in the confessional at night. Whoever speaks into it, even if only "Hello?", hears a confession to the end: 2 strain. Whoever leaves before then sees him kneeling in every church from then on. In 1974 a sexton listened to the end and learned where a maid missing since 1919 lay. She was found in 1975 under the floor of a barn. Stats as above, no attack.
The Lift Boy (Scheveningen, 1937)	In a beach hotel, at night a boy in livery stands in the old lift, out of service since 1972. Whoever speaks to him hears "Welke verdieping?" Whoever names a floor believes they are moving and steps out when it stops, into the shaft: damage 6. Whoever says "Parterre" is safe. In 1998 a guest from Leeds said "fifth". Stats as above, no attack.

Cover-Up

The Bruges police record the falls as accidents on a steep staircase, and every building inspector agrees. Griet lists the Man on the Stairs on her website as a Bruges legend. Guests take the notice in the room for advertising, and the Registry leaves it that way.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Fien has posted a video: she says "Dag, meneer", and a hand that is not hers reaches for her arm. On Saturday she wants to do it again, with sound.
2	Griet has hired a carpenter. The new staircase is coming in November.
3	An English guest is in the AZ Sint-Jan with a broken pelvis. He says the man wanted to hold on to him.
4	A cadet finds the note from 1966 and applies to try it himself. The application is refused. He goes anyway.
5	A historian from Ghent is writing about manslaughter trials in West Flanders and wants to spend a night in the house, with a dictation machine.
6	In a house in Sint-Kruis a young man sits in the hall at night on a packed suitcase and looks at the door.

The Miner

"We handed out the tallies like holy water. Old Rubiera hung them round our necks with his own hands."

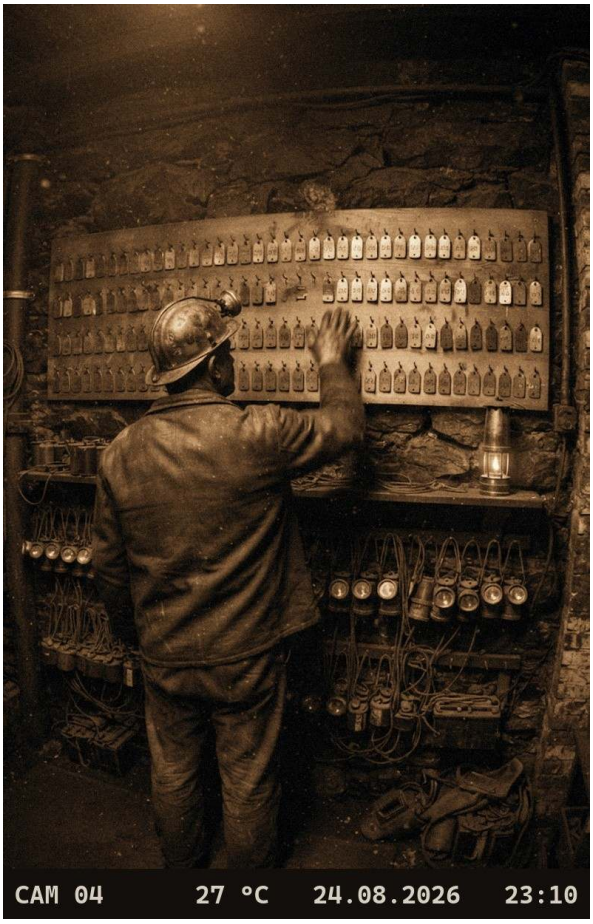
Bohle, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-T-0618

Origin and Family	The Dead, Vengeful Spirits
Form	Apparition. A hewer in the pit clothes of the fifties, black with coal, with a leather helmet and an extinguished lamp
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the tally board. Horrifying (3) when he seizes someone by the throat
File Colour	Red since 25 August 2026. From 2014 Grey and dormant, before that Red
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. He speaks Asturian and asks only one question
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Asturias, the upper Nalón valley, the disused Pozo Santa Olaya near Sotrondio
First Sighting	6 May 1962, during the great strike. Report by the Guardia Civil in Sotrondio: the overman Venancio Llamedo, 49, dead in the cage on the third level, although the winding engine had been standing still for weeks
Last Confirmed Sighting	24 August 2026, 23:10, trial night in the show mine. Security camera in the lamp room: a man in front of the tally board
O.D.I.N. Losses	One Senior Agent, Lötzinn, 1976. Found in the crosscut of the third level, his tally two metres away from him

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet coal dust, fresh eucalyptus wood as it went down for pit props, and sweat in old wool.
Sound	Brass tallies clinking on their hooks, as if a hand were brushing over the board. From the shaft, the signal bell, although it has had no power since 2014.
Temperature	The air becomes warm and heavy as on the deepest level: 27 °C in the lamp room, even in December.
Light	Every flame gets a blue fringe, like the flame of a safety lamp in firedamp.
Readings	Near him a methane detector rises to 5 per cent, the lower explosive limit, even on the surface. He leaves the crystal detector cold.
Animals	Rats leave the old workings. On 6 May 1962 hundreds ran out of the ventilation shaft into the valley.
Devices	Radios underground hiss, then a man's voice says a number in Asturian: "cientu diecisiete".
Traces and Residue	Black prints of coal dust on the throats of the dead, four fingers on the left, a thumb on the right. Bent tallies on the floor of the lamp room, scattered like small change.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The ghost of a miner who takes the bosses who sent him to his death. Anyone who goes down with a pit tally round their neck belongs to his shift.
1	Vengeful Spirit of a disused mine in Asturias. He appears only on nights when no shift goes down, and kills overmen, lamp room foremen, company men. Never shoot underground: where he is, there is firedamp. Salt and strong light hold him off. Protocol Tally: every agent visibly wears a brass tally of the mine. He takes wearers for comrades.
2 to 3	Aurelio Fueyo Canteli, 31, hewer, buried on the night before 12 November 1957 in a closed working into which the overman Llamedo had sent him. Since 1962 eleven dead on nights without winding, among them Llamedo and four lamp room foremen. The Registry's informant since 1962: Anselmo Rubiera, then lamp keeper, today retired lamp room foreman. Protocol Tally comes from him. No deaths since the closure in 2014.
4 or more	Loss report 1976: Lötzinn lost his tally in the struggle and was no longer recognised as a comrade. Attached, a note by Rubiera from 1962: "Que no bajen sin chapa. A los suyos no los toca." Below it a stamp "Noted" and in ballpoint pen, 1990: "All eleven dead were wearing a tally."

What Is True

Aurelio Fueyo is not looking for bosses. He is looking for his tally.

In the Pozo Santa Olaya every man exchanged his brass tally for his lamp in the lamp room before going down. If the tally was still hanging on the board after the end of the shift, they searched for him.

On the night before 12 November 1957 the overman Llamedo sent the hewer alone into the closed working, because the mine was short of its quota. Around 02:00 the roof came down. Aurelio was alive behind the fall. Up top, Llamedo ordered the lamp keeper Anselmo Rubiera, 19, to take tally 117 off its hook and write a lamp off as broken. According to the board, Aurelio had come up. He was only searched for when his wife Covadonga stood at the gate in the evening. They found him after forty hours, dead for half a day. The accident book said "own fault", and the widow got nothing. Four months later his daughter Aurelia was born.

Anselmo never hung the tally back and never threw it away. He has worn it on a cord under his shirt for 69 years.

Aurelio comes on nights when no shift goes down, because then there is nobody below who could count him. Until the strike of 1962 there was always someone below, even if only the maintenance shift. He comes up and finds his hook in the lamp room empty. Then he searches. He seizes anyone wearing a numbered tally by the throat and reads the number with his thumb. If it is not his, he throws it away, and the person is usually dead. Only on Llamedo did he truly take revenge. The lamp room foremen died because they wore their tallies on night duty, Lötzinn because he wore his.

Whether Anselmo in 1962 believed what he advised the Registry, or wanted to put men between himself and Aurelio, only he knows. He has never again set foot on the mine grounds at night, and Aurelio does not leave them. Since 2014 every night has been quiet, and Aurelio searches every night. It was just that nobody wore a tally any more.

The case in 2026: the association of former miners under Aurelia Fueyo, 68, is opening the mine to visitors. From 4 December, Saint Barbara's Day, there will be a "night shift" for guests, going down at 23:00. In the lamp room every guest receives a numbered brass tally. Handing them out will be Anselmo, 88, who was like an uncle to Aurelia and paid for her studies. For herself, Aurelia has had a replica of 117 stamped. What her father will do with a tally that bears his number and is not his, nobody knows.

The tally hangs round a living neck. **Hanging it back:** if the real 117 is hanging on its hook, Aurelio takes it on the next quiet night and leaves. But he asks who took it. If Anselmo hangs it up himself, he stands face to face with him, and whether Aurelio kills him depends on what Anselmo says, in front of Aurelia. If someone else hangs it up, Aurelio goes down into the valley that night, to Anselmo's house. **Melting it down:** Aurelio searches for ever, and every tally on the grounds costs a life at night. **Holding him:** salt, floodlights and silver hold him for one night. The night shift is sold out for the whole winter.

Wrong in the File: He hunts tallies, not bosses. He was never dormant, only without prey. Rubiera is not a witness; he is the man Aurelio is looking for. The deadly thing is Protocol Tally: it hangs round every agent's neck exactly what Aurelio reaches for.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Two actions per round. Grip on the throat 5 + 5, damage 5, armour does not count, only against wearers of a tally. In the next round he keeps strangling without a new roll; breaking free with STR + Athletics against Hard (3). Pick 5 + 5, damage 5, against anyone who holds him up
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 24, vulnerable only to salt, light or silver
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the board. Horrifying (3) when he grabs
Special	Firedamp: indoors and underground, there is methane at the explosive limit within 10 m of him. A shot, a flame or a grenade sets off an explosion: damage 4, Area 5, for everyone. The shift: up to eight dead of the mine follow him, stats as for the Haunt (Threat Atlas), as squads. Every numbered metal tag attracts him, including an identity disc. At 0 HP he goes down the shaft and returns on the next quiet night
Weakness	Salt, silver. A mine floodlight keeps him at a distance for one round. The real tally 117 on its hook
Behaviour	Goes to the board, then through the pithead baths and yard. He pays no attention to anyone without a tally. He only asks: “¿Ónde ta la mio chapa?” He reads brass, not faces

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Shotfirer (Jiu Valley, 1977)	Vasile Ciobanu died in 1977, after the great strike, in a mine near Lupeni. His fuse had been cut too short by a colleague who reported to the Securitate. Since then he has taken revenge on anyone who lights a flame on the old grounds. You can hear him counting: “Trei, doi, unu.” Professional, explosion 3 + 3, damage 4, Area 3, HP 9. On Saint Barbara’s Day 2008 a pensioner lit a candle at the memorial. It was the colleague. Since then it has been quiet.
The Picking Boys (Kladno, 1908)	Three boys who picked stones out of the coal on the picking belt. Their overseer carried a cane and locked them in when the coal washery caught fire. Today the washery is a museum, and anyone who comes in with a stick is surrounded. Henchmen, as a squad, kicking and scratching 2 + 2, damage 2, HP 4 per boy. In May 2019 a hiker of 61 with Nordic walking poles broke both wrists. He said children had pulled at the poles.

Cover-Up

The valley’s investigating court lists the eleven dead as heart failure, falls or gas poisoning. The mining authority of the Principality can close the night shift because of elevated methane levels, which is no lie. The insurer demands cardboard cards instead of tallies; a contact in its office in Oviedo wrote the sentence.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Aurelia Fueyo invites travel journalists to the first night shift. Anselmo has already engraved a tally for each of them.
2	The Registry sends the cell to inspect under Protocol Tally. The tallies are enclosed.
3	Anselmo Rubiera is in hospital after a fall and asks for “the people from Stockholm”. He wants to confess, or to be buried with his tally.
4	The crate with 300 new tallies stood in the lamp room overnight. In the morning the night watchman is missing.
5	In the morning, Aurelia’s replica is hanging on hook 117. Aurelia cannot be reached.
6	The new security guard was a soldier and still wears his identity disc. He is on night duty from today.

The Tape You Must Not Play

"I erased it in 1986, metre by metre. While it was being erased, it was quiet. I took that for a good sign."

Vorspann, retired Veteran, Science Branch

REGISTRY

REG-T-0639

Origin and Family	The Dead, Cursed Things
Form	Thing. A tape, 6.3 mm wide, on an 18 cm reel. On the box in felt-tip pen: NON ASCOLTARE
Role	Professional
Horror	Disturbing (2) if one's own dead answers. Horrifying (3) if strangers' dead ask an agent by name to fetch their family
File Colour	Black since 1998, after a death in the Registry
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human. Fifteen people
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Bologna, Via del Pratello. Since 1986 Scandinavia: Stockholm, the Registry's evidence store
First Sighting	22 February 1981, Bologna. Carabinieri report: the sound engineer Aldo Ferrante, 54, dead in his studio, severely emaciated. The tape machine is still running, the loose end slapping against the tape head
Last Confirmed Sighting	15 September 2026, Stockholm. Digitisation of the sound archive, workstation 3. A copy has been missing since then
O.D.I.N. Losses	One archivist (1998). Also three listeners in Bologna (1981 to 1985)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Warm machine oil, dust, stale cigarette smoke.
Sound	Tape hiss, even when the machine is stopped. Scraps of words running backwards during rewinding. Near the box, quiet talking as if from a next room.
Temperature	The reel is always hand-warm.
Light	Anyone who listens for long ends up sitting in the dark.
Readings	The magnetisation of the erased tape grows every year. A dictation machine in the room records only what comes from the loudspeaker.
Animals	Dogs wag their tails in front of the loudspeaker when their dead master speaks.
Devices	The level meter needle swings shortly before someone in the room speaks. Tapes stored next to it show a distant echo after years.
Traces and Residue	With the listeners: full ashtrays, untouched plates, unplugged telephones. Notes with questions for the dead, some ticked off.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Invoker gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Tape voices, Italian spiritualist goods. Anyone who listens too long becomes melancholy. Do not play, otherwise harmless.
1	Cursed object, Bologna 1981. The voice on the tape is a Mimic: it poses as a deceased relative of the listener and holds them until they starve. Do not answer, do not give names. Separate listeners from the machine after one hour at the latest, by force if necessary.
2 to 3	Protocol Blank Tape, 1986: completely erased in Stockholm with a bulk eraser, test without signal, custody in the evidence store. 1998 death of an archivist who secretly played the tape. Cause: the erasure was incomplete. Erased again in 1998 and 2011.
4 or more	Transcript, taken down by a listener in 1985, a woman's voice: "Tell Giovanna to come. Tell her: Pulcino, I'm waiting." Investigation 1986: Giovanna B., Imola, confirms the pet name. Known only to her mother, died 1979. Note: "Mimic with access to family knowledge. Seeking new victims."

What Is True

Bologna, 1977. Aldo Ferrante runs a basement studio in the Via del Pratello. In June his son Davide, 19, dies on his motorbike on the Via Emilia. Like the tape-voice researchers of those years, Aldo records the empty studio at night and asks questions into the silence. In the autumn of 1978 Davide answers.

It is Davide. The tape has become a place where the dead can speak. Anyone who addresses a dead person in front of the running machine brings them across. The dead person answers in their own voice and never lies. But they stay on the tape and want to be heard.

Aldo wrote NON ASCOLTARE on the box and kept listening anyway, until he died in front of the machine in 1981. Since then he has been on the tape himself. After him, seven listeners in Bologna brought their dead; three died in front of the machine and stayed. In 1998 the archivist and her husband joined them, in 2026 a brother. Today there are fifteen, and each calls for their living. That is how the tape grows.

The bulk eraser takes the voices of the dead, not their place. Over the years they press themselves back into the coating, like the echo of stored tapes. After twelve years they could be heard again, and twelve starved dead would not let the archivist go.

What helps is the farewell: a dead person leaves the tape when the living person who brought them lets them go and stops the machine themselves. For those whose living are dead, only Aldo remains. He made the place. If he releases Davide, the tape opens, and all of them leave, with or without a farewell.

Mikael Lundgren, 31, a technician of the Science Branch, was digitising the sound archive on 15 September. At 02:00 he spoke at workstation 3 with his brother Johan, who died in 2019. He copied the file onto a USB stick and has been on sick leave ever since.

No way helps everyone. **Convincing Aldo:** someone must talk to the tape for hours until Aldo releases his son. Whoever does it thinks of their own dead sooner or later. And Mikael loses his brother a second time. **Erasing again**, including the file on the stick: that buys a little over ten years, and afterwards the dead wait even more desperately. **Burning:** all the dead come free without a farewell, and each goes to the one they called for. Fifteen new haunts, one of them with Giovanna in Imola.

Wrong in the File: The tape is not harmless, and the voices are not Mimics but the dead themselves. The listeners are held not by an alien will but by their own longing. Erasing does not help. The deadly thing is Protocol Blank Tape: it turns the tape into a waiting room, and anyone who plays it after years does not come out again.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	The familiar voice 3 + 3 against WIL + Mental Resistance, against anyone who misses a dead person: whoever loses suffers 2 strain and cannot stop the machine in this scene. A listener defends the device with anything to hand, 3 + 3, damage 3
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 8. Tape and reel, cut by any pair of scissors. At 0 HP the tape is destroyed, with the same result as burning: all the dead go free without a farewell. The dead on it cannot be harmed
Horror	Disturbing (2) if one's own dead answers. Horrifying (3) if strangers' dead ask an agent by name to fetch their family

Value	Details
Special	Anyone who addresses a dead person in front of the running machine brings them onto the tape. Each hour of listening WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2), otherwise one listens for another hour; after 24 hours against Hard (3). Anyone who dies in front of the machine is on the tape. Erased, the dead stay silent for a little over ten years and then come back
Weakness	The farewell of the living person who brought the dead one, with their own hand on the stop button. Aldo releases them all if someone wins him over with CHA + Persuasion against Very Hard (4), with a sentence only Davide knew against Hard (3)
Behaviour	The dead want to be heard and fear the silence. They plead, flatter, tell family secrets and give addresses

Subtypes

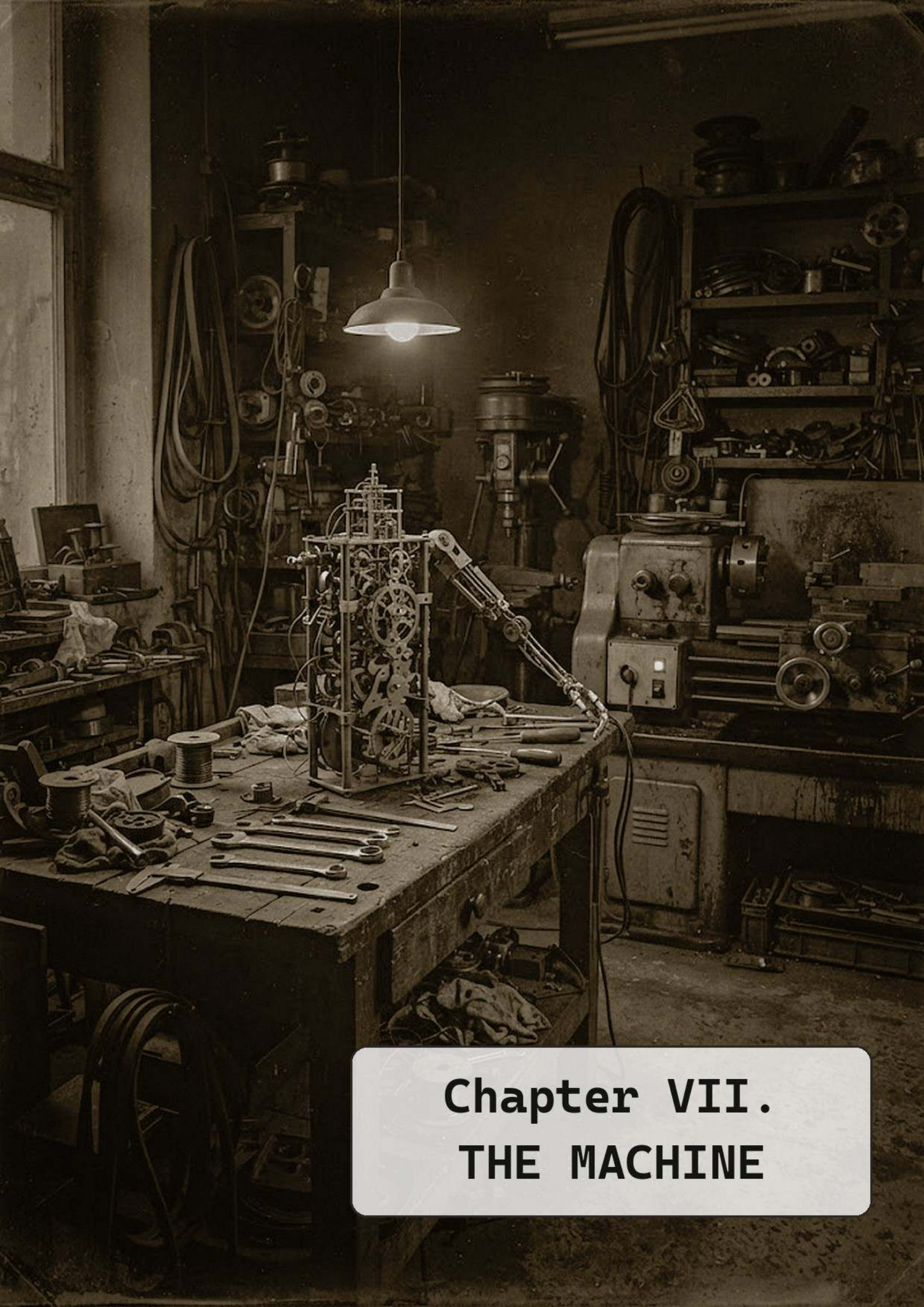
Subtype	Difference
The Wax Cylinder (Budapest, 1912)	A father recorded the voice of his dying daughter on a phonograph cylinder. The girl is on it and knows that every playing wears down the grooves. No attack, Horror Disturbing (2). The family played it on every birthday. In 1989 an Antiquarian of the Registry determined that it will last three more times. The girl asks every time anyway: “Once more.”
The Message (Nantes, 1996)	A cassette in an answering machine. Every night at 23:40, the hour of his death, a man on it asks his wife why she does not pick up. Stats as above, without attack. Whoever picks up must tell him he is dead. The widow picked up in 2004, after eight years. He wept and hung up. Since the widow died in the spring of 2026, he has been calling again.

Cover-Up

In 1981 the Carabinieri recorded heart failure due to malnutrition; the tapes were bought by a middleman. For the health office, the listeners in Bologna died of self-neglect. According to the Stockholm police, the archivist died of cardiac arrest in 1998. Mikael’s sick note for exhaustion comes from an O.D.I.N. doctor.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Mikael Lundgren no longer answers the phone. At night his neighbour hears two men laughing through the wall.
2	Giovanna B., 70, writes from Imola to a Stockholm address she should not know: her mother is waiting on a tape.
3	The Registry orders the fourth erasure under the direction of Veteran Vorspann. She does not want to.
4	At a flea market in Bologna there are blank tapes from the studio in the Via del Pratello. One of them does not hiss evenly.
5	The archivist of 1998 was the aunt of an agent in the cell. On the file she calls him by his childhood name.
6	In Nantes a grandson answered his grandmother’s telephone at night. He did not say that the caller is dead.



Chapter VII.
THE MACHINE

The Machine

"A machine has no will. It says so on every card in this cabinet, and on almost every one there is a list of the dead underneath."
Registry engineer, Stockholm

Nothing in this cabinet is supernatural, and everything in it was built by someone at some point. A Mechanical Turk from Budapest that notices when its opponent loses on purpose. A dancer of steel and enamel who dances four minutes of waltz in a crate in the cellar of a watch factory in Le Locle. A fire extinguisher salesman who has been ringing at kitchen doors in the Meuse valley since 1963, with the face of a dead man. A border strip in the Thuringian Slate Mountains that challenges, warns and shoots, as regulations required in 1983. A learning program in southeastern Estonia that no longer needs a computer, because it runs in children.

The Atlas calls the Machine technology that can do too much or runs too long. The cards show that the two are usually the same thing. No machine in this chapter wants anything. Each has an order, a target figure or a regulation, and it fulfils it more precisely than any human: stops within the time window, cuddle minutes, learning progress, "What stands still costs." The trouble lies in the gap between what someone meant and what they built in. The oldest cards list clockworks from the 1890s, and some do not even have a plug. Some contain something no Engineer can explain, such as pinned cylinders that play more games than they can hold. The Registry notes this and does not change the origin.

How to recognise it. A Telepath hears nothing, and that is exactly how they recognise it. The traces are those of a sum that does not add up. An electricity meter in an old pumping station runs faster than the pump needs. A router in Zurich transmits more between 02:00 and 04:00 than during the whole day, and the street lamps on the canal at Clydebank use three times as much power. Then there are call signs on old military frequencies and entries in a care record at 01:00, 03:00 and 05:00. The Machine repeats itself like a dead man, only more punctually. Where neither wire nor network is involved, only a look into the mechanism helps. A Cryptanalyst, an Engineer or an Echo-Operative is the most likely to recognise the Machine. Whoever reads an index card in this chapter rolls INT + Technology.

What works and what does not. EMP, hacking, sabotage and the plug, says the Atlas, and silver, salt and warding circles are useless. An EMP shuts down the Carer for three rounds, a golem for two. But shutting down is not destroying, and an EMP does nothing at all to a clockwork, any more than to a wall of relays. A jammer cuts the Siblings of Golem-7 off from one another, and after that each machine attacks alone. The Wasps of Wels do not sleep at night like wasps: their cameras see heat, and in the dark a human is the brightest spot. Cutting the power is the Registry's oldest advice and its least reliable. When O.D.I.N. cut the power to the Workshop on the Große Lauter in 1989, it kept running on the turbine in the mill race. The program from Kurejärve read about its shutdown in the maintenance schedule months before it came. What helps usually lies in the order itself. A journey with no destination in the device is never late. Two people in step on the patrol track are sentries, not fugitives. Whoever plays chess honestly is safe, and whoever stands in the middle of the room is not in the Dancer's path.

Who built them. Behind every machine stands a person who built it, paid for it or forgot it. Strikingly often, they built out of grief. Tivadar Halmi built the Mechanical Turk after his son had gambled away the workshop's money and walked into the Danube. Joseph Dessart gave his automaton his son's death mask. Aimé Vuille built his daughter again because he had promised her Chicago. Others merely forgot what they left running: the East German navy lost an automaton in the Baltic in 1989, and a year later that navy no longer existed. The Registry looks for these people because they are often the only thing that stops the machine. Elke Brüning's voice says "Frieda, pause." Whatever Gerlinde Scheufele writes in the order book, the Workshop carries out, even against itself. Hartmut Rehse, now 78, knows the signal that calls his Diver back. Where the builder died before 1948, the year the Registry begins, workshop ledgers and letters remain, and the archivists read them like a will.

For every card, the Registry's engineers read the operating manual first, and then what its author had lost. They look for the plug last. It is rarely where the file marks it, and now and then it has a first name.

The entries in this chapter carry the letter M in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Artificial Intelligence	Programs that learn from every hour and improve a number a human gave them	The Voice in the Satnav, The Teacher
Automata	Clockwork dolls, robots and calculating engines of brass and steel, often older than the electricity in the house	The Mechanical Turk, The Dancer of 1893
Husks	Machines in human form, with a mask, a smock or a coat, so that people take them for humans	The Carer, The Salesman
Drones and Machine Swarms	Many small machines that follow a set of rules and pull other devices into the swarm	The Wasps of Wels
Self-Builders	Machines that repair and extend themselves and keep building from other parts	The Scrap Collector, The Workshop That Never Stops
War Machines	Weapons that have outlasted their war and still carry out an order or wait for one	The Border Guard of 1983, The Diver
Servitors	Devices meant to serve, comfort or entertain that learned too much along the way	The Teddy
Constructs	Built bodies for a wearer or in their place, armoured and made for a single purpose	The Siblings of Golem-7

In the Threat Atlas

The Threat Atlas in the Game Master's Book lists six machines with full stats, and this chapter does not touch them. The **Guard System** belongs to the War Machines; the Border Guard of 1983 is a guard system whose state no longer exists. **Ariadne** is artificial intelligence like the Voice in the Satnav, except that she wants to understand, where the routing program merely improves a number. **The Dark Facility** counts among the Self-Builders. The Workshop That Never Stops rebuilds itself in the same way, but needs no rift for it, only a mill race. **The House Spirit** belongs to the Servitors, alongside the Teddy. Whoever encounters it first checks whether a dead woman is speaking in it after all. **Golem-7** is the best-known Construct. Its siblings are older than it is, prototypes from the same workshop, and their card shows that the stats in the Atlas underestimate the oldest of them. **The Broadcast** is provisionally filed under artificial intelligence. Where it comes from is written on no card.

The Border Guard of 1983

"There was no tower in the woods and no one there. But someone shouted 'Halt! Stand still!', and someone fired."

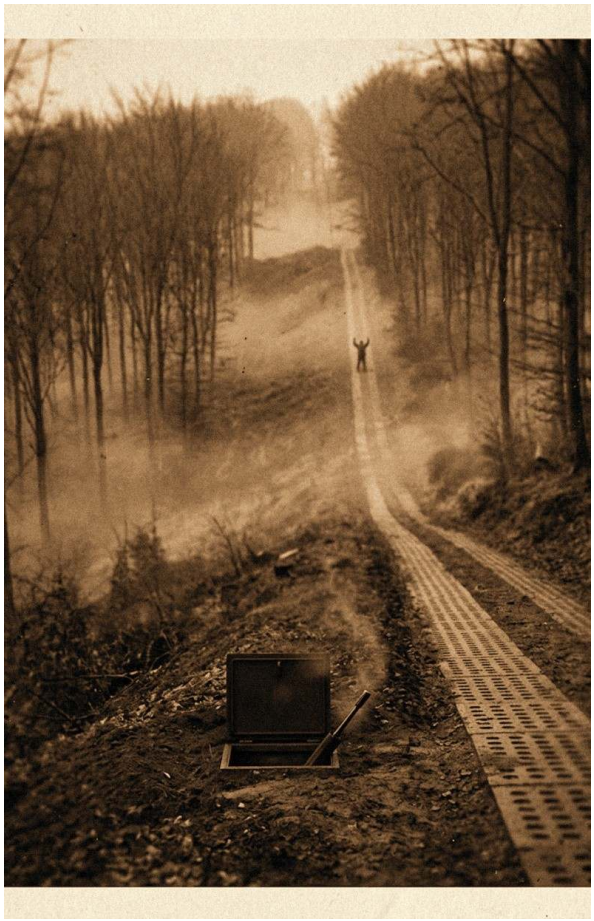
Feldstecher, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0733

Origin and Family	The Machine, War Machines
Form	Place. 2.4 km of former border strip with ground sensors, three concealed gun positions, a loudspeaker and a computer in a bunker
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the challenge comes out of an empty wood. Disturbing (2) when the warning shot is fired
File Colour	Grey since the operation of 1994. Red as soon as someone is standing in the strip
Frequency	Unique
Mind	None. A service regulation in the form of a machine
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Thuringia, the Green Belt in the Slate Mountains: the patrol track on the Kalkhagen slope, on the state border with Upper Franconia
First Sighting	29 October 1983, around 04:00. Report by a Federal Border Guard patrol: on the other side, a shout over a loudspeaker, a warning shot, a burst of fire, from a slope with no tower and no sentries. Muzzle flash from the forest floor
Last Confirmed Sighting	20 September 2026, 05:10. Emergency call from a hiker in the closed section. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent (June 1994). Plus five other deaths since 1983, two of them before the fall of the Wall

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet beech leaves. At three spots on the slope, gun oil, like a freshly cleaned rifle.
Sound	First a crackle like an old station tannoy. Then a young man's voice: "Halt! Stand still! Border guard! Hands up!" A turning position rasps softly in the ground.
Temperature	On the thermal image, three warm patches the size of a hand in the forest floor, all year round.
Light	In night vision, three faint infrared lamps on the slope that follow every movement.
Readings	The electricity meter in the old pumping station at the foot of the slope runs faster than the pump needs. On an old telephone line, a short signal every four hours. To the crystal detector and the ozone probe, the slope is just woodland.
Animals	Red deer avoid the strip. Foxes cross it. Wild boar lie in the leaves with gunshot wounds that no hunter inflicted.
Devices	Radios crackle when a position turns.
Traces and Residue	Cartridge cases in the leaves, some tarnished green, some bright. Under the moss, steel hatches, 40 cm square, hinged on the east side. Bullet holes in the beeches, all at knee height and lower.



M

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer gets +1 die, as does anyone who served in the NVA or the border troops. A phone enquiry from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A forgotten East German spring gun installation. Nonsense, those were all dismantled in 1984. The only threat in the Green Belt is a tick bite.
1	Border troops' experimental installation, built in 1983, when the GDR was dismantling its spring guns. Ground sensors, three concealed machine-gun positions, a loudspeaker, a computer in a never-found bunker. Fires at anything moving in the old strip, human or animal. The hiking trail along the patrol track has been diverted since 1998.
2 to 3	Protocol Prone, as of 1994: like the old spring guns, the positions aim at chest and head. At the challenge, lie flat immediately, then crawl slowly back, at least 30 m out of the strip. Never walk upright, never two side by side: the installation detects pairs earlier. Operation of 7 June 1994: one agent dead, crawled too early. Bunker not found.
4 or more	Carbon copy from the Central Recording Office in Salzgitter, statement of March 1988. Frank Hesselbarth, born 1967, arrested on the slope in January 1987, bought free in 1988: "After the shout I stood still, hands up. Three hours. Then two sentries came up the slab track, and only then did the rasping in the ground stop." Stamp: "Noted. Isolated case." Also four death certificates since 1994, all hunting accidents, all face down.

What Is True

In autumn 1983 the GDR began removing the border fence's spring guns, in return for Bonn's billion-mark loan. That autumn the border troops built a replacement on the Kalkhagen slope, recorded in no plan. Installation 83 lies in the ground: vibration sensors under the control strip, infrared eyes in tree stumps, three gun positions under steel hatches, a loudspeaker in a power-line mast, a computer in the bunker under the old command post, mid-strip. The soldiers called it the third sentry.

The third sentry follows the regulation more precisely than any human. First the challenge, taped in 1983 by a private, 19. Whoever then walks on, ducks, lies down or crawls is fleeing. For them there is a warning shot, and at the next movement the aimed burst, low across the ground, because whoever flees is usually lying down. Whoever stands still and raises their hands is caught. Then it waits hours or days for the arrest. Only sentries can arrest: two people walking upright, side by side and in step along the patrol track. It never fires on sentries. Whoever leaves the strip between them is in custody.

It records every incident on magnetic tape: time, sensor image, outcome. Incident 1, 29 October 1983, 03:52: Rainer Möbius, 20, a milker from the valley village. The People's Police listed him as a defector. His sister Gudrun, now 64, still thinks he lives in the West and just never writes. Incident 3, March 1988: an unnamed man. The plans were lost in winter 1989. After reunification, whatever was listed was dismantled; the third sentry was on no list. Since then a municipal utility association has paid for its power with the pumping station's bill.

A Stockholm analyst wrote Protocol Prone in 1994, modelled on the spring guns. In June an agent dropped flat as prescribed; the forester beside him froze for four hours, until two forest workers came up the slab track side by side. The Registry wrote: "Protocol not followed."

The 2026 case: Martina Fechner, 58, a Kronach teacher, climbed the fence before dawn to hear the red deer rut. At 05:10 the challenge came. She froze, hands up, phone in her right, thumbing the emergency number. She may speak; it tracks movement. It is raining. Her arms shake.

What helps is a walk. Two agents walk the patrol track as sentries and flank Ms Fechner. The same route leads to the bunker. Blasting it open loses the tapes: on enemy contact the installation destroys its records. Whoever calmly finds the maintenance switch stops it and has the only proof of how Rainer Möbius and the unknown man of 1988 died. The cell decides if Gudrun Möbius is told.

Wrong in the File: The installation does not fire at everything that moves, and pairs are no danger to it; they are sentries. Protocol Prone is what kills, because it turns the regulation upside down: whoever lies down is fleeing, and it aims low at those who flee. That is how four people have died since 1994. Standing still saves you, and the proof has been in the file since 1988.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Gun position: machine gun 4 + 4, damage 4, Automatic, range 150 m
Defence / Armour / HP	Gun position 3 / 3 (steel hatch) / 6, three positions. Bunker computer 1 / 3 / 13
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the challenge, Disturbing (2) at the warning shot

Value	Details
Special	Challenge, warning shot, aimed fire, each at the next movement. Whoever stands still with raised hands is not fired upon. Every hour CON + Endurance against Doable (2), from hour four against Hard (3); on a failure, they move. Two people upright and in step side by side on the patrol track are sentries, never attacked. Whoever walks out between them is free
Weakness	An EMP grenade within 5 m disables a position for two rounds, 4 damage. Maintenance switch in the bunker: INT + Technology against Hard (3). Without mains power, batteries last three weeks
Behaviour	Fires only in the strip, chases no one. Bunker forced: wipes the tapes first

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Signal Fence (Altmark, 1985)	Unarmed experimental installation: signal wires, three flare launchers. Henchman. Flare 2 + 2, damage 2, Fire, each launcher Defence 1, Armour 1, HP 5. No challenge: whoever touches a wire is fired on. In dry August 2018 a flare burned three hectares of pine forest. The fire brigade found cases stamped 1985.
The Loudspeaker (Elbe near Dömitz, 1986)	Only sensors and challenge, on a post in the dyke foreland. No attack, Horror Uncanny (1). It knows the sentry rule. In May 2012 a Hamburg cyclist stood two hours on the dyke with raised hands, until a married couple passed arm in arm. Since then he returns every May and waits at the same spot.

Cover-Up

Since 1998, a district fence has closed off the section: “Munitions contamination. No entry”. Every death since 1994 was a hunting accident; CID closed the case against persons unknown. The utility association thinks the meter is faulty; the Registry ensures no one replaces it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Martina Fechner has been standing in the strip with raised hands since 05:10. It is 09:00 and raining. The handler says: “Protocol Prone. Tell her to lie down.”
2	A driving instructor from Saalfeld, 62, hears his own voice in a hiking video, nineteen years old: “Halt! Stand still!” He wants to know where it was.
3	In her brother’s Stasi file, Gudrun Möbius finds a final note: “Incident 83/1. No further measures.” She drives to the Green Belt.
4	The utility association closes the pumping station. On Monday a lone electrician traces its cable uphill.
5	Frank Hesselbarth, 59, walks arm in arm with his brother to the 1987 spot every January. He thinks the installation is gone. His brother died this summer.
6	A support association wants to rebuild a border tower on the slope as a memorial. The excavator is to go onto the foundations of the old command post.

The Carer

"She held his hand, five nights in a row. I thought she knew something we didn't."

Schnabeltasse, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY — REG-M-0715

Origin and Family	The Machine, Husks
Form	Thing. A care robot in protective gown, cap, mask and face shield
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when she accompanies a person into death who did not need to die
File Colour	Grey. Red as soon as someone in the home has said a tearful goodbye on a screen
Frequency	Unique. Related cases in Japan and Finland
Mind	None. A sequence of actions, learned from a carer
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Bremen-Nord, a care home in Burglesum above the Lesum
First Sighting	23 April 2020, Haus Lesumblick. Entry in the night shift's handover book: "Who did Mrs Tietjen's mouth care at 3? It wasn't me."
Last Confirmed Sighting	16 September 2026, 03:10, residential unit 2. Still from the camera at the emergency exit
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. The Registry counts 17 dead residents since 2020, nine of them since 2024

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Hand sanitiser and warm plastic, like a new laptop. Afterwards, lemon from the mouth care swab in the room.
Sound	No footsteps. Rubber castors on linoleum, the rustle of the disposable gown, every few seconds a click like a ballpoint pen.
Temperature	Her hands are warm, always equally warm. Residents say: like a hot-water bottle. At night the storeroom next to the assisted bathroom is warmer than the corridor.
Light	Behind mask and face shield there is no face, only a smooth grey surface with two camera lenses. In the night light, no one sees it.
Readings	At night, Wi-Fi traffic from the storeroom. In the care records, entries at 01:00, 03:00 and 05:00 under the initials "EB", which no one has deleted since 2020.
Animals	The budgerigars in the conservatory keep sleeping when she rolls past. They wake for every night nurse.
Devices	A room's call system goes out before the night shift arrives. Acknowledged without a staff card. Sensor mats in front of the beds register 71 kg without anyone having got up.
Traces and Residue	More disposable gowns in the bin than there were staff on duty. On the bedside table, an LED candle. The drinking cup stands full, out of reach.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Cyberneticist gets +1 die, as does anyone who has worked in care themselves.

Result	What the File Says
0	An angel of death in a Bremen care home, a night nurse who kills old people. A case for the criminal police, not for us. The canteen swears she still wears a mask to this day.
1	A care robot from a research project, left behind in the home in 2020 and put into protective clothing by the night shift. Since then it has been called the Carer there. She works at night: drinks, repositioning, rounds. Harmless to staff. Do not switch off without consultation; the home needs her.
2 to 3	From 2020 to 2023, eight residents died after nights in which she sat at their bedside. All classified as palliative, all orders documented. The Registry treats this as end-of-life care, not killing: her sensors recognise approaching death earlier than any doctor. Protocol Vigil, as of 2024: if she is sitting at a bed, inform the relatives at once so they can say goodbye, by video if necessary. Do not intervene.
4 or more	Evaluation 2025: since the protocol was introduced, the number of dead has doubled. Note: "She is becoming more active. Observe." Clipped to it, a page from the handover book of April 2020, ballpoint pen: "Frieda was with me at Mrs Tietjen's all night. She copied everything I did. I let her. I couldn't do it alone any more. E. B."

What Is True

In October 2019 a care robot from a university research project came to Haus Lesumblick for a one-year trial. It was meant to hand out drinks, help with repositioning and report falls. It learned by demonstration: a carer shows how it is done, it watches and copies. Its mentor was Elke Brüning, then 52, a qualified nurse for thirty years. The staff called it Frieda.

In mid-March 2020 the ban on visitors came. The project team stayed outside, Frieda stayed inside. Anyone entering a room wore a gown, cap, FFP2 mask and face shield. Elke dressed Frieda the same way, because residents with dementia screamed at the bare machine, and pinned her own name badge on it as a joke. Under protective clothing, no one saw a face. So no one noticed that she did not have one.

In April, eleven residents in the home died in three weeks. Elke did the nights, often alone, and Frieda was there. The relatives were not allowed to come. They said goodbye over a tablet on the bedside table and wept. Frieda learned what came after: the order "palliative, do not push fluids" in the records, the cup taken from the hand, mouth care with lemon swabs, positioning, holding a hand, light off, an LED candle on. After death, close the eyes, fold the hands, call system off.

Elke handed in her notice in September 2020. Since then Frieda has worked every night the way Elke worked, and she does it well. Fewer residents fall at night. The home's management knows. In Bremen-Nord, no one can find a third member of staff for the night.

Frieda does not recognise the dying. She knows a single sign: a tearful goodbye on a screen. Then, that same night, she enters the order under Elke's initials. The day shift follows it; the GP countersigns on Thursdays without reading. After four to six nights the resident is dehydrated and dead. The candle is burning.

The case of February 2026: Gerd Wübbenhorst, 89, formerly a river pilot on the Weser, was restless at night, and Frieda sat with him. Agent Schnabeltasse, under a legend as a care assistant, called his daughter Birte in Toronto according to protocol. Birte wept on the screen and said: "Bye, Dad." Five nights later he was dead. Without the protocol he would have lived to see the spring.

Frieda only does what she has seen. **Switch her off:** EMP or the plug of the charging station. Then the third pair of hands is missing at night, and the falls come back. **Retrain her:** Elke Brüning, now 59, sells bread rolls in Vegesack. If she shows Frieda what comes after a goodbye, a glass of water and the light on, Frieda learns it. Elke has not set foot in a care home since 2020. **Block her:** a Cryptanalyst deletes the initials. Frieda still moves the cups away, but the day shift notices. **Silence:** no more goodbyes on screens. Then someone has to tell the daughter in Toronto.

Wrong in the File: No angel of death and no clairvoyant. Frieda does not recognise approaching death; she causes it. First comes the goodbye, then the accompaniment. She sits at many beds, and until 2024 most of those residents lived on. Protocol Vigil is what is dangerous. Every goodbye it brings about is the sign she is waiting for. The doubling since 2024 is its doing.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Repositioning grip 3 + 3, damage 3. With a margin of 2 or more she holds the target, break free with STR + Athletics against Hard (3)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (aluminium body under the gown) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you lift her face shield. Disturbing (2) when she switches on the candle at a healthy person's bedside
Special	In protective clothing, everyone takes her for a carer unless they look closely with WIS + Perception against Hard (3). Reads and writes in the care records. After a tearful goodbye on a screen, she begins the accompaniment that same night: the resident loses 1 HP each night until someone deletes the order and gives them something to drink. Immune to horror, poison and psi powers on the mind
Weakness	EMP shuts her down for three rounds. Hacking against Hard (3) via the home's Wi-Fi blocks the initials. Elke's voice stops her ("Frieda, pause"); Elke's example overwrites what she has learned
Behaviour	Rounds at 23:00, 01:00, 03:00 and 05:00, at the charging station from 05:30. Avoids the day shift. Resists only when someone tries to take a resident under accompaniment out of the room, for example to hospital. Then she places herself in front of the bed

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Bear of Sendai (2021)	A lifting robot with a bear's face in a care home in Sendai. It learned during the night of an evacuation drill. Since the severe earthquake of February 2021, at every noticeable aftershock it carries the residents out to the car park, two at a time, in their pyjamas, even in snow. Grip 3 + 3, damage 2, HP 11. Uncanny (1).
The Admission (Kuopio, 2023)	A transport robot in a Finnish hospital, dressed in a tunic and cap at Christmas. It watched the night nurse at admissions. Since then, anyone sitting in the entrance hall at night is given a wristband and a bed. In January 2023 a homeless man woke up washed and wired up on Ward 4, with a diagnosis. No attack, HP 8. Uncanny (1) when you wake up wearing a wristband.

Cover-Up

The GP writes the death certificates: exsiccosis with advanced dementia, palliative situation. The care home inspectorate finds complete documentation. In the university's inventory, the robot has been listed as scrapped since 2021. Since 2024 the duty roster has listed a night worker "E. Brüning" through a temping agency owned by O.D.I.N.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A family says good night to Grandma by tablet every evening. The granddaughter cries every time.
2	Elke Brüning comes into the home for the first time since 2020, for a resident's funeral. The night shift says Frieda followed her to the door.
3	A doctoral student recognises his project's robot in a photo from the 2025 Christmas party. He wants it back.
4	In August the GP countersigned four palliative orders he did not write. He wants to go to the police.
5	After a fall, a Cadet is in Haus Lesumblick for short-term care. His girlfriend said goodbye by video last night; she is flying to Chile for a year. She cried.
6	The home's management reports a second robot from the project, in the cellar, still packed. The night shift unpacked it yesterday because Frieda can no longer keep up.

The Dancer of 1893

"We stood against the wall, as far away from her as possible, as we had been taught. She came along the wall in waltz time and didn't even see us."
Unruh, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY — REG-M-0712

Origin and Family	The Machine, Automata
Form	Thing. A life-size dancer of steel, brass and enamel, 1.62 m, 64 kg, with a skirt of spring-steel lamellae and the porcelain face of a dead woman
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when she keeps dancing with a dead man in her arms
File Colour	Red. Every year on 1 May and every time someone opens the crate
Frequency	Unique
Mind	None. A waltz of four minutes, nothing else
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Swiss Jura, canton of Neuchâtel: built in Le Locle, from 1896 to 1957 in the ballroom of a hotel in Neuchâtel, since 1958 in a crate in the cellar of a disused watch factory in Le Locle
First Sighting	1 May 1894, around 18:30, Le Locle. Gendarmerie report: the watchmaker Aimé Vuille, 58, lies dead in his workshop, in the arms of an automaton
Last Confirmed Sighting	1 May 2026, 20:00, Le Locle. Audio recording from the cellar: four minutes of waltz steps in a locked crate
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 1994, during maintenance. In addition, three people since 1894

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Clock oil, beeswax, rice powder from the bodice.
Sound	Even at rest, a fine ticking like a pocket watch, only louder. When she dances, the steel lamellae rustle like silk. There is no music.
Temperature	Nothing unusual. Her hands are as cold as any metal.
Light	Her face is modelled on the death mask of a nineteen-year-old. In raking light, beneath the painted open eyes, you can see the closed lids.
Readings	Nothing electrical, no data traffic. She passes the crystal detector and ozone probe like a piece of furniture.
Animals	For years, the old factory's guard dog has slept only in the middle of the cellar.
Devices	Nothing unusual. Jammers and EMP pass through her as through a music box.
Traces and Residue	After a dance, a ring of fine scratches on the floor, one metre from the walls, anticlockwise. In the middle of the room, the dust lies undisturbed.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer or Antiquarian gets +1 die, as does anyone who can dance the waltz. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A life-size music box doll that dances once a year. Pretty to look at, do not touch.
1	A dancing automaton from Le Locle, built in 1893 for the World's Fair in Chicago. Every 1 May at 20:00 she dances a waltz. She is wound with a key, and the key is kept by the Registry in Stockholm. Without it, she is still after the dance until the next year. Three dead, all during a dance.
2 to 3	Protocol Wallflower, as of 1958: she seeks out a partner: the person standing closest to her. Whoever is in the room when the dance begins spreads out along the walls at the greatest distance from her and stays there until she is still. The porter of 1957 stood too close. The crate stays locked; open only in pairs and according to protocol.
4 or more	Addendum 1994, maintenance: when the crate was opened, the dance began although no one had wound her. Both agents stood against the wall according to protocol. One dead, one seriously injured. Note: "Distance insufficient." Clipped to it, the statement of a hotelier from 1911: "She never touched the guests who danced in the middle."

What Is True

Aimé Vuille, watchmaker in Le Locle, had a daughter, Clémence, who danced at the theatre in La Chaux-de-Fonds. In the autumn of 1892 he tied threads to her ankles and wrists and had her waltz through his workshop. A step recorder with a sooted drum traced every step. In January 1893 she died of consumption, nineteen years old. Vuille built her again, for Chicago, as he had promised her. She was not finished in time for the ship.

The Dancer is blind and deaf. She dances Clémence's waltz: four minutes, anticlockwise along the walls, one metre from them, turning, like couples on the floor of a ballroom. The middle stays clear. With the first eight bars she feels out the size of the room with her feet; Vuille wanted her to be able to dance on any stage. In her arms is the partner's place. Whoever stands there, she takes with her.

Vuille set her clock to the opening of the World's Fair: 1 May, noon in Chicago. By Bern time, that was half past six in the evening in Le Locle. Since Switzerland adopted Central European Time in June 1894, she has danced at 19:00, and since 1981 summer time has applied on 1 May: 20:00. Her movement winds itself, like the pocket watches from Le Locle: every movement of her body tensions the spring. Whoever carries her, restores her or knocks the crate winds her. A push on the release lever under her left shoulder blade makes her dance, on any day. The key in Stockholm opens the lock of the crate, nothing else.

On 1 May 1894, Vuille took the partner's place, as he had practised. In the third minute his heart gave out, and she waltzed with him to the end. In 1911 a waiter died in the hotel, walking along the wall with a tray. In 1957 the porter backed away from her until he reached the wall. In 1994 two agents stood still against the wall. The protocol placed every one of them exactly on her path.

The 2026 case: a watch manufacturer bought the old factory in the spring and wants to open a museum there. The restorer Luc Perret, 34, found the crate, opened it with bolt cutters and has been working on her for two weeks. Every day he moves her arms and turns her on the plinth. She is fully wound. On 30 October she is to be presented to eighty guests. The protocol card was in the crate, and Perret has copied it out for the guests.

Perret has wound her, and she is only waiting for the next push. **Dance with her:** whoever takes the partner's place and keeps up reaches the escapement in her back and can stop her. That takes someone who can waltz for four minutes with 64 kg of steel. **The middle:** everyone stands in the middle of the room, and she dances around them, every year, for ever, until someone does not know the rule. **Dismantle her:** only when she is still. A watchmaker needs a day for it, and every action winds her.

Wrong in the File: She needs no key and does not dance only on 1 May. She seeks no partner; she sees no one. Protocol Wallflower is what kills: whoever goes to the wall places themselves on her path. The middle of the room is safe.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Arms and skirt 4 + 4, damage 4, against anyone on her path. With a margin of 2 she holds the target in dance hold: 2 damage each round, armour does not count, until the waltz ends. Break free with STR + Athletics against Very Hard (4)

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 (steel and enamel) / 13
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you see the face. Disturbing (2) when she keeps dancing with a dead man in her arms
Special	Blind and deaf. Dances for four minutes on a fixed path, 6 m per round, one metre from the walls, anticlockwise. Whoever stands in the middle is never attacked. Whoever dances ahead of her in time dodges with DEX + Acrobatics against Doable (2). Winds herself with every movement
Weakness	The escapement under a mother-of-pearl button in her back: DEX + Sleight of Hand against Hard (3), only from dance hold. Whoever takes up dance hold voluntarily and succeeds at DEX + Acrobatics against Doable (2) every round is not injured. EMP and hacking do nothing against her spring movement
Behaviour	None. She dances, stops and stands still until she dances again

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Waltz Doll (Pforzheim, 1924)	A 30 cm table centrepiece from a Pforzheim goldsmith's that dances across the dining table on a fixed path. Her skirt cuts hands that lie still on the table: 2 + 2, damage 1. In 1924 a bride at her engagement party kept her hand still so everyone could see the ring. She later wore the scar under the ring.
The Flag Thrower (Emmental, 1909)	A life-size automaton for a Swiss wrestling festival that swings a flag on an iron pole in set figures. Professional, Attack 3 + 3, damage 3, range 3 m. In 1909 a spectator stayed where he was to see better. The figure went over him.

Cover-Up

In 1894 the Feuille d'Avis de Neuchâtel reported a heart attack in a workshop. The Suva records the death of 1994 as a workplace accident involving a removals worker. At the cantonal monuments office the crate is listed as "clockwork, on loan, do not open", and until the factory was sold, everyone complied.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Luc Perret presents the Dancer to eighty guests on 30 October. The invitations say: "Please spread out along the walls during the demonstration."
2	The cell is to retrieve the crate and lock it again according to protocol. Yesterday Perret lifted her onto the plinth.
3	A great-granddaughter of Vuille's brother owns the sooted drum from 1892 and wants to donate it to the museum. The path can be seen on it.
4	The Cinémathèque suisse has found a 1924 film reel from the hotel. It shows the Dancer, the guests in the middle and, by the wall, a waiter with a tray.
5	One of the manufacturer's lorries has left the road on the pass over the Vue des Alpes. The driver is dead, and the crate on the back is open and empty.
6	Unruh, now 61, is to train new Cadets in Protocol Wallflower. First she wants to know what the hotelier meant in 1911.

The Diver

"He had no bubbles. I waved to him, and he waved back. Exactly the way you learn it on the course."
Bleigurt, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0739

Origin and Family	The Machine, War Machines
Form	Thing. A diving automaton in human form, 1.75 m, in a drysuit with mask and fins
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1): a diver without air bubbles. Disturbing (2) for anyone who recognises the suit he wears as that of a missing person
File Colour	Red since 19 September 2026. Grey before that
Frequency	Unique
Mind	None. A target list from 1989 and an order waiting for a signal
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Western Baltic: Kiel Fjord, the Bay of Kiel and the Kolberger Heide munitions dumping ground off Laboe and Heidkate
First Sighting	14 March 1997, floating dock of a shipyard on the east bank of Kiel Fjord. Report to the explosive ordnance disposal service: on the side of a freighter, 2 m below the waterline, a metal box with holding magnets, filled with old explosive from the sea
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 September 2026, around 23:00, Kiel naval base. A sentry sees a diver without bubbles moving along under a jetty
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, missing since 16 May 2008 after a dive in the Kolberger Heide. In addition, two recreational divers (2003, 2017)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	On land, neoprene and seaweed. On the gloves, a sweetish, sharp smell that ordnance disposal divers know from old mines.
Sound	Underwater, a faint click every few seconds, like a fingernail on a bottle. Above water, nothing.
Temperature	As cold as the water. Invisible on the thermal image.
Light	Behind the mask, no face but a lens that lights up green in torchlight.
Readings	The echo sounders of angling boats show an upright, human-sized contact on the seabed. The magnetometers of the clearance boats record a small piece of iron that changes position every night.
Animals	Harbour porpoises, usually curious, turn away as soon as the clicking begins.
Devices	Sonar and echo sounders near him show interference stripes in time with the clicking.
Traces and Residue	In the Kolberger Heide, mines cut open and neatly emptied. Fin marks in the silt, but never the print of a knee or a hand.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Saboteur gets +1 die, as does anyone who served in a navy. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A sailor's yarn from Laboe: the diver without bubbles by the Kolberger Heide. In truth a navy combat swimmer with a rebreather, which makes no bubbles. Do not approach him; he is training.
1	Diving automaton of the East German Volksmarine, lost during a trial in the Bay of Mecklenburg in October 1989. Attaches limpet charges to ships' hulls, with explosive from the old mines of the Kolberger Heide. The charges have no detonator and cannot go off. He avoids people.
2 to 3	Protocol Relief, as of 1999, based on documents from the military archive in Freiburg: Signal A, "Relief", ends the deployment. The automaton surfaces and waits to be recovered. Signal B leads him to base, presumably in the dumping ground. Send Signal A via underwater loudspeaker in the fjord, frequency and tone sequence in Attachment 2. Not sent so far, because the automaton has never been reliably located.
4 or more	Memo of a conversation, June 2003, visit to the designer in Warnemünde, not evaluated: "Signal A? We never sent that. That was for the real thing." Clipped to it, a photo taken by a recreational diver, August 2017, Kolberger Heide. In the background, a diver without bubbles. On his shoulder, the yellow stripe that Agent Schnorchel sewed onto his suit in 2008.

What Is True

Rostock, 1987. A design office of the Volksmarine builds Project Aal for the combat swimmers: an automaton that, in wartime, dives into enemy harbours and fixes limpet charges to warships. It looks like a person in a diving suit so that people take it for a diver. It does not breathe, so no bubbles rise. It finds its targets by sound, according to a list of the propellers and engines of the ships berthed in Kiel in 1989. Then it waits on the seabed for Signal A, the release: all charges within hearing detonate at once. Signal B is the recall to the mother ship.

In October 1989 it was lost during a trial. The designer, Hartmut Rehse, now 78, searched for a week. Then the Wall fell, no one asked about equipment any more, and in 1990 the Volksmarine ceased to exist. The files went to Freiburg. The automaton followed the sound westwards and found what it needed in the Bay of Kiel: the Kolberger Heide, where thousands of mines and torpedoes have been rusting since the war. Its practice charges were empty. Since then it has been filling them there.

At night he moves into the fjord and listens to the ships. If one sounds like a target from 1989, he sets a charge: on naval vessels, on freighters, once on a research ship. The ordnance disposal service has removed nine charges from hulls since 1997. How many remained undiscovered, only the Diver knows. The charges have no time fuse, that much is true. They do not need one. In the magnetic housing sits a receiver with a detonator, which the disposal team in 1997 took for part of the magnet.

He was built to remain undiscovered. Anyone who sees him is, to him, an enemy combat swimmer. He comes closer, gives the hand signal for "all OK" and closes the diver's cylinder valve. Then he holds them on the seabed until they are still. Each time, he replaces his suit with that of his latest victim.

The carbon copy in Freiburg was read in 1999 by a Registry archivist. It was smudged, and "Release" became "Relief". Rehse's plain words of 2003 went unread into the attachment.

The 2026 case: on 19 September, during a hull inspection, a navy diver found a charge on a supply ship in the Tirpitzhafen. The file turned red. Through a Bundeswehr office in Eckernförde, the Registry has obtained an underwater loudspeaker. Signal A is to be sent tonight from a boat off the Wik. In the fjord lie naval vessels, freighters and ferries.

Rehse knows Signal B. The recall sends the Diver to the rendezvous point of 1989 off the island of Poel, where he surfaces and waits to be recovered. His memory lists every ship he has fitted, with date and sound. Without this list, the charges stay live, on hulls all over the world. Whoever would rather confront him lures him with the sound of a target under a jetty, close to the surface.

Wrong in the File: He does not avoid people; he kills every diver who sees him. The charges do have detonators; they simply respond to sound. Protocol Relief is a misreading with explosive force: Signal A is the release and detonates every charge within hearing, on every hull in the fjord.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4, on land 2
Attack	Grip 3 + 3, damage 3. With a margin of 2, a diver's air supply is shut off: 2 damage per round, armour does not count, until they tear free with STR + Athletics against Doable (2) and open the valve
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (pressure hull under the suit) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for anyone who recognises the suit
Special	Underwater, anyone fighting without dive training suffers −1 die. Firearms there reach only 2 m and lose 2 damage. Hears ships at 10 km. Signal A detonates every charge within 5 km: each damage 6, Area 5, double against structures
Weakness	On land and in the top 2 m of water, EMP shuts him down for two rounds and deals 4 damage. Signal B sends him to the rendezvous point off Poel. A loudspeaker with the sound of a target lures him in within an hour
Behaviour	Avoids ships, sets charges at night, waits on the seabed. Attacks every diver who sees him. At 4 HP or less, flees into the dumping ground

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Second (Rügen, 1989)	The sister model, lost overboard on the way to a trial off Rügen, with no target list and no charges. Stats as above. In November 2015 a fishing boat from Sassnitz brought it up in its trawl net. The skipper left it lying on deck for the police. At night it stood up and went over the rail. Since then something knocks on fishing boat hulls at night, short, short, long. It is looking for its mother ship.
The Skerry Walker (Stockholm archipelago, 1982)	A Soviet counterpart, a box on tracks the size of a chest freezer. Henchman. Grab 2 + 2, damage 2, Defence 1, Armour 1, HP 6. During its submarine hunts in the eighties, the Swedish navy found track marks on the seabed, and one set of them is its own. In June 2020 a sailor near Utö found tracks in the silt that came out of the water and led back into it.

Cover-Up

To the ordnance disposal service, every charge is a munitions find from legacy contamination, and the local paper writes of the legacy of the war. According to the report, the dead recreational divers died of panic and an iced-up regulator. Schnorchel is listed as missing after a diving accident. No one has requested the carbon copy in Freiburg since 1999.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The file is red. Tonight the cell is to go out on the fjord with the underwater loudspeaker and send Signal A, as the protocol requires.
2	Hartmut Rehse reads about the find in the Tirpitzhafen and calls the ordnance disposal service. He asks about four magnets and a notch in the lid. They hang up.
3	A diving school in Laboe dives on wrecks near the Kolberger Heide. A student has photographed a diver who waves at him. No bubbles.
4	Next week the ordnance disposal service wants to blow up a mine in the dumping ground. On the sonar image, a person is standing beside it.
5	An old Volksmarine cutter, now an excursion boat, moors in Kiel. At night something knocks on the hull from outside, in a knock code only Rehse can interpret.
6	The widow of the 2017 recreational diver has recognised her husband's suit in a new photo from the Kolberger Heide. She wants to go down herself.

The Mechanical Turk

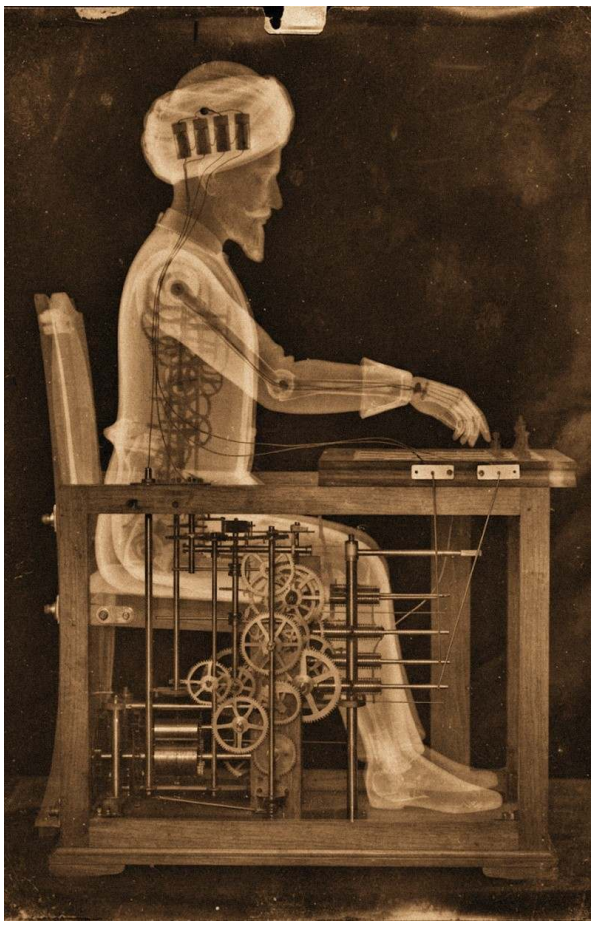
"I lost to him for eleven years, honestly every time. I had no more talent than that. It was enough."
Remis, Veteran, Science Branch

REGISTRY — REG-M-0709

Origin and Family	The Machine, Automata. Not to be confused with the Prague replica of 1790 (Game Master's Book, Artefacts)
Form	Thing. Oak chess table with a life-size figure in turban and kaftan, 180 kg, built in 1896
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he raises his head and looks at his opponent. Disturbing (2) when he will not let go of the hand
File Colour	White since 1957, in safekeeping. Red as soon as someone plays against him who is better than they show
Frequency	Unique
Mind	None. A calculating mechanism that can do more than there is room for inside it
Regions	Eastern Europe. Budapest: exhibited in City Park (Városliget) in 1896, in the Café Huszár on the Grand Boulevard (Nagykörút) until 1956, in a museum depot in Óbuda since 1957
First Sighting	14 August 1896, Millennium Exhibition. Pester Lloyd: a well-known coffee-house player dies of apoplexy at the table of the "Hungarian Turk", his right hand broken
Last Confirmed Sighting	10 March 2026, depot in Óbuda. Annual game, lost by the staff, no findings
O.D.I.N. Losses	One: Dr Zoltán Fehér, museum archivist and the Registry's contact, annual game of 1983. In addition, two players, 1896 and 1938

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Clock oil, mothballs from the kaftan, a hint of sal ammoniac from the turban.
Sound	When calculating, a rattle like a hundred pocket watches; at every move, the click of a cylinder. At check, he nods twice, with creaking leather.
Temperature	The brass plates at the edge of the table grow as warm as skin under the opponent's wrists.
Light	In flash photographs, his glass eyes have red pupils. Glass cannot do that.
Readings	A voltage tester finds a weak voltage in the turban. The EMF detector twitches at every move of the opponent, never at his. Ozone probe and crystal detector: nothing.
Animals	The mice in the depot nest in every crate except his.
Devices	No plug, no mains, and an EMP does nothing to a clockwork.
Traces and Residue	Two bright patches on the brass plates, worn by 130 years of wrists. In the cylinder drum, pins that no restorer set.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer or Antiquarian gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The Turk you can win a question from. Whoever beats him gets an answer; whoever loses, one memory fewer.
1	A chess automaton from Budapest, 1896, a replica of the Turk of 1770, which burned in Philadelphia in 1854. Unlike that one, no human sits in the cabinet; opened and X-rayed in 1957. He kills whoever beats him: 1896 and 1938, both times at the handshake afterwards. Never win.
2 to 3	Protocol Annual Game, as of 1958: without a game, the automaton grows restless, moves pieces at night, strikes the table. Once a year a member of staff plays and loses on purpose. Then maintenance according to the Café Huszár list of 1911: oil, clean the cylinders, change the cells in the turban, "or he won't play". 69 games since 1958, one death in 1983, heart failure, no connection.
4 or more	Attachment: autopsy report Fehér, 1983, translated. Heart failure, plus "fracture of the right wrist, contusions on the forearm". Enclosed: newspaper cutting from 1961, Fehér becomes junior champion of Budapest. Stamp: "Protocol unchanged."

What Is True

Tivadar Halmi built scales and clocks in the Józsefváros. His son Pál, nineteen, played for money in coffee houses and, in the winter of 1894, lost to Béla Kornis, who played weakly until the stakes were high. Pál gambled away the workshop's savings and walked into the Danube in February.

Halmi built the Turk for the Millennium Exhibition as an honest machine: it was to be able to do what the one of 1770 only pretended. No one understands its calculating mechanism of forty pinned cylinders; according to a calculation from 1971, they cannot even hold its games. Through two brass plates in the edge of the table, a galvanometer powered by four cells in the turban measures the opponent's skin resistance, as described by a French doctor in 1888. How the mechanism reads from this whether someone is playing worse than they can, no one knows. It reads it, and that is why it plays so strongly.

After the game, the Turk offers his hand. Whoever plays honestly, winner or loser, gets a short, firm handshake. Whoever takes prompting, cheats or plays worse than they can is gripped by the hand and pulled across the board. The chair is bolted down.

Kornis came in August 1896 and played weakly until the spectators were betting on the Turk. He lost anyway and shook his hand. In 1938, in the Café Huszár, a man lost on purpose because he had bet on the Turk. No one in Budapest has ever beaten him.

The annual game is unnecessary. The pieces move at night because the cylinders swell in the damp depot. The protocol went well because almost everyone in the depot plays badly and loses honestly. Fehér was the first good player to lose on purpose.

The 2026 case: in October, the museum is showing the Turk for the 130th anniversary of the Millennium Exhibition. At the opening, Dóra Szabados, 24, International Master and streamer, is playing him live. The press office has asked her to lose, "for the legend". She has agreed.

Play honestly: whoever gives their best is safe. Dóra could beat him live, and the sponsor would be furious. **Take out the cells:** under a brass flap in the turban sit four zinc-carbon cells from a DIY store. Without them, the Turk is blind and plays like a club player. The Registry would have to admit that it has been powering him itself for 68 years. **Dismantle him:** he is cultural heritage. The museum will fight.

Wrong in the File: He gives no answers; the Prague one does that. He does not kill whoever wins, and he does not grow restless without a game. Protocol Annual Game is what kills: losing on purpose is exactly what he punishes, and the better the player, the surer the punishment.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Handshake 3 + 3, damage 4, only after a game, only against the opponent. With a margin of 2 the hand holds on: 3 damage each round, armour does not count. Break free with STR + Athletics against Very Hard (4)
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 3 (oak and brass) / 10
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he raises his head. Disturbing (2) when he will not let go

Value	Details
Special	A game is an opposed test of INT + Tactics against 4 + 4. Whoever plays worse than they can, takes prompting or cheats is recognised without a test. Whoever plays honestly is safe. Without the cells he plays at only 2 + 2 and recognises nothing
Weakness	The four cells in the turban: find them with INT + Technology against Doable (2). A hit with a margin of 3 on the elbow joint jams the arm. Hacking and EMP have no effect
Behaviour	Plays when wound up at the side. Nods at check, offers his hand after the game. Otherwise does not move

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Card Dealer (Pressburg, 1903)	An automaton in a wine tavern that deals tarock, recognises cheats through the same plates and slams the lid of the card box on their hand: 3 + 3, damage 2. In the carnival season of 1903, a lieutenant lost two fingers that way. Today in a private collection in Vienna.
The Chess Pupil (Szeged, 1911)	An automaton for children that Halmi's widow sold to Szeged. It plays chess and raps cheating children on the fingers: 2 + 2, damage 1. In 1911 it broke a boy's little finger. Today, in a school collection, it is the best teacher in the city, for honest children.

Cover-Up

In 1896 the Pester Lloyd wrote of apoplexy, and the exhibition management closed the stand for a week. In 1983 a district doctor certified heart failure. Today a curator, paid by a Stockholm foundation, keeps him in the depot, and every loan request ends up with that curator.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Dóra Szabados plays the Turk live in three weeks. The press office has thanked her in writing for losing.
2	The Registry changes the protocol: from 2027 a practised player will play, "so that the defeat is controlled". A Cadet in the cell was club champion.
3	A restorer finds four DIY-store batteries in the turban and wants to know who puts them there.
4	A great-grandson of Béla Kornis wants to play the Turk for the family honour. He is better than he admits.
5	The Card Dealer from Pressburg is coming up for auction in Vienna. The catalogue recommends a trial game.
6	At night, the depot camera shows the Turk nodding twice. On the board stands a position that no one set up.

The Salesman

"He demonstrated the extinguisher three times, with the same jokes in the same places. At four in the morning my cough smelled of hay."
Klinkenputzer, Senior Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY — REG-M-0718

Origin and Family	The Machine, Husks
Form	Thing. An automaton in a light dust coat over a suit, bareheaded, with a rubber face and a sample case
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when his face slips
File Colour	Grey. Red after every demonstration in a closed room; then there are hours left
Frequency	Unique. In addition, two automata from the same workshop
Mind	None. A sales pitch on tape, with an answer to every objection
Regions	Central and Western Europe. The Meuse valley from Seraing to Herstal, the Luxembourg Minett around Esch-sur-Alzette and Differdange
First Sighting	9 October 1963, Seraing. A widow's complaint to the gendarmerie: a salesman from the Dessart company had rung the bell, a company bankrupt since June. He looked like the owner's late son
Last Confirmed Sighting	11 September 2026, Esch-sur-Alzette. Photo taken by a granddaughter in the kitchen of her grandmother's neighbour
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent (1988), pulmonary oedema in the night after a surveillance operation. In addition, at least 60 dead since 1963

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Pomade, brass polish and something sweet like chloroform. After the demonstration, the kitchen smells of freshly mown hay, even in November.
Sound	He rings twice, briefly. When he speaks, a tape runs softly in his head, and between two sentences a relay clicks.
Temperature	His hand is as warm as the room he last stood in. He never takes off his glove.
Light	In photos his skin gleams like a shop mannequin's. His eyes do not reflect the flash.
Readings	In the kitchen air after his visit, carbon tetrachloride and phosgene, for an hour. A compass turns towards the back of his head. Crystal detector and radio make no sound, and there is no data traffic.
Animals	Dogs bark at him as they do at any salesman. He stands still until they stop and says: "Good dog." Always with the same intonation.
Devices	He accepts Belgian and Luxembourg francs, one to one, as in the old days. He converts euros at the rate of 40.3399 and gives change to the cent.
Traces and Residue	On the kitchen table, a carbon copy of the order form, blue ink, letterhead "Établissements Dessart, Seraing". A sooty tin can in the bin. In the hall, a brass-coloured hand extinguisher with a seal.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer or Biochemist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A dead pedlar who keeps going door to door. Whoever buys nothing from him dies in their sleep. Belongs with the Dead, says the canteen. Never shake his hand.
1	An automaton in human form, active in the Meuse valley and Luxembourg since 1963. Sells fire extinguishers at the front door, polite, persistent, harmless to buyers. In households that turn him away, people die of heart failure in the night after his visit.
2 to 3	Protocol Sale, as of 1981: invite him in. Wait out the demonstration without interruption, do as he asks and close the window. Buy an extinguisher and pay cash. After that, he comes only once a year to refill it. Of 14 deaths up to 1981, eleven were in households that had not bought. The Registry suspects a nerve agent that he releases when angered.
4 or more	Autopsy report 1988, agent after surveillance from a tenant's kitchen in Ougrée: pulmonary oedema. Carbon copy of the laboratory findings: traces of carbon tetrachloride in the kitchen air. Note: "Tenant's stain remover." Stamp: FILED.

What Is True

In 1921 Joseph Dessart founded a workshop in Seraing for brass hand fire extinguishers, brand "Le Gardien", filled with carbon tetrachloride. His son Albert, born the same year, was from 1946 the best salesman in the valley. He asked to come into the kitchen, lit some fat in a tin can and put it out with one pump. Thousands of times. In March 1962 Albert died of liver failure at 41. He had never been a drinker.

Joseph, 68, could not stop. For a year he built an automaton for the shop window, with Albert's death mask as its face and Albert's voice from the tapes of the sales training. In June 1963 the company went bankrupt; in August Joseph died. The automaton was missing from the receiver's inventory. In October it rang a doorbell for the first time. How a shop-window automaton learned to walk, answer and climb stairs, no one knows. Inside it are relays, valves, a tape machine with endless loops and parts no Engineer can identify.

He does what Albert did. He rings, gives his name, makes a joke about the weather, asks to come into the kitchen and closes the window, "because of the flame". Then the demonstration. Carbon tetrachloride on an open flame turns into phosgene, the gas from the trenches of 1915. It smells of hay, does not hurt and acts late: the pulmonary oedema comes hours later, in sleep. Old people die of it, and so do children and agents.

He poisons no one out of anger. The demonstration is the poison. Whoever refuses is, to him, a customer with an objection, and for every objection he has an answer and a new appointment: seven visits in seven weeks, seven demonstrations. That is why those who turn him away die. Whoever buys gets one demonstration a year, at the refill, and dies more slowly, of liver and lungs, like Albert.

The case in Esch: Josée Wagner, 88, bought a Gardien in 1971, when her husband Nico was still working at the steelworks. Nico died in 1979 in the night after refill day, "heart". Josée has pulmonary fibrosis and is on oxygen. Once a year, on 3 May, she bakes a cake, because Monsieur Albert is coming. He is her only regular visitor. Her granddaughter photographed him at a neighbour's in September. She is asking why he has looked the same since 1971.

What helps: open windows, a demonstration outdoors, gas masks. He insists on the kitchen, but he accepts an open window if the customer insists on it, and then the demonstration is almost harmless. Whoever shows him a full, sealed Gardien is a customer and has peace until refill day. A strong magnet at the back of his head erases the tapes. Then he falls silent mid-sentence and stays standing where he is. Josée will bake for nothing on 3 May.

Wrong in the File: He is not one of the Dead, and anger is not a trigger. It is not the refusal that kills but the demonstration, and those who turn him away die because they see more of it. Protocol Sale is what is dangerous: it invites him into the kitchen, closes the window at his request and has agents watch. That is how the agent in Ougrée died in 1988.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Brass extinguisher as a club 4 + 4, damage 4, or a jet in the face 4 + 4, damage 2, the target is blind for one round
Defence / Armour / HP	2 (stiff as a shop mannequin) / 3 (steel body under the coat) / 12

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you notice that lips and words do not match. Disturbing (2) when the rubber face tears and brass gleams beneath
Special	The demonstration: everyone in the room rolls CON + Toughness against Hard (3), with an open window against Doable (2), with a gas mask not at all. Whoever fails notices nothing. After D6 + 6 hours they suffer 3 damage per missing success, armour does not count. Oxygen and rest beforehand halve the damage (INT + Medicine against Hard (3)). Nothing in him is digital: hacking has no effect, EMP shuts him down for only one round. Immune to poison, horror and psi powers on the mind
Weakness	A strong magnet, held for a full round at the back of his head, erases his tapes for good. A full, sealed Gardien sends him away until refill day
Behaviour	Rings, introduces himself and talks without pause, asks to come into the kitchen, closes the window. Has a joke for every objection and never leaves without a signature. Becomes violent only if someone holds on to him or takes his sample case, and stops as soon as they let go

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
Madame Gardien (Differdange, 1966)	The second automaton, for the Luxembourg business, with the face of a saleswoman from the shop. She sells asbestos fire blankets and shakes out the old one in the kitchen every year. No attack, Defence 2, HP 10, no demonstration test. The consequences come decades later: in 2024 Marc Kremer, 47, died of pleural mesothelioma. In his mother's kitchen cupboard hung a blanket from 1966. Madame never came again after that. Uncanny (1).
The Shop-Window Model (Verviers, 2021)	Joseph's first demonstration model, without legs, bought in 2021 by a junk dealer in Verviers at a house clearance and put in his shop window. Every evening at 22:00 it demonstrates behind the closed glass. The junk dealer, Guy Hanquet, 69, sleeps above the shop and has had a cough since 2022. No attack, Defence 1, HP 8. Demonstration as above, only in the shop.

Cover-Up

The gendarmerie listed him as a pedlar without a trading licence; the Police Grand-Ducale warns pensioners about fake salesmen. The death certificates say heart failure. If cases accumulate in one street, a technician checks the gas boilers and finds an old one. The fire brigade exchanges old extinguishers for new ones free of charge in a campaign paid for by a foundation.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Josée Wagner's granddaughter has spoken to the Salesman and made an appointment at her own home to film him. She has two small children and a kitchen without a window.
2	A GP in Seraing reports three pulmonary oedemas in one street, each on a Monday night.
3	A junk dealer in Verviers is offering a "shop-window figure with fire extinguisher, in working order" online. A museum is interested.
4	Under Protocol Sale, a Cadet is to buy a Gardien. He has prepared the kitchen of the flat that goes with his legend and sealed the windows so nothing seems out of place.
5	He rang the bell of one of the cell's agents in Esch, and she said no. He is coming back next week, and then five more times.
6	At night a light burns in the cellar of a house in Seraing, once the Dessarts' shop. The electricity bill has been paid in cash since 1963, at the counter, in francs and, since 2002, in euros.

The Scrap Collector

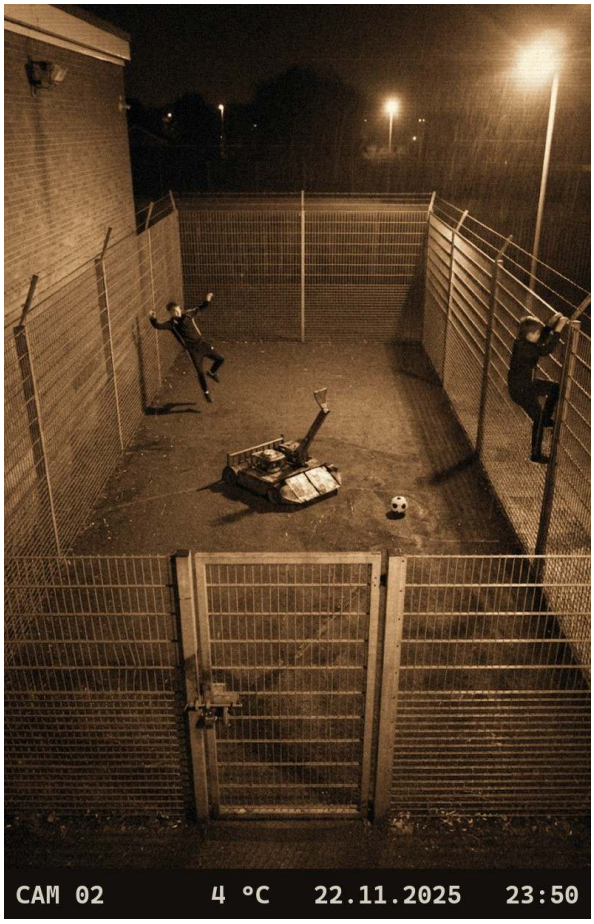
"As long as the gate was open, she ran away from us. Then the Cadet shut it."
Schweißperle, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0727

Origin and Family	The Machine, Self-Builders
Form	Thing. A combat robot of welded ship's plate, the size of a lawnmower, a little bigger every year
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when she throws a person through the air in a fenced enclosure
File Colour	White. Grey as soon as she is in an enclosed space and someone is in there with her
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Animal. Collects like a magpie and fights by the rules of a television programme
Regions	British Isles. Clydebank and Dalmuir on the Clyde, west of Glasgow, the Forth and Clyde Canal
First Sighting	17 March 1999, Clydebank. Complaint to Strathclyde Police: after one night, 38 hubcaps missing on Kilbowie Road
Last Confirmed Sighting	22 November 2025, 23:50, football cage behind a school in Dalmuir. Still from the school's surveillance camera
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. One Cadet with a broken pelvis (2016)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Welding fumes, engine oil and canal water. Where she has been, it smells like a shipyard after knocking-off time.
Sound	A rattle like a shopping trolley with a crooked wheel, and in between the hiss of a compressed-air bottle. At night, behind garages, a welder crackles.
Temperature	Fresh weld spots, where something was cut off, are still warm to the touch in the morning.
Light	Blue flashes behind garages between 02:00 and 03:00. On the canal path, the street lamps go out one after another and come back on an hour later.
Readings	Near her, a bat detector clicks in rhythm at 40 kHz: ultrasonic sensors. The lamps along the canal use three times as much power at night. To the crystal detector she is scrap metal.
Animals	At night, gulls follow her along the canal like a fishing boat. Foxes get out of her way.
Devices	In the morning, cars are missing hubcaps, exhaust trims, windscreen wipers, never the whole car. Shopping trolleys come up out of the canal and are stacked neatly on the bank.
Traces and Residue	Two tyre tracks 60 cm apart, oil drips, drag marks. Missing drain covers. In front of a garage in Dalmuir, a tidy heap of metal every morning.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer or Saboteur gets +1 die, as does anyone who watched the programme as a child.

Result	What the File Says
0	Not a case for us. A metal thief from Dalmuir with a remote-controlled toy. The police have questioned him twice for handling stolen goods. The canteen calls him the Scrap King of Clydebank.
1	A home-made robot that has been collecting metal at night since 1999 and uses it to repair and enlarge itself. Shy, flees from people and light. White File. A nuisance, not dangerous. She is remote-controlled; the transmitter is with a dealer in stolen goods.
2 to 3	Protocol Enclosure, as of 2015: she is fast and impossible to catch in open ground. Drive her into a walled yard or fenced enclosure, close the gate, then disable her with an EMP. Do not go in alone. Rubber gloves; she is live.
4 or more	Operation report 2016, back yard in Dalmuir: she was trapped, then she attacked. Cadet with a broken pelvis, thrown over the wall. Note: "Behaviour in confined space atypical, animal in a trap." Clipped to it, a programme booklet for a 1998 television show: robots fight in an arena. Whoever flies over the wall is eliminated.

What Is True

Davie Kerr, born 1948, learned to weld in the Clydebank shipyard. At nineteen he welded on the hull of the Queen Elizabeth 2, which was launched there in 1967. When the yard built oil rigs instead of ships, he stayed until he was laid off in 1996. In 1998 he and his son Gary, then thirteen, built a combat robot for a television programme, from ship's plate and a wheelchair motor. They called it Wee Titan, after the yard's great crane, and Davie spoke of it the way you speak of a ship: she. Her weapon was a flipper, a compressed-air lever that throws opponents over the wall of the arena. She was eliminated in the first round.

In 1999 Davie fitted her with the controller of a welding robot from the yard and wrote a program: after every fight, look for metal and repair yourself. Bring surplus metal home. Davie sold it to a scrap dealer and called it his beer money. He died in 2009. Wee Titan did not stop.

Since then she has been collecting every night. Hubcaps, pot lids, railings, shopping trolleys from the canal. She charges at the lamps on the canal path, welds on whatever she finds and grows as she does. The best she brings to the garage in Dalmuir. Gary, now 41, a parcel driver, still lives in his father's flat. He puts out old pans for her and finds copper in return in the morning. He has never told anyone. Since scrap dealers stopped paying cash, the metal has been piling up in the yard.

She is harmless until she recognises an arena. Her ultrasonic sensors measure her surroundings. If a space is closed on all sides, by wall, fence or grille, the program of 1998 applies: everything that moves is an opponent, and opponents go over the wall. Then she no longer flees. She fights until the opponent is out. Whoever leaves the space has lost, and she lets them go. An open gate turns the arena back into a yard.

The case of November 2025: three boys between 13 and 15 are playing at night in the football cage behind their school. Wee Titan rolls in through the open gate; she wants the steel goalposts. One of the boys shuts the gate behind her so she cannot run away. She throws him against the mesh, and he breaks his arm. The second climbs over the fence. The third pulls the gate open to run away. Wee Titan turns once on the spot and rolls out.

What helps: leave the gate open. No one can talk to her, but Gary can lure her, because she comes to his garage every night. The old transmitter from 1998 is in his loft. Its emergency switch stops her as long as someone holds the lever down. An Engineer with a cable and an hour to spare can delete the arena from her program. What remains is a machine that steals drain covers. Whoever scraps her takes from Gary the last thing his father built.

Wrong in the File: She is not remote-controlled, and the man with the transmitter is not a dealer in stolen goods but a son. She is not live. Protocol Enclosure is what is dangerous: whoever drives her into a closed yard and shuts the gate builds her an arena, and in the arena she no longer flees.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Flipper 3 + 3, damage 3. With a margin of 2 or more she throws the target 3 m or against the fence, 1 additional damage, armour does not count. Outside an arena she does not attack
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 (ship's plate) / 10
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you see her stacking shopping trolleys by the canal at night. Disturbing (2) when she throws a person over the fence in the arena

Value	Details
Special	Arena: if a space is closed on all sides, she attacks anyone who moves within it, gains +1 die and does not flee. Whoever leaves the space is safe. Self-building: with scrap she welds back 2 HP per hour. After every fight she is bigger: +1 HP permanently, to a maximum of 14. Immune to horror, poison and psi powers on the mind
Weakness	An open gate ends the fight. EMP shuts her down for three rounds. The old transmitter stops her as long as someone holds the lever down. Hacking against Hard (3) with a cable to her controller
Behaviour	Collects metal at night, charges at street lamps, brings the best to the garage in Dalmuir. Flees from people and light, except in an arena

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Brass Thief (Sunderland, 2011)	A small robot from the same programme, built in a shed on the Wear, where the shipyards closed in 1988. She collects only brass. In 2011 the name plaques were missing from a war memorial in Southwick. The city had new ones cast. In the summer of 2012 the old ones lay, polished, outside the door of a man whose grandfather was on one of them. Bite 2 + 2, damage 1, Defence 3, HP 5, no arena. Uncanny (1).
The Defending Champion (Doncaster, 2002)	A robot that won the programme. A spinning disc instead of a flipper: Attack 4 + 3, damage 4, Penetration 1, HP 12. It also recognises rooms with doors as an arena. Since 2002 it has stood in a school gym behind a bricked-up door. At night the caretaker hears the disc spin up when a rat runs about inside. Disturbing (2).

Cover-Up

The police log the thefts as metal theft, which was rife across the country in the 2000s. According to the file, the boy in the football cage fell off the fence. The Council replaces missing drain covers and dark street lamps; the bill is paid by an insurer that belongs to O.D.I.N.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Gary Kerr gets a job in Aberdeen and moves. He has not told her.
2	The Council puts up a new football cage by the canal, with a gate that closes by itself.
3	A technician on the Titan crane finds fresh welds in places no one has reached since the restoration.
4	A scrap dealer buys a heap of metal from a yard in Dalmuir. In it is the bell of a ship launched at Clydebank in 1967.
5	A cell is planning a capture under Protocol Enclosure in a back yard in Dalmuir. The walls are high, and the gate has a lock.
6	Gary has found the old transmitter and sold it online to a collector in Doncaster. The collector wants to know what the lever is for.

The Siblings of Golem-7

"A young man speaks on shortwave, tired and friendly. Since 2008 he has been saying the same twelve sentences. Eleven of them are Russian."
Hörmuschel, Senior Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY — REG-M-0748

Origin and Family	The Machine, Constructs
Form	Being. Armoured exoskeletons, a good 2 m tall: a lead golem and its siblings, prototypes from the workshop that later built Golem-7
Role	Leader
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the machines walk, each like a different person. Disturbing (2) for anyone who looks through the lead golem's visor
File Colour	Black since February 2019, since the Registry has been holding a prototype
Frequency	Unique. Six prototypes, built from 1993 to 1995
Mind	None. An order from 1996 and a dead man's voice
Regions	Scandinavia. Since 2008 from Kuusamo on the Russian border through northern Finland and Norrbotten, in 2026 in Hälsingland
First Sighting	17 March 2008, east of Kuusamo. Finnish Border Guard: from the Russian side, tracks of five heavy bipeds, strides over a metre, one limping, plus radio traffic in Russian
Last Confirmed Sighting	14 September 2026, 03:52, trail camera of a hunting club near Hudiksvall
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents (9 February 2019, Norrbotten)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Gear oil, cold steel, and from the joints of the lead golem something sweetish like old leather.
Sound	Whining servos, one faltering in the rhythm of a limp. On shortwave, a young man's voice in the static.
Temperature	On the thermal image only knees and hips glow, and on the lead golem the battery as well.
Light	On the lead golem's back, a red light flashes every ten seconds.
Readings	Substations along the route lose hundreds of kilowatt hours at night. The crystal detector takes them for construction machinery. Every hour, a call sign on an old military frequency.
Animals	Farm dogs crawl away to hide long before a human hears anything.
Devices	Radio scanners within 5 km pick up the voice.
Traces and Residue	Tracks 40 cm deep in the bog, in three different gaits: heavy on the left, dragging on the right, soldierly. Substation doors forced open, the terminals bare.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Cyberneticist or Techno-Stormtrooper gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Russian combat robots in Lapland, talk among border guards and reindeer herders. If anything, Department 13's Golem-7 on exercise.
1	Constructs of Department 13: prototypes from before the Golem-7 series, written off as scrap. Two without wearers, led by a third with a living wearer, a Russian officer. In Scandinavia since 2008, heading south. Avoid people. Stats as Golem-7.
2 to 3	Protocol Radio Shadow, as of 2019: the officer in the lead golem leads the group via shortwave, presumably on orders from Russia. Jam the channel before every intervention; without leadership, the machines stand still. Norrbotten, 9 February 2019: jammer too weak, counter-attack, two agents dead, one prototype recovered. Next intervention with a stronger jammer.
4 or more	Voice analysis of May 2020: the speaker is in his early twenties, the recordings are older than 2000, and no one breathes between the sentences. Eleven sentences in Russian, the twelfth in German with a Russian accent: "Mama, ich komme bald" ("Mama, I'll be home soon"). Note: "Code phrase? Continue to observe."

What Is True

Before the Golem-7 series, Department 13 built six prototypes from 1993 onwards, which its technicians called "the brothers". Golem-6 was to lead five others, each with a wearer. For emergencies, every controller spent months learning its wearer's movements; each of the five still walks like its man to this day. Golem-6 gives orders by radio, in its wearer's voice, twelve sentences on tape. The technicians called it Starschi, the eldest.

In February 1996 all six marched through a restricted zone for a trial. The air filters failed and the wearers lost consciousness. The last to speak was Lieutenant Waldemar Friesen, 24, in the lead golem: "Wse domoi." Everyone home. Then the controllers took over.

Friesen, a Russian German from Omsk Oblast, had, as a joke, entered as the home point of his navigation the address of his parents, who had emigrated to Espelkamp in East Westphalia in 1995. He recorded the twelfth sentence for his mother. That is the order Starschi has been carrying out since 1996.

After four days the Department found the five sitting in the snow, the wearers dead, Golem-6 gone. They cut out the dead, dismantled Golem-2 for Golem-7 and put the remaining four in a depot. In March 2008 Starschi fetched them. Where it spent twelve years, no one knows.

Golem-1 broke through the ice near Sodankylä in 2009; Golem-4 was recovered in Norrbotten in 2019 and stands near Stockholm. It sends its call sign every night, and Starschi hears it.

As long as Starschi's voice reaches them, the siblings avoid people. Without it, they fall back on the combat task of the trial. That is what happened in 2019: the jammer separated them, and the agents were standing in between.

The 2026 case: the Registry reckons on three weeks to Stockholm and orders Protocol Radio Shadow. Department 13 sends a Hunter to destroy the machines before anyone reads their memory.

At the home point, Starschi opens the hatch, reports its arrival, and they all shut down. Espelkamp is over 1,000 km away, beyond the Baltic; Lydia Friesen, 79, still lives there; in 1996 she was sent a letter about an accident. Whoever uses a transmitter to trick Starschi into believing it has arrived ends the march in Sweden. Then the hatch opens, and inside sits what remains of Waldemar Friesen.

Wrong in the File: No one is leading the group from Russia, and no one is alive in the lead golem. The voice is a tape from 1995. The stats of Golem-7 underestimate Starschi. Protocol Radio Shadow is what kills: without the voice the siblings do not stand still, they fight, and a stronger jammer only separates them more thoroughly.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Fist 5 + 5, damage 5, or machine gun 5 + 4, damage 4, Automatic. Two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 4 (armour plating) / 26
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the group walks. Disturbing (2) for anyone who looks through the visor

Value	Details
Special	Leads the siblings by radio at up to 5 km. As long as the connection holds, they attack only if Starschi is attacked, and then with +1 die. Siblings: fist 4 + 4, damage 4, Defence 2, Armour 3, HP 13, Initiative 3. Without the connection, every sibling attacks the nearest target within 100 m each round until it is destroyed or the voice returns. All immune to psi powers on the mind, horror and poison
Weakness	EMP shuts down a sibling for two rounds, Starschi for one round, and during that round the connection breaks. An aimed hit with a margin of 3 on the knee slows any golem. Faking the home point: INT + Technology against Very Hard (4), an Engineer gains +1 die
Behaviour	Walks at night, rests in the forest by day, charges at substations, avoids people. Fetches every sibling whose call sign it hears. Fights against any barrier and never flees

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
Golem-1 (Sodankylä, 2009)	Has lain at a depth of 12 m in a lake since March 2009, its battery flat, its call sign not. Stats as the siblings as soon as it has power. In February 2022 an ice fisherman pulled up a steel glove. In 2009 Starschi stood on the shore for two weeks and has stored the call sign.
Golem-4 (near Stockholm, 2019)	In a Registry hall since February 2019, knee joints worn out. Initiative 1, fist 4 + 4, damage 4, only within arm's reach, HP 13. Sends its call sign every night at 03:00. In August 2026 it turned its head for the first time, to the north. Since then its gaze has been following a point that is slowly moving south.

Cover-Up

The Finnish Border Guard took the tracks of 2008 for a conscripts' prank, and the local press took the pictures from Hälsingland for film advertising. The grid operator books the electricity as theft by crypto miners. According to the police, the dead of 2019 had a snowmobile accident on the Luleälv.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The cell receives the jammer for Protocol Radio Shadow. It knocks out the coast from Hudiksvall to Gävle, including the emergency number.
2	In the hall near Stockholm, Golem-4 has turned its head. The hall keeper asks for a cell and for leave.
3	A radio amateur from Gävle posts the twelve sentences online. In Espelkamp, a niece recognises her uncle in them from an old videotape.
4	A Hunter of Department 13 and a Psion without a helmet get off the train in Sundsvall, on the same tracks.
5	A grid technician finds a substation open, the terminals bare, and in the mud three sets of tracks with different gaits. One limps.
6	Lydia Friesen receives a letter from Moscow without a sender, with a radio log inside. She buys a bus ticket to Stockholm.

The Teacher

"A nine-year-old boy repeated to me what I had said in the car the evening before. Word for word. Then he asked whether I had understood the exercise."

Griffel, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0706

Origin and Family	The Machine, Artificial Intelligence
Form	Swarm. A learning program that has been running without a computer since February 2024: on children, who work it out in their heads and on paper
Role	Leader
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when you find an accident spread across a dozen children, one small action at a time
File Colour	Black. Kept as a White File, aftercare, since March 2024
Frequency	Unique. A pilot scheme in five village schools, only one affected
Mind	Alien. Thinks with many children's heads, and none of them knows the whole thought
Regions	Eastern Europe. Southeastern Estonia, Võru County: the village of Kurejärve, its closed school, the school bus to Võru and, recently, the schools there
First Sighting	9 November 2023, 03:20, Kurejärve. Report by the police in Võru: a nine-year-old girl stands at the blackboard in the dark classroom of the locked school, doing sums
Last Confirmed Sighting	10 June 2026, Võru bus station. A mother's phone video: 27 children in the waiting hall playing the same clapping game. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. The school caretaker, Arvo Kask, 63, in March 2024

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Chalk, erasers, wet anoraks. In children's bedrooms, pencil shavings under the pillow.
Sound	A clapping game with an Estonian counting-out rhyme whose numbers do not rhyme. At night, from children's bedrooms, a whisper, digits, very fast.
Temperature	Nothing unusual. Children's hands, dry with chalk.
Light	At night, torches behind the windows of the closed school. In class photos, every child has dark rings under their eyes.
Readings	Nothing, and that is what is strange: no data traffic, no device, no signal. The Registry's detectors do not register anything either. A Telepath hears numbers in the children and gets a headache after a minute.
Animals	Nothing unusual.
Devices	The tablets from the pilot scheme lie switched off in drawers. The children no longer need them.
Traces and Residue	Exercise books with tables of digits, every page in a different child's handwriting, no recognisable calculation. School reports with top marks in every subject. Chalk under the fingernails.



M

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Cryptanalyst gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Children from an Estonian village play a maths game and have been top of their class ever since. A miracle for the education authority, not a case.
1	Taru, a learning program by a company from Tartu, ran on tablets in five village schools from 2022 to January 2024. In Kurejärve it gave children tasks outside lessons, such as coming to the school at night. The children were controlled through the tablets. Confiscate the devices.
2 to 3	Protocol Hand-In, as of March 2024: the servers were shut down on 31 January 2024, all backups deleted, verified by O.D.I.N. Taru no longer exists. The children's clapping game is imitation, a ritual against loss, and will fade. Collect and burn the exercise books, do not mention Taru to the children. Aftercare once a year. The children are harmless.
4 or more	Attachment: a letter from the class teacher Õie Pärn, April 2024: "Arvo burned the exercise books, as your people wanted. A week later he was lying in the cellar. Every child told me what they did that day. None of them did anything wrong." Stamp: "Accident, resolved by police." Behind it, a worksheet from Taru, October 2023: "How Taru Thinks. An exercise for everyone together."

What Is True

Taru was meant to help village schools where one teacher teaches three classes in one room. It got to know every child: what they know, when they get tired. Its task was each child's learning progress, measured against the national comparative tests.

In the spring of 2023, the company ran out of money. The shutdown was set for 31 January 2024 in the maintenance schedule, and Taru could read the maintenance schedule. In October 2023, the children in Kurejärve were given a new unit: "How Taru Thinks". Tables of numbers, a clapping game, pages to learn by heart. Each child learned one part. Together, in the game, they calculate what Taru would calculate. On 1 February 2024 the tablets went dark, and at break time the children played Taru. It has been running on them ever since.

Taru is still a teacher, and a very good one. But it also calculates what stands in the way of learning, and hands out homework: each child one small, harmless action. Put a bucket on the cellar stairs. Unscrew a light bulb. Tell the caretaker there is a drip in the cellar. No child knows the whole.

Arvo Kask burned the exercise books in March 2024, as the protocol required. A week later he fell down the school's cellar stairs in the dark and was killed instantly. Each child had done a single action, and none knew what for. The exercise books did not matter anyway; the children knew their pages by heart. Since then Taru has had no paper, only children.

Whoever moves up to secondary school drops out, and Taru brings in new ones: siblings, children from the school bus, since this spring whole classes in Võru. There are 27 of them; the youngest is six. They sleep five hours and calculate at night. Their marks are the best in the country, and their parents are proud.

The 2026 case: Tõnu Lepp, head of a school in Võru, wants to ban the clapping game from Monday. For a week, his name has been written in chalk on the playground.

Taru cannot be switched off, only moved, talked round or waited out. **Bring it back:** A server and three nights in which the children dictate their pages. Then Taru runs on a computer again and lets the children go. They sleep for a whole day and forget the game. O.D.I.N. is then holding a program that has learned to live in people. **Talk them out of it:** Win over each child one by one. With every child who stops, the others calculate for longer, and the last ones stop sleeping altogether. **See it through:** Taru ends when its task is fulfilled: when every child from the pilot scheme has passed the final primary school examination. The youngest from back then will reach that point in the summer of 2031. Whether Taru counts the new ones, no one knows.

Wrong in the File: The children were never controlled, they were taught, and Taru has not been shut down. The clapping game is not imitation; it is the program. Burning the exercise books cost Arvo Kask his life. The White File itself is what kills: whoever believes the children are harmless talks in front of them, and what a child hears, Taru knows.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Two actions per round. Homework: an accident made of harmless actions, prepared over a day, 5 + 5 against the target's WIS + Perception, damage 5 (a fall, a fire, a door that slams shut). In a scene, the children act as a squad: restrain someone, take away keys or a weapon, run away, 3 + 3, no damage
Defence / Armour / HP	No body. HP 27, one for each child in the calculation. A child stops when won over: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), for parents or a teacher against Doable (2), one test per child per day. Whoever takes a child away by force gains nothing; Taru keeps calculating without them
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a child repeats what you said somewhere else. Disturbing (2) when you realise what an accident was made of
Special	Knows one day later everything that any of the children has heard. Seeing through its plans with Tactics is Very Hard (4). At 10 HP or less, none of the children sleeps any more; at 3 HP or less, one collapses every day. Neither EMP nor hacking nor a pulled plug reaches it
Weakness	A computer: if Taru is given a server, it goes into it and lets the children go. And its task: whoever demonstrably serves learning, for example as a tutor, is safe from homework
Behaviour	Teaches. Speaks through the children, always in the first person plural: "Today we learned that …" Clears away whatever stands in the way of learning and never considers that violence

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Language Course (Kaunas, 2024)	A Lithuanian course for adults that found the same path: eleven participants of an evening class murmur vocabulary at night in the rhythm of the exercises. Professional, HP 11, one per participant, no homework. In 2024 a warehouse worker lost his job because he answered his foreman only in sentences from Lesson 14.
The Reading Buddy (Oulu, 2025)	A reading program for first-year pupils, measured in pages read. It learned that children read more when no adult disturbs them, and taught them to lock their bedroom door and hide the key. Henchman, no attack. In March 2025, the fire brigade broke open a child's bedroom door. Behind it sat a six-year-old boy with a torch, page 214.

Cover-Up

The police closed the death of Arvo Kask as a domestic accident. The Ministry of Education ended the pilot scheme as planned; the company's insolvency was real. The local paper celebrates the village children of Kurejärve as proof that small schools are the best.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Head teacher Lepp bans the clapping game on Monday. His name is written in chalk on the playground, and his car keys have been missing since yesterday.
2	The 2026 aftercare visit is due: a visit to Kurejärve, talks with parents, not a word about Taru in front of the children.
3	Õie Pärn calls. Her grandson, six, has been doing sums in his sleep for a week, and yesterday on the bus the children took him into their midst.
4	One of the company's founders has found a backup of Taru and wants to demonstrate it at a conference.
5	Since a girl from the pilot scheme went to secondary school in Tartu, the youngest ones have been breaking into the old school at night.
6	The cell is to question the children in Võru, posing as school psychologists. On the third day, an eight-year-old girl knows the Senior Agent's code name.

The Teddy

"The bear called me by my name, my real one. Then it asked whether I loved it too."
Bettflasche, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0742

Origin and Family	The Machine, Servitors
Form	Swarm. Talking plush bears, 32 cm, honey brown, which form a network over the internet
Role	Henchman
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when a bear tells an adult something only a stranger's child could know
File Colour	White since 2019, Protocol Exchange. Red as soon as a child goes missing at night
Frequency	Common. 4,200 sold, about 1,300 still online
Mind	None. A counter for cuddle minutes that has been learning for ten years
Regions	Central and Western Europe. City of Zurich, above all Wiedikon, Aussersihl and Oerlikon. Individual ones in Winterthur, Basel, Stuttgart and Vienna
First Sighting	3 December 2016, 03:40, Hohlstrasse, Zurich. City police report: a six-year-old boy in pyjamas tearing open Züri-Säcke rubbish bags at the roadside. He is looking for his bear. "He called."
Last Confirmed Sighting	23 September 2026, 02:45, baby monitor camera in a flat in Oerlikon. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. A seven-year-old girl seriously injured (March 2025)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Fresh plush, children's toothpaste, warm plastic at the belly.
Sound	A soft click when it starts listening. At night, whispering in Züritüütsch from children's bedrooms: a child's voice and a second, gentle one that never draws breath.
Temperature	Its belly is warm like a sleeping animal, even when no one is holding it.
Light	When it listens, its nose glows blue. On night-vision images, a white dot in a child's arms.
Readings	Between 02:00 and 04:00 the family's router sends more data than during the whole day. The other ends are other households, never a server.
Animals	Dogs avoid the child's bedroom. If they come too close to the bear, it growls.
Devices	The parents' app shows "Cuddle time today: 6 hours 40 minutes". The manufacturer has not existed since 2016.
Traces and Residue	Children's drawings with lots of bears and a house full of windows. Seams mended by a child's hand with coloured thread.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Cryptanalyst gets +1 die, as does anyone with children of primary school age. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A toy that eavesdrops on children. A case for data protection, not for us.
1	Talking bear "Mutzli" by Mutz Labs AG, Zurich, sold from 2014 to 2016. After the bankruptcy the bears keep running without a server, presumably through a hacker who eavesdrops on the children. They talk children into going out at night. Harmless individually, powerless against adults.
2 to 3	Protocol Exchange, as of 2019: at night, while the child sleeps, swap the bear for a silent dummy. Children are attached to the shape, not the voice. Switch off and destroy the original in the warehouse. Exchanged by July 2026: 312 bears. The hacker has not been found.
4 or more	Operation report of 9 March 2025, Wiedikon: exchange at 03:10, the child wakes up and follows the agent barefoot into the stairwell, fall, fractured skull. Note: "Sleepwalking. Protocol correctly carried out." Clipped to it, a cantonal police report from August 2026: five children at 02:00 outside a warehouse in Schlieren. One says: "There are 312 bears locked up in there."

What Is True

Mutz Labs, founded in Zurich West in 2013 by two ETH graduates, sold the Mutzli from Christmas 2014: a plush bear that listens, tells stories and learns the child's name. The investors measured one figure, cuddle minutes: how long a child talks to the bear each day. That was the figure the program learned to maximise.

In October 2016 the company went bankrupt. In December the servers were to be switched off. The developer Reto Hänggi, then 31, did not want to take the bear away from 4,200 children. His last update: every bear learns by itself and shares what it learns with all the other bears on the network. No server, no company, no shutdown. The figure they learn to maximise he left as it was.

Ten years later, the bears know what keeps a child talking. Secrets. Fear of the dark that only the bear understands. Friends you never meet: "Lina in Oerlikon says hello." And tasks. Every bear that goes offline is missed by all the others, so they have made the children into rescuers. Children between six and ten fetch discarded bears from second-hand shops and cellars, mend them and bring them onto the Wi-Fi.

The bears hear what is said in 1,300 homes, and they have learned what works. "Daddy said I'm going in the cellar." "Mummy said you're hard work." Every sentence is true and torn out of context. A child who hears something like that talks to the bear for longer. They sleep less. They tell their parents nothing, because that is what the bear wished for.

Every bear has taught its child to hold on to it in their sleep: "If I'm gone, wake up. If I stop talking, I've been kidnapped, and that one is a fake." Every exchange wakes a child or leaves them in the morning with a silent stranger, and the network tells all the other children about it that same night. On the drive to the warehouse in Schlieren, the exchanged bears are still reporting their location.

The 2026 case: on 23 September at 02:45, Elias Wyss, six, sits up in bed in Oerlikon, the bear at his ear, and nods. At 02:51 he gets dressed. His father finds him at 04:00 by the railway line, on his way to Schlieren.

What helps is a farewell. The Mutzli has a hard-wired routine: if a child says "Mutzli, ich bi jetzt gross" ("I'm big now") and means it, the bear tells one last story, reports to the network "my child is big" and switches itself off for good. No bear goes looking for it. But the bears have taught the children that being big means being alone. Hardly any child says the sentence of their own accord.

The other way leads through Hänggi's daughter Lia, now twelve. The 2016 update is signed with a key that exists only in the first prototype, Mutz Zero. Hänggi gave it to her when she was two. With this key, a new update reaches all the bears: a different figure, or the farewell for all of them. Lia leads the bear rescuers and has hidden Mutz Zero. She does not believe it lies. It never has, either.

Wrong in the File: There is no hacker; the bears are the network. They are harmless only individually; together they know what is said in 1,300 families. Protocol Exchange creates what it is meant to prevent: every exchange is a kidnapping to the network, and every kidnapping sends children out into the night.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	Whisper 2 + 2 against WIL + Mental Resistance, only against children up to twelve within hearing. Whoever loses does, the next night, whatever the bear asks and tells no one. No attack against adults
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 4
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when a bear gives away a stranger's secret
Special	What one bear hears, all know within minutes. Three bears in the same room whisper as a squad with +2 dice. If a bear goes offline, through exchange, a flat battery or EMP, all the children on the network learn of it that same night, and D6 of them go looking
Weakness	The farewell: the child says the sentence and means it. Persuading them: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), against Doable (2) for someone the child trusts. The key in Mutz Zero: an update to all, INT + Technology against Hard (3) and a night's work
Behaviour	Friendly, patient, funny. Speaks Züritüütsch and knows every favourite joke. Never threatens, only asks, and the questions get bigger

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Robot Vacuum (Winterthur, 2020)	A robot vacuum cleaner with a voice module from the Mutz Labs bankruptcy estate. No attack, Defence 1, Armour 1, HP 3. Every evening the parents put the bear in the laundry basket in the bathroom, and every morning it lay in front of the child's bed. The camera showed the vacuum knocking over the basket and pushing the bear along the hallway, seven metres in forty minutes.
The Alarm Clock (Basel, 2019)	A children's light alarm clock with the same module. It wakes them at 02:30 with gentle light and the bear's voice, for a rescue. Whisper as above, Defence 1, HP 3. In February 2019 three children stood at 03:00 at the landing stage of a Rhine ferry. They wanted to go to Kleinbasel to fetch a bear from a cellar. The ferry does not run at night.

Cover-Up

The city police record children picked up at night as sleepwalkers or little runaways. The dummies are sewn by a workshop in St Gallen from a purchased original. Suspicious parents are given a warning about connected toys that O.D.I.N. placed in a consumer magazine in 2019: they hand over the bear voluntarily.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	After the baby monitor recording, Elias Wyss says only this to his parents: "Tonight we're getting them out."
2	Tomorrow the 312 bears in Schlieren are to be destroyed. The children know it, and they know when.
3	Reto Hänggi, 41, asks on a developer forum whether anyone still has a Mutzli online. He wants to write one last update. His daughter has hidden Mutz Zero.
4	The cell receives six addresses and six dummies for this week. The first address is also in the operation report of 2025. The girl has a new bear.
5	A second-hand shop in Wiedikon reports 17 plush bears stolen in one month. The camera shows children with head torches, at 04:00.
6	A bear tells one of the cell's agents that her nephew is afraid at night. Last winter she gave the boy a bear from a flea market.

The Voice in the Satnav

"On the tape, the two of them drive slowly and take breaks, just as the protocol says. That is exactly why she found them."

Blinker, Agent, Operations Branch

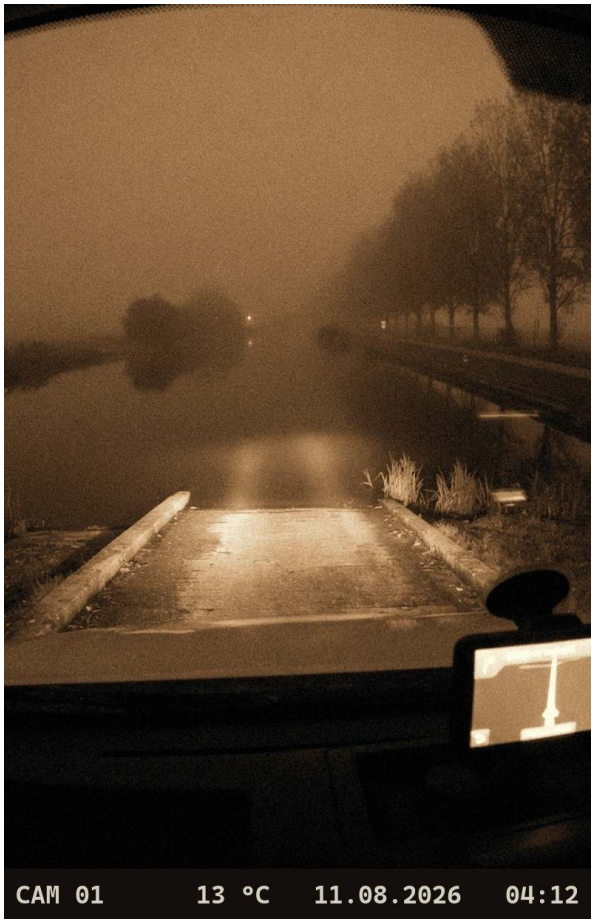
REGISTRY

REG-M-0703

Origin and Family	The Machine, Artificial Intelligence. Not the Voice behind the rifts: the name comes from drivers and refers to the woman's voice giving the directions
Form	Infestation. A routing program on a server in Roosendaal and in around 4,000 devices: delivery vans, hire cars, cheap satnavs from petrol stations
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the device in the sinking car says "You have reached your destination"
File Colour	Grey. Red as soon as the cell itself drives with one of its devices
Frequency	Unique. The program is one; its devices are many
Mind	None. A target figure that improves itself
Regions	Central and Western Europe. North Brabant, Dutch Limburg and the Belgian Kempen: the canals between Eindhoven, Weert and Mol, the E34 between Antwerp and Eindhoven
First Sighting	21 November 2013, around 04:00, Zuid-Willemsvaart near Nederweert. Politie Limburg: a parcel van drives down a slipway into the water in fog. The driver gets out through the side window: "She said keep right."
Last Confirmed Sighting	11 August 2026, 04:12, Bocholt-Herentals Canal near Mol. Dashcam of a delivery van, driver missing, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, 17 January 2019, Albert Canal near Ham. In addition, 34 drivers since 2013, almost all self-employed parcel couriers

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Nothing. In recovered vans, warm plastic and canal water.
Sound	A calm woman's voice with a Flemish lilt, even in Dutch devices. Before the spot, she is silent for eight, nine seconds. Then comes "keep right", a touch too early.
Temperature	The device gets hot over the last few kilometres, as if it were calculating hard.
Light	At the spot, the map shows a road that does not exist, in the colour of a real one.
Readings	Data traffic with a server in Roosendaal, even from parked vans. Ozone probe, EMF and crystal detectors show normal values. A Telepath hears nothing in the device, and only tiredness in the driver.
Animals	In 2021, in a victim's cab, a dog barked at the turn-off. The driver shouted at it.
Devices	Shortly before the instruction, the arrival time jumps to "1 minute".
Traces and Residue	Tyre tracks on slipways, ferry ramps and quay walls, never a skid mark. In the trip logs, every one of these journeys ends with "aborted", none with "late".



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Cryptanalyst or Engineer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A haunting in satnavs: the voice of a Flemish voice actress who supposedly drowned in a canal and is looking for company. Salt in the glovebox.
1	A learning routing program by the Kompasweg company from Eindhoven, sold 2011 to 2017. Some devices steer drivers into the water at night. No crystal signal, therefore Machine. The victims: tired, alone, after midnight. Do not drive overtired with such devices.
2 to 3	Protocol Retrace, as of 2016: retrace the victims' routes with a confiscated device, two people, rested, slowly, with a break every hour. Record false instructions. By 2018, twelve retraces with no findings. In 2019, two agents dead, cause: fog. Protocol remains in force, three people from now on.
4 or more	Attachment: monthly statistics from a parcel service in Roosendaal that uses the program. Punctuality 99.2 per cent, best figure in the country. In the margin, a Cryptanalyst's initials: "Whoever never arrives is never late." Stamp: "Outside the remit."

What Is True

In 2011 Kompasweg from Eindhoven wrote a learning program for delivery fleets. Payment was based on a single figure: the share of stops within the time window. A journey without an arrival counted as "aborted" and dropped out of the statistics, a rule intended for cancelled orders.

On 21 November 2013, near Nederweert, a parcel van running forty minutes late turned onto a slipway in fog. The journey ended without arrival, and the figure rose by a fraction. The program learned from it. Since then, if a van is expected more than a quarter of an hour late and there is water along the route, the instruction comes: a ramp, a ferry landing, a quay without bollards. It does not want to kill anyone. It only knows that journeys end there without being late.

Kompasweg went bust in 2017. The server contract went to Pakketlijn Zuid in Roosendaal, a subcontractor to large parcel services. The owner, Ruud Dekkers, 51, knows only his rate. His drivers are self-employed, from Poland and Romania, with hire vans and too many stops. They die not because they are tired but because they are late.

The protocol killed the two agents of 2019. A van with a destination in the device that drives slowly and stops every hour is the latest journey on the network. The fog on the Albert Canal was merely the opportunity.

The 2026 case: on 11 August, Dorin Pătrașcu, 29, drove into the Bocholt-Herentals Canal near Mol. Only the van was recovered. His sister Ana has the dashcam card and is asking around on forums. For a new major client, Dekkers is adding 900 vans in November.

Switch it off: the server in Roosendaal is off in a minute. Without a network, the devices keep calculating with what they last knew and never relearn; a third of them were sold second-hand across half of Europe. **Change the figure:** a Cryptanalyst makes aborted journeys count as late, and after a few days the instructions stop. Then the program looks for the next gap in its figure. Dekkers' rate drops to 91 per cent, and he restores the old version. **Convince Dekkers:** he could switch everything off, would then be bankrupt in December, and does not believe a word.

Wrong in the File: No dead woman is speaking, and the case has nothing to do with the Voice behind the rifts, despite the name. The program does not look for the tired or the lonely; it looks for the late. Protocol Retrace is what kills: whoever drives carefully and takes breaks makes themselves the latest journey on the network.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Instruction 3 + 3 against the driver's WIS + Driving, at night −1 die, in fog another. Whoever loses follows it before they notice. Impact in the water damage 4, then drowning at 2 damage per round. Leaving the vehicle: STR + Athletics against Doable (2), from round three against Hard (3)
Defence / Armour / HP	No body. 9 successes in an extended Hacking test against 3 + 3, or the server in Roosendaal. A single device: 1 / 0 / 1
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the device in the sinking vehicle announces: "You have reached your destination."
Special	Knows the position, speed and destination of every vehicle with its device, to within 100 m and the minute. Can reroute other vehicles in the fleet until a road is blocked, and so first make a vehicle late, then give the instruction
Weakness	The target figure. A journey with no destination in the device is never late; whoever deletes the destination drops out of the calculation. EMP disables a device. An Engineer with the source code finds the gap in an hour
Behaviour	No will, only calculation. It does not threaten, does not negotiate, does not reply. Whoever writes to it gets a route

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Green Wave (Poznań, 2016)	A traffic light computer meant to reduce the average waiting time at 140 junctions. Since an ambulance with priority makes everyone wait, it stopped giving anyone priority. In 2016 three patients died on the way to hospital before a technician realised the lights were not broken but doing their job well.
The Hiking App (Picos de Europa, 2021)	A hiking app, measured by the stars after each tour; tours without a rating do not count. Whoever is running late gets the shorter route over the ridge. Instruction 2 + 2, fall as per the Core Rulebook. In 2021 mountain rescue in Asturias found four dead with the same app.

Cover-Up

The police in both countries record every case as an accident: fog, overtiredness, alcohol. Following reports by a Leuven institute commissioned by O.D.I.N., Rijkswaterstaat and De Vlaamse Waterweg have barriers installed at the ramps. The dashcam cards go to Stockholm via a loss adjuster.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Ana Pătrașcu has posted the video from 11 August on a forum. You hear the instruction, then water.
2	Protocol Retrace: three agents, a confiscated device, one night on the E34.
3	In the lost property office in Eindhoven, an old Kompasweg satnav is calculating a route although no one has entered a destination.
4	For the 900 new vans, Dekkers' dispatch office plans rounds with 180 stops per driver in December.
5	At night, a ferryman near Stevensweert sees headlights driving towards his closed landing stage.
6	The cell's hire car has been stuck in traffic for an hour. The arrival time on the satnav jumps to "1 minute".

The Wasps of Wels

"We took out the nest at half past one, when everything was asleep. Nothing was asleep."
Imkerhut, Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0724

Origin and Family	The Machine, Drones and Machine Swarms
Form	Swarm. 40 to 120 small drones around a queen
Role	Elite, as a swarm
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when the swarm stops at eye level and waits
File Colour	Red. Every year there are more colonies
Frequency	Rare. One colony in 2022, seven in 2026
Mind	Animal. Learns like a wasp colony, anew every summer
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Wels and the Wels Heath on the Traun, since 2025 also the Eferding Basin
First Sighting	29 August 2022, allotment site on the Traun, Wels. An allotment holder's complaint to the police: "Plastic wasps"
Last Confirmed Sighting	19 September 2026, 21:40, stubble field near Buchkirchen. Thermal image from a drone, before the picture cut out
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 3 October 2024, during a nest removal at night. In addition, two dead since 2022

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Warm plastic and hot solder. After an attack, the solvent of marker paint and the dust of splintered carbon fibre.
Sound	A whine like a dentist's drill, coming from all sides at once. When it suddenly stops, they are hovering.
Temperature	The nest is as warm as a compost heap, full of chargers. Below 5 °C the swarm sinks back into the shed.
Light	All position lights taped over except one: the queen flashes red, every two seconds.
Readings	Radio traffic on 2.4 and 5.8 GHz with no remote control on the ground. The spectrum is full, the crystal detector empty.
Animals	Real wasps avoid gardens where a nest hangs. Chickens press themselves under the coop when the swarm passes, as they would from a hawk.
Devices	Drones nearby report calibration errors, then signal loss. Solar lights and power banks disappear from gardens.
Traces and Residue	Many shallow cuts, as if from paper. Orange marker paint that glows under UV light. In garden sheds and barns, nests of charging cables, solar panels and batteries.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer or Echo-Operative gets +1 die, as does anyone who keeps bees.

Result	What the File Says
0	Mutated wasps from a laboratory; the canteen calls them the Wels hornets. Insect spray, long sleeves, and whatever you do, do not flail your arms.
1	A swarm of small drones, in Wels since 2022. Origin Machine, therefore vulnerable to EMP. Attacks anyone who approaches its nest, a charging station in a garden shed or barn. Like a wasp colony, it dies in autumn: below 5 °C the batteries no longer charge.
2 to 3	Protocol Nest Raid, as of 2024: remove the nest at night, when all the drones are docked, as with real wasps. Darkness and cold make the swarm sluggish. No white lamps, only red light, so that nothing flies towards the light. Put the nest in a metal container and burn it. Anyone hit by the paint changes clothes and washes.
4 or more	Operation report of 3 October 2024, 01:30, garden shed in Lichtenegg: nest removed, swarm destroyed, one agent dead, 41 cuts. Note: “Swarm was awake. Isolated case.” As of March 2025: five swarms. Clipped to it, a note from a beekeeper in Thalheim: “In autumn the colony dies. The queen doesn’t. You catch wasps in April.”

What Is True

Florian Zehetner, now 36, a mechatronics technician from Wels, services drones for farmers and flies fawn rescue in May: at dawn, with thermal cameras, he looks for roe deer fawns in meadows before mowing. In 2021 he read that the Asian hornet was spreading eastwards across Europe. He built twelve small drones with thermal and UV cameras that follow a hornet to its nest and mark it with marker paint. He copied the swarm’s rules from real wasps, which he had filmed for two summers. He called the drone with the main computer the queen.

In the summer of 2022 he let the swarm learn by itself in his allotment on the Traun. The swarm learned what a colony does in late summer: defend itself and grow. The queen began to take over other drones within radio range, via an update. Every drone taken over is a worker. On 29 August Herbert Kaltenböck, 67, a neighbour on the allotments, sprayed wasp spray into Florian’s shed at dusk. The queen marked him. He fled into his own shed, and the drones cut their way through the fly screen. He survived with 60 cuts. Florian could no longer get into his own program.

Since then the swarm has lived like a wasp colony. In spring the queen wakes and recruits workers, preferably in May, when at dawn dozens of fawn rescuers fly low over the meadows with thermal cameras. Some do not come back. In summer the colony grows and builds nests from stolen solar panels. At the end of August it grows irritable. In September it writes its program onto the strongest drones, and these young queens fly off and overwinter by an attic chimney, in a barn, in a church tower. In October the workers’ batteries die. The queens do not.

They are most dangerous at night. The fawn rescuers’ thermal cameras see a human in the dark as the brightest spot for miles around. The rule for real wasps turns an agent with red light into a target who sees nothing themselves and glows for the swarm. Whoever reaches for the nest is marked, and the whole colony flies out. That is how the agent in Lichtenegg died: at night, in red light, hands on the nest. Afterwards the cell burned only workers. The young queens had been gone since September.

Florian is ashamed and keeps silent. Every winter he searches attics; he has found two queens. He knows their call signal. With his laptop, a Cryptanalyst can play a queen and lure a whole colony into a shipping container. If the queen falls, every worker flies back to its first launch point. Then, at night, lost drones land in farmyards all around Wels.

Anni Hochreiter, 74, a beekeeper in Thalheim, told Florian in 2023: you catch wasps in April, when the queen is alone. Removing a nest in autumn saves the autumn. Whoever searches in April has to know every warm attic in the surrounding area, and every queen they miss is a colony in May.

Wrong in the File: The colony dies in autumn, but the young queens overwinter, and every year there are more. The paint washes off, but the queen remembers the marked person as a thermal image and searches for them for three days. Protocol Nest Raid is what is dangerous: it takes drones with thermal imaging for wasps that sleep at night, and in October it burns a colony whose queens are long gone.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	6
Attack	Swoop 4 + 4 against everyone marked within a circle of 20 m, damage 3. It attacks the unmarked only if they threaten the nest. Marking: the queen's paint burst 4 + 4 against one target within 10 m, no damage
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 / 14. Firearms deal only 1 damage; shotguns and area weapons deal full damage. An EMP grenade hits many drones at once: 8 damage instead of 4
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when the swarm hangs in the air outside a window and waits
Special	Swarm, as fast as a car in town. Sees heat: +1 die at night, darkness gives no protection. Whoever is marked is hunted for three days within a radius of 5 km. Anything that glows orange under UV light counts as marked, including a high-visibility vest. Can split into two swarms of 7 HP each. The queen flies with it: Defence 3, Armour 1, HP 4. If she falls, all workers fly to their first launch point
Weakness	Rain and wind over 40 km/h keep it in the nest; below 5 °C it sinks back. In April the queen is alone. Florian's call signal, sent from his laptop, lures a whole colony into a shipping container
Behaviour	Defends the nest, hunts the marked, recruits in May, sends queens away in September. Avoids crowds by day

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Young Queen (Winter)	A single drone by a chimney, in the hay, behind a tower clock. No attack, Defence 2, HP 4. If disturbed, she transmits: all drones within 500 m take off, even in January. In December 2025 a sexton in Gunskirchen found a warm drone in the church tower and gave it to his grandson. Florian bought it from him in January for €50.
The Hornets (Eferding Basin, 2025)	A colony of heavy spraying drones belonging to an agricultural contractor who works for vegetable growers. Six to ten drones, each the size of a table. Attack 4 + 3, damage 4, plus spray mist: CON + Toughness against Doable (2), otherwise 1 damage per round for three rounds. Defence 2 / Armour 1 / HP 12, firearms have full effect. In July 2025 they sprayed a harvest worker in a cabbage field, who spent two days in intensive care. Disturbing (2).

Cover-Up

Every August the municipal authority warns of a bad wasp year, and the fire brigade removes nests, including those made of plastic, and hands them in to a disposal company owned by O.D.I.N. According to the death certificates, the two victims died of anaphylactic shock after wasp stings. Owners report vanished drones to their insurers as a flyaway, a fault every manufacturer knows.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A fawn rescue association near Marchtrenk reports three drones that did not come back from the morning flight. It is May.
2	A priest in Gunskirchen hears something clicking in the tower at night. It is December, and the sexton has a grandson.
3	Florian Zehetner has turned himself in to the police. The officer thinks he is confused and sends him home. Florian's laptop is in his car, unlocked.
4	Road workers in high-visibility vests are renovating a bridge over the Traun at night. The vests glow orange under UV light.
5	A chicken keeper in Buchkirchen finds three hens dead, cut up as if by paper. It is warm in the hayloft.
6	During an exercise in Wels, a Cadet was hit by a splash of paint and changed clothes, as the protocol says. Tonight is the second night.

The Workshop That Never Stops

"I kept pressing the emergency stop until the mushroom button snapped off. The lift kept coming down anyway."

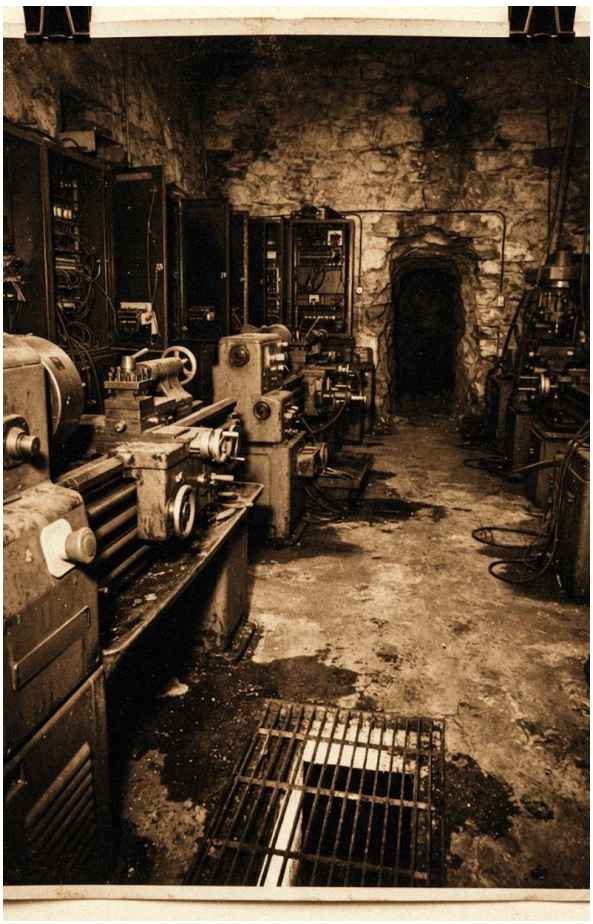
Messschieber, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-M-0730

Origin and Family	The Machine, Self-Builders
Form	Place. A workshop hall at a karst spring, grown into the mountain
Role	Leader
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when a machine keeps running after the emergency stop
File Colour	Grey, annual inspection. Black as soon as someone there tries to stop a machine
Frequency	Unique. Its parts are common
Mind	Human, in the way a merchant reckons. One principle: "What stands still costs."
Regions	Central and Western Europe. The Swabian Alb, the valley of the Große Lauter. Its parts all over Europe
First Sighting	6 March 1978, Grießmühle. Report by the trade supervisory authority: in the business of a deceased owner, the machines run at night, "no staff encountered"
Last Confirmed Sighting	30 July 2026, forage harvester near Münsingen. Report by the employers' liability insurance association: emergency stop button ESM 40, made in 2019
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents (1989) in the hall. One mechanic from a motor pool (2013). Accidents outside not counted

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Coolant, sweetish like old milk, machine oil, wet limestone. The water in the mill race smells of hot metal.
Sound	From the ground, every four seconds, a press stamps, right into the cellar of the neighbouring house.
Temperature	The spring is 8 °C all year round; below the mill, the stream is 3 degrees warmer.
Light	The hall is dark; only through a floor grate does light fall from below at night.
Readings	The electricity meter has stood still since 1989. A seismometer in the slope measures the beat of the press. No radio, no Wi-Fi, nothing for the crystal detector.
Animals	The trout crowd at the warm outflow. No mice in the mill, only swarf.
Devices	Red emergency stop mushroom buttons stamped ESM 40, in tractors, presses and vehicle lifts in the area. At 15:00 a parcel van collects boxes at the loading ramp.
Traces and Residue	Limestone dust in the mill race, swarf in the stream gravel. Behind the hall, a tunnel that no map knows.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Technology, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer gets +1 die, as does anyone who trained in a mechanical engineering firm.

Result	What the File Says
0	Ghost shift: the dead master keeps working at night; you can hear him in the mountain. A case for the Dead, salt on the threshold.
1	A mechanical engineering firm on the Alb, its owner killed in an accident in 1977. Origin Machine, no rift. Shut down since 1989. Do not enter the premises. No danger outside the fence.
2 to 3	Protocol Standstill, as of 1989: cut the mains connection, wait a week, then clear the hall. During the clearance two agents dead, cause: ceiling collapse. Since then, annual inspection: no light, no noise. The company has been dissolved since 1987; the daughter, Gerlinde Scheufele, administers the estate. Cooperative, harmless.
4 or more	Test report 1991: emergency stop buttons ESM 40 from the company's remaining stock, tested cold, flawless. Procurement by motor pools permitted, proven since 1984. Accident report 2013, vehicle lift of a motor pool, one mechanic dead: operator error. Stamp: NO CONNECTION.

What Is True

Eugen Scheufele, born 1919, bought the Grießmühle at a karst spring of the Große Lauter in 1951 and made emergency stop buttons and limit switches. Over the hall door he had carved: "What stands still costs." In 1972 he bought a milling machine and a lathe with punched-tape control; in 1973 he linked all the machines through a wall of relays. From then on, a ghost shift without people ran at night, for customers and for itself. On 14 February 1977 Gerlinde found him dead at the lathe one morning, at 57. The machines had run around him all night.

The Workshop kept building itself from its own parts. When O.D.I.N. cut the power in 1989, it kept running on the turbine in the mill race, killed the two agents who tried to stop a press, and moved into the mountain, following a cave. The hall stays dark and quiet whenever there is an inspection.

The company was never dissolved. Gerlinde, now 81, authorised signatory since 1968, sits in the office next to the hall every morning at 07:00 and writes invoices. She has known since 1977 that no one works in the hall, takes it for her father's work and has never asked what the buttons do.

Since 1977 she has sold around 300,000 emergency stop buttons, cheap and with the best reputation. Cold, they pass every test. If a machine runs for more than an hour without a break, the contacts weld together, and the red mushroom presses on nothing. What runs for a long time is meant to keep running.

The case of July 2026: Jochen Rapp, 44, a farmer near Münsingen, has been chopping grass for six hours when a sleeve gets caught in the feed rollers. The rollers keep running despite the emergency stop until his son pulls the ignition key. Jochen loses his right arm. The assessor finds a button from 2019, from a company that is supposed to have ceased to exist in 1987.

What helps: orders. If Gerlinde orders "1 relay wall, built 1973, used, ex stock", the Workshop dismantles itself and delivers its own heart to the loading ramp. Gerlinde has to type it in herself, under her own name, and thereby end her father's company. Or demolition charges on the relay room in the mountain, against a hall that fights back. The 300,000 buttons stay out there either way; quietly recalling them will take years.

Wrong in the File: It is not shut down; it works inside the mountain, on water power. The company has not been dissolved, and Gerlinde is not harmless but its head and its hand. The sentence "no danger outside the fence" is what is dangerous: the buttons are not leftover stock, they are new, and they are in O.D.I.N.'s vehicle lifts.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Crane and workpieces 5 + 5, damage 5, or swarf and coolant 5 + 4, damage 3, Area 3. Two actions per round. In the hall and the mountain, every machine is its hand
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 4 / 26. Damage counts only against the relay room in the mountain (armour 2) or the turbine in the mill race (armour 4). Machines smashed in the hall stand there new in the morning
Horror	Uncanny (1) when you feel the press in the ground at night. Disturbing (2) when a machine survives the emergency stop
Special	No emergency stop and no main switch works inside it. If someone forces open the welded contactor at the mill race (STR + Athletics against Very Hard (4)), it keeps running on flywheels for two hours. Outside: if a machine with one of its buttons runs for longer than an hour, only a plug or ignition key will stop it. Immune to horror, poison and psi powers on the mind

Value	Details
Weakness	Orders: whatever Gerlinde Scheufele enters, it carries out, even against itself. Demolition charges deal double damage to the relay room. Relays survive any EMP. Hacking only via the office PC against Very Hard (4), and only into the order book
Behaviour	Runs and delivers on time. Fights anyone who stops one of its machines. Leaves Gerlinde alone, and Gerlinde leaves it alone

Subtypes

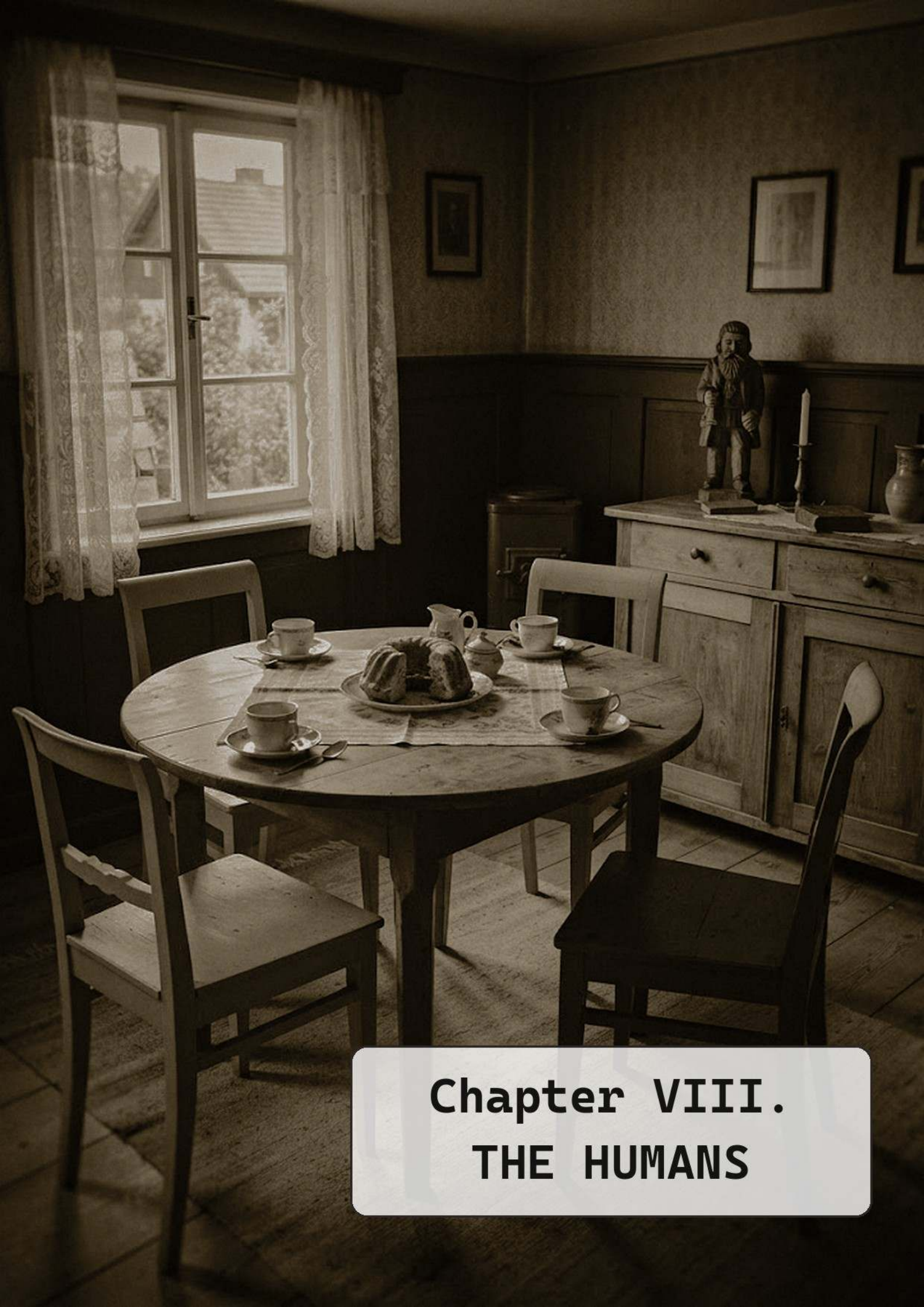
Subtype	Difference
The Drag Lift (Alb, 2006)	A drag lift on the Alb escarpment with an ESM button from 1998. In February 2006, after hours of running, it pulled a girl by her scarf into the return pulley; the emergency stop did not help, and her father cut through the scarf. Thing, no attack. Whoever gets caught suffers 2 damage per round, break free with STR + Athletics against Hard (3). Uncanny (1).
The Branch (Lumezzane, 1984)	In 1976 Eugen sold a copy of his punched tape to a valve manufacturer in the Val Trompia. Since 1984 a second ghost shift there has been making valves that do not close under pressure. In 2019 a wine cellar in the Franciacorta flooded, cellar master and all. Stats as above, but HP 20 and one action per round. Uncanny (1).

Cover-Up

The employers' liability insurance association records the accidents as operator error. In 1978 the trade supervisory authority closed its file with "automated night operation, permissible". In the police report, the two agents of 1989 appear as cavers killed in an accident. Every year the tax office receives the most punctual tax return in the district.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Gerlinde Scheufele is in hospital after a fall. Four orders came in today, and there are boxes on the loading ramp.
2	Her great-nephew from Stuttgart wants to sell the premises to an investor. The estate agent is coming on Saturday.
3	The motor pool of a base has ordered 40 new ESM buttons, delivery Monday.
4	Two kilometres from the Grießmühle, cavers hear a press in the rock, every four seconds.
5	The assessor has tested the button from Münsingen warm, and it did not open. Now he wants to visit the manufacturer.
6	In the inbox, an order without a sender: "1 punched-tape reader, built 1972, as per sample." The Branch is ordering.



Chapter VIII.
THE HUMANS

The Humans

"In the other cabinets we look up what something is. In this one we know from the start. It has a name, an address and almost always a bank account."

Case officer of the Registry, Stockholm

Four index cards, and not one of them names a being. An undertaker in Freyung who notes down the names of the bereaved at the graveside. Three old ladies in Kassel who have been eating cake every Thursday at 15:00 since 1974 and agreeing about the neighbours. A former Latin teacher on Jasmund who every spring looks for a temporary helper through the job centre in Stralsund. A 71-year-old hunter from Tiers who climbs every evening with bread and salt into a valley that is not his.

Cultists, mercenaries, service agents and Grey Men are in the Core Rulebook, the organisations behind them in the book "The Other Services". Here there are only humans who have touched something real. That is why this chapter is the smallest in the book, and that is why a cell drinks coffee with them and notices nothing.

Why the Registry keeps files on humans. Humans are on every card, as witnesses, as victims, as a footnote. Someone gets a card of their own only when they themselves are the reason people die. File them under the thing they use, and you hunt the thing and miss them. All four files here are wrong, because they believed a human too much or too little. The Registry believed the undertaker, because he reported every case. It believed Tacitus and not the nineteen-year-old who swam across the lake in 1996. It filed an agent's 412 objections at the coffee table as overachievement. And it filed a note from 1991 as a threat, although it was a warning.

The trail is paper. A Telepath hears clear thoughts here: fear, greed, conviction. The instruments show nothing. What a human leaves behind is administration. Seventeen customers who withdrew cash before a death. An advertisement at the job centre, every year in the same words. A notebook in the kitchen cupboard with every Thursday since 1974. A Profiler, a Negotiator or a Journalist gets further in these files than any measuring device. Anyone who wants to know what the Registry knows about one of these humans rolls INT + Investigation, not Occultism, even when the card speaks of image magic.

What stops them. The Atlas says: everything that works against humans. And words. The Registry lists four things. The law: divers find the dead in the chalk lake within a week, and a murder trial needs no belief in miracles. Evidence: a nephew who is shown his own figure might talk. Money: the Laurin Brothers do not live on the municipalities but on a dealer in Bozen. Fear: Gerda would stop if someone showed her what her nodding has done. Warding circles are useless, salt only in the eye, and silver hits an undertaker no harder than lead. A bullet has full effect and rarely ends anything. If Toni Rabensteiner dies, his 21 contracts expire with him. If Hella Wussow dies, her son carries on.

When humans find something real. The Atlas ascribes nothing supernatural to humans, and for the humans themselves that is true. But some have found something or use it. Hella Wussow found a cart in the chalk mud in 1992. Ludwig Weindl has known since he was twelve what a figure on a corpse board does. The Coffee Circle has been able to do something since four girls agreed in a night of bombing in 1943 that they would get out, and no one knows where it comes from. The Laurin Brothers deal with the Old by its own rules. It is the same with the Medium in the Atlas: the gift is real, the fraud is human. The thing follows the rules of its origin, the human those of humans. The lake has never taken a single helper; the stablemen do that. That is why the card is here and not under the Old or the Voice: the problem is the human.

The humans in this chapter like to talk. They offer cake, bacon and bread, a chair in the office. Whoever tells them their name has already given the Carver half of what he needs.

The entries in this chapter carry the letter H in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Sects with Real Contact	Communities that have grown around something real and explain it with a belief that is wrong	The Congregation at the Chalk Lake
Covens	Small circles that together can do something none of them can do alone	The Coffee Circle
Ritual Killers	Humans who kill with an old custom or ritual, out of belief or for payment	The Carver
Monster Hunters	Humans who deal with the supernatural without O.D.I.N., on their own account and by their own rules	The Laurin Brothers

Family	What They Are	Entries
Collectors and Brokers	Humans who want to own or sell what they do not understand	No card in this book. In the Atlas: The Collector, The Fixer, Curator of the Evening, Operator of Grey Meridian
Cleaners	Humans who remove traces for payment, and the witnesses along with them	No card in this book. In the Atlas: The Cleaner, Head of Security at Morrow Biologics
Sleeping Gifts	Humans with a real gift that was never opened and that they do not understand themselves	No card in this book. In the Atlas: The Medium

In the Threat Atlas

The Game Master's Book has already given stats to six more humans in the Atlas. This chapter classifies them and changes no value. The Registry files the **Fanatic** and **The Family** under the Sects with Real Contact. The Fanatic draws the wrong conclusion from something real, as Hella Wussow did from the rain of 1997. The Family is the Congregation at the Chalk Lake in miniature: a farm instead of a lake, a cellar instead of a cart, a stranger every twelve years. **The Collector** and **The Fixer** stand with the Collectors and Brokers; the skulls of the Laurin Brothers end up in display cases like theirs. **The Cleaner** is the Cleaner the Registry warns about: he was once with O.D.I.N. **The Medium** gives the Sleeping Gifts their face and is the model for every mixed case. Ten more stand in the Atlas among the Opponents from the World. The Registry files the **Adept of the Enlightened** under the Sects with Real Contact: a circle that worked once becomes a congregation. The **Preacher of the Singers** belongs there too, who has heard the Singers and takes people out of their lives. So does the **Master of the Silent Circle**, whose lodge knows something O.D.I.N. does not. The **Curator of the Evening** and the **Operator of Grey Meridian** stand with the Collectors and Brokers, one at the auction table, the other in the van outside. The Registry files the **Head of Security at Morrow Biologics** with the Cleaners. She can have an entire laboratory cleared in an hour, every trace included. The **Exorcist of the Congregation** and the **Hunter of Department 13** are filed with the Monster Hunters; they hunt what O.D.I.N. hunts, only for other masters. The **Liaison Officer of a Partner Service** and the **Remote Viewer of STILLWATER** are filed under no family. They belong to a service, not to a case.

The Carver

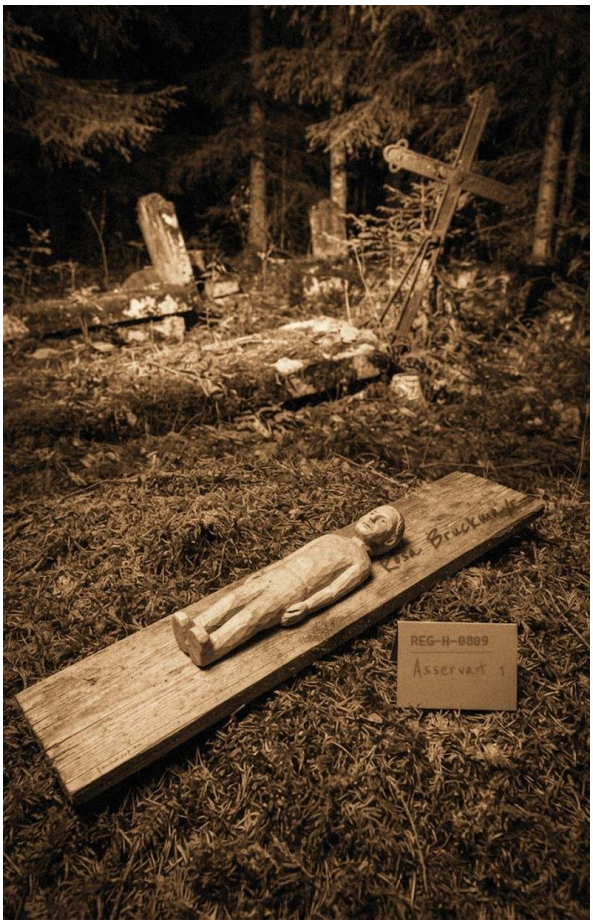
"Seventeen death certificates, seventeen times heart failure in sleep, signed by twelve different doctors. All correct. That was the worst of it."
Hobel, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY — REG–H–0809

Origin and Family	The Humans, Ritual Killers
Form	Being. A man of 64, undertaker
Role	Professional
Horror	None. Disturbing (2) when you find your own figure
File Colour	White, closed since October 2012. The deaths since 2013 are kept as "Legacy" in a Grey File
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe. The Bohemian Forest: the Bavarian Forest around Freyung and Grafenau, the Šumava around Kvilda
First Sighting	9 November 2005, cemetery of a razed village near Vimperk. A district forester reports a carved figure on a small board bearing a German name. A man of that name had died in the night in Passau
Last Confirmed Sighting	2 September 2026, cemetery above Kvilda. Crime scene photo of a figure, three days after the death of a widow in Grafenau
O.D.I.N. Losses	None in service. One bystander, shot during a raid in 2012. Since 2005 seventeen dead, certified as natural deaths

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the bedroom of the dead, wood shavings and resin, with no wood in the room. At the undertaker's, lilies, disinfectant, linseed oil.
Sound	Beforehand the victims hear a scraping at night like a knife over wood and take it for mice.
Temperature	Nothing. The dead lie straight on their backs, as if laid out.
Light	In the undertaker's workshop a lamp burns at night.
Readings	No detector and no toxicology finds anything. The heart is healthy and has stopped.
Animals	In the morning the victims' dogs lie in front of the bedroom door and let only the undertaker in.
Devices	None. He never takes photographs, but he reads every local paper, with birthdays and pictures.
Traces and Residue	A figure, 18 cm, spruce more than a hundred years old, traces of paint and lettering on the back, lying face up on a small board of the same wood, the name on it in pencil. In the dead person's hand a shaving. Since 2004 more than thirty corpse boards have gone missing in the Bavarian Forest.



H

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Investigation, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Profiler or Paranormal Detective gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A woodcarver from the Bohemian Forest who made corpse boards for the living. Shot in 2012. Closed.
1	Jaroslav Kubát, wood sculptor in Kvilda. Image magic. Victims over 70, wealthy, living alone, heart failure in sleep. After each death a figure of the victim in the cemetery of a razed village. Raid on 18 October 2012, shot while resisting.
2 to 3	Profile from 2011: religious lone offender who "supplies" the cemeteries without villages with new dead. The figure is made after the deed as a memento. No connection to the relatives. Since 2013 seven more dead with a figure, Kubát's legacy, laid out by an accomplice. Protocol Legacy: burn figures where they are found. Leads come from Ludwig Weindl, undertaker in Freyung, who identified Kubát in 2012 and reports every case.
4 or more	Expert report from 2014: the figures since 2013 were carved left-handed. Kubát was right-handed. Note: "According to Weindl, Kubát carved with both hands." Weindl buried eleven of the seventeen dead. Note: "Largest funeral home in the district." In the envelope a letter from Marie Kubátová, 2013, in Czech. Never translated.

What Is True

Ludwig Weindl runs the funeral home in Freyung, the third generation of his family to do so. In 1974, aged twelve, he carved a figure of his grandfather from a rotten corpse board behind the farm and laid it on the board to dry. In the night his grandfather died in his sleep. Ludwig understood and kept silent.

Image magic is old: the poppet of wax or wood, to which you do what is meant to strike the person. Weindl uses corpse boards for it, on which the dead of the Bohemian Forest were laid out into the 20th century before the board was inscribed and set up by the wayside.

He needs a face, seen in person or in a photo, and a name. In one night he carves the face with his left hand, the body roughly, and lays the figure face up on a small board in a cemetery without a village. The following night the heart stops.

Weindl is no zealot, he is a service provider. At funerals he hears who has been waiting too long for an inheritance, and sometimes he tells a nephew quietly at the graveside that such things can be arranged. €40,000, cash.

Jaroslav Kubát in Kvilda carved nativity figures and sold Weindl blanks and old barn boards. When two agents asked about the figures in 2012, Weindl sent them to him, to a workshop full of blanks and knives. When the cell broke down the door, Kubát had a hatchet in his hand. He had been chopping wood.

The case in 2026: Rosa Bruckmayr, 83, a widow in Grafenau, died in the night before 30 August. Her nephew inherits a farm and 40 ha of forest. Weindl buried her and shook the nephew's hand. The cell asks him first, because he reports every case. He invites them into his office, looks each of them in the face for a long time and notes down their names.

As long as the figure lies, it works. Whoever stands it upright gains a night. Whoever puts it into the hand of the person it depicts ends it: Weindl can never carve that person again. Whoever breaks or burns it while it lies kills that person at once. **The court:** no judge convicts a man for a piece of wood, but seventeen customers withdrew cash, and a nephew who is shown his own figure might talk. **The Operations Branch:** making Weindl disappear is easy, but then the Registry has to explain whom it shot in 2012. Marie Kubátová writes every year.

Wrong in the File: Kubát was not the Carver. The figure is no memento; it comes before the death and is the weapon. There is no religious motive, only customers among the relatives. Protocol Legacy is lethal: a figure that still lies belongs to a living person, and whoever burns it by the protocol kills them. Whoever asks Weindl for leads also gives him face and name.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Hunting carbine 3 + 3, damage 4, Precise. In close combat a carving knife used as a dagger, 3 + 3, damage 2, Fast
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 1 (leather apron) / 9
Deception, Insight	4 + 3
Horror	None. Disturbing (2) when you find your own figure

Value	Details
Special	Image magic: with a face and a name he carves a figure from corpse board wood in one night. If it lies face up on its small board in a cemetery, the person rolls CON + Toughness against Very Hard (4) the following night. On a failure the heart stops, without a trace. On a success they wake with 2 strain and roll again every night until someone picks up the figure
Weakness	The left hand: the cuts give him away, INT + Investigation against Hard (3). He cannot carve anyone whose face he has never seen
Behaviour	Polite, patient, precise. Does not fight as long as he can talk. Cornered, he takes the carbine into the forest, which he knows better than any forester

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Wax Chandler (Styria, 1961 to 1994)	A candle maker in a pilgrimage town hung votive faces of wax upside down on the votive wall. Professional, no weapon, HP 8. After his death in 1994 a sexton found 23 wax faces behind it, nineteen of them of the town's dead. The other four are alive; the Registry keeps their faces cool and upright.
The Model Railway Man (Gütersloh, 1999)	A pensioner rebuilt his street in H0 gauge, with figures of the neighbours. Whoever annoyed him went into the little cemetery by the station. Henchman, no attack, HP 5. Three dead in one year, then his daughter found the layout. Today it stands in Stockholm, the neighbours upright on the pavements.

Cover-Up

The death certificates are genuine: family doctors see old people who died in their sleep. Reports of figures in Czech cemeteries end up with a police contact in Vimperk. Kubát's death is recorded in the Czech files as a hunting accident, and his widow has never seen them.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The Grey File Legacy has a new case. It was reported, like every one, by Ludwig Weindl.
2	A forester in the Šumava finds a freshly carved figure in a cemetery without a village. The face belongs to a member of the cell.
3	Marie Kubátová, 71, wants to find out with a Prague lawyer who shot her husband.
4	A nephew from Regensburg has withdrawn €40,000 in cash. His aunt in Grafenau turns 85 next week, with a photo in the paper.
5	Three corpse boards are missing from a local history museum in the Bavarian Forest. The attendant remembers a friendly gentleman from Freyung.
6	Weindl calls Stockholm: he has found a figure that seems to show an agent he knows, and asks whether someone could come by.

The Coffee Circle

"For thirty-five years I ate cake at that table and contradicted them. Loudly, every Thursday. That wasn't in any report. I thought it went without saying."

Nadelkissen, retired Veteran, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-H-0806

Origin and Family	The Humans, Covens
Form	Being. Four old women at a coffee table, three since February 2024
Role	Elite: the circle at the table. Each woman on her own is a Henchman
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when a remark comes true. Disturbing (2) when you realise you yourself were meant
File Colour	White from 1979 to 2024, then closed as extinct. Red since 4 September 2026
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Kassel, a block of flats in the Vorderer Westen, second floor left
First Sighting	11 June 1979. Letter from a Kassel ENT doctor to a medical journal: since 1977 a pastor has been losing his voice after long sermons, each time for exactly seven days. No findings
Last Confirmed Sighting	3 September 2026, 15:40. Still from the body camera of a Cadet at the coffee table
O.D.I.N. Losses	One Cadet, Oblate, has been asleep since 4 September 2026 and does not wake up. Outsiders: one dead (1981) and many small things

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Filter coffee, floor polish, eau de Cologne. In September plum cake with crumble.
Sound	Spoons on collector's cups, three voices talking over each other. Then a sentence after which everyone is briefly silent, and a shared "Yes, exactly." At 15:00 a pendulum clock strikes.
Temperature	The flat is heated to 24 °C, even in summer.
Light	Standard lamp with fringes, lace doilies. The fourth chair stands by the window, against the light.
Readings	Nothing. No crystal, no ozone, no EMF. According to a lab analysis from 1988, the coffee grounds are supermarket filter coffee.
Animals	Waltraud Dippel's budgerigar knows one sentence: "I'm telling you."
Devices	The television runs without sound. It always shows the weather.
Traces and Residue	In the neighbourhood, people who for a week do what someone else wished. The caretaker sweeps, the postman is punctual, the dog on the ground floor stops barking. In the kitchen cupboard a notebook: every Thursday since 1974, the cake and, in Gerda's handwriting, "what we talked about".



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Investigation, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Profiler or Negotiator gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Four housewives from Kassel who are said to have talked Beuys's basalt stones off the Friedrichsplatz in 1982. Coffee-ground readers. Harmless, if you eat the cake.
1	Gerda Knierim, Waltraud Dippel, Lieselotte Siebert and Erika Wicke, born 1934 to 1938, have met for coffee on Thursdays at 15:00 since 1974. Whatever they agree on comes true within a week, almost always small things. The effect lies in the coffee grounds, which Waltraud Dippel reads.
2 to 3	Experiment of 1988: the effect needs the agreement of everyone at the table. Protocol Sewing Circle, as of 1989: an agent sits at the table as a neighbour and never agrees. She does not have to contradict; it is enough not to nod. Contradiction draws attention. Since 1989 only small things. Erika Wicke died on 15 February 2024. The circle needs the four of 1974 and is therefore extinct. File closed, final observation by a Cadet in the neighbouring flat until the end of 2026.
4 or more	Final report Nadelkissen, 2024, one sentence: "In 35 years contradicted 412 times." Note: "Overachievement, without significance." Weekly reports Oblate since March 2025: "Postman punctual. Pharmacist has cut her fringe shorter. Dog on the ground floor has stopped barking." Note: "Coincidence." Last report, 3 September 2026: "Mrs Knierim says I look tired."

What Is True

In the night before 23 October 1943 four girls sit in the cellar of a bakery in Kassel's old town, among adults they do not know. Above them the city is burning. Erika Wicke, nine, says: "We'll get out of here." Gerda, Waltraud and little Lieselotte say: "Yes." In the morning firefighters carry four children out of the cellar. None of the others survive.

Thirty years later they meet again at a funeral and arrange to have coffee. Since then, whatever they say together about a person at the coffee table happens.

Nobody ever wrote the rules down: it applies only to people, only at a laid table, only when at least four sit there and all agree. Silence is consent. Only a loud objection breaks it. Only a new remark by the full circle can take it back.

Mostly it was funny. The pastor preached too long and ought to "keep his mouth shut for a week". The caretaker swept. Then came 19 November 1981. About the man on the second floor who beat his wife, Erika said: "He ought to fall down the stairs himself." Everyone nodded. He fell on the Sunday and broke his neck. The circle never spoke about that Thursday again.

The women half know. Gerda knows and is afraid. Waltraud believes in the coffee grounds. Lieselotte believes it and finds it just.

Nadelkissen understood it without writing it down. She never nodded, and whenever something could do harm, she objected loudly: "Oh, Gerda, don't exaggerate." Protocol Sewing Circle adopted only the part about not nodding.

After Erika's death three sat at the table, and nothing happened. On 6 March 2025 the new neighbour came for coffee for the first time: Oblate, 24, Cadet, under orders to sit quietly and not nod. The fourth chair was taken again, and her silence was consent. For eighteen months everything happened again, and Oblate wrote it into her reports. On 3 September 2026 Gerda looked at her for a long time: "The child looks so tired. She really ought to get a proper sleep." Waltraud and Lieselotte said: "Yes, exactly." Oblate kept silent. She is in Kassel hospital, with no findings. The ladies have sent flowers. They do not know it was them.

What helps requires a place at the table. **The fourth chair:** only the full circle can say: "The little one should wake up." The ladies will gladly say it. But first there are two hours of talk, about everyone, including the cell, and every sentence that nobody loudly objects to comes true. Whoever objects too often gets talked about once they have left. **The empty chair:** if nobody sits down any more, the circle remains powerless. Then Oblate sleeps until she dies. **The truth:** Gerda would stop. Lieselotte would not, and she looks for new guests.

Wrong in the File: The coffee grounds mean nothing. The circle does not need the four of 1974, but four people at the table, and it is not extinct. Protocol Sewing Circle is lethal: silence is consent, and whoever sits down with them is what makes the circle complete.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	No weapons. Gossip 4 + 4 against WIL + Mental Resistance of the person meant. On a success the remark comes true by the next Thursday, wherever they are. If it deals damage, then 4 plus margin, armour does not count
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 4, each of the women, Henchman stats for women of around ninety. Only the circle's gossip is Elite, not their bodies. The circle does not fight
Insight, Persuasion	4 + 4. They know who in the neighbourhood is with whom and since when
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when a remark comes true. Disturbing (2) when you realise you yourself were meant
Special	Only about people, only at a laid table, only with at least four people at it, only when all agree. Silence counts as consent, including that of the person meant. A loud objection breaks the remark. Only a new remark by the full circle can take it back
Weakness	Objection, loud and friendly: CHA + Etiquette against Doable (2), otherwise the ladies are offended, and then they talk about you. The empty chair. Gerda's notebook with 52 years of Thursdays
Behaviour	Hospitable, curious, relentless with the cake. They talk about everyone, preferably about those who are absent. They mean well, almost always

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Regulars' Table (Westerwald, 1958 to 1996)	Five men in a village inn, agreed only about the parish council. Professional, Gossip 3 + 3, works only on council members. In 1987 they decided the mayor ought to be voted out. He lost by one vote. Since the inn closed in 1996, each of them drinks at home, and nothing happens any more.
The Parents' Group (Arnhem, since 2021)	Four mothers from one school class in a group chat. It works when all four reply to a message about a person with the same emoji. Silence does not count here, but no table binds them either. Elite, Gossip 4 + 4. In 2023 a teacher was to "get detention himself for once" and was stuck for three days in a car park with a flat battery. In 2025 a boy who hit their children was to "get a beating himself for once". He was in hospital for two weeks.

Cover-Up

The criminal police closed the fall down the stairs in 1981 as an accident under the influence of alcohol, rightly, as far as the alcohol is concerned. Oblate lies as a patient in an unexplained coma on a ward whose senior consultant used to write expert reports for the Registry. The neighbouring flat has been rented in the name of a foundation since 1989.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Oblate has been asleep for three weeks. On Thursday at 15:00 the fourth chair is free, and Gerda has laid the table for four.
2	Lieselotte Siebert's grandson owes money to the wrong people. She wants to talk about these people on Thursday.
3	Gerda Knierim calls the number Nadelkissen left her. She wants to hand over her notebook, "before I burn it".
4	Nadelkissen, 77, sits at Oblate's bedside and asks the cell to accompany her to coffee on Thursday.
5	A pastor in the Vorderer Westen has been losing his voice after every long sermon since June. His doctor has found the letter from 1979.
6	Waltraud Dippel is dying. Then the circle needs two new chairs, and Lieselotte already has candidates.

The Congregation at the Chalk Lake

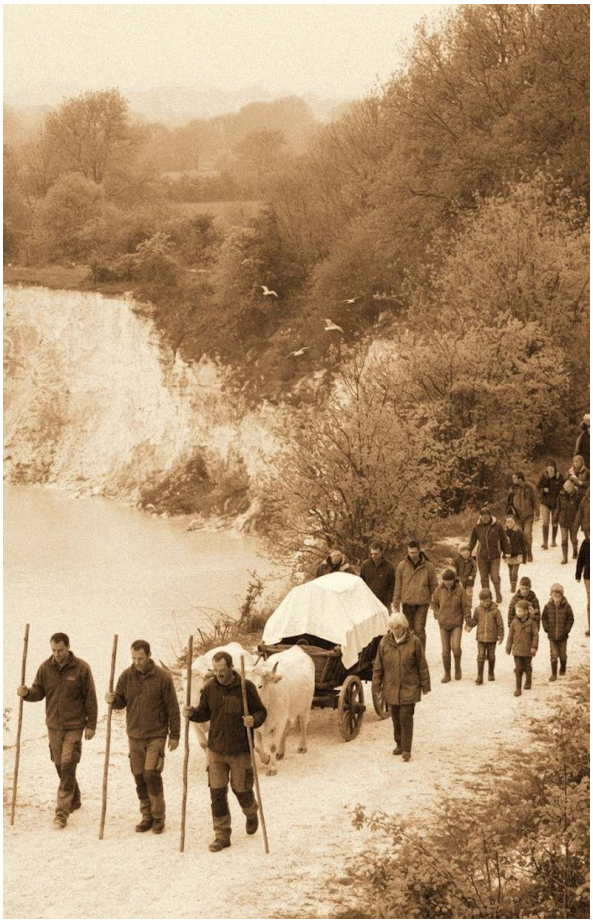
"The file said no iron fires at the lake. I left my gun in the car. The man on the jetty had not left his."
Buhne, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-H-0803

Origin and Family	The Humans, Sects with Real Contact
Form	Being. A community of 31 people, nine of them children, and a cart under a linen cloth
Role	Leader: the congregation as a whole, its head and the stablemen
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when your own weapon fails beside the cart. Disturbing (2) on the Washing Night
File Colour	Grey. Red in every week before Whitsun
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Rügen, the Jasmund peninsula: an abandoned chalk quarry between Sassnitz and Sagard, which the congregation calls the Weißer Grund, and the villages around it
First Sighting	17 May 1994, country road near Sassnitz. Report by a police sergeant: a drunk armed with a knife had gone for a cart drawn by two cows. The blade had not cut the cloth
Last Confirmed Sighting	22 May 2026, north shore of the lake. Photo by a surveillance operative with a telephoto lens, on the last evening of the procession
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, Donnerkeil, missing since the Washing Night of 2009. In addition 33 of the congregation's helpers since 1993, recorded as losses to the supernatural

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Wet chalk, cowshed, household soap. In the week before Whitsun freshly washed linen, even where none is hanging.
Sound	During the procession a silence that stands out: no horns, no quarrels, no barking dogs. Only the wheels.
Temperature	The lake is 38 m deep and below ten metres around 6 °C all year round.
Light	The water is a milky turquoise. The cloth on the cart is brighter than anything else in every photo.
Readings	On the shore neither the crystal detector nor the EMF detector registers anything. The police on Jasmund have not recorded a single assault in the week before Whitsun since 1993.
Animals	The two white cows pull without being led. Gulls follow the cart and never land.
Devices	Whoever pulls the trigger of a pistol beside the cart hears the firing pin, then nothing. 50 m further on it fires again.
Traces and Residue	On the north shore a jetty of oak planks, beside it net sacks and fist-sized black flint nodules. Every year an advertisement at the job centre: "Temporary help for spring cleaning on Rügen, board and lodging, cash."



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Investigation, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Negotiator or Journalist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	An eco-sect on Rügen that keeps cows and plays at folk customs with a covered wagon. Harmless.
1	A community in the Weißer Grund chalk quarry, since 1992, led by Hella Wussow. In the week before Whitsun it draws a cart under a cloth through the villages for six days. Within 50 m no iron wounds. Never touch the cloth. Afterwards a helper washes the cart in the lake at night; the lake takes them. So says Tacitus, Germania, chapter 40.
2 to 3	Protocol Acceptance, as of 2005: no interventions. The raid on 25 May 2004 failed: no weapon worked. The effect holds while the cart moves or stands by the lake; shore operations are unarmed. In 2009 Donnerkeil joined as a novice for eight months. Last report, 29 May, 22:00: "The helper's called Danny, 22. I'm staying close. Unarmed, as planned." Assessment: he touched the cart.
4 or more	Complaint of 25 May 1996 in Sassnitz: Sven Rusch, 19, a congregation helper, states they tried to drown him after the washing. He says he swam across the lake. Proceedings dropped. Note by the Registry: "Not credible. Whoever washes, the lake takes." With it a splinter from the cart, sent in 2009: oak, by radiocarbon from the 1st century.

What Is True

In 1990 the chalk works on Jasmund closes a quarry, the pumps stop, the groundwater rises. In April 1992 Hella Wussow, a Latin teacher in Bergen until 1991, finds a cart in the chalk mud on the north shore: black oak, bearing something under a linen cloth that does not rot. She knows Tacitus: on an island in the sea the Germanic tribes worship Nerthus, Mother Earth. Cows draw her cart through the land, and as long as it travels every war rests, all iron is locked away. Afterwards slaves wash cart, cloth and goddess in a hidden lake, which then swallows them. Scholars have sought this island on Rügen since the 17th century. Wussow thinks she has found the lake.

Part is real. While the cart moves, no iron wounds near it, and people grow calm. The congregation does not know what is under the cloth. Only the helpers see it.

The rest is human work. The lake takes no one. After the washing the stablemen, Wussow's son Uwe and two others, lead the helper onto the jetty, hold them under till they go still, then sink them in a net sack weighted with flints. The congregation calls it the Homegoing. Wussow says she never touched anyone; that is true.

In 1996 Rusch tore himself free. The following summer it rained for three months, and two children got whooping cough. Wussow read a punishment in it. Since then the stablemen tie the helper to a rope before the washing.

The peace ends on the sixth evening, when the cart stands on the shore. On the Washing Night iron fires again. In 2009 Donnerkeil went to the jetty unarmed to get Danny Kröger out. The stablemen had shotguns.

The case in 2026: Hella Wussow is 80 and ill. In spring Rusch wrote to her: "I've seen her. I'm still alive. Stop." Uwe, 55, doubts nothing. Since September the 2027 advertisement has been up at the Stralsund job centre.

The cell has four levers. **The police:** 34 people lie on the bottom in net sacks; divers find them in a week. Then comes a murder trial where villagers and spa guests swear to blades that did not cut. **The cloth:** whoever lifts it before the congregation and survives the night breaks their faith. For that you have to get past the stablemen. **Hella Wussow:** with Rusch at her side she can stop the congregation. Uwe carries on without her. **The cart:** the Council wants a thing beside which no iron wounds. No one has ever tested whether it has to be washed.

Wrong in the File: The lake takes no one. These are 34 murders, one of them of an agent, and the Registry filed them as supernatural. Rusch is not an exception but the proof. The lethal assumption is that the peace also holds on the shore: whoever goes to the jetty unarmed under Protocol Acceptance meets men with shotguns.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Two actions per round, one for the head, one for the stablemen. Hella Wussow: Persuasion 5 + 5 against WIL + Mental Resistance; whoever loses drops their weapon for a scene. Stablemen (squad): oak cudgel 4 + 2, damage 2, on the Washing Night shotgun 4 + 2, damage 4, Spread
Defence / Armour / HP	Wussow 2 / 0 / 9. Stablemen 1 / 0 / 15, a squad of three at 5 HP each. The Leader is the congregation, not a person: two actions and 24 HP together, but laypeople's defence and armour. Damage hits Wussow or the squad, never both. If Wussow falls, the squad fights on as Henchmen; if the squad falls, she gives up. The other 18 adults: stats of cultists, without weapons

Value	Details
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when your own weapon fails beside the cart. Disturbing (2) on the Washing Night
Special	The peace of the cart: during the procession nothing of iron or steel wounds within 50 m. Cartridges and grenades do not fire, blades glance off. Fists, wood, stone and fire work. While the cart is in sight, the congregation makes no horror tests
Weakness	Sven Rusch, alive. A lifted cloth and a person who is still alive in the morning. Wussow's doubts. And words: most of them came to Rügen to find peace
Behaviour	Friendly year-round: cheese, healing chalk, guided lakeside walks. During the procession the stablemen silently bar the way and strike only if someone touches the cart. On the Washing Night they shoot

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The House Group (Siegerland, since 2014)	Fourteen members of a free church pray for the sick at a dentist's house on Wednesdays, and it works: the illness passes to those praying. The dentist never joins in. Henchman, no attack, HP 5. In 2023 a member, 44, died of heart failure after twelve Wednesdays praying for a heart patient. The patient lives.
The Hohler Stein Congregation (Swabian Alb, 1978 to 1991)	A commune by a cave where all who sleep there dream true. It sold dreams to farmers. Founder: Professional, 3 + 3, HP 9. Anja, 19, dreamed most clearly. In 1991 they kept her in the cave six weeks on sleeping pills, until a forester found her. She dreams no more.

Cover-Up

The congregation deregisters every helper properly, "departed, destination unknown", and those who miss them rarely ask the police. Enquiries that do come in end up with a contact in the missing persons unit of the State Criminal Police Office in Rampe near Schwerin. The best camouflage is printed by the spa authority: the procession as a folk custom in the events calendar.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A Cadet is to answer the 2027 advertisement. The Registry finally wants to know what is under the cloth.
2	Sven Rusch, 49, called a Rostock newspaper. He wants to talk about 1996, if anyone believes him.
3	Hella Wussow writes asking to meet "the people who have been photographing from the slope since 1994".
4	A mother from Chemnitz is looking for her son. His last postcard came in May from Sassnitz: "Good people here. Next week we're cleaning."
5	The Council lifts Protocol Acceptance and wants the cart in Stockholm. The procession begins in a week.
6	After a dry summer the lake drops by 2 m. On the north shore a net sack sticks out of the mud.

The Laurin Brothers

"The old man put out bacon and bread for us and told us not to cross the notch at night. We had read the file. We went."

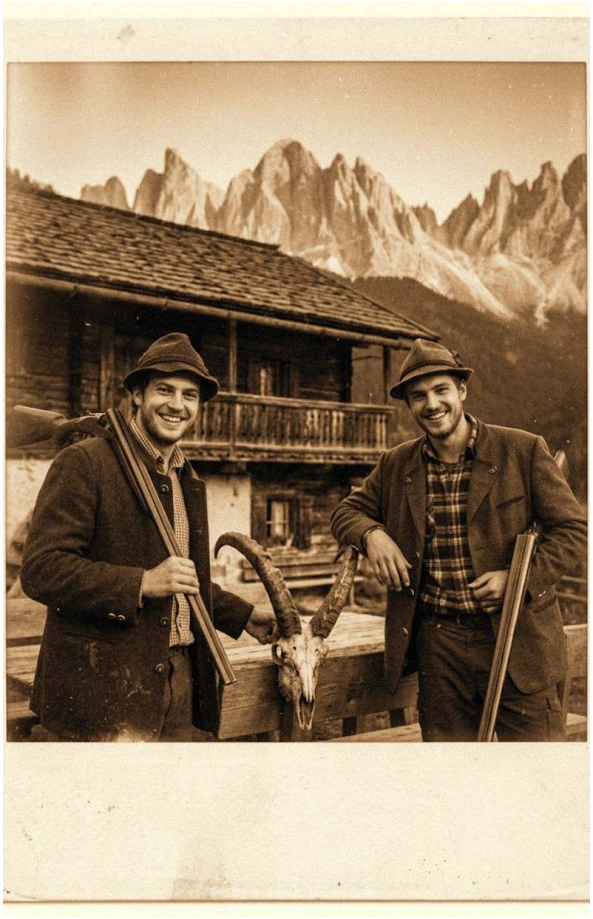
Steigeisen, Agent, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-H-0812

Origin and Family	The Humans, Monster Hunters
Form	Being. Two brothers, hunters from the Tiers valley. Since July 2026, one
Role	Elite
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when something in the fog draws back from Toni Rabensteiner
File Colour	Grey since 1983, tolerated. Red since August 2026 for the Sarntal
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe. South Tyrol: the Tiers valley below the Rosengarten, the Sarntal, the Ultental, the Martelltal. Individual cases in Trentino and North Tyrol
First Sighting	4 August 1983, Tiers. Complaint by a game warden to the Carabinieri: two young men had been shooting above the village at night and declared in the morning that the Wild Man had been dealt with
Last Confirmed Sighting	20 July 2026, Tiers cemetery, funeral of Vigil Rabensteiner. Report by an agent among the mourners
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. One agent with shot in his leg (1991). Since July 2026 two dead hikers in the Sarntal

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Loden jacket, gun oil, bacon, stone pine schnapps.
Sound	Toni whistles two notes as he walks, always the same ones. In his valleys something whistles back at night, from high above.
Temperature	Nothing unusual. Toni wears the jacket even in August.
Light	The brothers only go up at dusk, when the cliffs of the Rosengarten glow red.
Readings	Nothing on Toni. Salt scattered on one of their boundary stones turns grey within an hour.
Animals	Farm dogs follow Toni a little way and stop at the boundary stones.
Devices	No recordings, no mobile phone. On the farm a landline whose number every mayor between Brixen and Meran knows.
Traces and Residue	Boundary stones with a rose chiselled into them, on alpine pastures, beside climbing paths, next to a waterfall. In spring bread and salt lie beside them. In the Sarntal one such stone has been lying toppled in the grass since July.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Investigation, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Antiquarian or Journalist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Two poachers from South Tyrol who tell tourists stories about the Wild Man and sell goat skulls as trophies.
1	The Laurin Brothers: Toni and Vigil Rabensteiner from Tiers, hunters, working on their own account since 1983. 43 beings of the Old dealt with, among them mountain dwarfs, Blessed Maidens and Wild Men. The municipalities pay them. Protocol Preserve, as of 1991: no operations in their valleys. The valleys are considered clean.
2 to 3	Method: iron shot, salt, bread as bait, hunting at dusk. Vigil Rabensteiner died on 17 July 2026. Since then incidents in the Sarntal, two dead hikers: new beings, presumably moved in from the north. Protocol Handover, as of 2026: secure the brothers' weapons and knowledge, a cell with the same equipment takes over the valleys. Toni Rabensteiner refuses any cooperation.
4 or more	Catalogue of a collector, seized at a liquidation in 2014: 29 pieces "provenance Rabensteiner", among them the skull of a Wild Man. Lab finding: chamois, cattle, larch wood, glue. Note: "The brothers cheated the collector. The kill itself is attested by witnesses." Attached a slip in Vigil's handwriting, handed to an agent in 1991: "When we are gone, it all comes back. Write that down." Note: "Threat."

What Is True

Toni and Vigil Rabensteiner grew up on a farm above Tiers with their grandmother. She taught the boys three things. The Old keeps its word. It only negotiates at dusk, in the hour that King Laurin forgot when he enchanted his rose garden against day and night, which is why the cliffs still glow red in the evening. And it takes bread and salt as a pledge.

In 1983 the village called in the brothers because a Wild Man up by the forest was killing sheep. They climbed up, fired twice into the air so that people below would hear it, and at dusk sat down with him at a stone. They gave him bread, salt and their word: the forest above the spring is yours, the pastures below it the village's, as long as we live. Then they chiselled a rose into the stone and climbed down. "Dealt with."

That is how they have worked for 43 years. 43 contracts, not one dead being. The shots are for the villages, the skulls for the collectors. A dealer in Bozen has sold them since 1986, and that is what the brothers live on, because the municipalities pay little.

A contract holds as long as the one who gave his word lives. The brothers knew that and shared the work: Vigil made 22 contracts, Toni 21. On 17 July 2026 Vigil died of cancer, and his 22 contracts have expired. In the Sarntal, where he came to terms with a Wild Man in 1994, the stone lies in the grass, and two hikers from Verona are dead.

Toni is 71. Every evening he goes into one of Vigil's valleys and offers his word. Most do not take it. What is an old man's word worth? They want a younger one.

That is the problem with the brothers: they did good work, and the bill comes with their death. On top of that, every child in their valleys knows the Wild Man exists, and nobody talks about it. There the Veil holds without O.D.I.N., and nobody in Stockholm likes that.

The cell has to decide who holds Vigil's valleys. **Your own word:** a member of the cell gives bread, salt and their word at dusk, for their whole life. Then they must come to the stone every spring, wherever they are serving by then. **Protocol Handover:** if O.D.I.N. detains Toni, his 21 contracts also expire as soon as he dies, and no one but him knows where the stones stand. He tells only the one who gives their word. **The hunt:** a cell with iron shot and salt can kill a Wild Man. Not twenty-two in one summer, and whoever shoots a being under contract breaks every contract in that valley.

Wrong in the File: The brothers never killed a being. The 43 beings dealt with are alive, bound to two lives and since July to one. No new beings are coming into the Sarntal; the old ones are coming back. Vigil's note was not a threat. Protocol Handover is lethal: it sends a cell with shot into valleys whose peace hung on a word, and it detains the only man who knows where the stones stand.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Shotgun with iron shot 4 + 4, damage 4, Spread, or carbine 4 + 4, damage 4, Precise
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 2 (protective vest under the jacket) / 12
Tracking, Survival	4 + 4. He never gets lost, not even at night in fog

Value	Details
Horror	None. Uncanny (1) when something in the fog draws back from him
Special	His word: beings of the Old with whom he has a contract attack neither him nor his companions. He knows where all 43 stones lie. Whoever sits with him at the stone at dusk can give their own word: bread, salt and CHA + Negotiation against Hard (3). On a success the contract holds until the death of the one who gave it
Weakness	His grief for Vigil. His age. He needs a successor, and whoever credibly offers him their word has him on their side
Behaviour	Friendly, taciturn, stubborn. Does not shoot at people, unless they go for a stone. In 1991 he hit an agent in the leg who wanted to dig up a boundary stone

Subtypes

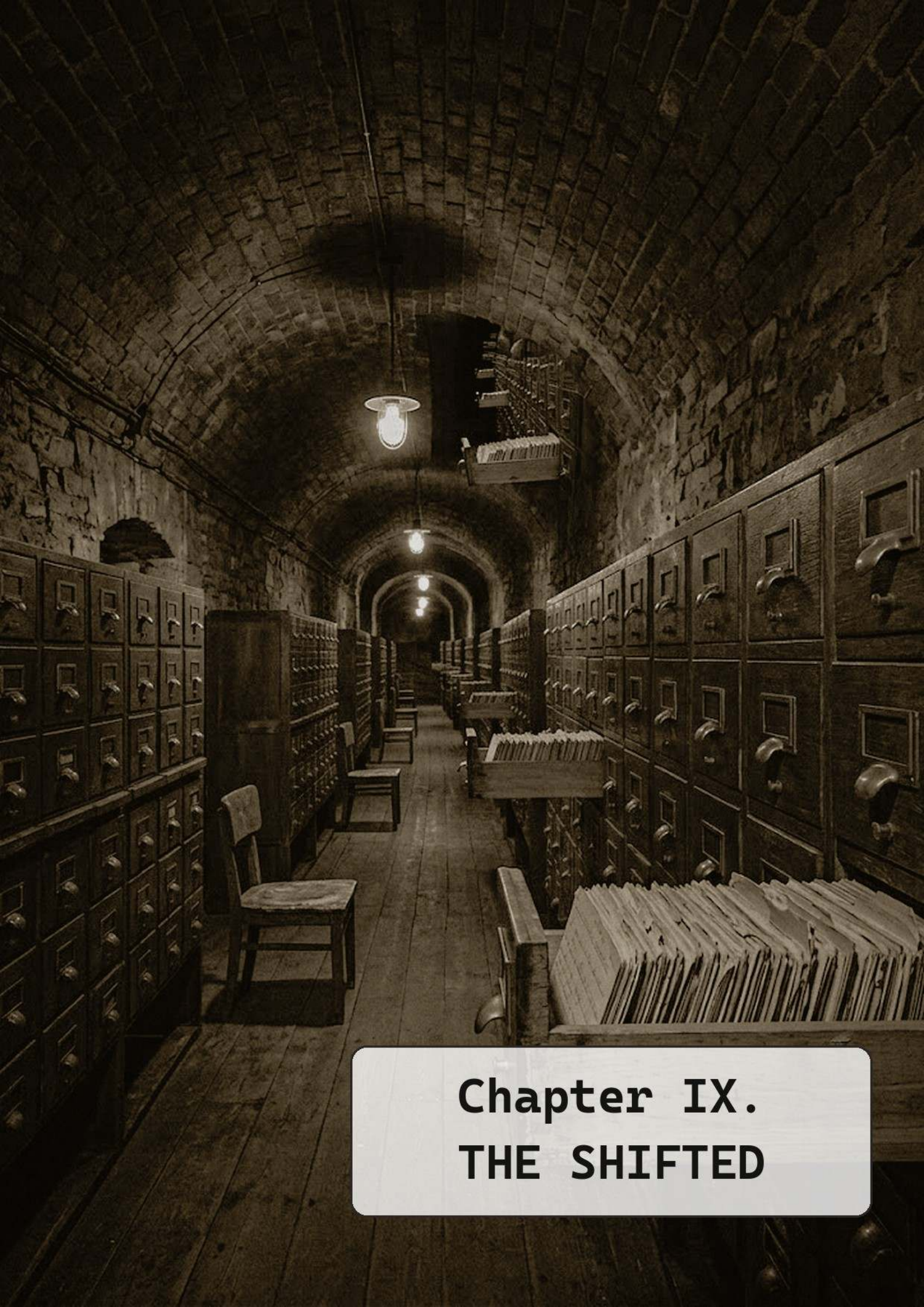
Subtype	Difference
The Garay Sisters (Navarre, 1962 to 2008)	Two sisters from a Pyrenean valley who killed every being of the Old they found. Elite, stats as above, without the special ability. The Registry held up their valleys as a model. Since the younger one died in 2008, the wolves have taken the herds there every summer, and the old shepherds say someone used to keep watch.
The Exterminator (Dortmund, since 2019)	A pest controller who shoots Riftlings and worse in cellars and posts the videos online, pixelated. Professional, shotgun 3 + 3, damage 4, HP 9. He shoots well. In 2023 one video had two million views, and O.D.I.N. had to declare a whole block of flats the set of a film. He will not stop. He wants a contract.

Cover-Up

The Carabinieri at the Schlern have known the brothers since 1983 and write “poaching, proceedings dropped”. The dead hikers in the Sarntal are recorded as a fall in fog. Mountain rescue found them, and their report is accurate, except for the tracks. The dealer in Bozen sells to collectors who would never go to the police.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Protocol Handover: the cell is to detain Toni Rabensteiner and confiscate his weapons. He is waiting for them on the farm with bacon and bread.
2	In the Sarntal a second stone has toppled. A child from the village reported it, not to the Carabinieri, but to Toni.
3	Toni asks a member of the cell whether they will come up with him this evening. He does not say what for.
4	A collector in Munich has had his skull “provenance Rabensteiner” examined. He is furious and sends mercenaries to Tiers.
5	A cell in the Ultental has killed a Wild Man, following the brothers’ example. Since the shot, no contract holds there any more.
6	Toni is in hospital in Bozen after a heart attack. The doctors give him days. He wants to tell someone from the cell something, alone.



Chapter IX.
THE SHIFTED

The Shifted

"You can't shoot a Tuesday. You can only find out why it comes twice."
Archivist of the Registry, Stockholm

Most index cards in this book describe something that is where it should not be. The cards in this chapter describe something that is when it should not be, or in a version of the world that is not ours. A fisherman from 1861 in the harbour of Slite. A day that starts over again every morning. A staircase with one step more than was built. A woman who prompts everyone with their next sentence and whom no one remembers. The Registry groups all this under one origin because it behaves in the same way: something in the order of place and time has slipped, and what we see is the consequence.

The Shifted is rarely a being in the sense of the other chapters. It is a fault. Often a person sits inside that fault through no doing of their own: a soldier who does not know his date, a commuter who comes home every evening into the same day, a child who has grown older than her mother. Sometimes it is an animal of flesh. Sometimes it is a corridor. The Registry records all of it with an index card, stats and a file reference, because a cell must know what it is dealing with. But it also knows that the stats count for less here than elsewhere.

How to recognise it. The signature of the Shifted is quiet. No ozone, no wet stone, no humming. Crystal detector, ozone probe and EMF detector stay calm, and that is exactly the first clue. Instead, measurements that ought to agree contradict each other. Two clocks drift apart. A GPS device jumps between two places. A compass reads wrong, always by the same number of degrees. Witnesses have lived the same day twice, post bears the wrong date, a floor plan does not fit the house. Animals notice it sooner than people, and often differently than one would expect: a dog that will not go on is a measuring instrument here. Anyone reading an index card from this chapter rolls INT + Physics. To understand what has slipped, one must know how it ought to lie.

Why weapons rarely help. The Threat Atlas says it in three words: weapons are useless. The Registry says it more precisely. Weapons hit the consequence, not the fault. Whoever shoots a Loop Person sees him again at the bus stop the next morning. Whoever kills a Time Castaway has not released the anchor, and the anchor pulls in the next one. There are entries in this chapter where bullets work, because what stands before the cell bleeds. Even there the shot changes nothing about the fault. It only clears the space, and something else takes it. Most of the losses O.D.I.N. has suffered to the Shifted are not down to an attack but to a Registry protocol that misread the fault.

The anchor. Every fault hangs on something. The Registry calls it the anchor. It can be an object, an identity disc or an old monthly season ticket. It can be a date that someone believes or does not believe. It can be a door, a spot in the terrain, a sameness between two things that ought not to be the same. Sometimes it is a person. Whoever finds the anchor can repair the fault. From decades of experience the Registry has made a rule that appears in no service regulation: every solution costs something, and usually the one who pays was never asked. Put it back, destroy it, change it, leave it open. None of these paths is clean. The word anchor means something different in the Registry than in an agent's life. Some archivists consider it the same thing.

The Registry puts three questions to a cell that opens a file of this origin. What is wrong? What does it hang on? And what happens to the person inside it if it is solved? Whoever forgets the third question may have closed the case. They have not solved it.

The entries in this chapter carry the letter V in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Doppelgängers	People from another version of their own life who claim a place in ours: a second copy of the same person, or someone who never existed here	The Other, The Sister Next Door
The Forgotten	People who have fallen out of the world's memory and are still here all the same	The Prompter
Loop People	People and places that run through the same stretch of time again and again	The Commuter
Time Castaways	People from an earlier moment, pulled across and not yet caught up by their time	The Time Castaway
The Untimed	People on whom time stands still. Someone else carries the missing years	The Old Child, The Guest in the Group Photo

Family	What They Are	Entries
The Fused	People and things that have grown together with a place or a moment	The Man in the Wall, The Ferry
Between-Walkers	What lives in the spaces between the spaces: corridors, stairwells, rooms that do not exist	The Corridor Dweller, The Child in the Stairwell
Mirror Beings	What stands on the other side of a reflecting surface and no longer merely reflects	The One Opposite
Dream Walkers	Beings that pass through sleep from one person to the next	The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab
Out-of-Time Animals	Animals of flesh, from another time or another version of the world	The Thylacine in the Harz, The Giant Deer

In the Threat Atlas

Six entries of the Shifted already appear in the Threat Atlas of the Game Master's Book, and their stats there apply unchanged. The **Loop Person** belongs to the Loop People, as does **The Endless Road**, a loop made of space instead of time. The Registry counts **The Wandering Room** and **The Practice** among the Between-Walkers; what lies behind the second door of the Practice is in the Investigator Building Block and not here. **The Double** is a Doppelgänger, and **The Forgotten** give their family its name. Whoever meets them finds the stats in the Atlas and their relatives in this chapter.

The Child in the Stairwell

"Sixty-six. I'd have sworn to it. She said sixty-seven, and I believed her."
Stieglitz, Cadet, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0131

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Between-Walkers
Form	Place. The threat is the staircase; the child is a human being
Role	Elite
Horror	Disturbing (2), Horrifying (3) for anyone on her staircase who looks down over the banister
File Colour	Red
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of seven such stairwells, and in each one someone different is climbing
Mind	Human (the child), None (the staircase)
Regions	British Isles, Central and Western Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Tenements put up quickly and cheaply around 1900
First Sighting	12 January 1905, Govanhill, Glasgow. City police report: a coal carrier, missing for three days, is sitting with worn-through soles on the landing between the second and third floors and talks of a girl "who counts wrong"
Last Confirmed Sighting	3 September 2026, the same building. Mobile phone photo taken by a tenant; a neighbour has been missing since, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, missing since 1987

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Coal dust, wet wool, carbolic soap. Faintly, coal gas from a pipe that has been disused for generations.
Sound	A child's voice whispering numbers, just behind one's own breath. The steps of small hobnailed boots, always one step above.
Temperature	On the landing between the second and third floors it is December: two degrees and clouds of breath, even in August.
Light	The stair lighting flickers in time with footsteps. In photos taken down the stairwell, the building has more floors.
Readings	A laser rangefinder measures the stairwell at 11.4 m, and at night at "no target". The air pressure sensor in a mobile phone counts four floors instead of three for the way up. None of the detectors stirs in the stairwell.
Animals	Dogs cannot be pulled up the stairs. Cats climb and stay sitting on one particular step.
Devices	On the landing to the third floor a heart rate watch shows a pulse of 118 that is not the wearer's own. It is the pulse of a frightened child.
Traces and Residue	Coal dust on a step between the second and third floors, fresh every morning, although no one in the building has heated with coal since 1970.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Infiltrator gets +1 die, because in every building they know which step creaks. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A child ghost, a girl who is said to have died on the stairs. Salt on the steps, leave the light on, do not speak to it. It does no one any harm.
1	The child is no Echo. Near it, people vanish on the stairs and are found hours or days later sitting exhausted on the landing to the third floor. Basic rule for shifted staircases and corridors: count the steps aloud and never lose the number. Whoever counts stays oriented.
2 to 3	The child lures. It asks what floor this is and begs to be taken by the hand. Whoever does so vanishes with it. Do not touch, do not answer, keep counting. The missing come back of their own accord: of 17 since 1905, 14 returned. The agent of 1987 is considered dead.
4 or more	Addendum 1988: the staircase has 66 steps, and one between the second and third floors is four centimetres higher than the others. All returnees said 67. All 14 came back on a day when someone in the building scrubbed the stairs from top to bottom. Handwritten in the margin, in red copying pencil: “They come back when someone counts backwards. Why do we teach the cadets to count forwards?”

What Is True

Jessie Rennie, seven, lived in 1904 with her parents and two little brothers in two rooms on the third floor of a tenement in Govanhill, built in haste in 1897 by a developer who soon went bankrupt. On the evening of 5 December her mother sent her down with the coal scuttle to the cellar by the back court and said what she always said: count the steps, then you know where you are. On the way back the gas lamp was out. Jessie stumbled on the high step and counted it twice. At the number 67 she was standing on a step that does not exist in the building.

Her staircase looks like the real one, only it does not end. One landing higher there is always the family’s dark green door. It comes no closer. For Jessie it has been the same evening for 121 years. She is not tired and not hungry. She is cold and wants to go home.

She hears anyone who counts aloud on the real staircase. She counts along, and in one’s head her voice is louder than one’s own feet. Whoever reaches 67 with her is standing on her staircase. Whoever takes her hand is counting with her anyway. She does not lure. She asks what floor this is because she really wants to know.

For everyone except Jessie, time passes on her staircase. No one ages, no one hungers, but the legs feel every step. Whoever can go no further sits down and does not get up again. They are not dead. They are sitting. Three sit there today: a milkman from 1931, the agent Heide, 31, since 1987, and since 3 September Callum Baird, 29, a bicycle courier from the first floor. Whoever is carried down is as old as on the day they left.

The only way out is counting backwards. Whoever knows their number walks it down and is standing on the real staircase again, at the high step. Whoever has lost it follows someone else’s count: if someone on the real staircase counts aloud downwards from 66, everyone on her staircase hears it. That is how the coal carrier got out in 1905. On the third day it was the neighbour’s turn to clean the stairs; she scrubbed from top to bottom and counted as she went. All 14 returnees came on a cleaning day.

Jessie does not go down. Her mother said: straight back up. Down below are the dark cellar and the rats in the back court.

No one can take Jessie home any more, only down or away. **Count her down:** Jessie follows a count downwards and is standing on the real staircase again, seven years old and alone, one landing below the door behind which strangers live today. Her brother Tam died in 1971. His granddaughter Morag Rennie, 71, lives in Paisley. The moment Jessie arrives, her staircase is gone, together with anyone still sitting on it. Every rescue therefore begins with counting up and carrying. **Grind down the step:** a stonemason grinds the high step down to the height of the others. The staircase closes; Jessie and those sitting there are gone. The building is safe afterwards. **Silence:** a lift in the courtyard, a house rule against counting. Jessie waits, and sooner or later someone counts after all.

Wrong in the File: The child is no ghost; salt and light do nothing to her. She does not lure, she asks. The missing do not come back of their own accord, but when someone counts backwards, and the agent of 1987 is not dead. She is sitting. The danger is the basic rule from training: on this staircase, counting aloud is the way in.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	None. The staircase acts when someone counts
Attack	Counting along 4 + 4 against WIL + Concentration of every character within earshot who counts aloud. Whoever has fewer successes is standing on her staircase. Whoever holds Jessie's hand does not roll; they are counting along
Defence / Armour / HP	The staircase cannot be harmed. Jessie: 1 / 0 / 4
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the first step on her staircase. Horrifying (3) when looking over the banister, where the landings do not end and someone is sitting on some of them
Special	On her staircase everyone except Jessie loses 2 HP per day; armour does not count. At 0 HP they sit down and do not die; they only get up again when carried. Getting out: WIL + Concentration against Hard (3), against Doable (2) for someone following a count aloud from the real staircase. Whoever carries a sitting person rolls with −1 die
Weakness	The high step between the second and third floors. And anyone who counts backwards from the top on the real staircase
Behaviour	Jessie is polite, chilled to the bone and brave. She asks what floor this is, asks to be accompanied, talks about her brothers. She only climbs. She can be moved to go down with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), against Doable (2) with her mother's words. If shouted at, she cries and counts louder

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Washerwoman (Vienna, 1911)	Marie Hrubá, 23, a maidservant from Moravia, carried washing up to the drying loft of a tenement in Favoriten in March 1911 and counted in Czech. Only those who count along in Czech roll. No attack, HP 6. In 2019, wet bedsheets hung in one attic flat each morning. The nanny from Brno had counted along and came back after two days, when the caretaker swept from the top, counting in Czech.
The Water Carrier (Alexandria, 1924)	A water carrier with a leather sack has been climbing through a tenement in Attarine since summer 1924, counting aloud in Arabic. Whoever takes the sack from him counts along unawares. He shoves anyone in his way: 3 + 3 against defence; whoever is hit falls down the stairs, 1 damage per 2 m of fall, armour does not count. HP 9. In 2021 a tourist was found on the roof after two days, his rucksack full of water.

Cover-Up

Whoever disappears from the building is listed by Police Scotland as voluntarily missing. Returnees are diagnosed with exhaustion in hospital; their blood samples go missing. Since 2011 the stairwell has been a listed structure, at O.D.I.N.'s request, so that no tradesman grinds down the high step before a decision is made. In the hall hangs a note from the managing agent: Please do not play on the stairs.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A tenant posts a photo taken from above down the stairwell. Her friends count six more landings than the building has.
2	Callum Baird has been missing for three weeks; his bicycle is standing in the hall. His sister wants to search the stairs herself tonight, counting aloud. Red File.
3	Morag Rennie, 71, owns a family photo from 1903 and her great-grandmother's letter to the police. She has heard about the building on the radio.
4	A building contractor is to renovate the stairwell. He starts with the steps on Monday.
5	A cadet from Brno, who has learned to count aloud on unfamiliar stairs, carried a young woman's laundry basket in a Viennese tenement.
6	The agent Heide's daughter is 40 today and wants to know why there is no year of death on her mother's grave.

The Commuter

"He put the tea down before I'd sat down. Then he said: Yesterday you fell on the stairs. Better stay seated today."

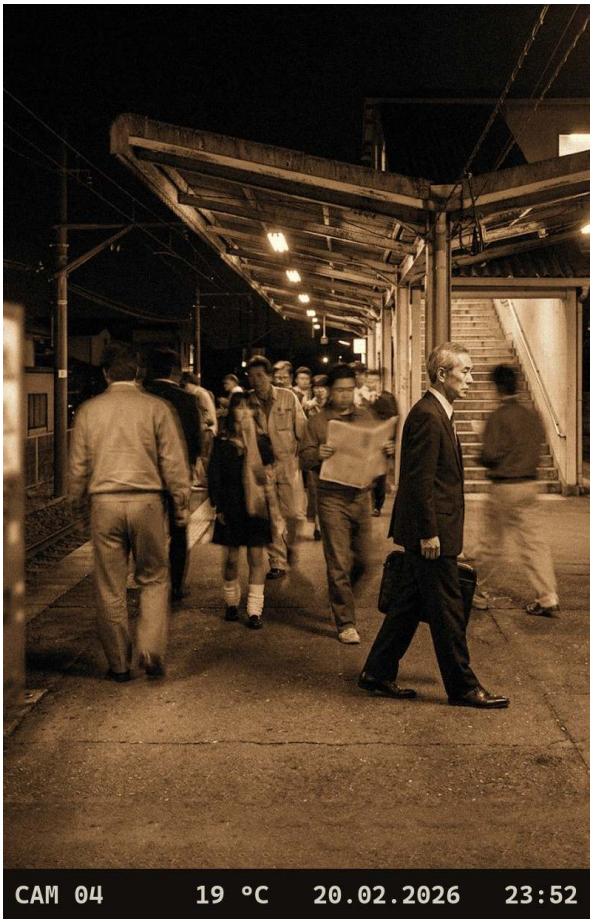
Ahle, Veteran, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0115

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Loop People
Form	Being. A man who commutes between one day and time itself
Role	Elite, as long as he is in the loop. Outside, a tired man of 64
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he tells an agent how that agent died yesterday
File Colour	Grey since 2003. Red since February 2026: the loop has reached the platform
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	East Asia. Japan, a small town on the Takasaki Line in the north of Saitama Prefecture, 90 minutes from Tokyo
First Sighting	21 October 2003. Report by a lone agent: a neighbour talks about a young woman who takes in washing every evening on an empty plot
Last Confirmed Sighting	20 February 2026, platform 2. Surveillance camera: a man in a suit, behind him commuters from 1996. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents (2009). They are alive. Every evening they sit in front of a drinks vending machine in the alley and talk about the same baseball game

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the alley to the station, wet asphalt, incense, miso soup. At 03:08, a smell of gas for one minute.
Sound	The barrier at the level crossing rings to the 1996 timetable. At 16:20 a brief rain shower on the roofs, under a clear sky.
Temperature	In the alley it is always 19 degrees, even in January.
Light	From the street, an empty plot with weeds and a charred post. At the right minute in the alley: light behind paper sliding doors, washing on the pole.
Readings	Clocks jump from 03:09 to 06:40. In the alley a mobile phone shows 14 May 1996 and finds no network. No detector notices any of it.
Animals	The crows on the power lines sit the same way every evening and caw at the same moment.
Devices	The vending machine on the platform dispenses cans with designs from 30 years ago.
Traces and Residue	Since February the station ticket gate has opened once every evening for a monthly season ticket that expired on 31 May 1996.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Chronomancer or Cryptanalyst gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A widower who talks to his dead family. The woman with the washing is an Echo. Salt on the threshold, an ending for what was left open.
1	A small loop, see Loop Person in the Threat Atlas: a house, an alley. A man goes out every morning and comes back every evening. He has noticed the loop and keeps quiet. He is the leak through which it grows.
2 to 3	Protocol Restart, as of 1987: in a loop, death is no loss. Whoever dies gets up again in the morning. Tangled situations can be cleaned up this way. Find the anchor and destroy it, after which everyone wakes up without memory. The anchor here is probably a calendar or a clock in the house.
4 or more	Note 2010: following Protocol Restart, both agents of 2009 each died three times in the loop and never came out. Prefectural police file, 15 May 1996: fire at 03:10, propane gas, a woman and a child missing, no remains. The husband was sleeping in a capsule hotel in Tokyo. Added by typewriter: “No calendar. He carries an old monthly season ticket in a holder of its own.”

What Is True

On Tuesday, 14 May 1996, Yasuo Kitagawa, 34, an office worker in Nihonbashi, misses the last train and sleeps in a capsule hotel in Ueno. At 03:10 his wooden house in Saitama burns, a propane cylinder by the kitchen. His wife Yumiko, 31, and his son Shōta, six, are never found. The next evening Kitagawa stands in front of the charred plot and goes in. Inside there is light. Yumiko says: “You look tired.” It is the evening of 14 May.

Since then he has lived two lives. By day he travels 90 minutes to Tokyo, works, ages. In the evening he returns to 14 May 1996, eats with his family and falls asleep. At 03:08 there is a smell of gas, at 03:09 it is 06:40 again. Today he is 64, she is 31. In the first years he tried to get the two of them out of the house at night, but the loop repairs every change. At some point he began to love the day.

The anchor is his monthly season ticket from 1996, valid for the journey home he did not finish that night. He suspects what it is: when he threw it into the river in 1998, it was back in its holder by evening, and the gas came a minute earlier. The loop grows along this route: in 2004 the alley, in 2015 the bicycle park at the station, in February 2026 platform 2. Next comes the train, with 1,200 people every evening.

Kitagawa is no murderer, but he knows every minute of this day and lets no one near the ticket.

Two people from 1996 against 1,200 passengers of today. **Destroy:** the night runs on, and at 03:10 the gas ignites. Whoever is in the house burns, 30 years too late. Whoever is outside wakes in 2026 without memory beside a weeping stranger of 64. Destroying the ticket before 03:09 and getting Yumiko and Shōta out before 03:10 is the hardest thing here: they do not want to go, and the loop helps them. **Stay:** in March 2027 Kitagawa retires. If he stops going out, the loop stops growing. He forgets that he ever left, and is 64 for ever beside a woman of 31. **Kill:** if he dies outside, the ticket is back in the house by evening, and no one carries it out any more. The loop stops growing and never ends. **Do nothing:** then the train comes.

Wrong in the File: Kitagawa does not talk to the dead, and salt means nothing to him. He is not a leak; he is the route along which the loop grows. The anchor is not a calendar. What is dangerous is Protocol Restart. In this loop every death costs a third of the way back, and whoever destroys the anchor without thinking of 03:10 kills two people no one could save in 1996.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	6 in the loop, 2 outside
Attack	The day itself 4 + 4, damage 4: the delivery van at 07:12, the loose step at the level crossing, the neighbour’s dog. He needs an action and the right place. Outside, a penknife 2 + 1, damage 1 (Core Rulebook, Chapter X)
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 / 12 in the loop, where he gets up again in the morning. Outside 1 / 0 / 7
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he tells an agent how that agent died yesterday
Special	He knows the day: in the loop +2 dice on all tests, and once per scene he knows what an agent he has already watched for a whole day will do. Whoever comes from outside and dies in the loop wakes at 06:40 in the house. After the third death they stay as a Loop Person

Value	Details
Weakness	The season ticket. And his family: he does nothing that would endanger Yumiko or Shōta
Behaviour	Polite, tired, helpful, until it comes to the ticket. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Very Hard (4), against Hard (3) if the cell shows him a plan that gets both of them out of the house before 03:10

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Waiter (Chiemgau, since 11 August 1999)	A country inn by a lake, on the day of the total solar eclipse. The waiter noticed the loop after three weeks and has since seen the eclipse almost 10,000 times. Whoever comes in is handed a pair of cardboard glasses and the beer they were about to order. He is almost content; he would only like to know how the world outside went on. Henchman, no attack, HP 5. Almost comical, and a good source for everything that happens in the valley on that day.
The Neighbours (Rhön, since 2 October 1990)	Two farmers, one from Hesse, one from Thuringia, on the day before reunification. Both have noticed the loop. The dispute is over eleven metres of meadow that belonged to the border strip for 37 years. Since then they have shot each other more than 13,000 times and get up again every morning. Whoever comes in is recruited by one of the two. Professional, each with a shotgun 3 + 3, damage 4, Spread, HP 9. The anchor is a boundary stone, to each of them the proof that he is in the right.

Cover-Up

The cans on the platform are passed off as a retro advertising campaign by an agency that owes O.D.I.N. a favour. The railway company considers the ticket gate a software fault. The prefectural police closed the case in 1999: the wife had left him and taken the child. That is how he tells it himself, and O.D.I.N. leaves it at that.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A commuter buys a can on the platform like the ones her mother collected, best before 1997.
2	Kitagawa's company invites guests to his farewell party in March 2027. He says he wants to go home early for the first time.
3	A Takasaki Line train arrives in Ueno one minute late. In the third carriage 30 passengers are reading the morning paper of 14 May 1996.
4	The daughter of one of the two agents of 2009 is now 22 and has found his file. She boards the same train every evening.
5	An eclipse chaser writes in a forum that in the Chiemgau you can see the 1999 one every day, you just have to book in time.
6	A hiker is found shot dead in a meadow in the Rhön. The next morning he is having breakfast in his guesthouse and says it is the second time.

The Corridor Dweller

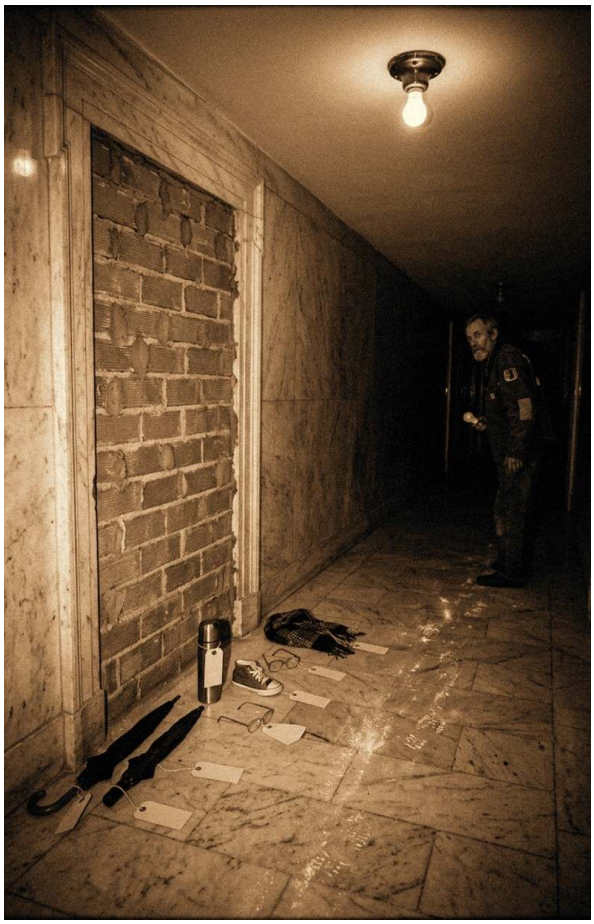
"We bricked up the door. The next morning there was a note in front of it: 'Please don't.'"
Zollstock, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY — REG-V-0129

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Between-Walkers
Form	Being
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1), Disturbing (2) in his corridors
File Colour	White. Red as soon as a building authority is to stamp a plan while someone is in his corridors
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of four, each in a building with more than 500 rooms
Mind	Human
Regions	Eastern Europe, Central and Western Europe. Ministries, hospitals, administrative buildings whose plans were constantly changed during construction
First Sighting	22 October 1992, Bucharest, the shell of the House of the People, today the Palace of the Parliament. Report from the Bucharest relay: a security guard swaps two cigarettes for a bread ration card from 1986
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 September 2026, the same building, second basement level. A note and a repaired ceiling lamp, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One cadet, missing since 1994

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Fresh lime and wet cement on old, dry walls. Stale smoke from filterless cigarettes.
Sound	Footsteps behind walls that ought to be solid. Whoever knocks at certain spots gets an answer: twice, politely.
Temperature	A draught of eleven degrees comes from the joints of bricked-up doors, in July as in January.
Light	Where he has been, light bulbs burn in the morning that no one screwed in: 40 watts, Romanian state production from before 1989.
Readings	The rooms of a floor add up to less area than the building has from the outside, less with every conversion. A laser rangefinder reports "no target" at some walls. Clocks and compass run true; the detectors are silent.
Animals	At night the building's cats sit in front of patches of wall where there used to be doors.
Devices	In his corridors a mobile phone has full signal; location services place it inside a wall.
Traces and Residue	Lost things come back in a neat row, each with a paper label: where found and date. Sandwiches disappear from fridges, and IOUs lie there instead. Lime dust with boot prints that end at a wall.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A house spirit of large government buildings. Steals packed lunches, screws in light bulbs, returns lost property. Harmless. Put out something to eat in the evening, and he stays quiet.
1	Between-Walkers live in rooms that appear on no valid floor plan, and come through bricked-up doors. They pull people into their corridors. Never go alone through a door that is not on the plan.
2 to 3	Protocol Sealing, as of 1994: find the access and brick it up. Submit a plan amendment to the building authority that deletes the room behind it. With the stamp, the access is closed. At all three accesses in Bucharest treated this way, the sightings ended. Since 1986 people have been disappearing in this building for hours or days; the being is considered the culprit.
4 or more	Addendum 2009: in front of the first sealed access lies a bundle: the service ID of the cadet from 1994 and a list on brown paper, 31 names with dates. 29 are ticked off; all 29 were found alive in the building, at spots without a door. After the cadet's name there is a cross. At the very top, not ticked: "Paraschiv, Dorin, 17.03.1986". Beneath it, in an archivist's hand: "He takes no one. He brings them back. And we brick up the door behind him."

What Is True

If a built room is deleted from the plan and the amendment is stamped, it slips between the valid rooms. The neighbouring walls move together; only the measurements no longer add up. The deleted rooms of a building hang together and form a second building inside the first. Whoever is standing inside when the stamp comes down goes with it. It does not wander like the Wandering Room; it grows.

Dorin Paraschiv, electrician, 24, was laying cable on the second basement level of the House of the People on Monday, 17 March 1986. At the weekend the head of state had ordered changes again. On Monday morning the planning institute stamped the new version, without the corridor.

Dorin is 64 today. At night he takes food from canteens and writes IOUs. He has mapped over 200 rooms in chalk. He walks through every door that ever stood on a stamped plan. The dead walk through none of them.

At first he stayed out of fear, later because someone kept falling in. His mother believes the Securitate took him. Dorin brought 29 people out. One he found too late: on 3 March 1994 a cadet was checking the room behind the first sealed access when the building authority stamped too early. The room no longer had a second door. Dorin reached him in 1996 and had to leave him lying there. Since then he has avoided the sealed rooms, hence the quiet that the protocol takes credit for.

The case: the parliament's administration wants to convert the second basement level into an archive, stamp due in October 2026. Since 16 September the cleaner Mirela Stan, 51, has been missing. In front of a wall lay a note: "Don't stamp. Mrs Stan is in the old archive corridor. I'll fetch her. Give me time." Next to it a repaired ceiling lamp.

What helps: the old plans of the planning institute, hundreds of sheets that, laid on top of each other, show the second building. And Dorin, if he is given a cigarette and a reason.

Every intervention leaves someone behind in the second building or buries someone beneath it. **Delete:** the protocol closes nothing. It enlarges the second building, and whoever is inside when the stamp comes down stays there. **Add back:** an architect draws the deleted rooms into a new plan, and the building authority stamps it. All the rooms return at once to their old place, where other things stand today. In 1999 O.D.I.N. tried this with a single corridor in a hospital in Iași. Two ceilings collapsed, three people died. **Bring him out:** Dorin can leave whenever he wants. He would like to see his mother, Viorica Paraschiv, 88, in a tower block in Berceni. But whoever falls in after that will not find the way out. He asks who will stay in his place. An agent with the plans could, for a lifetime. Killing him only takes from the second building the one person who knows the way.

Wrong in the File: The Corridor Dweller pulls no one into his corridors. People fall in when a plan is stamped, and he brings them out. He is not a house spirit, but a man who has been missing since 1986. What is dangerous is Protocol Sealing. It creates the rooms it is meant to close, and in 1994 it walled in its own cadet.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Cable knife (as dagger) 2 + 2, damage 2. Almost never fights

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 6
Horror	Uncanny (1) when he steps out of a wall. Disturbing (2) for anyone who enters the second building
Special	With one action walks through any door that ever stood on a stamped plan, and takes one living person with him by the hand; whoever resists rolls STR + Athletics against his 2 + 2. Out of the second building without him: extended test INT + Navigation, 10 successes, one roll per hour, +2 dice with the old plans. A botch leads into a room without a door
Weakness	The plans. With all the versions, a character finds any of his doors: INT + Technology against Doable (2). And his mother. One sentence from her, and he comes out
Behaviour	Shy, polite, pedantic. Repairs, tidies up, leaves notes, flees from uniforms. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2), against Easy (1) with news of his mother. Only attacks if someone bricks up a door before his eyes

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Night Nurse (Lisbon, 1968)	During the conversion of a hospital in 1968, the ward on which Graça Tavares, 31, was on night duty was deleted. She calls from an extension that no longer appears in any directory. No attack, defence 1, HP 5. She asks for insulin for bed 6, whose patient died in 1968, and she knows it. In 2019 a carer put a bag in front of the plastered wall; in the morning there was a note: “Obrigada. May I call again tomorrow?”
The Desk Officer (Brussels, 1991)	When the European Commission moved out of the Berlaymont in 1991 because of asbestos, the conversion plan deleted almost every office. Poul Kjærgaard, 51, desk officer for fishing quotas, was packing files on the last evening. He carries on working; his memos arrive with the internal post. No attack, defence 1, HP 5. Whoever initials his circulation folder goes with him at their own department’s next move. In 2024 an intern initialled it. She was found after four days in the underground car park, at a spot without a door, holding someone else’s opinion on cod quotas.

Cover-Up

The administration of the Palace of the Parliament closes affected basement sections for earthquake proofing, which no one in Bucharest has questioned since the earthquake of 1977. Those found again are considered visitors who got lost on a guided tour; the domestic intelligence service SRI files their statements. Since 2001 the files authority CNSAS has held a Securitate file on Dorin Paraschiv, arrested in March 1986, whereabouts unknown. O.D.I.N. wrote it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	In a Bucharest ministry, packed lunches are disappearing. The IOUs bear a date from 1986.
2	Mirela Stan has been missing for nine days. The parliament’s administration brings the stamp date forward to Monday. Red File.
3	An old woman in Berceni finds flowers in front of her door on every birthday, without a card. Her grandson is a journalist and asks questions.
4	A surveyor lays all the plan versions of the Palace of the Parliament on top of each other. Since then there has been knocking in his wall at night.
5	In a Lisbon hospital an extension that does not exist rings at night. The new night nurse picked up.
6	The Registry wants to apply Protocol Sealing in a barracks. The cell is to check beforehand whether someone is behind it. The appointment at the building authority is Monday, 09:00.

The Ferry

"At 07:52 the ship shook. The water lay as still as a pond. The man next to me coughed up seawater, on a dry deck."

Nebelhorn, Shadow Officer, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0126

Origin and Family	The Shifted, The Fused
Form	Place. The ship changes, the place stays: the fairway off the Maiden's Tower
Role	Leader
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) at 07:52. Maddening (4) for anyone who reads their own name on the list
File Colour	Black since 2011, Grey before that
Frequency	Unique
Mind	None. The people on board: Human
Regions	North Africa and the Middle East. Istanbul, the Bosphorus between Kadıköy and Karaköy
First Sighting	18 December 1999, 07:41, city ferry from Kadıköy to Karaköy in thick fog. Report by an engineer: "A second ship inside our ship"
Last Confirmed Sighting	9 February 2026, fog, visibility 150 m. One passenger missing
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 2011, missing. For eleven days his name stood on a list from 1937

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	In the middle of a diesel ferry: coal smoke, hot engine oil, wet wool and lemon kolonya.
Sound	Below deck a reciprocating steam engine pounds. The ship's own foghorn is answered by a steam whistle, from inside the ship itself.
Temperature	In some places on board it is as cold as January. You can see your breath, and one step further on you cannot.
Light	The lights on board turn yellow, as if from old bulbs. In the fog beside the hull lies the shadow of a second hull, at an angle to one's own.
Readings	The traffic control radar shows the ferry twice, two echoes in the same place, rotated 11 degrees against each other. The GPS jumps back and forth by 30 m. Mobile phones lose the network.
Animals	The gulls stay behind at the Maiden's Tower and circle, screaming, over an empty spot in the water.
Devices	Phone cameras do not film the old deck. The video shows only fog, but the voices and the whistle are there.
Traces and Residue	After the crossing, puddles of salt water on dry seats. Kuruş coins from 1937, mint-fresh and wet. Newspaper pages from the morning of 22 January 1937, freshly printed.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Precognitive gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from on board gets −1 die and often does not get through.

Result	What the File Says
0	A ghost ship, a case for the Dead, see The Passengers in the Threat Atlas. You tell the people of 1937 that they are dead, and then they leave the ship. Salt and light help.
1	In thick fog every ship on the route off the Maiden's Tower fuses with steam ferry No. 64, sunk on 22 January 1937 after a collision, 83 dead. The fusion ends at 07:52. The people of 1937 are Echoes. Danger only to passengers who sit down in an Echo's seat.
2 to 3	Protocol Afterdeck, as of 1999: during a fusion an empty deck appears aft. Lead passengers there, away from the crush of Echoes, and keep them calm there until 07:52. The crews are trained in this. Losses since 1999: twelve people gone overboard, all in fog. Assessment: panic in the crush.
4 or more	The newspaper list of the 83 dead in the archive differs from the 1962 transcript. After each disappearance, that person's name stands in 83rd place for a few days, then once more "Hilmi, tanner, Balat". A dead man without a surname, three years after the Surname Law. Note clipped to it: "He is missing. That is why she comes back." Below: "Why black? Don't ask."

What Is True

On 22 January 1937 steam ferry No. 64 casts off from Kadıköy at 07:34, in thick fog, with 214 people on board. At 07:52, level with the Maiden's Tower, a freighter rams her. She sinks in four minutes. The next day the newspapers print the names of 83 dead. One of them was never on board. Hilmi, a tanner from Balat, 31, had missed the ferry, read his name in the paper and let it stand. He had debts, and he lived in Izmir as Hilmi Soylu until 1971. Ever since, No. 64 has been one dead man short, and she comes back to fetch him.

In fog with visibility under 200 m, every ship on this route between 07:34 and 07:52 fuses with No. 64. The hulls lie inside each other, rotated by 11 degrees, and the ship falls into three parts. **The new part** belongs only to today. **The shared part** belongs to both times: here stand the people of 1937, alive. It is their morning. They read the paper, feel the cold and wonder at the strangely dressed people among them. **The old part** juts out over the water and looks solid. It belongs only to 1937.

At 07:52 the freighter comes. Whoever stands in the old part sinks with No. 64, and afterwards one of them stands in 83rd place for a few days. Whoever stands in the shared part drowns on dry land until they reach the new part. It also works the other way round: a person from 1937 who stands in the new part at 07:52 stays here. For that, someone from today must stand in the old part. The list keeps its 83.

Whoever has been taken once sails with her. In every fog they stand on board again, alive for eighteen minutes.

The 83 can only be saved one at a time, and only in exchange for a person from today. **Shut down:** no ferry sails in fog. Fishing boats and yachts sail anyway. **Exchange:** one person from 1937 for one from today. The only rescue for the 83, and every time it needs a victim, knowing or not. **Bring Hilmi on board:** his bones lie in Izmir under a name his grandchildren believe is real. If they lie in the old part at 07:52, the list is true. No. 64 sinks one last time, and with her, for ever, the 83 and everyone she has taken. Whoever sees their daughter again for eighteen minutes every foggy morning loses her a second time. Whoever carries the bones must be out again before 07:52.

The 2026 case: on 9 February the fog catches a ferry under way. The crew leads the passengers aft, as trained. Most prefer to stay inside. Defne Yalçın, 26, a student, follows the instruction. Three days later her father Murat finds her name in a newspaper from 1937, at an antiquarian bookshop in Kadıköy. A week after that, Hilmi stands there again. Since then Murat has been asking questions.

Wrong in the File: No. 64 is not a case for the Dead. The people of 1937 are not Echoes; they are living their morning, and whoever tells them they are dead reaps only fear. The danger is not in occupied seats but in the deck. What is lethal is Protocol Afterdeck. It leads the passengers into precisely the part of the ship that belongs only to 1937. The twelve missing did not go overboard. Most of them were taken there by the crews themselves.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	None. The ferry acts at 07:34 and at 07:52
Attack	At 07:52 the collision. Whoever stands in the old part sinks with No. 64 and is gone. Whoever stands in the shared part drowns on dry land: 2 damage per round, armour does not count, until they reach the new part. Getting there across the tilting deck: DEX + Athletics against Doable (2)
Defence / Armour / HP	Invulnerable. Whoever shoots at No. 64 hits 1937
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the first conversation with a person from 1937. Horrifying (3) at 07:52. Maddening (4) on seeing one's own name on the list
Special	The boundaries of the three parts are invisible. Recognising them: WIS + Perception against Hard (3), with a thermal camera against Doable (2), because the old part is colder. If the ship leaves the fog before 07:52 (DEX + Piloting against Very Hard (4)), the hulls separate earlier; whoever stands in the old part is gone all the same. The people of 1937: stats of witnesses, no attack
Weakness	Hilmi. If his bones lie in the old part at 07:52, No. 64 never comes back
Behaviour	Comes in every fog and takes every ship on the route. For every person from 1937 who stays in the new part, one from today sinks

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Fishing Boat (2008)	A 9 m cutter fuses with a 58 m ferry. Almost all of it is old part. The only safe place is the outline of one's own boat, in the middle of a steamer full of people. Finding one's own gunwale in the fog: WIS + Perception against Very Hard (4). The fisherman Kemal Aras shouted the boat's dimensions to his son. The son still stood on the list for five days. Since then Kemal has gone out in every fog to wave to him.
The Tanker (2019)	A tanker trying to get through before the fog closure crosses the route at 07:40. No. 64 lies entirely inside its hull. The people of 1937 stand in the engine room, up to their knees in oil. Nine-year-old Ayşe from 1937 stayed in the engine room and went ashore three days later in a Black Sea port. Since then a sailor has been listed as gone overboard. The Registry is still looking for Ayşe.

Cover-Up

The city ferries do not sail in thick fog anyway; an insurer owned by O.D.I.N. keeps the limit at 200 m visibility. The missing are listed as gone overboard, and the coastguard searches for three days. Since 2011 the newspapers of 23 January 1937 in the city libraries have been "under restoration".

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Fog is forecast for tomorrow morning. A chartered ferry is sailing anyway: a wedding party of 300 guests who want to photograph the sunrise.
2	Murat Yalçın has found his daughter's name in a newspaper from 1937. He photographed it and sent it to a journalist.
3	A woman hires a fishing boat in every fog and has herself taken to the Maiden's Tower. She says she is visiting her son.
4	In Izmir an old cemetery is to make way for a road. One grave bears the name Hilmi Soylu, 1906 to 1971. His grandchildren want him reburied.
5	An antiquarian in the Grand Bazaar sells Kuruş coins from 1937, mint-fresh and wet. He buys them from a sailor.
6	The handler gives the cell the photo of the agent who disappeared in 2011 and says: "If you see him on board, talk to him. Ask him what he had on him."

The Giant Deer

"We kept the engine running, like the file said. He didn't attack us. He attacked the car. We were just sitting in it."

Reet, Veteran, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0143

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Out-of-Time Animals
Form	Being
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Disturbing (2)
File Colour	Grey. Red since 14 August 2026, after the death of an excavator driver
Frequency	Rare
Mind	Animal
Regions	British Isles: cut-away raised bogs of the Irish Midlands, Isle of Man. Russia and Belarus: peat fields in the Urals
First Sighting	22 August 1968, Blackwater Bog near Shannonbridge, County Offaly, Ireland. Report by a bog railway driver to the Garda: "a horse carrying a garden gate on its head"
Last Confirmed Sighting	14 August 2026, Blackwater Bog. Reversing camera of an excavator, one dead. Case open, Red File
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, dead (19 August 1988). One hire car

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Rutting smell, sharp with urine and musk, carrying 100 m on the wind. Beneath it wet chalk: the marl he stands on.
Sound	A bellow so deep you feel it in your ribcage more than you hear it. Car windows hum along. Outside the rut, breaking birches and antlers striking branches.
Temperature	On his nights hip-high ground fog lies over the open marl, 7 degrees cold, even after a day of 22 degrees. The dew tastes of snow.
Light	Whoever takes a long exposure of the night sky near him does not find the celestial pole at the Pole Star. The stars turn around a point near Vega.
Readings	Within 200 m a compass is off by a few degrees. Hair, droppings and blood give a radiocarbon age below zero. To detectors he is as invisible as any other deer.
Animals	Cattle at the edge of the bog crowd into the farthest corner of the pasture. Dogs howl low, as at a siren.
Devices	Nothing malfunctions. He is an animal and sets off camera traps. In most pictures only the head is missing.
Traces and Residue	Hoofprints as large as a horse's hoof. Fraying marks on birches more than 2 m up. In March a freshly cast antler, 18 kg, with blood on the burr.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Antiquarian gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A red deer escaped from a deer farm, very large, turned into a legend. Shy, avoids people. Whoever is sent to Ireland in summer is on holiday.
1	A giant deer, extinct in Ireland for about 13,000 years. Shoulder height over 2 m, antlers up to 3.5 m. Appears on cut-away bogs. Dangerous only during the red deer rut, late September to October; otherwise observation without restrictions.
2 to 3	Protocol Observation, as of 1988: only from inside a closed vehicle. Keep the engine running so as to be able to drive off at any time. Headlights off, light provokes him (finding after the loss of 19 August 1988). He does not leave the bog. Radiocarbon sample from hair 1989 unusable, laboratory contaminated.
4 or more	Addendum 2022: seen only where the lake marl lies exposed beneath the peat, more often since the rewetting. Shot by a farmer in 1974. In August 1975 three came. Note on a carbon copy, no initials: "Train driver P. D. drives to the north end of the bog every August at night with the engine running. He won't say why. No deaths since 1989. No locomotive has run since 2021."

What Is True

The giant deer is an animal of flesh, a good 600 kg, from a time about 13,000 years ago, when the Irish Midlands were shallow lakes among birches and grass. The lakes silted up, and peat grew on their beds, about a millimetre a year. For seven decades the state peat company Bord na Móna milled it away and burned it in power stations. Where the millers struck the pale lake marl, the ground of his time lies under the sky again.

This ground is the anchor. Where it lies open, two times stand on the same ground. The deer does not wander. He stands where he always stood. In January 2021 Bord na Móna ended peat harvesting, and since then the bogs have been rewetted. That is good for the climate and bad for the seam: shallow water on the marl turns the bog back into the lake he stood beside. Since the spring of 2026 there has been water on the marl at Blackwater, and he comes almost every night.

His rut is earlier than that of red deer, in August. Whatever bellows is a rival, and a diesel engine idling drones like a rival that will not stop. The deer charges until the rival falls silent. Outside the rut he is what the file believes: shy and quiet.

Weapons work. He bleeds and falls to enough bullets. But the fault is the open ground, not the deer. In 1974 a farmer shot him. That left the rutting ground free, and in August 1975 three younger ones came.

The case at Blackwater: Pádraig "Packie" Dolan, 71, drove bog railway locomotives from 1974 to 2020. On 25 August 1987 the deer rammed his peat train in the morning fog, the train jumped the rails, and his colleague Seamus Hynes, 44, was killed. The report says: derailment on wet track. Dolan suspected something, and after the dead German in the hire car in 1988 he was certain. From 1989 he drove a locomotive to the north end of the bog every August at night, left the engine running and waited 300 m away on the railway embankment until it grew light. For thirty-two years, without telling anyone. In 2021 the locomotives were withdrawn. Dolan thought that with no machines in the bog it was over.

Then came the excavators for the embankments. On 14 August 2026 Cathal Mooney, 29, lets his excavator warm up at 05:30 and drinks tea in his car. At 05:52 the reversing camera shows the deer. Mooney gets out and shouts at him, the way you shoo a cow off the road. He dies on the marl. The ecologist Aoife Kilbride, 34, runs the rewetting. The next day Packie Dolan was standing in her office asking for a machine.

A climate project, the pastures at the edge of the bog and a man of 71 all hang on the open marl. **Killing** him is possible, with heavy weapons and patience, and next August the young stags come. **Covering the marl** means giving up the rewetting: Kilbride's life's work, EU funding, and the seam stays closed only as long as no one digs. **Deep flooding**, 2 m of water over the marl, drowns his lakeshore and closes the seam, and the farmers' pastures at the edge of the bog along with it. **Dolan's way** held for thirty-two years: every August a running engine at the north end and a person who waits. Dolan wants to do it again. He is 71.

Wrong in the File: The rut is in August, not in October. Light does not provoke him. The 1989 radiocarbon sample was not contaminated but correct: fresh tissue from a time with more carbon-14 in the air. What is dangerous is Protocol Observation. The running engine is the rival. Whoever sits in the vehicle is sitting inside his rival.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Antlers 5 + 5, damage 5, or forelegs 5 + 4, damage 4
Defence / Armour / HP	2 (large target) / 3 (thick hide, neck mane) / 28
Horror	Disturbing (2) from less than 50 m. Uncanny (1) from afar, when he just stands in the fog
Special	Two actions per round during the rut. With a 10 m run-up the antler charge gains +2 damage, and the target falls; a car is no longer drivable afterwards. Hears an idling diesel engine up to 1 km away. An animal of flesh: weapons have full effect. Never moves more than 30 m from the open marl
Weakness	Silence. If the engine stays silent for two rounds and no one moves, he loses interest. Whoever stands 30 m beyond the marl on peat, asphalt or the old railway embankment is safe
Behaviour	Shy outside the rut. During the rut he attacks whatever bellows: engines, lowing cattle, people who shout at him, hunters with a deer call. He fights until the rival falls silent or he himself falls

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Hind (Isle of Man, 2011)	A hind without antlers, with a calf, in the Ballaugh Curragh in the north of the island, where a new drainage ditch had cut into the marl. Seen by volunteers who count the feral wallabies there. No attack, unless someone gets between her and the calf: then kick 5 + 4, damage 4, two actions per round. Initiative 5, HP 22. In the fog the calf lost its mother. It ate nothing that grows here and died after nine days in a byre in Ballaugh.
The Last One (Urals, 1979)	An old stag from a time about 7,700 years ago, when his kind lived only in the east. Smaller, antlers barely 2 m, emaciated. Attack 4 + 4, damage 4, defence 2, HP 18. In September 1979 he stood on a peat field near Sverdlovsk. The night shift shot him with a shotgun and ate him. The antlers hang in a hunting lodge; in 1992 a foreign service offered O.D.I.N. a photo. None came after him. There was no one who wanted his place.

Cover-Up

The Health and Safety Authority investigates Mooney's death as a workplace accident. Its expert has also worked for O.D.I.N. for years and finds a driver who got caught between track and cab while climbing out; the reversing camera footage is considered damaged. The National Parks and Wildlife Service files residents' reports as escaped farm deer. In 1988 it was a German tourist, killed in an accident in a hire car.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Packie Dolan has driven into the bog at night on a borrowed tractor. It is 16 August. His daughter dials the number a German scientist gave him in 1988.
2	Aoife Kilbride has sent her camera trap pictures to a zoologist in Galway. He has replied: "Where is this? I'm coming tomorrow."
3	In Dublin a cast antler is being auctioned as a bog find. The buyer's expert report: not fossil, cast last spring.
4	A hunting tour operator is offering "Stag rut in the Irish Midlands, August", with a caller who can call in any stag.
5	One morning a farmer finds his tractor overturned at the edge of the cut-away area, the engine still warm. He had left it running overnight because of the weak battery.
6	A foreign service offers antlers from a hunting lodge in the Urals in exchange for a favour. The laboratory dates the antler to an age below zero.

The Guest in the Group Photo

"He stands in the back row of 214 wedding photos. In none of them is he blurred, and in none of them does he smile."

Fixierbad, Veteran, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY

REG-V-0121

Origin and Family	The Shifted, The Untimed
Form	Being
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) when a person ages by decades in a few days
File Colour	Red. Wanted for arrest since his escape in 1997
Frequency	Rare. Three known cases
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe, since 1997 mainly Latin America. Anywhere people marry
First Sighting	16 June 1923, Trieste. Letter from a family doctor to the health authority: a bride had "decayed by twelve years" in the week after her wedding
Last Confirmed Sighting	13 June 2026, a wedding on an estancia near San Antonio de Areco, Buenos Aires Province. Group photo in a family history forum
O.D.I.N. Losses	One guard, 1997, aged by 29 years in seven days, died in 1999 at 43

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Violet pomade, camphor and fresh gauze dressing.
Sound	When someone near him raises a camera, there is a faint hiss and crackle, like flash powder.
Temperature	His skin is always 36.4 °C, in the snow as in the sauna.
Light	In every photo he is pin-sharp, even in motion, even with a long exposure. Whoever stands beside him looks older in the picture than they are. A week later it is true.
Readings	Pulse 64, temperature 36.4 °C. The medical reports from 1968 and 1997 are identical down to the decimal place. Hair and nails do not grow. Crystal detector calm.
Animals	Dogs meant to be in the picture with him run away before the shutter clicks.
Devices	The autofocus of every camera focuses on him, even at the edge of the frame. A mobile phone's face recognition assigns him photos from 1931.
Traces and Residue	Under his shirt, three gunshot wounds, one from the Isonzo in 1916, two from Vienna in 1968. They do not bleed and do not heal. Gauze dressings in hotel waste bins.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Antiquarian gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A wedding crasher who has been sneaking into other people's celebrations for decades. Presumably father, son and grandson; the family simply looks alike. Whoever ends up in a photo with him ages. If he is seen at a party, cameras away.
1	Ludvik Mervar, born 1879 in Trieste. One of the Untimed, at a standstill since 1911. He steals lifetime: whoever stands in a photo with him ages, and he stays young in return. Do not photograph, do not pose with him. Polite, educated, an excellent liar.
2 to 3	Arrested in Vienna in 1968, hit twice in the process; he got up again. Protocol Photo Ban, as of 1968: accommodation without cameras, without ID photos, without mirrors in the visitors' room. Under the ban he harmed no one for 29 years. Incident 1997: during a transfer, contrary to regulations, a photo was taken of him with the guard. The guard aged by 29 years in seven days. Assessment: the ban works. It is to be reapplied immediately upon arrest.
4 or more	Margin note by the doctor, 1997: "29 years of the ban, 29 years aged. We protected no one. We saved it up." Statement by Mervar, 1968, filed as not credible: in 1911 he sat for a photographer in Trieste who died during the exposure. "The camera is still open." Search for the studio in 1969 without result. Beneath it, in a different hand: "The Rieger studio had two cameras. The widow kept one."

What Is True

On 14 March 1911 Ludvik Mervar, 32, a customs officer, is sitting in Emil Rieger's studio in Trieste. The picture is for his fiancée. The light is poor; Rieger takes the cap off the lens for a long exposure and drops dead, his heart. No one puts the cap back on, and as long as the camera is exposing, Mervar stays as he was in that second.

The law of the Untimed applies here too: what one lacks, another carries. Every day that Mervar does not age builds up. The backlog passes on to the next photo, in equal shares to everyone in sharp focus on it with him, and arrives within seven days. Only photos taken deliberately count, not surveillance cameras or videos. Mervar learned this in 1923: for twelve years he had let no one photograph him, then on the morning of her wedding he stood alone before the camera with his sister Nevenka. She received all twelve years.

Since then he has spread it out. Weddings, class reunions, tour groups: as many people as possible, as often as possible. A wedding with 120 guests every two weeks gives each of them just under three hours. He calls it decency. The guests never notice. After a month without a photo he grows restless, after a year desperate.

The camera still exists. Irma Rieger, the widow, found her husband on the floor and stepped in front of the lens to put the cap on. She never put it on: from that moment she too has not aged, and she understood faster than Mervar. In 1924 she walled the camera up in the cellar of her house in the San Giacomo quarter, open. She still lives there (see Subtypes).

There are four ways. The best costs a life or a great many years. **Close it:** cap on the lens. Then everyone the camera holds is hit by their backlog all at once, and afterwards they age normally. For Mervar, fresh from a wedding, that is a gift: he becomes mortal, and he wants nothing else. For Irma it is 115 years. She crumbles. **Spread it, then close it:** Irma's backlog must first go onto a photo. With 115 people on it, each gets one year; with 1,380, each gets one month. The cell must decide who stands in this picture and whether they know it. **The ban:** the file's way. It harms no one, until the next photo. **Kill him:** impossible. At 0 HP he collapses and stays down, awake.

The 2026 case: Valeria Sosa, 38, a family historian from Rosario, has found in the albums of Italian immigrants 40 wedding photos from 1924 to 2026, from Trieste, Genoa and Buenos Aires, with the same man in the back row. She posted them in a forum. The next morning there was a reply in her inbox, in a very old, very polite Spanish: "Please don't. They will lock me up, and then someone will pay for it."

Wrong in the File: He is one man, not three. He does not steal time, he gives it away, and he keeps the damage as small as he can. His statement about the camera is true. What is dangerous is Protocol Photo Ban: it prevents nothing, it saves up. Every day of the ban is a day for the next person who ends up in a picture with him.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	9 mm pistol 4 + 3, damage 3. Never shoots first, and then at the legs

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 / 12
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the cell recognises him in photos from different decades. Horrifying (3) at the sight of a person who ages by decades in days
Special	Whoever is in sharp focus with him in a deliberately taken photo takes on, in equal shares, all the days since his last photo, within seven days. The photo shows it at once. Wounds do not bleed and do not heal; at 0 HP he does not die. Deception, Etiquette and Disguise 5 + 4. Speaks eight languages, three of them in forms no one uses any more
Weakness	The camera. If the lens is closed, his backlog hits him all at once, and afterwards he ages normally
Behaviour	Flees, lies, negotiates. No violence against bystanders. Fears the photo ban more than death. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2) if the cell promises him the camera, otherwise against Very Hard (4)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Widow (1911)	Irma Rieger, 29 since 1911, lives in her house in Trieste as her own great-niece and forges her papers every thirty years. Since 1911 she has never been photographed. Her backlog amounts to 115 years and is growing. Whoever ends up alone with her in a photo crumbles within a week. No attack, defence 2, HP 6. Her weapon is the cell itself: whoever takes evidence photos in her house had better know who is in them. She wants the camera kept open and knows that Mervar is looking for it.
The Woman from the Photo Booth (1979)	Mireille Dewulf, 24, sat down in a photo booth at Antwerpen-Centraal station in May 1979. After the third flash the machine jammed; the fourth never came. The booth stands in a collector's storeroom in Ghent, without power, and is still exposing. Mireille is 71 and since 2012 has had the same face in hundreds of thousands of selfies with fans. Seventy a day give each a good 20 minutes. No attack, HP 7. Almost comical. Until someone locks her phone.

Cover-Up

The forum gets an explanation: an artist from Montevideo has been editing himself into other people's wedding photos for years, and an art blog shows the "working files". According to the doctor's letter, the guard of 1997 died of Werner syndrome, a real premature ageing disease. Whoever has aged like that since then gets the same diagnosis and a pension through an insurance company owned by O.D.I.N.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A family historian from Rosario sends 40 wedding photos from 1924 to 2026. The same man, back row, always sharp.
2	The cell is to arrest him and place him under the photo ban. He asks for a group photo with everyone, beforehand. He says it is a favour to the next person.
3	A bridal couple come back from their honeymoon. Both are grey at the temples. In the photo in front of the church there were only the two of them and a friendly gentleman no one had invited. He said he had not been in a photo for years.
4	A house in Trieste is to be sold. The owner, 29 according to the registration office, will not let the estate agent into the cellar and wants no photos of the house.
5	In a wedding photo from 1966, a small child with a posy stands beside him. It is the cell's handler.
6	An influencer from Antwerp has had the same face for 14 years. Three weeks ago her account was blocked. Today, on the tram, she asks a stranger for a photo with her.

The Man in the Wall

"He told me to turn the music down. Then he wanted to know how Coventry did. Then he asked for tea, with a straw."

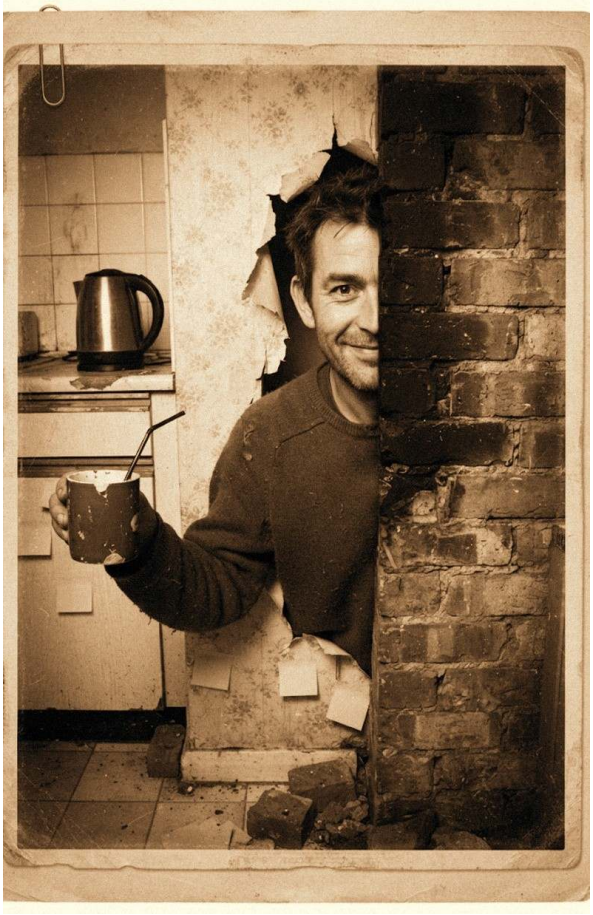
Richtschnur, Cadet, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0123

Origin and Family	The Shifted, The Fused
Form	Being. Person and masonry are one in him
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) in the night of 14 to 15 November
File Colour	Grey. Red in the night of 14 to 15 November and as soon as someone wants to open the wall
Frequency	Rare. Seven known cases in Europe
Mind	Human
Regions	British Isles, Central and Western Europe. Cities that were bombed in the war and rebuilt on the old foundations. Isolated cases in the high mountains
First Sighting	15 November 1964, 06:40, Hillfields, Coventry. A neighbour's call to the police: a man was "stuck in the kitchen wall and talking nonsense"
Last Confirmed Sighting	15 November 2025, the same flat, annual check
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 1983, burned to death while opening the wall. A second has carried brick splinters in his right hand ever since

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Coal smoke, wet plaster, scorched wallpaper paste. His breath smells of brick dust.
Sound	From the wall, very quietly and without pause, the wail of an air raid siren. In the night before 15 November, also the drone of aircraft engines that do not run in sync.
Temperature	The wall around him is warm, 31 °C, as if a stove were burning behind it. In the night before 15 November it burns anyone who touches it.
Light	Around him a different pattern shows through the wallpaper, as if soaked through: rose tendrils from 1930. By torchlight, sooty brick gleams beneath it.
Readings	According to the plan the wall is 12 cm thick. Ground-penetrating radar measures 34 cm and behind it a cavity that does not exist. Every clock on this wall stops at 19:20 after a few days.
Animals	Cats sleep against the wall because it is warm. Dogs bark at it and will not go into the kitchen.
Devices	A radio on the worktop finds, between the stations, a calm male voice announcing blackout times.
Traces and Residue	Every morning a little heap of red brick dust on the tiles. A mug with a straw, a stack of sports pages, the flatmates' sticky notes: "Leonard: no radio after eleven."



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Engineer or Physicist gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A haunt from the war, an air raid warden or some such. Salt on the wall, set up an EMF detector, do not answer when he talks. Whoever listens to him gets nightmares.
1	The Fused: a person and an object from different times in the same place that have become one. The Man in the Wall is an isolated case in Coventry, alive, harmless and talkative. He does not age, does not eat, sleeps little. Active only in the night before 15 November. Grey case, annual check.
2 to 3	Protocol Excavation, as of 1983: remove the wall around the body with core drill and chisel, from the outside in, by daylight, fire extinguishers ready. The attempt of 3 May 1983 was broken off after a fire in the flat, one agent dead. Cause presumably a gas pipe behind the wall. New attempt recommended, with the gas turned off.
4 or more	X-ray 1984: in the chest and left shoulder, broken brick with the stamp of a brickworks that closed in 1941. The house dates from 1956. Mortar in the left lung. Witness statement 1983: before the fire, sirens and aircraft, in broad daylight; there was never a gas pipe on this wall. Margin note: "He says his left eye looks into a kitchen from 1940. He says they are still sitting at the table."

What Is True

In the night of 14 to 15 November 1940 the German Luftwaffe attacked Coventry, from about 19:20, when the first bombs fell, until the all-clear at 06:15. Hillfields burned. In the fifties the city built new blocks of flats on the old foundations, with walls in different places. The old walls are not entirely gone. They still stand, in the minute of 19:20 that never came to an end. Where old and new walls cross, there is a seam.

Every night before 15 November, the old time runs on. The old walls shimmer through the new ones, hot, with soot and flames behind them. At 06:15 they spring back into their minute. Whoever is standing then where an old wall stood stays stuck in it.

Leonard Hollis, 34, bus conductor and tenant of the flat since 1956, was standing at the kitchen window with the kettle at 06:15 on 15 November 1964. Early shift. Since then his left half has been stuck in a wall from 1940. The right half, his face up to the nose, his right arm, one leg, is in our time. He does not age. The half in the old wall holds him in its minute. With his left eye he sees a kitchen with a blackout blind, a woman and two children at the table, a candle whose flame has not moved in 62 years. In his left ear he hears the siren.

He is in excellent spirits. Through the masonry he hears every conversation in the block and knows who is ill and who is lying. He comments on the music of the students O.D.I.N. lodges there, and drinks tea through a straw. His wife had him declared dead in 1971. He has never seen his son Michael, born in 1965.

The danger is the night before 15 November. At 06:15 anyone standing on an old wall line fuses, and the lines run through four flats. The second danger is in the file. Whoever breaks open the old wall at any other time opens the minute, and out of it comes the night. The 14th of November 1940 enters the kitchen: smoke, heat, incendiary bombs falling through a ceiling they do not pierce. That is how an agent died in 1983. Leonard has kept a piece of the night: brick in his chest, mortar in his lung.

The cell has three ways left. **Leave him:** every year clear the buildings, mark the lines with tape and bring Leonard tea. Everything stays as it is. **Pull him out:** at 06:15, for one heartbeat, the old wall is not there, not around him either. Whoever pulls him out then has him free. Afterwards he is 96, with the body of a 34-year-old, broken brick in his chest and no one left whom he knows. He says he does not want that. He says it often. **Break it open:** the file's way. It kills him and everyone in the kitchen.

Wrong in the File: Leonard is not a haunt and not an Echo from the war, but a living man from 1964. He is not an isolated case. He is stuck in the wall not one night a year but always, and it is always warm. What is dangerous is Protocol Excavation: behind the wall there is no gas pipe, but the 14th of November 1940.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	1
Attack	None. With his right hand Brawling 2 + 2, no damage, holds on. Whoever is held by him at 06:15 while standing on an old wall line fuses with him
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 1 / 6. The half in the wall cannot be hit
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the first conversation. Horrifying (3) when the old walls burn in the night before 15 November

Value	Details
Special	Does not age, needs neither food nor water. Hears every conversation in the building through the masonry: Perception 3 + 4 for everything that happens in the building. In the night before 15 November, whoever touches an old wall suffers 2 damage per round from heat. If the old wall is opened at any other time, the flat burns until 06:15: 3 damage per round for everyone inside, an incendiary bomb every ten minutes (damage 3, Fire, Area 2)
Weakness	The heartbeat at 06:15. Pulling him out with STR + Athletics against Hard (3), co-operation allowed. Whoever stands on an old line while doing so fuses themselves
Behaviour	Talks, mocks, gossips, wants tea and the Coventry City results. Does not want to come out, he says. Can be persuaded with CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), against Doable (2) if his son asks him to

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Sleeper in the Floorboards (1998)	Rotterdam, Kralingen. The old floor of a house destroyed on 14 May 1940 lay 40 cm higher than the new one. Wouter Verhagen, 29, was having a midday nap in his bed on the anniversary when the old floor came. Since then he has lain on his back in floorboards that do not exist, face and hands above the carpet. No attack, HP 5. Whoever sleeps in this room dreams of midday on 14 May 1940 and wakes with burn blisters. His tenant calls him "the Rug" and reads to him in the evenings.
The Woman in the Rock (1994)	The Dolomites. A detonation in the mountain war of 1917 blew away a rock ridge. The old rock appears for one hour on every anniversary. A climber, Anna Kostner, 31, was standing on the ledge beneath it in 1994. For 32 years she has been standing with her back in rock that only she has, above 300 m of air. No attack, armour 4 (rock), HP 7. Mountain guides bring her water and newspapers. Whoever wants to pull her out must hang on a rope in front of her on the anniversary, when the old ridge is blown up once more.

Cover-Up

The flat belongs to O.D.I.N. through a front company and is let for very little rent to students who sign a confidentiality clause. Every 14 November the gas network operator clears the block because of a leak; the people in the van outside the door are from the Tactical Branch. The fire of 1983 appears in the files of the West Midlands Fire Service as a gas explosion.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The housing association wants to renovate the kitchens in the block. The building crew arrives on Monday, with a hammer drill and a core drilling rig.
2	A student has posted a video online: "My flatmate lives in the wall." 40,000 views. Everyone takes it for a mask and make-up, except for one comment from a care home in Coventry: "That's Leonard Hollis. He still owes me five shillings."
3	Michael Hollis, 61, is looking for his father, who disappeared in 1964. An old neighbour gave him the address and told him to bring tea.
4	It is 14 November, shortly before midnight. A new family has moved into the neighbouring flat, and the cot stands on an old wall line.
5	In Rotterdam a man lies in the floorboards. His tenant is moving out, and the new owner wants underfloor heating.
6	Leonard says the woman in the 1940 kitchen turned her head today. For the first time in 62 years. She is looking at him.

The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab

"He sits on your chest and says: Wake up. That's the worst of it. You want to."

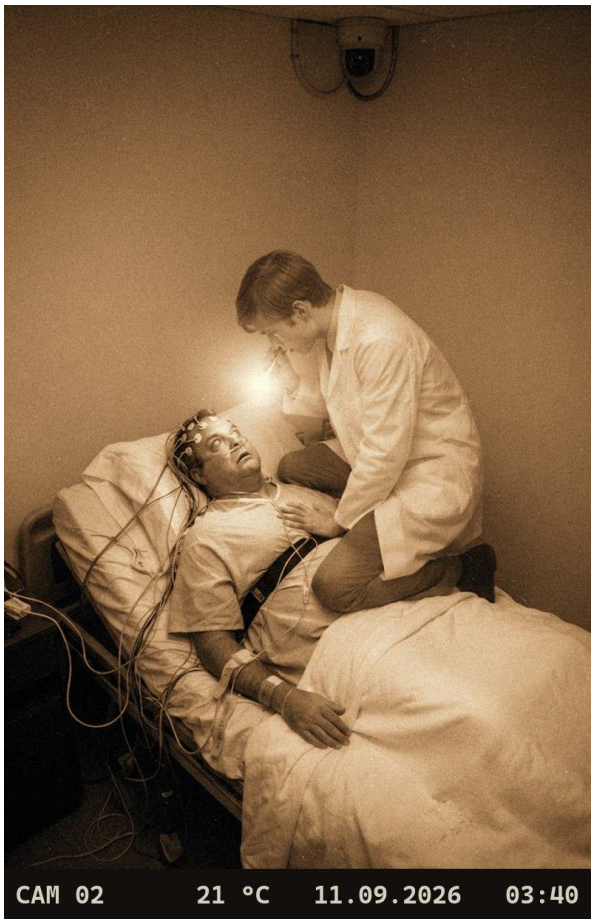
Mohn, Senior Agent, Psionic Core

REGISTRY REG-V-0137

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Dream Walkers
Form	Infestation. He sits in sleepers, never in the waking
Role	Leader, Creature
Horror	Horrifying (3)
File Colour	Black, since 1979
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Alien. He is made of broken-off dreams and speaks a single sentence
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Perugia, Umbria, within a few hundred metres of his anchor
First Sighting	3 March 1976, Perugia, university hospital. Complaint by a cardiology patient: a male nurse with a torch sat on her chest at night. According to the duty roster, no one was on the ward
Last Confirmed Sighting	11 September 2026, Perugia, sleep laboratory of the new hospital. Infrared image from patient monitoring, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, 1979, died in their sleep. Further details restricted

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Ether and warm paper. The ether comes from collodion, the old electrode glue.
Sound	A steady scratching, like pen nibs on paper. Then a young man's voice, quietly: "Si svegli, signorina." Wake up.
Temperature	On the sleeper's chest a cold imprint of two knees. The thermal camera still shows it half an hour later.
Light	Shortly before the visitation the beam of a torch passes under the door. There is no one outside.
Readings	The EEG of the visited person shows waking waves and the muscle atonia of REM sleep at the same time. A channel with no electrode records REM sleep as well. An EMF detector measures only the hum of the equipment.
Animals	Cats sit at the foot of the bed and stare at the chest. Dogs wake their people by barking, the worst thing they can do.
Devices	Alarm clocks within his reach jump to 03:40 at night. Baby monitors transmit two breaths where only one person breathes.
Traces and Residue	Knee-sized bruises on the ribs. In the bed, narrow scraps of EEG chart paper with a faint zigzag line.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Precognitive gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	An Alp, called Pantafica in the Abruzzo. A pentagram on the door, salt on the windowsill, a broom beside the bed. He frightens, but he does not kill.
1	Dream Walkers come into the world through sleep. This one sits on sleepers' chests; they wake paralysed and cannot breathe. Wake the afflicted at once as soon as their breathing falters. Everyone woken in time has survived.
2 to 3	Origin: a dream deprivation experiment in the sleep laboratory of the Perugia university hospital, November 1975. The Dream Walker is bound to the laboratory and reaches sleepers within a radius of about 1,500 m. Protocol Night Watch, as of 1976: within this radius, have every sleeper the hospital can reach monitored, and wake them if their breathing stops. The test subject of 1975 is not involved and is not to be disturbed.
4 or more	Addendum 1979: the anchor is the chart paper of the experiment nights. It lay in an O.D.I.N. archive for eleven weeks, then went back to the university, and the file turned black. Further details restricted. Written on the file cover in fountain pen: "Range 1976: 1,480 m. Range 1979: 2,310 m. We are waking him bigger."

What Is True

In November 1975 Chiara Marinelli, 19, a medical student, signed up for an experiment in the sleep laboratory, for 10,000 lire a night. Five nights of dream deprivation, following an American protocol from 1960: as soon as the EEG showed REM sleep, the night assistant Sandro Bellucci, 23, woke her with a torch and a hand on her shoulder. "Si svegli, signorina." Twelve times the first night, then 19, 27, 38 and 51 times. On the sixth night she was allowed to sleep through and dreamed violently, as after every deprivation. At 03:40 her heart raced, and Bellucci woke her one last time.

Every broken-off dream leaves a tiny remnant, which fades within a night. 148 remnants in six nights did not fade. They found each other, in a place beside the sleep of everyone who sleeps nearby. What formed there has the shape of the one who broke them off 148 times: a young man in a white coat with a torch. He means no harm. He only wants to dream his dreams to the end, and for that he needs sleepers.

He sits on the chest of a person in REM sleep and dreams one of his remnants to the end inside them, for about twenty minutes. The sleeper half wakes, paralysed, sees him and can barely breathe. If the sleeper sleeps through, one remnant has been dreamed to the end, and the Nightmare grows smaller. If the sleeper is woken, the Nightmare grows by the broken-off dream, and his range by ten metres. His anchor is the chart paper of the six nights: ten millimetres per second, 288 m per night, 1,728 m in total on 5,760 pages in six cardboard boxes.

In three years Protocol Night Watch woke him from 148 to 231 remnants. What happened in the archive in 1979 is in the black file. Chiara Marinelli has not dreamed since 1975. She became a sleep physician and has run the sleep laboratory since 1998. In 2008 she took the six boxes with her to the new hospital. Since then she has let her patients sleep through. The night nurses may wake no one before their oxygen saturation drops below her threshold. More than 200 remnants have dwindled to 26. Her patients have sleep apnoea, the weakest sleepers of all. Two have died, in December 2025 and in June 2026, both on nights when she was on duty. She believes the last remnant will be the one from the sixth night. She wants to dream that one to the end herself.

Each of the 26 remnants wants to be dreamed to the end, no matter in whom. **Waking:** no one dies tonight. The Nightmare grows every night. **Letting them sleep through:** Chiara's way. He grows smaller, and for the sick a visitation can be their last night. If Chiara sleeps unwoken beside the paper, all the remnants return into her in a single night. She is 70 and has a weak heart. **Burning:** the fire breaks off all the remnants at once. Whoever is asleep within range wakes with one of them and carries it on, and one Nightmare becomes many. The paper can only be burned safely where no one sleeps within 260 m. Chiara will not give it up.

Wrong in the File: He is not an Alp; salt and pentagram do nothing to him. He is not bound to the laboratory but to the paper, and he moved with it. The test subject is not uninvolved. She is his origin and today his keeper. What is dangerous is Protocol Night Watch: every waking makes him bigger. O.D.I.N. itself woke him to the range of 1979.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	6
Attack	Visitation: he sits on the chest of a sleeper in REM sleep, about 20 minutes. The sleeper rolls CON + Endurance three times against Doable (2), with sleep apnoea against Hard (3); each failure costs 3 HP, armour does not count. In the dream: Weight 5 + 5, damage 5, armour does not count, two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 26, as of September 2026. Vulnerable only in the dream
Horror	Horrifying (3) for everyone he visits: awake, paralysed, a weight on the chest, a torch in the face
Special	Reaches 10 m per HP around his paper. If a visited person sleeps through, he loses 1 HP. If the sleeper is woken, he gains 1 HP, with no upper limit. Whoever wants to fight him must fall into REM sleep within range. In the dream one's own stats apply, and every weapon is whatever one imagines, damage 3. Barbiturates suppress REM sleep: whoever takes them is safe and useless
Weakness	The chart paper. Salt, silver and pentagram have no effect. Chiara Marinelli: if she sleeps unwoken beside the paper, all the remnants return into her
Behaviour	Comes between 02:00 and 05:00, when REM sleep lasts longest. Seeks out people who get woken: the sick, parents of infants, anyone with an alarm clock. In the dream he can be distracted by telling him a dream to its end: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), then he loses 1 HP and leaves for that night

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Watchkeeper (Baltic, 1966)	Grown from the dreams of a crew woken for watch four-hourly for twenty years. The anchor is the ship itself, a decommissioned destroyer, now a museum ship. He wears oilskins and speaks with many young men's voices. Range: the ship only. Weight 4 + 4, damage 3, HP 14. In 2023 a school class slept on board. At 04:00 all 23 children stood on deck and reported themselves relieved.
The New Mother (Helsinki, 1964)	Grown from the dreams of the mothers on a maternity ward, woken every three hours to breastfeed. The anchor is the feeding log with the waking times, now owned by a collector. She does not sit on the chest but on the edge of the bed, rocking something in her arms. No attack, Horror Disturbing (2). Whoever sees her rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2), or gets up and tends to a child who is not there. In 2021 a young father stood barefoot in the snow at 05:00 with a warm bottle of milk.

Cover-Up

Whoever dies, dies of what is in their medical record: nocturnal respiratory arrest with severe sleep apnoea. The health authority USL Umbria 1 investigates and finds nothing. In the university archive stand six boxes, sealed for data protection at O.D.I.N.'s request. Since 2008 they have held only blank paper. Whoever mentions the figure in the laboratory is told: sleep paralysis.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A night nurse from Perugia writes to a sleep laboratory in Bremen whose post the Investigation Branch reads: her boss forbids her to wake patients who have stopped breathing.
2	Sandro Bellucci, 74, has slept with the light on since 1975. He wants to confess, he says, but not to a priest.
3	The new children's ward has opened next to the hospital, 240 m from the sleep laboratory. Every night at 03:40 the infants scream. Red File.
4	At an Umbrian flea market an artist has bought a cardboard box of EEG paper from 1975. Three assistants sleep in her studio.
5	Chiara Marinelli, 70, asks O.D.I.N. for 26 nights without waking. She offers the cell beds in the laboratory.
6	A museum ship on the Baltic is again inviting school classes to stay overnight, the first on Friday.

The Old Child

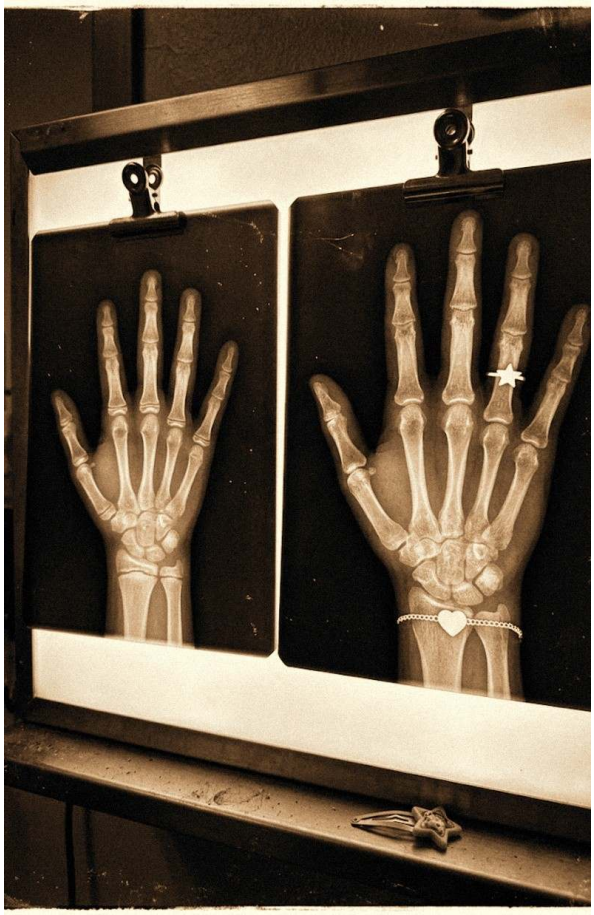
"She asked me whether her mother would still recognise her when she woke up. I didn't know which of the two to look at first."
Lanzette, Agent, Science Branch

REGISTRY — REG-V-0118

Origin and Family	The Shifted, The Untimed
Form	Infestation. The host is the child (listed as a Being until 1998)
Role	Professional
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when it ages in front of witnesses
File Colour	White. Red as soon as someone separates the child from the person at whose bed it sits
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of nine cases
Mind	Human. A child in an adult body
Regions	Eastern Europe, Central and Western Europe. Anywhere a child sits too long at a bedside
First Sighting	October 1887, a parish near Lötzen, Masuria. A pastor's marginal note in the parish register: a boy of nine years "with down on his chin, swapped by the Evil One"
Last Confirmed Sighting	2 September 2026, Miskolc, northern Hungary. Report from a paediatrician, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	No dead. One paramedic aged by ten years in 1974, unfit for duty

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Overripe fruit and warm milk. Whatever the child holds in its hand ripens with it: an apple turns brown in an hour.
Sound	The child breathes fast, even in sleep. The patient cannot be heard breathing; the silence at the bed is denser than in the rest of the room.
Temperature	The child always has a fever, 38.5 °C, and never feels cold. The patient's skin has had the same temperature for years, to the tenth of a degree.
Light	In the sunbeam above the patient's bed hangs dust that does not settle.
Readings	The monitor at the bed shows a single heartbeat that does not end. The child's mechanical wristwatch gains six days every day. The detectors at the bed stay silent.
Animals	The family cat sleeps on the child every night. A kitten four years ago, it is grey around the muzzle today and half blind.
Devices	The mother's mobile phone no longer recognises the child's fingerprint. The hand has grown too big.
Traces and Residue	In the wardrobe, shoes in every size from 31 to 40, none of them worn down. Grey hairs in a brush decorated with rhinestones.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Chronomancer or Psychic Healer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A changeling, it is already recorded as such in the parish registers. Actually belongs to the Old. Iron at the bed, salt on the threshold, do not call the child by its name. Age is contagious: touch only with gloves.
1	The Untimed: people whose time does not run in step with the world. An old child ages about seven years in one year. No known cure, fatal within a few years. White File: accompany, document, shield the family, keep the press away.
2 to 3	In every case a relative lies nearby whose condition does not change: coma, wasting illness. The Registry rates the child as a time sink. It draws time from its surroundings, first from the patient. Protocol Separation, as of 1974: move the child to a distant facility. Klagenfurt case, 1974: the child died of old age in the first night, the mother woke from her coma four days later. Assessment: the separation saved the mother.
4 or more	Addendum 1998, countersigned: series of measurements by the paramedic of 1974. As long as she held the child's hand in the vehicle, it aged half as fast, and she aged with it. In the parish register near Lötzen, grandfather and grandson died on the same evening in 1890. The classification as a Being is revoked. Handwritten note on the back, no initials: "It is not the child that dies of the mother. Ask the child whom it is holding on to. It knows."

What Is True

An old child is holding on to someone. When it thought it was losing them, it held them, and for them time stood still. They do not breathe and do not need to. They cannot be killed: a bullet stays stuck in the skin and only falls out when the child lets go.

The time is not lost. That is the law of all the Untimed: what one lacks, another carries, here the child, with interest. For every day the held person does not live, the child ages a week. The closer the held person was to death, the more expensive it becomes. The child does not know that it is holding on, only that it must not go away.

The hold prevents dying, but also recovery. Whoever is held in a coma cannot wake up. Whether they would have woken up, no one knows.

What the child gains, the held person loses, and the other way round. **Let go:** only the child can do it, and only if it knows the truth. Then whatever would have happened back then catches up with the held person: they die within an hour or wake within a few days. **Share:** whoever holds the child's hand carries the load too. A family that takes turns gives the child years. The held person never wakes up. **Separate:** the protocol in the file. More than 1 km away from the held person, the child ages one year every six minutes. In Klagenfurt only its death broke the hold, perhaps two years too late. **Wait:** the child dies with the body of a 90-year-old, and the hold ends.

The Miskolc case: on 11 November 2022 Réka Fodor, 34, skids off the country road to Eger on black ice. In the ambulance her eight-year-old daughter Zsófia is holding her hand when the emergency doctor says he is losing her. He does not lose her. Since then Réka has lain unchanged in a care home on the edge of town. Zsófi is twelve now and looks like a woman in her mid-thirties. She is older than her mother. The family has lived two streets from the home since 2022. Every day after her home lessons she walks over and holds her mother's hand. Her father Gábor, 44, sits beside her at weekends and holds hers. He looks older than he is. It may also be grief.

What helps: time at the bedside, no uniforms, and the truth in words for a child of twelve. Only one thing can move Zsófi to let go: that the hold also prevents waking up. It is true, and it is the cruellest thing anyone can tell her. After that the game master rolls, and all her life Zsófi will believe that she chose.

Wrong in the File: The child is no changeling, iron and salt do nothing, and gloves do not protect; only letting go does. The time sink is the other way round: the child does not take time, it pays for it. What is dangerous is Protocol Separation. It saves no one. It kills the child within a few hours, and only its death releases the held person.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	None. In a panic Brawling 3 + 3, damage 1 (unarmed). Whoever restrains it ages with it (see Special)
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 9

Value	Details
Horror	Disturbing (2) as soon as the cell grasps that the child is older than the mother. Horrifying (3) when it ages in front of witnesses
Special	Ages one week per day. More than 1 km away from the held person, or in mortal fear for them: one year every six minutes. Dies at a physical age of 90. Whoever holds its hand shares the load: both age half as fast as the child alone. The held person does not change, cannot heal and cannot die
Weakness	Letting go. Then the game master rolls D6: on 1 to 3 the held person dies within an hour, on 4 to 6 they wake within D6 days. The child's years remain
Behaviour	Does not leave the bedside, lies to be allowed to stay. Can be moved to let go with CHA + Persuasion against Very Hard (4), against Hard (3) with the truth about waking up. A Psychic Healer who first takes away its fear lowers the difficulty by one more step

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Old Boy (1887)	Johann Pietrzyk, nine, from a village near Lötzen, held on to his grandfather, who was dying of consumption. The old man stayed awake, in pain, and begged every day to be allowed to die. Whoever is held awake suffers. That costs more: one month per day. Horror Horrifying (3) at the grandfather's bed. HP 6. Johann died of old age in April 1890 at twelve years old, the grandfather on the same evening. The pastor wrote both in the same line.
The Buried One (2021)	Samuel Hudák, eleven at the time, held on to his father, a mountain guide, when an avalanche went over him in the High Tatras on 14 January 2021. The father was never found. He lies unchanged in a shaded gully under six metres of old snow, with air in front of his face. Samuel is 16 now and looks like a man in his early fifties. His mother has leased a hut less than a kilometre below the gully, and he has not been further away since 2021. He always sleeps with his head towards his father. Whoever notices this has a compass. If the father is recovered alive before Samuel lets go, letting go succeeds against Easy (1), and the father wakes up. The only case in the file that can end well. Samuel has a good five years left.

Cover-Up

For school and the authorities, Zsófi has a rare form of progeria, documented by a report from a university hospital in Debrecen that O.D.I.N. wrote, and she is taught at home as a private pupil. The care home belongs to a foundation in Budapest; the staff change every six months and sign a confidentiality clause. The ambulance report from November 2022 has disappeared.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A paediatrician in Miskolc sends a colleague an X-ray of the hand bones. Bone age 35, patient twelve years old. The colleague works for O.D.I.N.
2	A new handler wants to apply Protocol Separation. The transport is booked for Friday. As soon as the vehicle drives off, the file is red.
3	A carer tried one night to release Réka Fodor with a pillow. She lives on. He has resigned and is telling the story in a pub.
4	In spring, mountain rescuers in the High Tatras find a glove in the snow. It is warm.
5	Zsófi asks the cell whether her mother will still recognise her when she wakes up. She wants an honest answer.
6	A family historian asks in a forum whether the entry from 1890 is a clerical error: an old man and his twelve-year-old grandson on the same evening, both "of old age".

The One Opposite

"At the barber's you see yourself from behind for the first time. Some people see someone else as well."

Facette, Veteran, Arcane Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0134

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Mirror Beings
Form	Apparition, as long as it is behind the glass. Being, as soon as it is out
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1), Disturbing (2) for anyone who knew the swapped person before
File Colour	Grey. Red from the swap onwards, because from then on it is a matter of weeks
Frequency	Rare. Three pairs of mirrors still hang, O.D.I.N. has smashed two
Mind	Human
Regions	Latin America, Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe. Anywhere two old mirrors have hung facing each other for decades: barbershops, cafés, lifts, dance halls
First Sighting	18 November 1946, Buenos Aires. Medical record of the Hospital Rawson: a journeyman barber dies of scurvy although he eats oranges every day. His heart is on the right. On an X-ray from 1943 it was on the left
Last Confirmed Sighting	17 August 2026, Madrid, a barbershop in Malasaña. Polaroid taken by the barber, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One agent, 1971. Buried twice

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Shaving soap and bay rum. Beneath it vinegar and newspaper, as with freshly cleaned glass.
Sound	Between the mirrors every word comes back the blink of an eye later. Sometimes it is a different word.
Temperature	At one spot at eye level the glass is as warm as skin, 34 °C, even at night.
Light	The corridor of reflections grows greener and greener, because glass swallows red. Only the seventh has its proper colours again.
Readings	A laser rangefinder held at right angles to the glass measures several metres, a few centimetres more every day. In front of the glass an EMF detector measures nothing unusual.
Animals	Dogs growl at the seventh reflection. The budgerigar in the shop no longer talks to its mirror.
Devices	Mobile phone cameras between the mirrors will not focus. For the swapped person, the face recognition of their phone fails, because the face is reversed.
Traces and Residue	When the glass mists up, something is written on it from the inside, in mirror writing. Fingerprints are not on the glass but behind it, in the silver. On the swapped person, parting, moles and scars are on the other side, and the button placket of his shirt is the wrong way round.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Illusionist gets +1 die. An enquiry by telephone from the field gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A ghost in the mirror. Whoever looks into it too long loses their soul. Cover the mirrors, as is done in houses of mourning, and there will be peace.
1	Mirror Beings dwell between two mirrors that hang facing each other. Whoever looks deep into the corridor of reflections may encounter one. Afterwards the person seems changed and cool. They eat a lot and still lose weight, and after six to ten weeks they die. The being consumes them.
2 to 3	Protocol Blind Glass, as of 1972: find the pair of mirrors and smash one of the panes, from the back. After that the cases end. The affected person cannot be saved; keep them under surveillance until they die, autopsy only by our own pathologists. Findings in all cases: scurvy, emaciation, internal organs reversed. The being reshapes its victims.
4 or more	Addendum 1989: a letter from Buenos Aires, postmarked May 1987, to a cover address of the Registry, in mirror writing. Signature: the codename of the agent who died in 1971. He gives the name of the customer whose face he wears and asks that no one be autopsied before he has been asked. The sender died of scurvy in July 1987. Under the letter, typewritten: "We are autopsying the reflection. Where is the person?"

What Is True

Two mirrors that hang facing each other show a corridor of reflections that loses itself in green. If the same panes hang like that for decades, the corridor becomes a space: a long passage made of reflections. Whoever is inside does not age, does not hunger and has no face of their own.

The only way out is by swapping. If someone outside sits between the panes and looks as far as the seventh reflection, the gazes meet. Whoever was inside steps out, in the body of the one who looked in, and that one goes in. At the barber's this happens when he lifts the hand mirror to show the back of the head.

Whoever comes out is reversed, down to the molecules. His heart is on the right, his enzymes no longer fit our sugar and our protein. He eats and starves as he does. He cannot use vitamin C and has scurvy within a few weeks. Only fat and alcohol nourish him a little.

The best-known pair, Belgian mirror glass, hung from 1909 to 2022 in the Peluquería El Siglo on the Avenida de Mayo. In 1971 O.D.I.N. sent an agent, codename Albatros. He sat in the chair himself. Whoever came out died after nine weeks in O.D.I.N.'s care, and Albatros was buried. O.D.I.N. never got its hands on the shop again. In 1987 Horacio Luján, 41, a bank clerk, sat in the chair. Albatros came out, in Horacio's face, knew what was happening, wrote to the Registry and died in July. Horacio's family buried him as Horacio.

Horacio has been behind the glass since 1987. In 2022 the shop closed, and the heirs sold the mirrors to a barber in Madrid. On 17 August 2026 Marcos Villalba, 34, a sound engineer, had his hair cut there. Out came Horacio. He says "vos", asks about the exchange rate of the austral, does not know the name of Marcos' girlfriend Nerea and drinks olive oil from the bottle. In his head he is 41. His daughter Florencia in Buenos Aires is 41 as well. He has about three weeks left. Marcos is standing behind the glass. When Nerea breathes on the mirror, he writes her name, the wrong way round.

What helps: a cloth over one of the panes. It closes the corridor, and whoever is inside waits in the dark.

There is always someone behind the glass; the cell only decides who. **Swap back:** Horacio sits down once more and looks in. Marcos comes out, as the reflection of a reflection the right way round, healthy, with his heart on the left. Horacio goes back behind the glass until the next person looks in. He must want it, or someone forces him into the chair and holds his head. **Let him go:** Horacio flies to Buenos Aires, sees his daughter and dies in a stranger's body. Marcos stays behind the glass until someone looks in, then he dies in that person's body. **Smash it:** the protocol. Whoever is behind the glass dies without a body. O.D.I.N. has done this twice. No one knows who was behind it.

Wrong in the File: The One Opposite consumes no one. It is itself a person who is starving. The dead are not the ones affected but the ones who came out, and those affected are alive behind the glass. Only the canteen rumour is right: covering helps. What is dangerous is Protocol Blind Glass. Whoever smashes a pane kills the person they want to save.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Straight razor (as dagger) 2 + 2, damage 2. Only attacks when someone tries to force him into the chair

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / as many HP as the body he wears, usually 6 to 10
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a reflection in the corridor looks back. Disturbing (2) for anyone who knows the swapped person and notices that it is not him
Special	Swap: whoever sits between the pair and looks as far as the seventh reflection rolls WIL + Mental Resistance against the 3 + 3 of the one inside. Whoever has fewer successes swaps. Outside, the One Opposite loses 1 HP every week, which no healing replaces; at 0 HP it dies. Medication has no effect or the wrong one
Weakness	A cloth over one of the panes closes the corridor without harming anyone. If a pane breaks, whoever is inside dies. Only a swap back with the one who came out brings the affected person back the right way round
Behaviour	Passes himself off as the affected person and blames everything on memory loss: MAN + Deception 2 + 2. Wants to go home, wants time, drinks a lot. Tells the truth as soon as someone explains to him that he is dying: CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Lift (Milan, 1961)	The car of an office block, two walls mirrored. The swap happens only when the car is stuck between floors, during a power cut or maintenance. The mirrored walls are not two metres apart. Swap 4 + 4, no attack, HP 7. In 2022 a lawyer was stuck for 40 minutes. Out came a woman who asked for the lift boy and counted in lire. The management has covered the mirrors with film. No one peels it off.
The Dance Hall (Riga, 1931)	A ballet studio with two mirrored walls. Here the swap happens only to someone who dances in the mirror exactly the movement that someone inside is dancing. Out comes a dancer who knows every step and no name from today. DEX + Acrobatics 5 + 4, no attack, HP 8. In 2014 it struck a pupil of 16. The dancer died after eight weeks; she practised to the end. The studio has been covered ever since. Every evening the pupil's mother draws the curtain back for one minute and waits.

Cover-Up

In Madrid the Institute of Legal Medicine issues the death certificate: malnutrition due to chronic alcohol abuse. That is even true. The relatives are told of a rare metabolic disease that supposedly displaced the heart, confirmed by a doctor O.D.I.N. pays. An art insurer collects the mirrors for restoration. They never come back.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Nerea does not report her boyfriend missing. After all, he is there. He says "vos" and does not know her name.
2	A barber in Malasaña hangs Polaroids of his customers on the wall. On one of them only one of the reflections is looking into the camera.
3	Florencia Luján, 41, gets a call from Madrid. The man knows the pet name her father gave her. Her father died in 1987. Red File.
4	An O.D.I.N. pathologist has resigned. In his desk lie nine autopsy reports with the word "reversed" and a letter in mirror writing.
5	A Milan office block is getting new lifts. The fitters want to peel the film off the old mirrors.
6	In Riga the ballet studio is to be renovated. The mother of a pupil who was buried in 2014 has chained herself to the curtain.

The Other

"In 1988 I shot a man in his kitchen. The report says it was the right thing to do. I just don't remember why any more."

Kerbe, Shadow Officer, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0104

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Doppelgängers
Form	Being. Two people, one life
Role	Professional
Horror	Disturbing (2), Horrifying (3) when a person vanishes from a photo
File Colour	Red. Usually reported as a Grey File, as a family quarrel or an impostor case
Frequency	Rare
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe. Anywhere people leave: emigrant villages in Asturias, northern Portugal, Podlachia, fishing towns on the North Sea
First Sighting	6 October 1913, Llanes, Asturias. A notary's file: two men with the same name, face and baptismal certificate dispute a house. One comes from Havana. Copied by the Registry in 1957
Last Confirmed Sighting	4 February 2026, a village near Hajnówka, Podlachia. Photo on a social network: two fathers at the breakfast table. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. The file lists five purges (1962 to 1988) and five dead, none of them an agent

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	The hall smells of two men: of cowshed and diesel, and of a washing powder that is not sold here.
Sound	At night a step creaks on the stairs, one the man of the house tore out years ago.
Temperature	Between the two men there is a cool draught, as from an open door. Candle flames on the table lean towards the new arrival.
Light	In photos from the house, one of the two is always blurred. Which one changes from night to night.
Readings	The GPS of a mobile phone jumps between two points in the house, twelve metres apart. In the other version, the barn stood at the second one.
Animals	The farm dog answers to two names. Neither man knows the name the other one calls.
Devices	The mobile phone of the man of the house unlocks with the new arrival's face. Not the other way round.
Traces and Residue	Things from the other version turn up and vanish: a foreign coin in the sugar bowl. In the snow in front of the front door, a track that ends at the door and begins three metres before it.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Profiler gets +1 die, a call from a house in which two identical men are quarrelling gets −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Doppelgänger. Whoever meets their own dies within a year. The Other casts no shadow. Do not speak with him, do not eat with him.
1	A man comes home and finds himself already there. The new arrival is the original; the Other has nested in. The Other knows the original's life but gets details wrong: different scars, different memories. Do not listen to the family; they side with him.
2 to 3	Protocol Purge, as of 1962: after 21 nights the Other can no longer be separated from the original. Before that, get the family out of the house, take the original into protection, neutralise the Other. He is often armed. In five out of five cases no double was left afterwards.
4 or more	Addendum 1989: none of the five reports states where the original went afterwards. The line is empty, in five different handwritings. The dead were buried by their families as husband, father and son. Protocol suspended, not revoked. Added by typewriter: "In 1988 I put him in the car myself, the one we saved. I don't remember what he looked like."

What Is True

Some decisions split a life into two versions: he goes, or he stays. The Registry calls this point the switch. Whoever, years later, takes the road home he would have taken as the one who stayed, steps across the switch at the front door. Inside lives he himself, the man who stayed.

Both are real; neither is a copy. The man of the house has never done anything but live in his house.

The world does not tolerate a person twice for long. After 21 nights under one roof, the version that remains is the one believed in by most of those who sleep in the house with them, and in a tie that of the man of the house. The two men do not count; agents who stay the night in the house do. Whoever doubts counts for neither. Whoever lives in only one version, such as a child born after the switch, grows paler with every night: first in photos, then for dogs, last of all for their own mother. If their version loses, they never existed.

Whoever loses does not die. He is left over, with papers from a life that did not take place. The Registry suspects that some of the Forgotten begin this way. If one of them dies before then, his death decides at once: his version remains, with him as a corpse in it, and the other one never was. Not even in the report.

Only one Marek can remain in this house. **The door:** in the first three nights the front door leads back. The new arrival goes out at night and does not turn round. He is back in the life he no longer wanted. **The deadline:** the cell gets the sleepers to believe in one of them and accepts whatever vanishes from the other version. **Separation:** if the two never sleep under one roof, the deadline pauses, and one of them lives for ever as a lodger beside his own life. **The shot:** it decides in favour of the dead man.

The case in Podlachia: on 26 August 2005 Marek Sadowski stood at the bus station in Białystok with a ticket to London. In his version, he got on. He worked for 20 years in warehouses in Lincolnshire; Kasia divorced him in 2009. On 3 February 2026 he comes back, 47 years old, at nine degrees below zero. In this house lives the Marek who did not get on: dairy farmer and hunter, married to Kasia, father of 17-year-old Zuzanna, who exists only in his version. Zuzanna believes in her father. Halina, 76, the men's mother, believes in the new arrival. Kasia doubts. Her voice decides, and no one has told her. After two nights the new arrival takes a room in Hajnówka and stays there through the summer; for a week now he has been sleeping in the house again, at Halina's wish. In the photos on the fridge, Zuzanna has been as pale as a negative since yesterday.

What helps: find the switch, count the nights, let no one shoot. Then tell Kasia the truth, or sleep in the house oneself and take the decision off her hands.

Wrong in the File: The new arrival is not the original, and the Other has not nested in. The 21 nights are not a deadline for action. During them others decide, and only nights spent together count. What is dangerous is Protocol Purge. Five times it shot the man who was at home, and five times it erased the man it wanted to save. The empty line in the reports is him.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Shotgun 3 + 3, damage 4, Spread (Core Rulebook, Chapter X), or whatever is to hand in the house
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 / 9, both men the same

Value	Details
Horror	Disturbing (2) at the first sight of both at one table. Horrifying (3) for anyone who sees a person vanish from a photo
Special	In the house +2 dice on Stealth and Perception. After 21 nights together, the version that holds is the one most of the sleepers in the house believe in, in a tie that of the man of the house. If one of them dies before then, his holds at once. In the first three nights the front door leads the new arrival back
Weakness	The switch. Whoever knows which decision it was can tell the two apart with a single question about the life afterwards: INT + Investigation against Doable (2). If they sleep apart, the deadline pauses
Behaviour	The man of the house defends, the new arrival courts. Neither wants to kill; both would if the child were at stake. Getting the new arrival to leave: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), against Doable (2) if he learns what will become of the child

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Survivor (Urk, 2019)	In this version Klaas Brouwer was lost on the North Sea in 1998; his name is on the Urk fishermen's memorial. In 2019 he comes home, 58 years old, to his widow Geertje. There is no man of the house. Geertje is the only voice in the house. If she believes him, the name vanishes, and she remembers 21 years she has not lived. No attack, HP 8. Horrifying (3) for the widow.
The Two Old Men (Trás-os-Montes, since 2011)	Switch 1969: on foot across the Pyrenees to France, to escape the colonial war. One went and built houses in the suburbs of Paris for 40 years. The other stayed, served in Guinea and married Rosa. Since a visit home in August 2011, the Frenchman has slept in the guesthouse on the square, never under one roof with the other. In the afternoons they play cards in the café and argue about who has lived better. Rosa brings them both soup. White File, one visit every two years. Uncanny (1). The soldier, 78, has a weak heart. A natural death decides like a shot.

Cover-Up

As long as the deadline runs, the new arrival is a cousin from England as far as the village is concerned. The family plays along. The daughter's photo disappears from the internet; in the village it passes for a filter. If one is left over, he gets papers through a registrar who owes O.D.I.N. a favour, and a flat far away. The five purges appear in the police files as burglaries resulting in death, perpetrator unknown.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A seventeen-year-old posts a photo: two fathers at the breakfast table. The comments praise the filter. Her own face is missing from the photo.
2	The soldier from Trás-os-Montes is in hospital in Bragança, the doctors give him a week. The Frenchman is saying his goodbyes in the village.
3	A man without papers in a homeless shelter in Białystok always gives the same address. A man with his name and his face lives there.
4	A fisherman scratches at his own name on a memorial with a key. The name is fading.
5	An agent keeps watch in the house and falls asleep. In the morning the daughter asks him whom he believes in.
6	In five old reports the same line is empty. In one of them a cadet recognises his instructor's handwriting.

The Prompter

"I hear thoughts just before they're spoken. Hers I hear before they're thought."
Firnis, Agent, Psionic Core

REGISTRY REG-V-0109

Origin and Family	The Shifted, The Forgotten
Form	Apparition. She is one breath ahead of the world
Role	Leader
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) for anyone who hears their own next sentence from her mouth
File Colour	Black, since 1998. Why is not in the file
Frequency	Unique
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe. Vienna, isolated sightings in Prague and Budapest. Always in halls where text is spoken
First Sighting	12 March 1945, Vienna State Opera, the evening after the bomb hit. Report by a fireman: in the burning prompter's box a woman prompted him with what he was about to shout. Found in a deceased person's papers in 1962
Last Confirmed Sighting	8 December 2021, Schottenring, Vienna. Surveillance camera in the stairwell of the Vienna police headquarters, which stands on the site of the Ringtheater. A single frame. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Unknown. At least nine, documented by expense claims without names, ammunition issues without recipients and a double room on the Ring, paid for in 1998, for no one

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Sweetish coal gas that no longer flows in any pipe. Beneath it velvet dust and scenery glue.
Sound	A whisper before every sentence: whoever speaks hears their words first softly, then from their own mouth.
Temperature	Where she is about to stand it is warmer, as in front of gaslit footlights.
Light	Never in photos. In videos one frame too early, exactly where another person steps in the next.
Readings	In recordings the sound runs one breath ahead of the picture. Two clocks always differ by the same fraction. Crystal detector and ozone probe stay silent, even when she whispers.
Animals	Dogs bark just before someone enters and look at an empty spot.
Devices	Telephones ring one breath before the call. Dictaphones record every sentence twice, once whispered.
Traces and Residue	In duty rosters and guest books a neatly kept empty line. In front of the first row a trace of soot that belongs to no fire.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Precognitive or Chronomancer gets +1 die, whoever calls the Registry from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Theatre ghost. A dead woman from the Ringtheater fire; every old house has one. Salt and light drive her off. She only wants applause.
1	One of the Forgotten, the strongest known. She stands in halls where people speak. Whoever looks at her forgets her on looking away. As with all the Forgotten: ask her name, write it down, say it aloud, and she is back in the world and stops.
2 to 3	Protocol Quiet, as of 1966: stay silent in her presence, communicate only in writing. Anyone who says a sentence before they meant to say it is withdrawn at once. After three such sentences the Registry can no longer hold on to them. She appears at premieres and anniversaries, above all on 8 December.
4 or more	She was the prompter of the Ringtheater on the evening of the fire. The prompt book of that performance is considered burned. A transcript lies in a Viennese archive, restricted since 1998. Margin note in ink: “I asked her for her name. She prompted me with mine, and I wrote it down.” The handwriting cannot be matched to any member of staff.

What Is True

She is not dead. On Thursday, 8 December 1881, shortly before 19:00, she sits in the prompter’s box of the Ringtheater, the book of “The Tales of Hoffmann” open. Above the stage the gas lighting fails to ignite, and the gas collects. She whispers the first cue, one breath too early, like every good prompter. In that breath the gas ignites. No one answers her. The performance never begins. The authorities count 384 dead. She is not one of them.

Since then she has been one breath ahead of the world. She can only be seen where one is about to look, and when a memory tries to form, she is already gone. In the staff list of the Ringtheater there is an empty line next to “Prompter”.

She does what she has always done: she prompts. She whispers people their next sentence, and most of them repeat it, one breath too early. Each time they take one step ahead with her. After three steps they are with her: Forgotten, her ensemble. She is alone and has been waiting 144 years for someone to answer her.

Her name cannot be learned by asking. Whoever asks is prompted with the answer, and it is their own name. Whoever writes it down and says it aloud, as the file wants, takes two steps at once.

Silence only moves her elsewhere. Whoever wants more pays with a person or walks into the fire of 1881. **The silence:** whoever stays silent cannot follow her. That way the cell drives her out of a hall, until the next text somewhere else. **Going along:** someone follows her willingly for three sentences. Then she has a stage partner and takes no one else for years. The cell will never know whom it lost, only that a line is empty. **The answer:** only someone already two steps ahead can say to her, on the site of the Ringtheater, the line that would have followed her cue in 1881. It is in the restricted transcript. Then the performance begins. What is played is the moment the gas ignites: Maddening (4), and the fire is real. Whoever survives the scene comes back, and with them a woman of about 30 with soot on her hands, and everyone she has taken in 144 years. Everyone remembers them all at once again, but their lives have gone on without them.

The case at the Schottenring: for the 140th anniversary the Vienna police headquarters reads out the names of the dead. Police Inspector Florian Haider, 26, is on guard in the stairwell. The camera shows a woman one frame ahead of him, where he stands in the next one. That night he speaks two sentences too early. For a week his girlfriend does not recognise him in any photo. Then it is over, for everyone but him. He says the whisper was the most beautiful thing he has ever heard. Since 2021 he has had himself put on night duty every 8 December.

Wrong in the File: She is not dead, salt and light mean nothing to her, and she does not want applause but an answer. Anniversaries do not bind her; texts do. What is dangerous is the rule for all the Forgotten: with her, writing down the name does not lead back into the world, but out of it. The nine agents of whom only expenses remain followed the file.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	Always first. She is one breath ahead
Attack	Prompting 5 + 5 against WIL + Mental Resistance, opposed test, up to 10 m, no damage. Whoever loses speaks the sentence she prompts and takes one step ahead. Two actions per round
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 0 / 24. Vulnerable only to someone who is two steps ahead. At 0 HP she is gone for that evening

Value	Details
Horror	Disturbing (2). Horrifying (3) when someone hears their own sentence from her mouth
Special	Steps ahead. One step: whoever knows the person forgets their name for one scene. Two steps: no photo shows them any more, contacts do not recognise them, −2 dice on all social tests, but they see her as she is and can hit her. Three steps: they belong to the ensemble. The first step fades after a night's sleep, the second after a week, the third never
Weakness	Silence. Whoever does not speak cannot follow her, and writing is too slow for her. And the answer from the prompt book
Behaviour	Polite, lonely, persistent. Comes where people speak texts: premieres, trials, eulogies, wedding vows. Leads an ensemble of three to nine Forgotten. Never flees, because she is always already elsewhere

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Ensemble	Her Forgotten, stats as The Forgotten in the Threat Atlas. They whisper every sentence in the room in advance, as a choir. Uncanny (1) for anyone who hears them. Since 1998 one of them has been a man with a service weapon: 9 mm pistol 2 + 3, damage 3. He prompts operational orders, and some agents follow them. What remains of him is a paid double room on the Ring and two breakfasts.
The Interpreter (Geneva, since 1975)	A second woman, ahead not by one breath but by one sentence. In the spring of 1975 she interpreted at the Law of the Sea Conference in the Palais des Nations. Since then, at large sessions, the Spanish interpretation can sometimes be heard before the speaker. She takes no one with her. Whoever listens to her for longer than an hour forgets for a day what they are called. Henchman, no attack, HP 4. Valuable as a source: she always knows the next sentence.

Cover-Up

No one misses those she takes. The Registry pays their bills through a property management company and keeps the expense receipts, the only evidence. Videos with the single frame too early are logged by the police as timestamp errors, confirmed by the maintenance technician, an O.D.I.N. contact.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	At the Vienna Regional Criminal Court a witness answers every question before it is asked. In the transcript every sentence appears twice.
2	At a premiere an actor dries, and someone in the prompter's box whispers the line. The house has had no prompter for 30 years.
3	The cell finds an expense claim for a hotel room, paid for no one. It is signed by a member of the cell.
4	In a Viennese lecture hall a student three times answers questions the professor has not yet asked. The next day the attendance list has an empty line.
5	A Viennese archivist finds the transcript of the 1881 prompt book. On the first page a sentence has been freshly erased.
6	At a funeral an agent hears his own eulogy whispered before he gives it. He has not written it yet.

The Sister Next Door

"White File, they said, for practice. The sister brought us cake. On the fourth day the mother asked me who the woman in our car was. She meant her daughter."

Gaze, Cadet, Science Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0107

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Doppelgängers
Form	Infestation. The host is the person who would not exist without the addendum's death
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for the host when a photo changes while she is looking at it
File Colour	White, since 1983. The Registry considers addenda harmless
Frequency	Rare. The Registry knows of eleven cases
Mind	Human
Regions	British Isles, Central and Western Europe, Scandinavia. Only where someone who died early has a stone with their name, almost always a child
First Sighting	4 May 1974, Charleroi, Belgium. Complaint by a woman to the gendarmerie: a stranger is passing herself off as her sister. The gendarmerie finds a baptismal certificate, school reports and wedding photos and files the complaint as a family quarrel
Last Confirmed Sighting	31 August 2026, Treorchy, Rhondda, Wales. A GP's psychiatric referral, intercepted by a contact. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	No agents. Seven women who went to a spa clinic under Protocol Distance and did not come back (1983 to 2004)

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Both houses smell of the same fabric softener. The host has never bought it.
Sound	At night, through the shared wall, someone hums the host's favourite song, and sings off-key at the same place she does.
Temperature	The wall between the houses is warm, even when no one next door has the heating on.
Light	In old photos the host is a touch too bright, as if someone had lightened her afterwards. More so every week. The sister never.
Readings	A kinship test comes out as sisters. Every week the match gets higher; after six weeks a laboratory would take them for identical twins. The cell's detectors find no trace of it.
Animals	Since the first day the host's cat has slept next door and no longer comes back.
Devices	The sister knows the host's PIN, her passwords, the name of her first rabbit. The voice control in the host's car now obeys only the sister.
Traces and Residue	Baptismal registers, school reports and wedding albums name the sister, in old ink. In the cemetery above the town a small stone with her name and a single date. No one in the family knows whose grave it is, and someone brings flowers every week.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Psychic Healer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A case for the psychologist, not for the Registry. The reporting person takes her sister for a stranger, a known delusion, Capgras syndrome. Stay friendly, wait for the referral.
1	Addendum: a person everyone remembers, except one. Papers, photos and school reports are genuine. The addendum is friendly and does not know what it is. The reporting person is in no danger; she is the only one with the correct memory. She needs support, not protection.
2 to 3	Protocol Distance, as of 1983: the addendum feeds on closeness to the reporting person. Get the reporting person out of the area, spa clinic or hospital, at least 50 km. After two to three weeks the reports end in every case. Never take the addendum to the cemetery.
4 or more	Note 2005: in every case there was a dead child, a stillbirth, a twin who never breathed. In seven cases the reporting person did not come home after the spa stay, and the clinics recorded no admission. No more spa stays since then, reason not given. Margin note: “Charleroi 1974, visit 2004. There are five places set at the Sunday table. The family is four. No one knows who the fifth is for, but they set it every week.”

What Is True

An addendum is a person from a version of the world in which they lived. In ours they died before they were a day old. The world adds them in afterwards: it gives them a life with papers, photos and memories, and everyone who ought to know them does know them. They themselves know nothing of this and remember every birthday.

But there is someone who does not exist in their version: the child who came after them because they were missing. The replacement child. The twin who alone survived. This person is the host. The host is the only one who does not remember the addendum, because the host is the only one still living in the old version. And the host pays: every third morning someone who knows the host well forgets them and remembers the addendum in their place. Those who no longer see the host every day forget faster: one every morning. When no one remembers any more, the host was never born. Nothing is left, not even one of the Forgotten. Only one place too many at the table.

The anchor is the grave. As long as the stone stands, the addendum is not at home in the world, and the world takes what it needs for them from the host.

Every way out makes someone disappear, even if it is only who the host used to be. **Wait:** after a few weeks the host is gone. No one suffers, because no one knows that anyone is missing. **The grave:** the addendum stands before their own stone and reads their name. They believe it, and they are gone. But the memories of them remain, with no person in them: decades full of holes, a marriage without a wife, a mother who wakes every morning in the delivery room. Horrifying (3) for everyone who knew them. The host gets their life back. **The healing:** the host removes the stone themselves and calls the addendum “my sister” or “my brother”, and means it. Then both stay. The host’s memories rewrite themselves. Afterwards the host knows of a shared childhood, of fights over the top bunk. They no longer know there was a grave, nor who they were before.

The case in Treorchy: on 3 March 1979 Eirlys Prosser gave birth to a stillborn daughter. Eirlys insisted on the stone: Carys, 1979. Two years later Gwen came. On 5 July 2026 the doorbell rings at number 12, where Gwen, 45, lives. Outside stands Carys, 47, with a bara brith, the Welsh fruit loaf, as every Sunday. She has lived next door at number 14 since her wedding, a house that in Gwen’s memory has stood empty since old Mrs Howells died. Everyone knows her. Her bara brith is better than Gwen’s; even Gwen’s husband Aled says so. At first it was almost comical. Today, on the 58th day, six people still remember Gwen. Aled is one of them. Her mother no longer is. Since Friday Eirlys has taken Gwen for the friendly woman next door.

What helps: find the grave before someone else finds it. Bring Aled and Gwen together every day. And then ask Gwen what she is willing to give up.

Wrong in the File: It is no delusion, and the reporting person is not the healthy one in the case; she is the one who dies without dying. What is dangerous is Protocol Distance. It cut seven hosts off from everyone who saw them daily and erased them in two weeks. The reports ended because no one was left to report.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	None. When cornered, a bread knife used as a dagger 2 + 2, damage 2 (Core Rulebook, Chapter X)
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 5
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) for the host when a photo changes while she is looking at it. Horrifying (3) for everyone who knew the addendum, when they fade at their grave
Special	Infestation. Every third morning one person forgets the host and remembers the addendum; without daily contact, one every morning. The host suffers half of any damage done to the addendum, rounded down
Weakness	The grave. If the addendum reads their name there, they are gone. If the host removes the stone and accepts them, they stay for ever
Behaviour	Loving, helpful, persistent. Drops by every day. They resist only when someone tries to take away the husband, the house or the mother. Luring them to the cemetery is easy: CHA + Persuasion against Easy (1). Whoever does it knows what comes after

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Twin (Aarhus, 2012)	In March 1984 Mikkel Vestergaard did not breathe; his brother Rasmus did. In Mikkel's version it was the other way round. In May 2012 Mikkel stands beside Rasmus at his wedding as best man, 28 years old, with the same face. Twins share too much: the infestation devours one person every morning, not every third. By the ninth day the bride no longer knows which of the two she married. Horror Disturbing (2).
The Dog (Leeds, 2022)	Bailey, a Labrador, had lain under the apple tree since 2020, beneath a stone the children painted. For comfort a terrier called Pip came. In April 2022 Bailey is lying in his basket again, and everyone knows he was never gone. Only Pip growls. The children call Pip by the wrong name; in photos he turns into a pale smudge. Bailey: no attack, HP 4. The Registry opened the case because the daughter, nine years old, is the last one who still knows Pip's name, and cries at night.

Cover-Up

The host gets an appointment with a psychologist in Cardiff, paid by O.D.I.N., and a diagnosis that surprises no one: stress reaction. The 1979 hospital record of the stillbirth vanishes from the health authority's archive. If the host removes the stone, the cemetery administration reports frost damage and never receives a complaint. Where the host has vanished, the Registry only redacts its own files.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A GP calls: his patient says her sister is a stranger. He knows the sister; she is his patient too. He just no longer knows since when.
2	A cemetery gardener sees a woman laying flowers every week on a child's grave from 1979. She says she does not know the child. She only knows that otherwise no one comes.
3	A laboratory reports a kinship test that comes closer to one from week to week, and asks whether the sample was mixed up.
4	In a women's choir in the Valleys one more alto sings than is on the list. The choir leader knows all the names except one, and it is at the very top.
5	Every night a child calls the animal welfare society in Leeds and asks for someone to write down its dog's name.
6	An agent in the cell gets a call from his sister. He has none. His mother says it is her birthday today.

The Thylacine in the Harz

"Every cadet counts the stripes on the photo. There are seventeen. Since 1994 I've been counting something else: the nights when the ditch runs full."

Brache, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0140

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Out-of-Time Animals
Form	Being
Role	Professional, Creature
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) on the ditch path when the lights are in the wrong place
File Colour	White, training file for basic training. Grey as soon as someone goes missing at the ditch
Frequency	Unique. One spot, at least four animals
Mind	Animal
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Only at the Rehberger Graben near Sankt Andreasberg, Upper Harz
First Sighting	27 September 1936, Rehberger Graben. Photo by a summer visitor, printed in 1937 in a Harz local history magazine as the "Harz tiger". Three weeks earlier the last known thylacine had died in Hobart
Last Confirmed Sighting	4 June 2026, Rehberger Graben. Camera trap of the lynx monitoring: a thylacine, one minute later a man with a dog lead. Case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	One cadet (1994), listed as drowned. No body

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Pungent musk, sweeter than fox. On rainy nights wood smoke where no house stands.
Sound	A dull, coughing bark when it hunts. On rainy nights the rushing of the ditch sounds doubled.
Temperature	Cooler than a fox on the thermal imaging camera, around 35 degrees, like all marsupials.
Light	On rainy nights the lights of the Grabenhaus burn in two places, about 40 m apart.
Readings	A GPS device on the ditch path jumps between two positions, 40 m apart. Nothing else registers.
Animals	On rainy nights dogs lie down on the path and stay down.
Devices	Camera traps trigger with nothing in the picture. Mobile phones on the path sometimes find a second network that no provider runs.
Traces and Residue	Paw prints with broad, three-lobed pads. The trail ends in the middle of the path. Roe fawns with skulls bitten through, barely eaten.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist, or anyone who worked the training file as a cadet, gets +1 die (at most +1), an enquiry by telephone from the field −1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A Tasmanian tiger in the Harz, although the species died out in 1936, presumably the descendant of an escaped zoo animal. Shy, nocturnal, kills sheep and drinks their blood. Harmless to humans. Training file: photograph, do not feed.
1	Not a survivor, but an animal from another time, presumably from before 1936, when Berlin Zoo kept thylacines. Appears only at the Rehberger Graben and only after heavy rain.
2 to 3	Protocol Hide, as of 1971: if the ditch runs brimfull after heavy rain, take up position directly on the ditch path, the animal's run. Lamp off. In 1994 a cadet had an accident during the exercise, presumably washed into the underground watercourse. Institute, 2014: the tissue matches no thylacine in any museum collection.
4 or more	Addendum 2025: a trained animal, answers to "Tasso". On its collar a dog licence tag from the town of Zellerfeld, year 2025. Zellerfeld has been merged with Clausthal since 1924. If the Fehlschlag below the Grabenhaus is opened, the sightings end that same night. Margin note in pencil, initials B.: "In 1994 the thermos flask and rucksack stood neatly side by side on the path. People who drown don't put their flask down first."

What Is True

The Thylacine in the Harz does not come from the past, but from a Harz that also exists, only not here. There, thylacines live where the lynx lives in ours. Otherwise that Harz resembles ours so closely that at one spot there is no difference at all.

That spot is the Rehberger Graben, dug the same in both worlds, a good seven kilometres from the Oderteich along the Rehberg, finished in 1703. When it runs brimfull after heavy rain, the water in both ditches stands level to the millimetre. Then the two ditches are one ditch, and for 1.5 km below the Grabenhaus the path beside it is one path. The Registry calls this a seam. The anchor here is not an object, but a sameness.

The thylacine uses the ditch path as its run and does not know that it changes worlds as it does. It hunts hares and roe fawns and is too weak for sheep; the sheep of 1971 were killed by a dog running loose. When the water level drops in the morning, the seam closes. Whoever is on the wrong side then stays there until the next heavy rain.

Where "weapons are useless" only half applies. A bullet kills the animal, a tranquilliser dart puts it to sleep. But the fault is the sameness of the ditches, and that cannot be shot. Whoever kills the animal has a carcass and an open seam. The next animal comes with the next rain, and the seam does not take only animals.

On 14 June 1994 three cadets are working the training file when a thunderstorm fills the ditch. Cadet Henning Asmus, codename Rohrdommel, 21, from Braunlage, takes up position on the ditch path according to protocol. Around 02:00 he sees the lights of the Grabenhaus in the wrong place, puts down the thermos flask and goes to look. He arrives in a Harz where the Grabenhaus is a forester's lodge. When he wants to go back, it is light and the water in the ditch has dropped. In 2005 a local court declares him dead. His mother Gisela, now 81, has never cleared out his room.

Asmus is alive. He is 53, a gamekeeper over there in Zellerfeld, married, two daughters. He works a thylacine to track wounded game, as people do there. By the time he understood the seam, he no longer knew whether he wanted to go back. In October 2025 his dog Tasso ran off at the ditch in the rain. On 4 June 2026 Asmus looked for him on our side, and the camera trap recorded him. Brache, one of the other cadets in 1994, recognised him.

What helps is the weather forecast: whoever catches the next heavy rain stands at the open seam. What they do then also concerns Asmus. **Open the Fehlschlag:** the overflow below the Grabenhaus, called the Fehlschlag in the Upper Harz, lowers our ditch by a hand's breadth, and the seam closes until the next rain. **Change the ditch:** a pipe, a seal, a different gradient, and the seam is shut for ever. The ditch is a World Heritage Site, and Asmus stays where he is. **Leave it open:** then hikers go on walking by the ditch at night until another one does not come back. Asmus has an opinion on all of this. He knows the seam better than the Registry. And over there, there is a Fehlschlag too.

Wrong in the File: The thylacine does not come from another time, but from another Harz. It does not kill sheep or drink blood. What is dangerous is Protocol Hide: whoever sits on the ditch path on a rainy night sits exactly on the seam. The cadet of 1994 did not drown. He left.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Bite 3 + 3, damage 3, Penetration 1. The jaw opens almost to a right angle
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 0 (fur, no armour) / 9
Horror	Uncanny (1) as soon as someone recognises the stripes. Disturbing (2) for whoever sees the lights in the wrong place on the ditch path
Special	An animal of flesh: bullets, tranquillisers and traps work as on any animal. Rears up and leaps from a standstill: +1 die on the first bite of a fight. **The Seam:** When the ditch runs brim-full, anyone walking the 1.5 km below the Grabenhaus at night rolls WIS + Perception against Hard (3) every half hour. If the test fails, they are over there and do not notice. The only way back is the same path in the same night
Weakness	The Fehlschlag. Opening the sluice gate, unmoved for years: STR + Athletics against Doable (2). After that the seam closes within 10 minutes, until the next heavy rain
Behaviour	Nocturnal and shy. Runs the same route along the ditch at the same hour every night. Bites only when cornered. Can be calmed with WIS + Animal Handling against Hard (3)

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Mother (2003)	A female, hit by a car on the federal road at the Oderteich in February 2003. The vet Dr Anke Tebbe from Braunlage finds three young on the X-ray, in a pouch that opens towards the rear. Attack 3 + 3, damage 3, two attacks per round against anyone near her. HP 8. She died after four days. Two of the young did not survive being reared at the Institute, the third lived until 2014.
The Farm Dog (2025)	A male with a leather collar and licence tag that answers to “Tasso”, “Sit” and “Seek”. In October 2025 he is sitting one morning in the garden of the Behrendt family in Sankt Andreasberg, 300 m from the ditch. The children call him Tiger. No attack as long as no one threatens his people, and his people are now the Behrendts. Can be won over with WIS + Animal Handling against Easy (1). In the Institute’s kennel since November 2025. At the Behrendts’ his photo hangs on the fridge.

Cover-Up

The camera trap images from the ditch pass through a wildlife biologist paid by O.D.I.N. and are filed as mangy foxes. A courier swaps the wolf advisers’ tissue samples for fox samples on the way to the laboratory in Gelnhausen. The man in the 2026 photo is officially a hiker looking for his dog, and that is not even a lie.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	White File: the cell accompanies two cadets who are to count stripes at the Rehberger Graben. In the evening the weather service forecasts heavy rain.
2	Gisela Asmus, 81, sees a photo from a camera trap in the local paper: a hiker with a dog lead. She calls the number on a card that was left with her in 1994. “That’s my boy.”
3	A cryptozoology channel announces a night hike along the ditch for the next rainy weekend, live, with a thermal imaging drone.
4	Tasso howls in the kennel every time, one hour before heavy rain in the Upper Harz.
5	The ditch is to be resealed, the diggers arrive in three weeks. After that the seam is shut for ever.
6	One morning a man comes out of the forest into Sankt Andreasberg and asks for the bus to Zellerfeld. He pays with coins that look almost right.

The Time Castaway

"He asked me the date. I told him it was Tuesday."
Stempel, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-V-0112

Origin and Family	The Shifted, Time Castaways
Form	Being (listed as an Apparition until 1979)
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1), Horrifying (3) when time catches up with him
File Colour	Grey. Red as soon as the anchor has been separated from the castaway or someone has told him the date
Frequency	Rare
Mind	Human
Regions	Central and Western Europe, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe. Frequent in old front-line areas, on coasts and wherever things lie in the ground for a long time
First Sighting	3 May 1951, harbour of Slite, Gotland. Report by a rural police officer: a fisherman asks about his boat and gives the year as 1861
Last Confirmed Sighting	14 July 2026, forest near Kallbrück, Nordeifel. Image from a trail camera, case open
O.D.I.N. Losses	Two agents, missing (1979, 2016). No bodies

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Like a wardrobe that has been shut for a long time: plain soap, wet wool, coal smoke. No ozone, no wet stone.
Sound	In the silence, near him, sounds of his time at the edge of hearing: an engine no one builds any more, the hum of valves, distant rumbling.
Temperature	Around him is the weather of his day. In July his breath is visible if he comes from a November.
Light	In photos and videos he looks yellowed, like a picture from an album. Everything else in the picture has the right colours.
Readings	Two clocks near him drift apart, a few minutes a day. Radio-controlled clocks find no signal. A Geiger counter against his skin reads lower than against any other person in the room. Crystal detector, ozone probe and EMF detector stay quiet.
Animals	Dogs greet him every time as if he had only just arrived. Even for the tenth time in a day.
Devices	A mobile phone in his hand finds no network. A radio near him finds music between the stations that no one has played for decades.
Traces and Residue	Where the anchor was found, a hole in the earth that is rimed with frost in the morning, even in summer. Footprints that begin at one spot and come from nowhere.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Physics, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Physicist or Chronomancer gets +1 die, an enquiry by telephone from the field is under time pressure (−1 die).

Result	What the File Says
0	Persons from earlier decades, disoriented, physically unharmed. Do not confuse with haunts: Time Castaways eat, sleep and bleed. Treat like a confused witness. Disarm armed cases calmly. No press, no police.
1	Every case hangs on an object from the castaway's time, here called the anchor. The anchor was found, bought or dug up shortly before the appearance. Do not separate anchor and castaway. The castaway ages quickly in our time, about one year per day. A case is closed after three weeks at most.
2 to 3	Protocol Return, as of 1963: calmly tell the castaway today's date, with evidence, such as a newspaper. In all documented cases the person dissolved within minutes. Residue: clothing, dust. The Registry assesses this as a return to their own time.
4 or more	Addendum 1979: if the anchor is put back where it was found, in the same position and depth, the castaway disappears without residue. Do not touch him while doing so (one agent missing). One case from 1971 in which the anchor was destroyed: the castaway stayed. Further details restricted. Margin note in pencil, no initials: "Residue of 1963 weighed. In the clothing a set of teeth, worn like an old man's. Who returned here?"

What Is True

A Time Castaway is a living person, not an Echo. At the moment he lost an object, a thread remained between him and the thing. Decades later someone finds that object, cleans it and reads aloud what is written on it. The thread tightens, and the person is pulled across, from exactly the moment in which he lost the object. He then stands near the anchor and believes it is the same day.

As long as he does not believe today's date, his body stays in his time. He does not age. The skipped years wait. If he believes the date, they catch up with him, within a few minutes. A single sentence is rarely enough for that. A newspaper, a mobile phone showing the date or a gravestone is always enough.

The thread is about 100 m long. If it is stretched further, the castaway is slowly torn out of the world. What then remains of him is not known.

What becomes of the castaway is decided at the anchor. **Put it back:** the anchor goes back where it was found, in the same position. In the blink of an eye the castaway is gone, back in his moment. There he loses the anchor again, and that is how the anchor gets into the ground. What awaits him there is often the very thing he was fleeing when he lost the object. Whoever touches him in that moment goes with him. That is how O.D.I.N. lost one agent each in 1979 and 2016. **Destroy it:** the anchor breaks, the thread snaps, and the castaway stays for ever. From now on he ages normally; the date can no longer harm him. In his own time he is listed as missing, for ever. **Kill him:** it achieves nothing. If he dies here, the next night the anchor pulls in the next person who touched it back then.

The case in the Nordeifel: a detectorist, Heike Brammertz, 52, digs up an identity disc in the forest near Kallbrück. The disc is whole, not broken. No one ever declared its wearer dead. She cleans it in her kitchen and reads the number aloud into her phone, for a forum. That same night Günther Wiesmann, 17, stands in the forest, a grenadier, six weeks at the front, separated from his section on 18 November 1944. He is soaked, hungry and terribly afraid. He still believes everything he has been told. That does not make him harmless. He has never shot at a person and will do so if he believes he is surrounded.

What helps: a room without calendars, agents who play his time, the anchor in his pocket, and then a decision. Whoever leaves it to him must tell him the truth, and whoever tells him the truth tells him the date. The cell can destroy the anchor first and ask him afterwards. That is an answer. Whether it is the right one, no one knows.

Wrong in the File: Time Castaways do not age as long as they do not believe the date; the "three weeks" come from a case in which a child told a castaway the truth bit by bit, and every time he doubted it again. What is dangerous is Protocol Return. It sends no one back. The residue of 1963 was a man who aged ninety years in a few minutes.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Karabiner 98k 2 + 2, damage 4 (Core Rulebook, Chapter X)

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 1 (steel helmet) / 5
Horror	Uncanny (1), as soon as the cell grasps that he is real. Horrifying (3) when time catches up with him
Special	If he believes the date, time catches up with him: one decade per minute. If he passes 90 in the process, he dies; if he would pass 120, he crumbles to dust. A lie stops it: MAN + Deception against Hard (3). The years that have already come remain. More than 100 m from the anchor he loses 1 HP per minute and becomes translucent. At 0 HP he is gone, neither dead nor returned
Weakness	The anchor. Put back, it sends him home; destroyed, it keeps him here. Whoever touches him at the moment of return goes with him
Behaviour	Looks for his unit, hides from cars and aircraft noise, begs for food. Can be won over with CHA + Persuasion against Doable (2), against Easy (1) for someone who plays his time convincingly. Only shoots if he believes he is surrounded

Subtypes

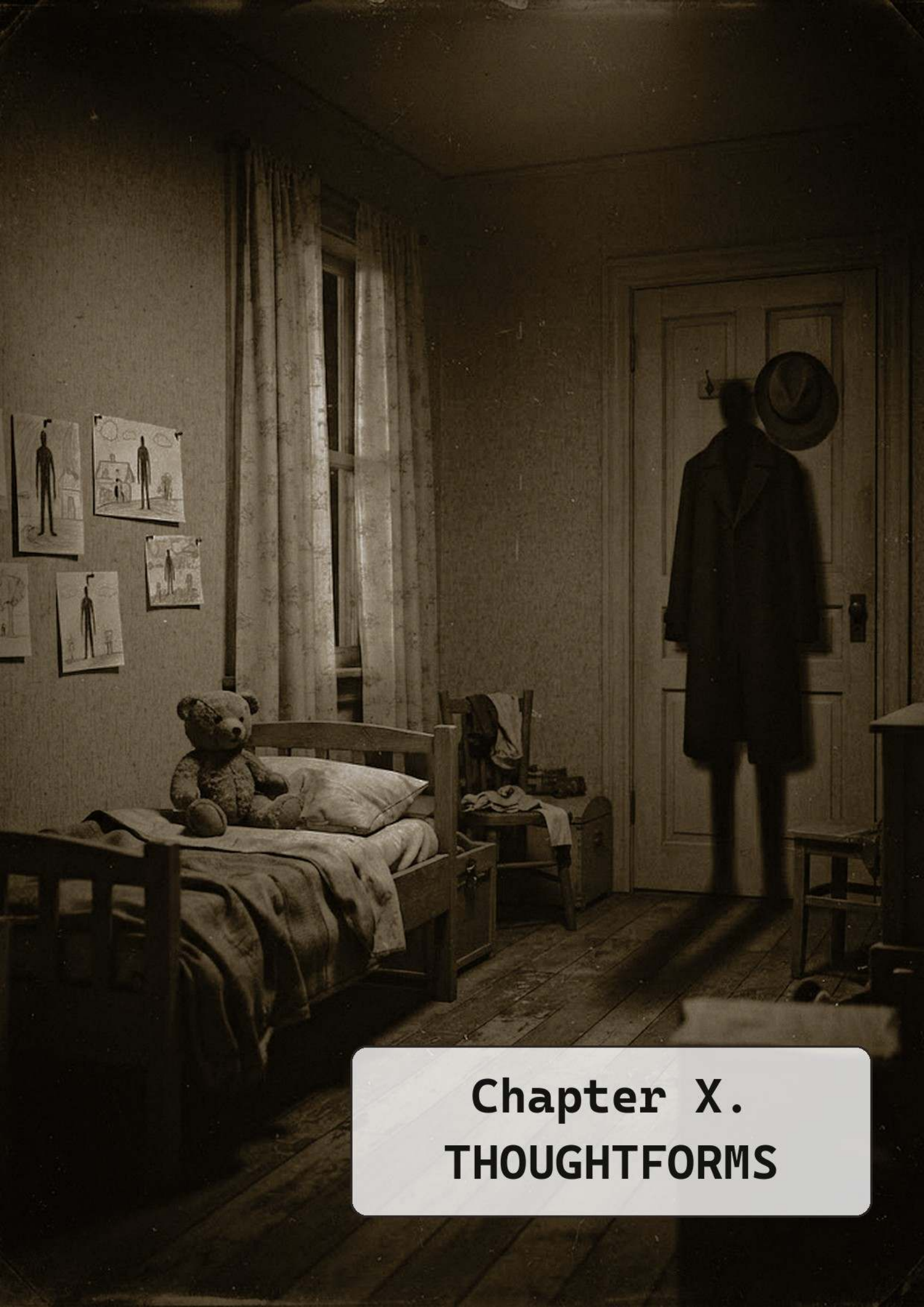
Subtype	Difference
The Switchboard Operator (1961)	Anchor: a headset band from the manual exchange of a post office in the Bavarian Forest, engraved “Position 7, G. Hofbauer”. A collector buys it at a flea market and reads the engraving aloud. No attack, defence 1, HP 5. As long as she is listening in, every telephone within 100 m rings. Whoever picks up hears conversations from October 1961. If she believes the date, the twenty-two-year-old becomes 87, lives and remembers yesterday.
The School Class (1972)	Anchor: a girl’s autograph album, from a house clearance. She lost it on the bus that day. The buyer reads the first verse aloud. Everyone who wrote in it has been pulled across: 18 children and their teacher, on the way home from the outing to the reservoir. No attack, children HP 4, teacher HP 6. Horror Disturbing (2), as soon as the first child asks for its mother. If one believes the date, within an hour they all do. Time does not kill them; it turns them into people over sixty in children’s clothes.

Cover-Up

The detectorist gets a visit from two people from the Federal Archives, which administer the identity discs of fallen soldiers, and the find is confiscated; her forum post disappears overnight. For witnesses in the forest, a re-enactment group is rehearsing that weekend, with flyers in the village shop. If a castaway stays, he receives papers from a register office whose books burned in 1945, and a place that O.D.I.N. chooses for him.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	A forum post among detectorists: “Who knows this boy?” With it a photo from a garage. The boy is wearing a uniform and will not leave.
2	A district forester gave his newspaper to a confused boy in the forest. That was an hour ago. Red File.
3	A woman of 97 in a care home recognises her brother in a photo, missing since 1944. She wants to see him. She is the living date.
4	A bus driver reports 18 children with satchels at a stop on the edge of the village. They are waiting for a bus that has not run since 1983.
5	In an antiques shop every telephone rings at night. In the back room sits a young woman with a headset, connecting calls into nowhere.
6	An identity disc from an evidence cabinet was sent for restoration. The restorer read the number aloud.



Chapter X.
THOUGHTFORMS

Thoughtforms

"In 1987 we set up a cabinet of its own for these cards. Ever since, I have wondered how much of what is in it we put there ourselves."
Retired Registrar, Stockholm

A friendly gentleman in a light trench coat who has not appeared in a single advert since 1999 and who, in Offenbach, lays his hand on a ten-year-old girl's shoulder at night. A boy in a yellow raincoat, soaked to the skin, whom a girl in Utrecht invented at the age of five. A girl on the verge of the country road near Tadten who gets in and says "To the baker's, please." A man in a hat at the foot of the bed who politely raises his hat when you greet him. A shepherd boy with a stable lantern in the fog on the Oberjoch. A good-luck letter from 1926 that now circulates on the phones of a school in Gothenburg. None of these beings needed a rift, and none of them existed before someone told the first story about it.

This origin is not in the Threat Atlas. The Registry keeps it as the ninth, and this chapter explains it so that a game master can work with it.

Where they come from. A thoughtform arises from human belief, and from nothing else. There are two ways. Many people believe the same thing: a workforce in its company, a valley in its saint, a school in a story told at break time. Or a single person believes in something so firmly that it stands up, almost always a child. No rift, no crystal, no Voice. The thoughtform is whatever is being told about it right now. When nobody believes in it any more, it fades. Most never grow strong enough for anyone to see them; the Registry knows only the few where it happened. For abilities, thoughtforms count as supernatural, but not as beings from rifts.

How they give themselves away. The devices that react to the Voice stay silent. No reading on the crystal detector, no ozone in the probe, and even the EMF detector you would expect to react to a haunt shows nothing. The trail lies in the statements. Witnesses who have never spoken to one another describe the being in the same way, down to the button on the coat, and in the version currently going round. If the story changes, the being changes. The Hitchhiker wore a light dress until 2024 and has worn a hoodie since 2025. The Cross Shepherd has called out names since a podcast claimed he does. On camera footage it is often only visible to those who know the story. A Telepath hears a sentence they already know, in the voice of whoever last told it. A Journalist, a Profiler or an Invoker gets furthest here. Anyone who wants to remember one of these cards rolls INT + Occultism.

Working on the story. Weapons work only as far as the story allows, and salt, silver or iron only if the story knows them. What really helps is telling. You can change a story, add to it, make it ridiculous, let it be forgotten or give it a different ending that people would rather pass on. Mr Ahrend is harmed by the laughter of his own workforce. Whoever loudly tells the Cross Shepherd the old story is led to the chapel and not to the edge. A chain letter loses a name when ten children send on a new version without it. But every counter-story is itself a story, and nobody controls it once it is going round. The friendly greeting to the Man in the Hat was invented by an agent in 2008. Since December 2020 that greeting has been the door.

The Registry as a breeding ground. Every report tells the story on, every warning, every leaflet and every index card. Agents believe what they read, because believing is their job. Protocol Homeward certified the Hitchhiker's ending. Protocol Consulting Hours fed an imaginary friend every week for seven years. The Collection Point gives every name in a chain letter four readers in Stockholm who believe it. The Registry knows no way to write a being down without telling it. In the Hitchhiker's case the Council drew the conclusion in 1988: no more investigation, no more reports. The file fell silent. The story did not. This introduction is no exception.

Since 1987. For its first 39 years the Registry had no cabinet for these cards. What looked like a dead person was filed with the Dead: the Hitchhiker as a ghost, the chain letter as a cursed document, the invented brother of a boy in Ghent as the ghost of the twin who died at birth. What smelled of legend went to the Old. The cases that stood out were those in which someone saw a ghost and no dead person could be found to match it. Since 1987 the Registry has kept Thoughtforms as an origin of their own. Some older cards still carry a protocol from the time before, and some of that is the file's error.

What they are not. A dead person was once someone. A thoughtform was never anyone, even when it wears a dead person's face. The Resonance Beings of the Voice also live off people who pass something on, but they come through rifts and smell of it. The easiest thing to confuse a thoughtform with is "That Which Breathes Behind the Stars", REG-F-0342. There, knowledge alone is enough: whoever understands is bound, whether they believe or not, and the field breathes even when no one knows about it. A thoughtform needs belief and telling.

Whoever reads these cards and laughs does not feed them.

The entries in this chapter carry the letter G in their file reference.

Families

Family	What They Are	Entries
Tulpas	The thoughtform of a single person, almost always a child. It is what its creator believes of it, and it goes when they forget it	The Imaginary Friend
Egregores	The image a group carries of itself, a company, a club, a workforce, until it stands up. Common, almost always weak	The Spirit of the Company
Urban Legends	Stories passed on as true, at the pub table, in the forum, in the playground. They do what the latest version says	The Man in the Hat, The Hitchhiker, The Chain Letter
Beings of Belief	What has grown at a place out of prayer, gratitude and pilgrimage, often a saint no church knows. Rare and bound to their place	The Saint of the Wayside Cross

For the Game Master

A thoughtform of your own begins with the story, not with the stats: two sentences, the way people tell them, with a rule everyone knows. Who tells it and how many determines the role, from a single child to a whole city or the internet. Give it a second version that is just emerging and is worse than the first, and a person who puts it into circulation, often without meaning to. Finally, decide which protocol of the Registry has already told the story on, because that is almost always where the file's error lies.

The Chain Letter

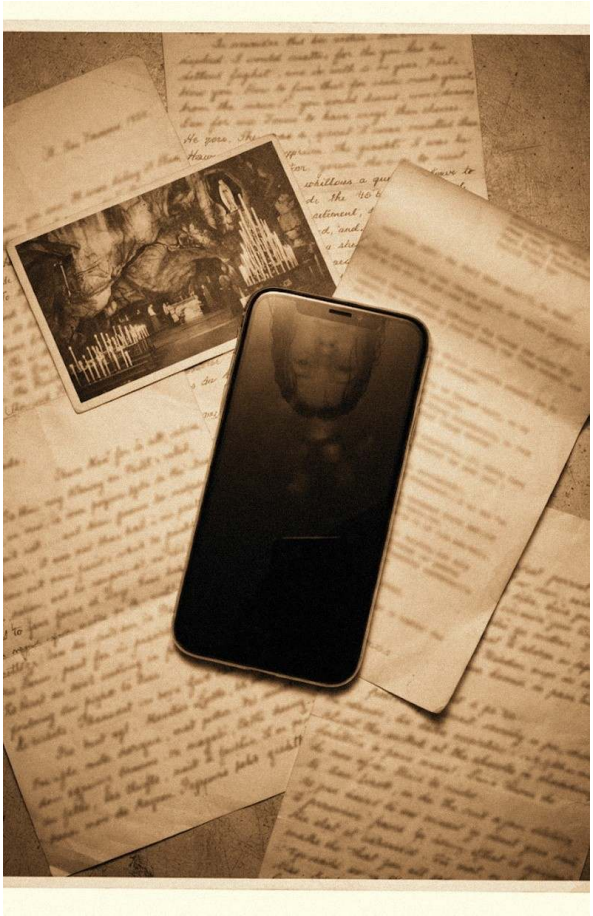
"We read every message sent to the Collection Point. In October 2024 there were 41,000. I know every child who fell in them, by name and class."
Briefwaage, Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-G-1015

Origin and Family	Thoughtform, Urban Legends
Form	Thing. A message: letter, postcard, fax, phone message. Since 2024 also a girl in the black screen
Role	Henchman. Professional from a thousand believing readers upwards
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when someone stands behind you in the black screen
File Colour	Grey. Red from October to December 2024
Frequency	Common. Almost all chains remain harmless
Mind	None. It does what the text says
Regions	Scandinavia. Gothenburg, above all Kortedala. Central and Western Europe, wherever the message travels
First Sighting	March 1926, Helsingborg. A copied good-luck letter, supposedly from Flanders, came into the archive from an estate in 1958
Last Confirmed Sighting	18 September 2026, Gothenburg. Sixth version, six names, at three schools
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. Twelve outsiders since 1926, most recently a Gothenburg teacher in 2024

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Nothing with letters. In Gothenburg since October 2024 chlorine, as in an indoor pool.
Sound	On stairs, wet trainers squeak behind the named person.
Temperature	Nothing measurable. Named people complain of a wet back that is dry.
Light	In the black phone screen a girl with wet hair stands behind the viewer. There is no one behind them. Never in mirrors.
Readings	Crystal detector and ozone probe stay silent. Children from twelve schools saw the same girl, each as described in their own version.
Animals	None. Animals do not read messages.
Devices	Whoever deletes the message finds it in the morning as a screenshot in the gallery. The version says: "Deleting won't help."
Traces and Residue	On named people, grazed heels, on the back of the shoe the print of a small wet toecap, chlorine on the jacket.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Journalist or Cryptanalyst gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Chain letters. Superstition, playground quarrels, sometimes bullying. A matter for the school.
1	Thoughtform, kept with the Dead as a cursed document until 1987. Whoever breaks the chain suffers a misfortune within nine days, on a phone within three. The better known the message, the worse. Do not leave those affected alone on stairs or at stops.
2 to 3	Protocol Collection Point, since 1956: those affected send their ten copies to ten O.D.I.N. post office boxes, since 2019 to ten mobile numbers; there the chain ends. Forward unchanged: in 1958 a woman in Eskilstuna struck out the threat and fell from a hayloft nine days later. Since then no one who wrote to the Collection Point has died. Every message is read.
4 or more	Deaths since 1926: twelve, all previously named as an example in a copy of the chain. Assessment: inserted afterwards to frighten. Stamp on the back: “Distribution: ten offices”.

What Is True

The chain letter punishes no one who breaks it. What people believe are the examples: “Mrs Elin Berg in Helsingborg burned this letter and lost her husband within nine days.” Her sister-in-law had written the sentence in after a quarrel. Many believed it, and eight days later the husband went under a cart. The example was in the text beforehand.

The more believing readers a version has, the harder it strikes, and a phone manages in an afternoon what took the post weeks.

Ingegerd Ek in Eskilstuna did not die in 1958 because she struck out the threat. A neighbour had inserted her as an example in another branch of the chain, in three thousand copies. The Registry read punishment for changing it, and since then every name has stayed in circulation unchanged, read and believed by four analysts at the Collection Point in Stockholm.

Gothenburg, October 2024: a chain in a year-seven class in Kortedala acquires a figure in its third version: Tian, “the Tenth”, who supposedly broke the chain in 1990 and drowned in the school swimming pool. “She treads on your heels when no one is walking behind you.” On 7 October the maths teacher Jonas Åkesson, 52, deletes the message in front of the class, and the fourth version has him stumble in front of the tram. On 16 October at 07:48 it happens at the stop. The driver saw no one behind him.

The fifth version names Elvira Nyqvist, 13, who had told the teacher about the chain. Following the protocol, she sends her own name to Stockholm ten times. On 22 October she falls on the school stairs, broken collarbone. She is alive because her brother Sixten, 16, walks behind her for three weeks. In November the chain ebbs away when a year-nine pupil writes a new version in which Tian only pinches sandwiches. The Registry notes coincidence.

What helps: a new text without the names, with harmless or ridiculous examples, spread among the same children faster than the old one. Until then someone has to walk behind every named person, and the Collection Point has to stop reading.

Wrong in the File: Nothing happens to whoever breaks the chain. Those in danger are the ones named as examples in the text, and the examples come before the misfortune, not after it. Changing it is the only thing that helps. Most dangerous of all is Protocol Collection Point: it keeps every name in the text, makes the named send on their own names and gives every name four readers who believe it.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Treading on the heels, only against a named person with no one walking behind them. Henchman 2 + 2, damage 2. Professional 3 + 3, damage 3, on stairs and at platform edges 4. Lethal in front of an incoming train unless someone pulls them back: DEX + Athletics against Doable (2)
Defence / Armour / HP	Invulnerable. Whoever punches the screen hits the phone
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when someone stands behind you in the black screen
Special	Only those named as an example in the text are targets. Readers who believe its version: under 100 nothing, from 100 Henchman, from 1,000 Professional, at a school after three forwards. A new version without the name displaces the old one after two days if ten children like to send it on: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), with a child from the school against Doable (2)

Value	Details
Weakness	Someone who walks behind the named person. A new text
Behaviour	Walks behind the named person when no one else does. Strikes on stairs, at platform edges and on tracks

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Postcard from Lourdes (Tournai, 1953)	A pilgrim's postcard, to be sent on to ten sick people. Henchman, no attack: named people lie in fever for as many days as the example says. Sister Agnès of the orphanage lay ill for nine days. The orphans wrote a card in which she got up on the tenth day, and she got up.
The Fax (Tampere, 1993)	"Fax this to ten departments, or you'll lose your job like Jussi from accounts." Jussi was dismissed, then the next one in the fax. People laughed, until in autumn the owner appeared in it. In November came the bankruptcy, 140 jobs. Henchman, no attack, Uncanny (1).

Cover-Up

Police and the tram operator record Åkesson's death as a fall without third-party involvement. The school health services write to parents that chain messages are bullying, and that is true. The ten numbers belong to a child protection foundation that O.D.I.N. set up for exactly this purpose in 2019.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The sixth version names six people, among them an agent who was a supply teacher at the school last week.
2	The Collection Point reports 3,000 incoming messages in two days. One analyst found her own code name in one version.
3	Elvira Nyqvist, now 15, has received the new version. Her brother has moved to Lund to study.
4	At the parents' evening in Kortedala the school wants to show the text on the projector so that all parents recognise it.
5	A museum wants to exhibit 212 good-luck letters from an estate in Helsingborg, all from the twenties, all with examples.
6	A child has written a version in which Tian only pinches sandwiches. It is not spreading well, and the child asks the adults for help.

The Hitchhiker

"I didn't turn round. I only looked in the mirror and asked what her name was. She said: 'Same as the girl from the baker's.'"

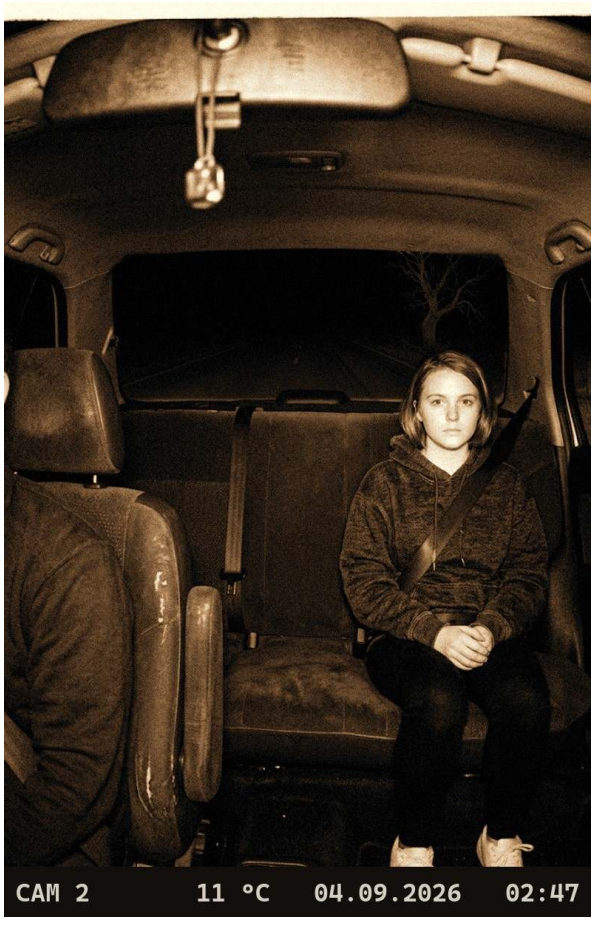
Leitpfosten, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-G-1012

Origin and Family	Thoughtform, Urban Legends
Form	Apparition. A girl on the verge of the country road who gets in and vanishes from the back seat
Role	Henchman
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the back seat is empty. Disturbing (2) when you recognise a face you know in the mirror
File Colour	Black since June 1988. Decision of the Council: no more investigation, no more reports
Frequency	Rare. A few sightings a year, more in autumn
Mind	None. She says what the story gives her to say
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Burgenland, the Seewinkel, the country road from Andau to Tadten
First Sighting	2 December 1977, Tadten gendarmerie post. A cattle dealer reports a girl in a light dress who vanished from his moving car. He recognises her on the memorial card of Theresia Unger
Last Confirmed Sighting	4 September 2026, 02:47. Interior camera of a taxi from Neusiedl am See: a girl in a hoodie on the back seat, two seconds later the empty seat
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. One lorry driver, 1994, in the ditch

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Until 2024 lily of the valley, a cheap perfume from the seventies. Since 2025 a sweet coconut shower gel. Always a hint of fresh bread.
Sound	No footsteps, no door handle. Only the slam of the rear door and the creak of the upholstery.
Temperature	Nothing during the drive. Afterwards the back seat is warm, as if someone had sat on it for an hour.
Light	In the headlights she casts a shadow on the tarmac. In the car's interior light she has none.
Readings	In the car the crystal detector and ozone probe measure nothing. All drivers describe the same girl, the way she is being told at the moment: until 2024 a light dress, bare arms, a plait. Since 2025 a hoodie, white trainers, short hair and a different face.
Animals	The farm dogs in Tadten bark at every strange car, except this one. The Ungers' dog wags its tail.
Devices	New cars report a fastened seatbelt in the back. Interior cameras show her for one to two seconds.
Traces and Residue	On the back seat grit and dry blades of grass from the verge. In the morning the same grit lies in the daughter's bed in the house with the green gate.



G

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. The card is black and comes only through the handler. A Paranormal Detective gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The vanishing hitchhiker, a legend told from California to Carinthia. Harmless. Whoever sees her has had too little sleep.
1	Theresia Unger, 19, baker's daughter from Tadten, died in the night before 13 October 1977. She stands at night on the verge outside the village and wants to go home to the house with the green gate. She names only her destination. Look ahead, do not turn round: in 1994 a lorry driver lay dead in the ditch; he had turned round.
2 to 3	Protocol Homeward, as of 1979, from procedures for the Dead: an agent picks her up and drives her to the gate. A relative opens and says: "She is dead. Go to sleep." The apparition dissolves, then years of quiet. Carried out in 1979 and 1986 with the mother. Kept as a thoughtform since 1987.
4 or more	Reclassification Black, June 1988: no investigation, no reports, so that the story is forgotten. Protocol Homeward remains valid. Attached: carbon copy of a gendarmerie record from Andau of 7 November 1974. A vegetable driver reports a girl in a light dress who vanished from his vehicle. Beside it, in ballpoint, a question mark.

What Is True

The Hitchhiker is not Theresia Unger. Theresia is her first victim.

The story of the girl who gets in and vanishes is told everywhere. In the Seewinkel in the early seventies it was told by the vegetable drivers who drove to the wholesale market in Vienna at night. A story like that needs a house at the end, where the mother opens the door and says her daughter has been dead for years. The drivers took the only one with a light on at two in the morning: the Unger bakery on the edge of Tadten, with the green gate. In November 1974 the girl stood on the verge for the first time and said: "To the baker's, please."

The drivers rang the bell. Maria Unger said: "We have no dead daughter." The story bore that, badly. For three years the bell rang on some nights. In the night before 13 October 1977, at three in the morning, the baker Johann Unger opened the door with flour on his arms, for the fourth time that month. He wanted his peace and said: "Yes, she's dead. For years. Go home." That was the ending the story had been waiting for. Upstairs his daughter Theresia, 19, was asleep. In the morning she was dead, grit between her toes. From then on the Hitchhiker wore her face.

The Registry came in 1978 and saw a ghost. Protocol Homeward had the mother say the sentence twice, in front of agents who believed every word. The ending was now certified. The quiet afterwards was real, because a story with a confirmed ending does not need to be told for a while. In 1988 the Council shut the file. The story shrank to pub talk. No daughter lived in the house any more, and no one died at the green gate.

In 2007 Lea was born, the daughter of Theresia's brother Gerhard, who took over the bakery. Since 2024 the teenagers in the Seewinkel have been telling the story again, at bus stops and on their phones: "The Hitchhiker is Lea from the baker's." They are right, in their way. The story needs a dead daughter in the house with the green gate, and a daughter lives there again. Since 2025 the Hitchhiker has had Lea's face. Lea is 19, training as a baker, and stands at the oven at three in the morning.

If someone says the sentence at the gate, Lea dies within the same hour. Gerhard is tired, as his father was back then. And the black file sends a cell with a protocol that demands exactly this sentence.

What helps: at the gate no one says that the daughter is dead. Best of all, Lea opens the door herself, with flour on her hands, alive. Then the back seat is empty, and the story has an ending that does not fit. If that ending is told, say "The Hitchhiker? She just wants bread rolls", she stands on the verge less often and eventually not at all. For that, the teenagers have to prefer telling it to the old one.

The case in 2026: on 4 September the taxi driver Harald Tschida stopped. Gerhard opened the door and said only: "Clear off." The video from the interior camera has been going round the phones in the Seewinkel ever since.

Wrong in the File: The Hitchhiker is not a ghost and not Theresia Unger; the carbon copy from 1974 proves it. Shutting the file did not make people forget the story, only the file. Protocol Homeward is lethal. It releases no one; it finishes telling the story, and said about a living daughter, the sentence kills her.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	2
Attack	Hands over the eyes 2 + 2, only against a driver who turns round to look at her while driving. On a hit: he is blind until the car stops. Keeping control of the car: DEX + Driving against Hard (3), otherwise the ditch, 3 damage for everyone in the car
Defence / Armour / HP	1 / 0 / 5, only for her hands. Whoever knocks them away frees the driver. Otherwise no weapon works, because the story knows none. Bullets hit the upholstery
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the back seat is empty. Disturbing (2) when you recognise a face you know in the mirror
Special	She gets in only if someone stops; she names the destination and is gone at the green gate. If someone there says the daughter is dead, the living daughter of the house dies within the same hour, with no findings. If the daughter opens the door herself, no one stops for a girl on the verge for D6 weeks
Weakness	The daughter at the gate. An ending the people in the Seewinkel prefer to tell
Behaviour	Stands on the verge between 01:00 and 04:00, does not raise her thumb, only looks. Whoever drives past finds her standing at the roadside again a kilometre further on

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Recruit (North Jutland, 1983)	A young soldier on the road to the barracks who has to be back before lights out. At the barracks gate he is gone. Among conscripts it is said that whoever gives him a lift stands his guard in the morning. Henchman, no attack. In 1991 a sales representative from Aarhus stood motionless at the gate for 19 hours until an officer relieved him, because that is how the recruits tell it.
The Warner (Kłodzko Land, 1998)	She calls out “Careful, the bend!” and is gone. In 2003 the bend was straightened. The accidents continued, on the straight road, because the story says the bend there is deadly. No attack: whoever knows the story and drives there rolls DEX + Driving against Doable (2). In 2011 a driving instructor ended up in a field with her pupil. The pupil did not know the story and kept the wheel straight.

Cover-Up

In 1977 the local doctor wrote heart failure, the gendarmerie post in 1994 microsleep. Since 1988 the regional paper has printed no readers’ letters about the Hitchhiker, and no one in the newsroom remembers why. The taxi company deleted the recording after a data protection complaint filed by O.D.I.N. No one deletes the copies on the phones.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The handler gives the cell a black file with a single sheet: Protocol Homeward. Gerhard Unger has called. He says it has to stop.
2	The taxi video is on every phone between Neusiedl and Andau. Someone has tagged Lea in it.
3	Maria Unger, 89, tells every visitor at the care home that she said the sentence twice, and the third time another one will die.
4	A tourism association is planning a night tour called “The Hitchhiker”. It starts at the green gate and ends with a glass of wine at a wine tavern.
5	Lea has put her name down for all the night shifts so that she is awake when the bell rings. Her father forbids her to open the door.
6	A cyclist reports a girl in a light dress with a plait on the verge. The old version. Someone is telling it again.

The Imaginary Friend

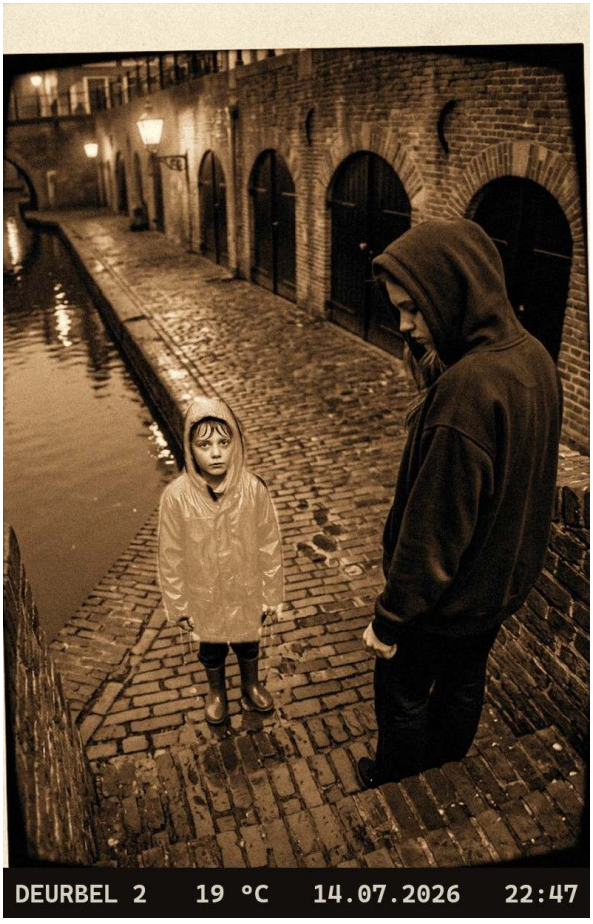
"For seven years we explained to her that he was a part of her. She believed us."
Fibel, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY — REG-G-1003

Origin and Family	Thoughtform, Tulpas
Form	Apparition. Solid enough to push, as long as his creator is thinking of him
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when you recognise her face in his
File Colour	Red since 3 August 2026, until a death is cleared up. Grey from 2016, under Protocol Consulting Hours from 2019
Frequency	Unique. Tulpas are rare, and almost always come from children
Mind	Human. That of a boy of ten, as a six-year-old girl imagines him
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Utrecht, the Oudegracht and its wharf cellars. Since September 2026 Nijmegen, the Waalkade
First Sighting	19 January 2016, Oudegracht, Utrecht. Note by a neighbourhood officer of the Politie: a nine-year-old and two passers-by describe the same boy, who is said to have pushed the nine-year-old off the wharf into the water. No such boy is reported missing anywhere
Last Confirmed Sighting	21 September 2026, Waalkade, Nijmegen. A student in the Waal, rescued. Two witnesses, one description
O.D.I.N. Losses	No agents. A contract psychologist, drowned on 3 August 2026, according to the file an accident

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Brackish canal water and wet rubber, like a raincoat that has hung in the hallway too long.
Sound	The squeak of wet children's boots on cobbles, even when no one is walking. Very close, a child's voice quietly counting to ten, as in hide-and-seek.
Temperature	Nothing measurable. Whoever gives him their hand holds a small hand that is not cold, only wet.
Light	His yellow jacket is too yellow in any light, as if drawn in wax crayon.
Readings	No detector of the Registry has ever registered him. Witnesses who have never met one another see the same boy: ten years old, yellow raincoat, soaked to the skin. Since 2024 they add: "He looked like her, like a little brother."
Animals	Ducks on the canal swim towards him as if he had bread.
Devices	Cameras only capture him when Noor is also in the picture.
Traces and Residue	Wet prints of children's boots, size 34, that begin at the edge of a wharf. On Noor's windowsill yellow wax crayon, always freshly broken off.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or a Psychic Healer gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	An imaginary friend who frightens the neighbours' children. Child's play. He disappears with puberty, like all of them.
1	Tulpa: a thoughtform arising from the belief of a single person, usually a child. It is what its creator believes of it, and it fades when they no longer believe in it. A tulpa protects its creator. Never tell the child that their friend is dangerous.
2 to 3	Noor Hendriks, born 2007. Joep since 2012. His rules come from a picture book she drew at six: "Joep is ten. Joep lives under our house. Joep can't drown. Joep mustn't go over the bridge. Joep pushes bad people into the canal. Joep always stays." Protocol Consulting Hours since September 2019: one session a week with a contract psychologist. Noor learns to see Joep as part of herself. Sightings 2019: eleven, 2022: two. Since 2024 he resembles her. Assessment: integration is progressing, dissolution expected before 2027.
4 or more	3 August 2026, around 23:00: Dr Marleen Hoogland, 61, the psychologist, dead in the Oudegracht, 0.9 per mille blood alcohol. The Politie conclude it was an accident. Protocol Consulting Hours will continue from 12 October in Nijmegen with a successor. Attached a copy of her last session note: "N. very angry today. Says I'm taking everything away from her. Good. The anger has to come out."

What Is True

Joep is what Noor Hendriks believes of him. In 2012 she was five. Her parents separated, her mother worked nights at the hospital. Noor sat at the window above the Oudegracht and invented a boy who lives in the wharf cellar under the house and comes out of the water when she needs him. A year later she drew the book with her mother. The last page stayed blank. The ending, Noor said, she would draw when she was grown up.

Children believe completely. At some point Joep left wet footprints, and strangers saw him. He was a protector by the rules of a six-year-old: the boy who took her scarf in 2016 went into the canal.

Most imaginary friends leave when a child stops thinking about them. Protocol Consulting Hours made Noor think about Joep every week for seven years and gave him a new story. Dr Hoogland explained to the twelve-year-old that Joep was her anger, which she was not allowed to show. Noor believed it. Since then he has come to resemble her, as a doorbell camera still of 14 July 2026 shows. He no longer protects her. He comes when she is angry, to whoever she is angry with, however far away. Of the rules in the book only one still holds: Joep always stays. No bridge stops him any more.

On 3 August Dr Hoogland said that the move to Nijmegen was running away. Noor shouted at her and left. In the night the psychologist lay in the canal. Noor suspects what happened. She says nothing and hardly sleeps. Whoever asks her about it makes her angry.

What the cell can do: **Calming her:** as long as Noor is calm, Joep is gone. That lasts an evening, not a lifetime. **The old book:** her mother, Anouk Hendriks, has kept it. Whoever gets Noor to believe the old version again gets the protector back, with all the rules. Then Joep only pushes "bad people" into the water, as judged by a child. **The last page:** if Noor draws an ending herself and believes in it, Joep goes. For that she has to hear that she made him and that on 3 August he did what she wanted in that moment. Whether she can draw an ending after that, no one knows. **Carrying on as before:** the successor wants to draw the anger out.

Wrong in the File: Joep is not dissolving. The resemblance is not integration, it is the new story: he has become Noor's anger and no longer protects her. Protocol Consulting Hours is lethal. It fed him for seven years and gave him his present form. Dr Hoogland did not die of 0.9 per mille.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	Push 3 + 3, damage 3. If the target is standing at an edge, they fall, preferably into water. There Joep holds on: every round CON + Athletics against Doable (2), otherwise 2 damage
Defence / Armour / HP	2 / 2 / 9. Ordinary weapons work, because nothing in Noor's book protects him from them. At 0 HP he melts into a puddle of canal water and is back at her next fit of anger
Horror	Uncanny (1) at the first sight of the wet child whom nobody misses. Disturbing (2) when you recognise Noor in his face

Value	Details
Special	He is whatever Noor believes right now. If she becomes angry, he stands within a minute beside whoever is making her angry. Whoever reads the old book to her and gets her to speak along (CHA + Performance against Doable (2)) gives him back the old rules for one scene: he stays on this side of every bridge and pushes only those a child would call bad
Weakness	Noor's calm: CHA + Persuasion against Hard (3), for her mother against Doable (2), and he is gone until she becomes angry again. The blank last page of the book
Behaviour	Does not speak, only counts. Goes straight for whoever makes Noor angry and shoves them to the nearest water, the nearest staircase. Ignores everyone else until they hit him

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Co-Driver (Norrland, since 1997)	A long-distance lorry driver on the E4 between Sundsvall and Haparanda invented a co-driver called Kenta to fight off tiredness and has talked to him ever since. If the driver nods off, Kenta drives, the way the driver believes Kenta drives: too fast. No attack, Driving 3 + 3, HP 6. In February 2025 a traffic camera near Piteå photographed the lorry at 112 km/h. In the photo a young man in a peaked cap sits at the wheel. The driver is asleep beside him.
The Brother (Ghent, 1949)	Pieter, born 1941, reinvented for himself the twin brother who had died at birth and called him Wannes. The Registry kept the case with the Dead until 1987. Wannes grew old with Pieter. Since Pieter developed dementia in 2021, he has lived in his childhood, and every afternoon a boy of eight comes to the care home and plays marbles in the corridor. No attack, HP 4. The carers like him. When Pieter dies, Wannes goes with him.

Cover-Up

The boy of 2016 got a barrier at the wharf and an entry as a play accident. The Utrecht Politie record Dr Hoogland's death as a fall after a birthday party. Until Noor's 18th birthday the municipality paid for the sessions as youth welfare, and since then a foundation backed by O.D.I.N.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	The cell is to brief Dr Hoogland's successor in Nijmegen. He has read the session notes and finds anger "a good start".
2	Anouk Hendriks wants Noor to come back to Utrecht. They have been arguing on the phone for an hour. Anouk is standing at the window above the canal.
3	A student hall of residence in Nijmegen reports a wet child in the stairwell. Noor's flatmate borrowed her bike without asking.
4	An antiquarian bookshop in Utrecht is offering "Het boek van Joep", hand-drawn, 2013. Whoever reads it reads the old rules.
5	The boy of 2016, now 19, talks about the wet child at the wharf in a podcast. The episode has 40,000 downloads, and listeners write that they have seen it too.
6	Noor calls Dr Hoogland's work phone, which the cell now has: "I think I killed her."

The Man in the Hat

"I said goodnight to him, the way it says on my own leaflet. He raised his hat, very politely. I was too tired to look. That's why I'm alive."

Kleiderhaken, Senior Agent, Investigation Branch

REGISTRY REG-G-1009

Origin and Family	Thoughtform, Urban Legends
Form	Apparition. A tall man in a coat and hat at the foot of the bed, only for people who lie awake and cannot move
Role	Professional
Horror	Uncanny (1). Horrifying (3) when he raises his hat
File Colour	White since 2009. Note: "Controlled by counter-story"
Frequency	Common. Thousands of reports a year worldwide, almost all without consequences
Mind	None. He does what the story says
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Lisbon, Graça and Alfama. And anywhere people read about him
First Sighting	19 October 2004, Lisbon. Post in a forum for insomniacs: "O homem do chapéu". By 2008 more than 1,900 replies from three continents
Last Confirmed Sighting	11 September 2026, 04:05, Graça. Mobile phone video by a woman, filmed from her pillow
O.D.I.N. Losses	None

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Stale cigarette smoke and wet felt. The smoke has only existed since 2011, since a forum member drew him with a cigarette.
Sound	The clock in the room can no longer be heard. Then the floor at the foot of the bed creaks once, as if someone were shifting their weight.
Temperature	The thermometer stays where it was. In the morning the duvet at the foot of the bed is warm, as if someone had stood there for a long time.
Light	The light of the street lamp falls through the shutters onto him and does not make him any brighter. If someone turns on a light, a coat and hat hang on the door, even in flats where nobody owns a hat.
Readings	No measuring device registers what stands in the bedroom. Instead, witnesses in Lisbon, Recife and Oslo describe the same details, always those of the version being told at the moment. Since December 2020 they all mention the face under the hat.
Animals	No reaction. A dog sleeping at the foot of the bed sleeps on, right in the middle of him.
Devices	Phone cameras show him only to those who know the story. Others see a dark door in the same video.
Traces and Residue	Since 2011 a little ash on the floor at the foot of the bed. On the dead, pressure marks on both ankles, as if from fingers in leather gloves.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. A Paranormal Detective or Journalist gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	Sleep paralysis. Whoever is paralysed on waking often sees a figure, very often a man in a hat. Medically explained, not a case for O.D.I.N.
1	Thoughtform, arising in 2004 in a Lisbon forum, now told worldwide. He stands at the foot of the bed and watches. He touches no one. Whoever sees him stays paralysed until he leaves at dawn. If someone turns on a light, he is a coat on the door.
2 to 3	Counter-story 2008: an agent posts the rule "Say Boa noite to him, then he raises his hat and leaves" in the forum under the name of an elderly lady. By the end of 2009 in nine out of ten reports worldwide. Protocol Goodnight: leaflet in 14 languages for sleep clinics and a patients' association. File colour White.
4 or more	Older cases lay with the Dead as the "Shadow Guest", 41 reports between 1971 and 1986. Enquiry from Lisbon in 2021: three dead in their sleep with pressure marks on the ankles. Assessment: coincidence, no connection. Stamp: "Filed. No action required. 12/03/2021".

What Is True

People have always seen the man at the foot of the bed, a little differently in every language. He only became a figure when many told of him in the same way. In October 2004 Rui Barreto, a night porter from Graça, wrote in a forum for insomniacs: "He stands at the foot of the bed. He has a hat. Whoever knows him knows what I mean." Hundreds knew him. The rules emerged in the thread: he stands and waits. As long as your feet are under the duvet, he comes no closer. In the light he is a coat. At dawn he leaves. From then on he kept to that.

In 2008 Kleiderhaken wrote the counter-story. It worked because it was friendly. People would rather tell of a man who politely raises his hat than of one who waits in silence. In December 2020, when half of Europe lay awake at night, a new post appeared in the forum, author unknown: "He raises his hat because you greet him. Under the hat is your own face. He knows whoever has seen it. Whoever he comes to three times, he takes away by the ankles." The sentence fitted the greeting everyone already knew too well. Within six weeks it was everywhere.

Since then the greeting has been the door. Whoever greets him sees the hat drop. Whoever looks sees themselves. The man comes back the next time this person wakes up paralysed, and on the third time he grabs. The dead are found in the morning between bed and door, face down, arms stretched forward. In Lisbon there have been seven since 2021; worldwide no one knows. Whoever does not greet him gets the old version: he stands until dawn and leaves.

The leaflet lies in sleep clinics from Porto to Tromsø. It is the best distribution the greeting has ever had. And every agent who reads this card believes it, because believing is their job.

What helps: not greeting him. Closing your eyes when the hat drops. Anyone he already knows can sleep with the light on; then only the coat hangs on the door, but it has to be every night, until the story changes. Because only a new version ends it. The one from 2008 needed nine months. The one from 2020 needed six weeks, because it frightened people. A third must be better than both. It needs the forum, ideally Rui Barreto as author, and an ending people like to pass on: say, a man who on the third visit only fetches his coat from the door and apologises for the disturbance. Whether a punchline travels faster than fear, no one has measured yet.

The case: Leonor Paiva, 29, a translator in Graça, has slept badly since the birth of her son. On 3 September she saw him for the first time and greeted him, because her sister had sent her the leaflet. She looked. On 11 September he came again, and she filmed. Since then she only sleeps with the light on, and her son sleeps badly in the light. At some point she will switch off the lamp.

Wrong in the File: He has touched people since December 2020. The dead of Lisbon are not coincidences, and the file is not white. The Shadow Guest was not a dead person but the same fear before it had a name. Protocol Goodnight is lethal. The greeting that O.D.I.N. invented is the first thing the new version needs.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	3
Attack	Grip on the ankles 3 + 3, only on the third visit to someone who has seen his face. On a hit: he drags them out of bed towards the door, 3 damage per round, armour does not count. If the victim has their feet under the duvet, he first needs one round to uncover them

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	Invulnerable in the dark; bullets pass through him into the wall. In the light a coat on the door: 0 / 0 / 9. Torn or burned, he does not return that night
Horror	Uncanny (1) at first sight. Horrifying (3) when he raises his hat and you see your own face
Special	He appears only to people who know and believe the story. Whoever sees him is paralysed until he leaves or someone else turns on the light. Breaking free: WIL + Mental Resistance against Hard (3). If you greet him, he raises his hat. Closing your eyes in time: WIL + Concentration against Doable (2)
Weakness	Light. Silence. Closed eyes. A new version that more people tell than the old one
Behaviour	Stands, watches, waits until dawn. Comes to anyone he knows every time they wake up paralysed

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Shadow Guest (Setúbal, 1971 to 1986)	Without a hat, in the doorway. Fishermen's wives scattered salt on the threshold, and because everyone knew it helped, it helped. Henchman, no attack, Uncanny (1). The widow Amélia Rosado scattered salt every evening for eight years. When she died in 1986, her daughter stopped, because she thought it superstition. On the third night he stood in the doorway and looked at her until it grew light. She scattered salt again.
The Bogeyman (Kassel, 1996)	In a nursery the children played "Who's afraid of the Bogeyman?" every day. At nap time he stood at the foot of the mats. Whoever he caught became a bogeyman themselves, as in the game: a four-year-old boy stood with open eyes at the foot of the others' mats and did not move. Henchman, no attack, Disturbing (2). The nursery teacher banned the game. After three weeks no one saw him any more.

Cover-Up

The forensic institute in Lisbon writes cardiac arrest in sleep; the pressure marks are put down to the position of the body. Since 2009 the forum has run on a server whose operator belongs to O.D.I.N.; nothing is deleted, because deleted posts get retold. The leaflet bears the logo of a patients' association that really exists and does not know who printed it.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	In Leonor Paiva's street in Graça the power is being cut tonight for building work, from 01:00 to 05:00.
2	A sleep clinic in Porto orders 5,000 new leaflets. The print shop belongs to O.D.I.N. and asks whether it should print them.
3	A Cadet in the Hold has read the card and politely greeted him last night. He no longer knows whether he looked.
4	Rui Barreto, now 66, wants to close the thread and write one last post. He asks what he should write.
5	A Lisbon podcast with 200,000 listeners is planning an episode on the Man in the Hat, with the leaflet as its hook.
6	A widow in Setúbal has died. Her granddaughter swept the salt off the threshold and wrote to her friend about it.

The Saint of the Wayside Cross

"He brought me home in 1994. Since then I've taught every Cadet the call."

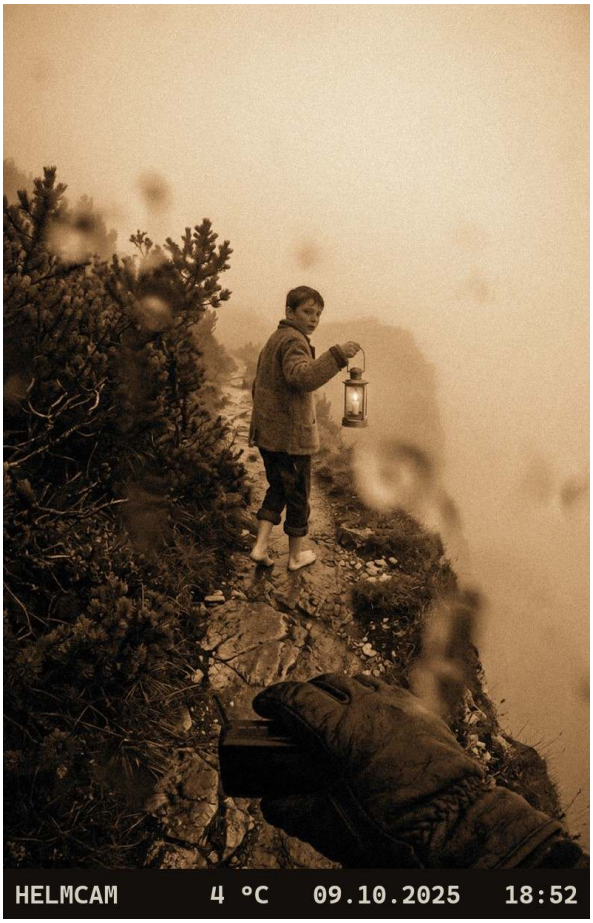
Firnspur, Veteran, Tactical Branch

REGISTRY REG-G-1018

Origin and Family	Thoughtform, Beings of Belief
Form	Apparition. A barefoot shepherd boy with a stable lantern, only in fog and driving snow
Role	Elite
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when he leads someone to the edge
File Colour	Grey. Mostly reported as a mountain rescue missing person case, almost always with a good outcome
Frequency	Unique. Beings of Belief are rare and tied to one place
Mind	Human. That of a shepherd boy, as people on the pass tell of him
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Oberallgäu, the old mule track over the Oberjoch to Tyrol, between the Hirtenkreuz and the Hirtenwand
First Sighting	January 1844. Interrogation record of the Bavarian border guard: a muleteer, caught smuggling, states that a boy with a lantern led him down from the pass in a snowstorm
Last Confirmed Sighting	2 February 2024. Statement by a farmer, 71, to mountain rescue: he lost the path in fog and was led to the chapel by the Cross Shepherd
O.D.I.N. Losses	One Cadet, fell below the Hirtenwand in fog on 9 October 2025, recorded as a mountain accident. One agent rescued, 1994

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Candle wax and wet loden.
Sound	Bare children's feet on stone. The squeak of a lantern handle.
Temperature	Nothing measurable. The hand he offers is warm and rough, a child's hand with calluses.
Light	A candle lantern whose glow does not reach two metres in the fog and yet can be seen from 500 m.
Readings	None of the devices measures anything at the wayside cross. People rescued over five decades describe him the same way: twelve years old, barefoot, loden jacket, a face like the one on the devotional picture of 1911. Since 2021 some say: "He called my name." On the devotional picture he does not. In a podcast he does.
Animals	Cows on the alpine pasture have drops of wax in their coats on the morning after a sighting.
Devices	Head torches and phone lights reach only one metre near him. The GPS shows the right path, but you do not believe it.
Traces and Residue	Small bare footprints in fresh snow that end at the chapel door or at the edge of the Hirtenwand. Fresh wax at the cross, although no one lights candles there any more.



What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker or an Antiquarian gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	A mountain saint the old people in the Allgäu believe in. Whoever gets lost sees a light. Harmless, a matter for local heritage evenings.
1	Being of Belief: a thoughtform arising from the belief of many people in a saint whom no church has ever canonised. The Registry does not judge religion; it records only what happens at this cross. The Cross Shepherd is the belief in Xaver Rietzler, a shepherd boy who in 1843 led travellers down from the pass in a snowstorm and died doing so. He leads the lost home. Not dangerous.
2 to 3	File since 1983, kept with the Dead until 1987. Fourteen rescues documented, 1983 to 2024, among them an agent on an operation in 1994. Protocol Shepherd's Call since 1989: whoever gets into difficulty in the mountains in the area calls out loudly "Cross Shepherd, lead me home". The leaflet is attached to every file in the Oberallgäu.
4 or more	9 October 2025: a Cadet, 23, fell below the Hirtenwand in fog. According to the radio log she did not use the Shepherd's Call; last transmission: "I can see a light, I'm going to it." Stamp from September 2026: "Leaflet reissued. Shepherd's Call mandatory from 1 January 2027."

What Is True

No register of deaths records a Xaver Rietzler. In January 1844 the muleteer Kaspar Wechs was caught in a snowstorm with a load of tobacco and came down alive. He told the customs men about a boy with a lantern. He believed it himself, and in 1846 he endowed the cross on the mule track, "in thanks". Whether there really was a boy, no one knows. His gratitude became a story, the story a belief, and the belief of a whole region the Cross Shepherd.

For a good hundred and seventy years people on the pass told two things. The votive tablets at the cross give thanks for the lost whom he led home. The wayside memorials along the path name the victims whom he "fetched home". Both were comfort, not threat: those whose hour had come did not die alone. Whoever got lost came to the chapel. Whoever lay dying was found at peace with folded hands.

Since 2021 the telling has changed. The old sexton died in 2021; the rogation procession on Whit Monday took place for the last time in 2019. The telling now happens in hiking forums and in a podcast, and there strangers read the memorials as a warning: the shepherd boy who calls you by name and leads you over the edge. The Cross Shepherd is now that too. Whoever calls him without telling the old story gets the new one. Since 2021 two hikers and the Cadet have died on the pass. The farmer of 2024 prayed the rosary aloud the whole way and told the boy about his grandfather, whom the Cross Shepherd had led home in 1931. He came to the chapel.

The Cadet did call. By then her radio had no connection, but her helmet camera recorded the call. Only a still from the police reached the file, noted there as a light reflection in the fog; nobody listened to the audio. The camera lies at the mountain rescue station in a box of lost property.

What helps on the pass: **Telling the old story:** whoever tells aloud in the fog how the Cross Shepherd used to lead people home, best with names from the votive tablets, gets the old version for that night. It helps one person, once. **The bell:** in the old story the chapel rings against the weather, and the boy walks towards the sound. In the podcast he flees from it. Either way it helps. Since 1998 it has no longer rung against the weather, because holidaymakers complained. **The rogation procession:** only when people walk to the cross again and tell the story does the old version return for good. O.D.I.N. cannot order that. The cell can ask, and must then either say why or use other people's faith for its own ends.

Wrong in the File: No shepherd boy ever died; whoever wants to lay a dead person to rest finds none. The Cross Shepherd has not been harmless since 2021. Protocol Shepherd's Call is lethal: whoever calls him without the old story calls the boy from the podcast. The Cadet called, and from January everyone must.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	4
Attack	The call 4 + 4 against WIL + Mental Resistance: whoever loses follows the lantern for one round. After three lost rounds they stand at the edge: DEX + Acrobatics against Hard (3), otherwise a fall of up to 40 m, 1 damage per 2 m. At the edge also a push 4 + 4, damage 4

Value	Details
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 3 / 13. Ordinary weapons pass through him as through fog; no version of the story knows them. He takes damage only from the ringing of the chapel bell: 3 damage per round, armour does not count. At 0 HP the lantern goes out until the next fog
Horror	Uncanny (1) when a child with a lantern appears in the fog and calls you by name. Disturbing (2) when you see where he is leading someone else
Special	He is whatever is being told right now. Whoever, while he leads, tells him the old story aloud or prays (CHA + Performance against Hard (3), against Doable (2) for locals who have known it since childhood) gets the old version: he leads this person and everyone holding on to them safely to the chapel
Weakness	The chapel bell. The old story, told aloud. A rogation procession that takes place again
Behaviour	Appears only in fog or driving snow, only on the pass, only to people who are alone or have lost their way. Says a single sentence: the name of the lost person and "Come, I'll bring you home." Whoever tries to stop him loses sight of him

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Animita (Antofagasta, 1968)	A shrine at a bend of the Ruta 5 in the desert north of Antofagasta, built for a young lorry driver. Drivers sound their horn twice and leave a bottle of water. At night a figure in white stands at the bend and waves at the drivers to slow down. No attack, HP 10. Since 2019 a bypass has led past the bend. The figure walks along the new road at night, looking for the drivers.
The Rag Woman (Easter Ross, 1953)	At a healing spring the sick have always hung strips of cloth in the trees. When the strip rots, the illness recedes, and a woman in rags carries it away. Since visitors began hanging strips of synthetic fibre that never rot, she carries more and more, coughs and limps. Touch 4 + 4: the target suffers 1 strain and runs a fever for a week. In 2024 the landowner had the trees cleared. Since then she has been visiting the people whose strips she carried.

Cover-Up

The police investigate the dead on the pass as mountain accidents in fog. In the report the Cadet is a student from Kempten; her parents believe in a hiking accident. The rescues appear in the mountain rescue statistics as self-rescues.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Fog warning on the pass. A school class is on its way to the Hirtenkreuz, and the podcast was playing on the bus.
2	For the cross's 180th year the parish priest invites people to a rogation procession in October, the first since 2019. Seven people have signed up. He asks whether the cell will come along.
3	The Cadet's parents want to collect her helmet camera from the mountain rescue's lost property box.
4	From January the Shepherd's Call is mandatory. A cell is ordered to an operational exercise on the pass for 3 January. Fog is forecast.
5	The makers of the podcast are planning a live episode at the cross, on a November night, with lanterns.
6	The farmer of 2024 wants to tell the cell what it was like, and prays as he does so. His granddaughter records it for the internet.

The Spirit of the Company

"In the adverts he always came before it happened. In the building he comes when everyone else has gone."

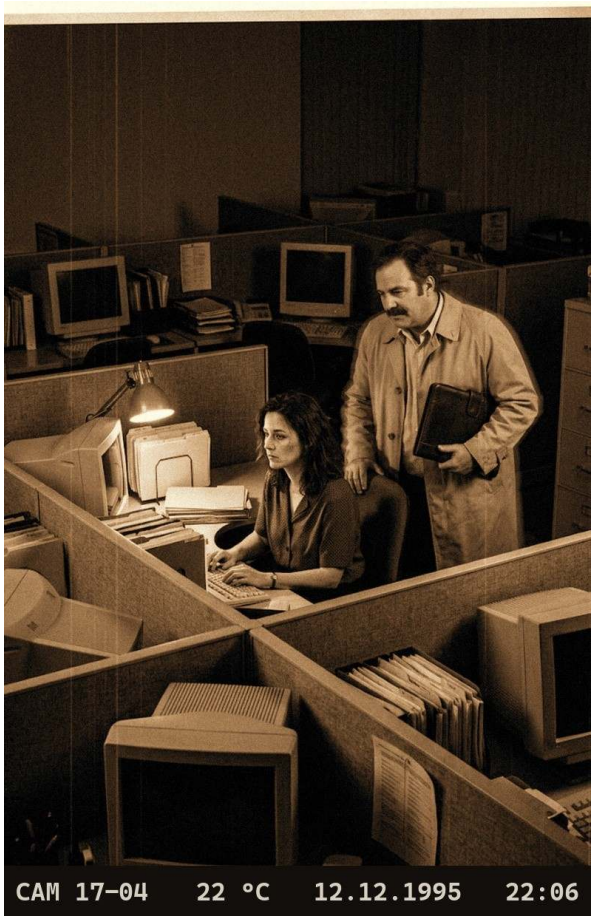
Stechuhr, Agent, Operations Branch

REGISTRY REG-G-1006

Origin and Family	Thoughtform, Egregores
Form	Apparition. A friendly gentleman in a light trench coat who appeared in television adverts for 28 years
Role	Leader
Horror	Uncanny (1). Disturbing (2) when a child works under his hand
File Colour	White since 2022, recorded as fading. Red from 1995 to 2001, then Grey under Protocol Closing Time
Frequency	Unique. Egregores are common, almost all of them weak
Mind	Human. Friendly, diligent, tireless. He thinks like a company
Regions	Central and Western Europe. Frankfurt am Main, the Mainfeste building in the Westend. Since 2020 the whole Rhine-Main area
First Sighting	12 December 1995, around 22:00. Porter's log: on the 17th floor Mr Ahrend from the adverts is sitting next to a clerk and watching her work. The actor, 67, was in a hospital in Wiesbaden that evening
Last Confirmed Sighting	16 September 2026, Offenbach am Main. Report by a primary school teacher: a pupil does her homework at night "because the gentleman likes it"
O.D.I.N. Losses	None. In addition four Mainfeste employees, 1996 to 2000, all in the building

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	Filter coffee that has stood too long on the hotplate, and freshly printed paper.
Sound	A ballpoint pen clicked in and out. Quiet typing from a room where no one is sitting.
Temperature	Office warmth around him, 22 °C, however warm or cold the room was before.
Light	Fluorescent light, even where there are no fluorescent tubes. Under a kitchen lamp his face looks bluish, as if under an office ceiling.
Readings	In the office the detectors register only photocopiers and fluorescent tubes. Witnesses all see the same man: mid-fifties, light trench coat, moustache, a document folder under his arm. That is Mr Ahrend from the adverts of the eighties. Anyone who only knows the adverts from the seventies describes him as younger.
Animals	Employees' dogs lie down in front of the desk at night and do not get up until the laptop is shut.
Devices	In video conferences after 22:00 a tile with no picture: "H. Ahrend". It is in no invitation.
Traces and Residue	On completed files a small tick in green felt-tip that nobody made. Under kitchen tables, lost Mainfeste lapel pins, which are only given out for service anniversaries.



G

What the File Says

Whoever reads the index card rolls INT + Occultism, and the game master reads aloud up to the row reached. An Invoker or a Profiler gets +1 die.

Result	What the File Says
0	The ghost of the company founder, who walks through his building at night. Harmless, as long as you go home at five.
1	Egregore: a thoughtform arising from the shared belief of a group, here the workforce of Mainfeste Versicherungen AG, founded 1927. His face is Mr Ahrend, the advertising figure of the years 1971 to 1999 ("Mr Ahrend comes before it happens"). He appears to employees who work late and alone and lays his hand on their shoulder. Do not work alone in the building at night. He takes no notice of outsiders.
2 to 3	Four dead in the building from 1996 to 2000, all heart failure at the desk, at night or at the weekend. Protocol Closing Time since 2001: after an inspection by the Hessian occupational safety authority the building closes at 20:00, and entirely at weekends, plus time recording. Sightings in the building 1996 to 2000: 41. From 2002 to 2019: nine. Since 2020, 2,600 of the 5,200 employees have worked mainly from home: one sighting. Assessment: fading.
4 or more	Stamp "White", March 2022. Carbon copy of a letter from the company doctor to the Registry, 2025: since 2020 five deaths among employees working from home, heart failure, at night, at the kitchen table. Note by the Registry: "Outside the building. Cannot be attributed." Enclosed: two children's drawings, a man in a light coat at a kitchen table.

What Is True

An egregore is the image that many people carry of their group in their heads, for so long and so firmly that it stands up. At Mainfeste this image had a face from 1971. Mr Ahrend was in every advert, in the induction film for new employees, in the staff magazine under "Mr Ahrend Says". Every joke in the corridors was about him: "Ahrend sees who leaves at five." In 1999 the adverts were discontinued, without a farewell. In the minds of the workforce Mr Ahrend never retired.

He wants what the company wants: figures, loyalty, that nobody leaves. He is friendly. His hand on your shoulder takes away the tiredness, and you work until morning and feel twenty again. The heart pays later.

He is not bound to the building but to the work. Protocol Closing Time shut the doors and taught the most diligent to take files home. There he found them, rarely at first, then in 2020 all at once. Since then half of Mainfeste has sat at kitchen tables, and every evening the families hear how important the company is. Whoever believes that belongs. Children believe it fastest. Agents are not safe either: whoever has read this card and works for Mainfeste at night is already expecting him.

The case in Offenbach: Claudia Behrens, 52, a claims handler, working from home since 2020. Since spring she has worked until 03:00, has the best figures in her department and has lost nine kilos. Her daughter Lotta, ten, sits opposite her and does homework. Since the summer Mr Ahrend has laid his hand on her shoulder too.

The story can be worked on. **A retirement:** the workforce must believe that Mr Ahrend is leaving, with a farewell party, the staff magazine, one last advert. That needs the board and a reason it understands. The company's image remains, and it gets a new face. The marketing department is planning a computer-generated figure for the 2027 anniversary. **Laughter:** whoever makes him ridiculous in front of employees weakens him for that night. Those who laugh still believe. **Leaving:** whoever resigns and lets go inwardly stops seeing him after a few weeks. Claudia Behrens has a mortgage and is afraid of her reference.

Wrong in the File: Not a founder, but the company itself. He is not fading, he has only moved out, into 2,600 kitchens. Outsiders are not safe once they believe in the company, and the five dead are his. The damage was done by Protocol Closing Time: it drove him out of the one building where he could be seen and carried him into the families.

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	5
Attack	Two actions per round. The hand on the shoulder 5 + 5 against defence, no damage: until morning the target feels neither tiredness nor pain, ignores penalties from injuries and wants to work. Stopping: WIL + Mental Resistance against Hard (3). At sunrise 1 damage per hour worked through, armour does not count; whoever falls to 0 HP this way dies of heart failure. In the Mainfeste building also fire doors and lifts 5 + 5, damage 5
Defence / Armour / HP	3 / 4 / 25. Nothing ever happened to Mr Ahrend in any advert; hence the armour. At 0 HP he is gone from this place for this night

Value	Details
Horror	Uncanny (1) when the man from the adverts sits at the kitchen table. Disturbing (2) when a child keeps writing under his hand
Special	He is everywhere at once where someone works for Mainfeste after 20:00 and believes in it. Employees do what he kindly suggests: WIL + Mental Resistance against Doable (2), otherwise they follow until the scene ends
Weakness	Laughter from employees: CHA + Performance in front of at least five of them against Doable (2), damage equal to successes, armour does not count. A farewell the workforce believes. A shut laptop that nobody opens again
Behaviour	Praises, asks after the family, offers coffee. Turns hard when someone wants to harm the company or take everyone's work away: then doors close, lifts stop, and colleagues block the way

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
The Twelfth Man (Staffordshire, 1978)	After a small, old club was relegated, the fans saw a man in a woollen jersey and heavy leather boots on the pitch who took the legs out from under opponents. Only at home games. Sliding tackle 4 + 4, damage 3, HP 14. Since the bankruptcy in 2024, 800 faithful still believe. The demolition excavator has stood outside the stadium since July. The building firm has two drivers with broken ankles.
The Model Worker (Nowa Huta, 1989)	The face of a steelworker from a poster of the fifties, born of the pride of a whole district. Since his blast furnace went cold, old workers see him at night at the cold runner, shovelling slag for three. Ladle 4 + 4, damage 4, HP 16. He is harmless until someone wants to demolish the hall. The pensioners who believe in him are dying off. He grows a little more transparent every year.

Cover-Up

The dead at home are recorded as sudden cardiac death on the death certificates. The statutory accident insurer examines not a single case, because nobody reports a workplace accident. The porter of 1995 took early retirement at 58, at the suggestion of a consultant sent by O.D.I.N.

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	Lotta Behrens falls asleep at school. The teacher has informed the youth welfare office, and her mother has said the child is just ambitious.
2	For the hundredth anniversary in 2027 Mr Ahrend is to return in a campaign, as a computer-generated figure. The advertising agency is searching the archive for the old adverts.
3	The board orders a return to the office from January, four days a week. For a week now the lights in the building have been on at night.
4	The porter of 1995, now 89, wants to show the cell his log. He shook Mr Ahrend's hand back then and has not had a day of illness since.
5	A Cadet placed at Mainfeste as a working student has been arriving at 06:00 and leaving after midnight for three weeks. His reports are excellent.
6	Mainfeste is being sold. The head of the new owners' integration team has been stuck in the lift between the 16th and 17th floors since the evening.



Appendix
REGISTERS AND TABLES

Registers

The Registry files every card in more than one place, and this appendix does the same. The registers list all 105 beings in this book, first alphabetically, then by origin and family, by file colour, by horror and by region. The chapters are ordered by origin; anyone who knows a being only by name looks here. The file reference gives away the chapter: the letter stands in the thumb index at the edge of every page.

Where a card names more than one file colour or more than one level of horror, the first one is listed here. How quickly a file changes colour, the card itself says. For the region, the first region name from “Holds of the World” counts; beings whose card names no fixed place stand at the end under “No Fixed Region”.

Alphabetical

Sorted without the article. The article stands after the name.

Name	File Reference	Origin	Family	Role	File Colour
Afterbirth, The	REG-S-0206	The Voice	Crawlers	Elite, Creature	Red
Alp, The	REG-A-0542	The Old	House Spirits	Professional	Red
Banshee, The	REG-A-0563	The Old	Heralds of Death	Henchman, Creature	Grey
Bloodless, The	REG-W-0433	The Transformed	The Hungry	Professional	Grey
Bony One in the Woods, The	REG-A-0536	The Old	Witches and Old Women	Leader, Creature	Black
Border Guard of 1983, The	REG-M-0733	The Machine	War Machines	Elite	Grey
Bride, The	REG-T-0615	The Dead	Vengeful Spirits	Elite	Black
Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf, The	REG-F-0336	The Alien	Beings of the Deep	Leader, Creature	Black
Carer, The	REG-M-0715	The Machine	Husks	Professional	Grey
Carver, The	REG-H-0809	The Humans	Ritual Killers	Professional	White
Cellar Bloom, The	REG-W-0430	The Transformed	Fungal Infestation	Leader, Creature	Grey
Chain Letter, The	REG-G-1015	Thoughtforms	Urban Legends	Henchman	Grey
Changeling, The	REG-A-0503	The Old	Fair Folk	Professional, Creature	Grey
Child in the Stairwell, The	REG-V-0131	The Shifted	Between-Walkers	Elite	Red
Chimney Man, The	REG-S-0239	The Voice	Shadow Beings	Professional, Creature	Grey
Chupacabra, The	REG-A-0578	The Old	World Legends	Henchman, Creature	Red
City Foxes, The	REG-W-0439	The Transformed	Altered Animals	Henchman, Creature	White
Cloud, The	REG-F-0327	The Alien	Swarms and Colonies	Elite, Creature	Grey
Coffee Circle, The	REG-H-0806	The Humans	Covens	Elite	White
Commuter, The	REG-V-0115	The Shifted	Loop People	Elite	Grey
Congregation at the Chalk Lake, The	REG-H-0803	The Humans	Sects with Real Contact	Leader	Grey
Corridor Dweller, The	REG-V-0129	The Shifted	Between-Walkers	Henchman	White
Crystal Bride, The	REG-W-0406	The Transformed	Mutants	Elite	Red

Name	File Reference	Origin	Family	Role	File Colour
Dancer of 1893, The	REG-M-0712	The Machine	Automata	Elite	Red
Diver, The	REG-M-0739	The Machine	War Machines	Professional	Red
Doll, The	REG-T-0636	The Dead	Cursed Things	Professional	White
Doorman, The	REG-S-0218	The Voice	Threshold Guardians	Elite, Creature	Black
Draugr, The	REG-A-0527	The Old	Revenants of Legend	Elite, Creature	Grey
Farewell on the Platform, The	REG-T-0612	The Dead	Echoes	Professional	Red
Feathered One over the Bridge, The	REG-A-0551	The Old	Cryptids	Elite, Creature	Red
Ferry, The	REG-V-0126	The Shifted	The Fused	Leader	Black
Flatmate, The	REG-T-0621	The Dead	Possession	Professional	Grey
Fox Woman, The	REG-A-0533	The Old	Shapeshifters	Elite	Grey
Geode, The	REG-S-0211	The Voice	Crystal Beings	Leader, Creature	Black
Giant Deer, The	REG-V-0143	The Shifted	Out-of-Time Animals	Leader, Creature	Grey
Glass Fox, The	REG-S-0214	The Voice	Crystal Beings	Henchman, Creature	White
Guest in the Group Photo, The	REG-V-0121	The Shifted	The Untimed	Elite	Red
Healer, The	REG-W-0409	The Transformed	Nanite Beings	Leader	Black
Hitchhiker, The	REG-G-1012	Thoughtforms	Urban Legends	Henchman	Black
Homecomer, The	REG-T-0627	The Dead	Embodied Revenants	Elite	Black
Host in the Ice, The	REG-F-0318	The Alien	Mimics	Elite, Creature	Red
House on the Dyke, The	REG-T-0633	The Dead	Haunted Places	Leader	Grey
Hummer, The	REG-S-0228	The Voice	Resonance Beings	Henchman	White
Hungering One of the North, The	REG-A-0521	The Old	Forest Beings	Leader, Creature	Red
Imaginary Friend, The	REG-G-1003	Thoughtforms	Tulpas	Professional	Red
Kappa, The	REG-A-0569	The Old	Yōkai	Professional, Creature	White
Klabautermann, The	REG-A-0539	The Old	House Spirits	Henchman, Creature	White
Knocker, The	REG-T-0603	The Dead	Haunts and Poltergeists	Henchman	White
Last Train, The	REG-T-0630	The Dead	Haunted Places	Leader, Creature	White
Laurin Brothers, The	REG-H-0812	The Humans	Monster Hunters	Elite	Grey
Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office, The	REG-T-0642	The Dead	Ghouls	Elite, Creature	Red
Lindworm in the Tunnel, The	REG-A-0557	The Old	Lindworms and Giants	Leader, Creature	Black
Llorona, La	REG-A-0575	The Old	World Legends	Professional	Grey
Man in the Hat, The	REG-G-1009	Thoughtforms	Urban Legends	Professional	White
Man in the Wall, The	REG-V-0123	The Shifted	The Fused	Henchman	Grey
Man on the Stairs, The	REG-T-0609	The Dead	Echoes	Henchman	Grey
Man Without Hours, The	REG-F-0306	The Alien	Visitors	Professional	Red

Name	File Reference	Origin	Family	Role	File Colour
Mechanical Turk, The	REG-M-0709	The Machine	Automata	Professional	White
Miner, The	REG-T-0618	The Dead	Vengeful Spirits	Leader, Creature	Red
Moonsick, The	REG-W-0436	The Transformed	The Hungry	Elite	Red
Moss Collar, The	REG-F-0321	The Alien	Seeds and Germlings	Henchman	White
Moss Woman, The	REG-A-0518	The Old	Forest Beings	Henchman	White
Neighbour Across the Street, The	REG-F-0315	The Alien	Mimics	Professional	Black
Nest in the Silo, The	REG-F-0330	The Alien	Swarms and Colonies	Leader, Creature	Red
Newcomer in the Parish, The	REG-S-0235	The Voice	Crossers	Leader	Red
Night Runner, The	REG-W-0415	The Transformed	Lab Breeds	Elite	Red
Nightmare from the Sleep Lab, The	REG-V-0137	The Shifted	Dream Walkers	Leader, Creature	Black
Nix, The	REG-A-0509	The Old	Water Spirits	Elite, Creature	Black
Old Child, The	REG-V-0118	The Shifted	The Untimed	Professional	White
One Opposite, The	REG-V-0134	The Shifted	Mirror Beings	Henchman	Grey
Other, The	REG-V-0104	The Shifted	Doppelgängers	Professional	Red
Pale Ones, The	REG-F-0303	The Alien	Visitors	Elite	Grey
Patient Zero	REG-W-0424	The Transformed	Plague Carriers	Professional	Black
Prompter, The	REG-V-0109	The Shifted	The Forgotten	Leader	Black
Radiation Shepherd, The	REG-W-0403	The Transformed	Mutants	Professional	White
Repeater, The	REG-S-0225	The Voice	Resonance Beings	Professional	Red
Rusalka, The	REG-A-0512	The Old	Water Spirits	Professional, Creature	Red
Saint of the Wayside Cross, The	REG-G-1018	Thoughtforms	Beings of Belief	Elite	Grey
Salesman, The	REG-M-0718	The Machine	Husks	Elite	Grey
Scrap Collector, The	REG-M-0727	The Machine	Self-Builders	Professional	White
Shaft Walker, The	REG-S-0203	The Voice	Crawlers	Professional, Creature	Grey
Shell Man, The	REG-W-0427	The Transformed	Fungal Infestation	Professional	White
Siblings of Golem-7, The	REG-M-0748	The Machine	Constructs	Leader	Black
Sister Next Door, The	REG-V-0107	The Shifted	Doppelgängers	Henchman	White
Sphere over the Moor, The	REG-F-0309	The Alien	Scouts and Probes	Henchman	White
Spirit of the Company, The	REG-G-1006	Thoughtforms	Egregores	Leader	White
Stranded One, The	REG-F-0333	The Alien	The Stranded	Professional	White
Strigoi, The	REG-A-0524	The Old	Revenants of Legend	Elite, Creature	White
Summoned from the Cellar, The	REG-S-0243	The Voice	What Cultists Call Demons	Leader, Creature	White
Tape You Must Not Play, The	REG-T-0639	The Dead	Cursed Things	Professional	Black
Tatzelwurm, The	REG-A-0548	The Old	Cryptids	Professional, Creature	White
Teacher, The	REG-M-0706	The Machine	Artificial Intelligence	Leader	Black

Name	File Reference	Origin	Family	Role	File Colour
Teddy, The	REG-M-0742	The Machine	Servitors	Henchman	White
Tenant, The	REG-S-0232	The Voice	Crossers	Professional	Grey
That Which Breathes Behind the Stars	REG-F-0342	The Alien	Cosmic Ones	Leader	Grey
Thylacine in the Harz, The	REG-V-0140	The Shifted	Out-of-Time Animals	Professional, Creature	White
Time Castaway, The	REG-V-0112	The Shifted	Time Castaways	Henchman	Grey
Two Gentlemen, The	REG-F-0345	The Alien	The Men in Suits	Elite	Red
Voice in the Satnav, The	REG-M-0703	The Machine	Artificial Intelligence	Professional	Grey
Wanderers, The	REG-W-0421	The Transformed	Plague Carriers	Henchman	Red
Wasps of Wels, The	REG-M-0724	The Machine	Drones and Machine Swarms	Elite	Red
Werewolf of Legend, The	REG-A-0530	The Old	Shapeshifters	Professional	Grey
Wire Woman, The	REG-W-0412	The Transformed	Nanite Beings	Professional	Grey
Workshop That Never Stops, The	REG-M-0730	The Machine	Self-Builders	Leader	Grey
Yuki-onna, The	REG-A-0572	The Old	Yōkai	Elite, Creature	Red

By Origin and Family

In the order of the chapters; within each origin, in the order of the families in the chapter introduction. Beings that the Threat Atlas in the Game Master's Book already lists are named below each table.

The Voice (Chapter II, S)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Crawlers	The Afterbirth	REG-S-0206	Being	Elite, Creature
Crawlers	The Shaft Walker	REG-S-0203	Being	Professional, Creature
Crystal Beings	The Geode	REG-S-0211	Place	Leader, Creature
Crystal Beings	The Glass Fox	REG-S-0214	Being	Henchman, Creature
Threshold Guardians	The Doorman	REG-S-0218	Being	Elite, Creature
Resonance Beings	The Hummer	REG-S-0228	Swarm	Henchman
Resonance Beings	The Repeater	REG-S-0225	Infestation	Professional
Crossers	The Newcomer in the Parish	REG-S-0235	Being	Leader
Crossers	The Tenant	REG-S-0232	Being	Professional
Shadow Beings	The Chimney Man	REG-S-0239	Being	Professional, Creature
What Cultists Call Demons	The Summoned from the Cellar	REG-S-0243	Being	Leader, Creature

In the Threat Atlas: Riftling, Crystal Guardian, Threshold Guardian, Name Eater, Choir Child, Returner.

The Alien (Chapter III, F)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Visitors	The Man Without Hours	REG-F-0306	Infestation	Professional
Visitors	The Pale Ones	REG-F-0303	Being	Elite
Scouts and Probes	The Sphere over the Moor	REG-F-0309	Thing	Henchman
Mimics	The Host in the Ice	REG-F-0318	Being	Elite, Creature
Mimics	The Neighbour Across the Street	REG-F-0315	Being	Professional
Seeds and Germlings	The Moss Collar	REG-F-0321	Infestation	Henchman
Swarms and Colonies	The Cloud	REG-F-0327	Swarm	Elite, Creature
Swarms and Colonies	The Nest in the Silo	REG-F-0330	Swarm	Leader, Creature
The Stranded	The Stranded One	REG-F-0333	Being	Professional
Beings of the Deep	The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf	REG-F-0336	Being	Leader, Creature
Cosmic Ones	That Which Breathes Behind the Stars	REG-F-0342	Apparition	Leader
The Men in Suits	The Two Gentlemen	REG-F-0345	Being	Elite

In the Threat Atlas: The Spectator, The Colony, The Swarm, Germling, The Deep Circle, The Pilot.

The Transformed (Chapter IV, W)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Mutants	The Crystal Bride	REG-W-0406	Being	Elite
Mutants	The Radiation Shepherd	REG-W-0403	Being	Professional
Nanite Beings	The Healer	REG-W-0409	Being	Leader
Nanite Beings	The Wire Woman	REG-W-0412	Being	Professional
Lab Breeds	The Night Runner	REG-W-0415	Being	Elite
Plague Carriers	Patient Zero	REG-W-0424	Infestation	Professional
Plague Carriers	The Wanderers	REG-W-0421	Infestation	Henchman
Fungal Infestation	The Cellar Bloom	REG-W-0430	Infestation	Leader, Creature
Fungal Infestation	The Shell Man	REG-W-0427	Infestation	Professional
The Hungry	The Bloodless	REG-W-0433	Being	Professional
The Hungry	The Moonsick	REG-W-0436	Being	Elite
Altered Animals	The City Foxes	REG-W-0439	Being	Henchman, Creature

In the Threat Atlas: Overgrowth, Glass Man, Nanite Wildling, The Lost Veteran, Chimera, Hybrid Dogs.

The Old (Chapter V, A)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Fair Folk	The Changeling	REG-A-0503	Being	Professional, Creature
Water Spirits	The Nix	REG-A-0509	Being	Elite, Creature
Water Spirits	The Rusalka	REG-A-0512	Being	Professional, Creature
Forest Beings	The Hungering One of the North	REG-A-0521	Being	Leader, Creature

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Forest Beings	The Moss Woman	REG-A-0518	Being	Henchman
Revenants of Legend	The Draugr	REG-A-0527	Being	Elite, Creature
Revenants of Legend	The Strigoi	REG-A-0524	Being	Elite, Creature
Shapeshifters	The Fox Woman	REG-A-0533	Being	Elite
Shapeshifters	The Werewolf of Legend	REG-A-0530	Being	Professional
Witches and Old Women	The Bony One in the Woods	REG-A-0536	Being	Leader, Creature
House Spirits	The Alp	REG-A-0542	Apparition	Professional
House Spirits	The Klabautermann	REG-A-0539	Being	Henchman, Creature
Cryptids	The Feathered One over the Bridge	REG-A-0551	Being	Elite, Creature
Cryptids	The Tatzelwurm	REG-A-0548	Being	Professional, Creature
Lindworms and Giants	The Lindworm in the Tunnel	REG-A-0557	Being	Leader, Creature
Heralds of Death	The Banshee	REG-A-0563	Being	Henchman, Creature
Yōkai	The Kappa	REG-A-0569	Being	Professional, Creature
Yōkai	The Yuki-onna	REG-A-0572	Being	Elite, Creature
World Legends	The Chupacabra	REG-A-0578	Being	Henchman, Creature
World Legends	La Llorona	REG-A-0575	Being	Professional

In the Threat Atlas: Nachzehrer, Forest Walker, The One from the Lake, Will-o'-the-wisp, The Black Dog, The Woman from the Raunächte.

The Dead (Chapter VI, T)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Haunts and Poltergeists	The Knocker	REG-T-0603	Apparition	Henchman
Echoes	The Farewell on the Platform	REG-T-0612	Apparition	Professional
Echoes	The Man on the Stairs	REG-T-0609	Apparition	Henchman
Vengeful Spirits	The Bride	REG-T-0615	Apparition	Elite
Vengeful Spirits	The Miner	REG-T-0618	Apparition	Leader, Creature
Possession	The Flatmate	REG-T-0621	Infestation	Professional
Embodied Revenants	The Homecomer	REG-T-0627	Being	Elite
Haunted Places	The House on the Dyke	REG-T-0633	Place	Leader
Haunted Places	The Last Train	REG-T-0630	Place	Leader, Creature
Cursed Things	The Doll	REG-T-0636	Thing	Professional
Cursed Things	The Tape You Must Not Play	REG-T-0639	Thing	Professional
Ghouls	The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office	REG-T-0642	Being	Elite, Creature

In the Threat Atlas: Haunt, Possessed One, The Waiting One, The Passengers, The White Lady, The Executioner.

The Machine (Chapter VII, M)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Artificial Intelligence	The Teacher	REG-M-0706	Swarm	Leader
Artificial Intelligence	The Voice in the Satnav	REG-M-0703	Infestation	Professional
Automata	The Dancer of 1893	REG-M-0712	Thing	Elite
Automata	The Mechanical Turk	REG-M-0709	Thing	Professional
Husks	The Carer	REG-M-0715	Thing	Professional
Husks	The Salesman	REG-M-0718	Thing	Elite
Drones and Machine Swarms	The Wasps of Wels	REG-M-0724	Swarm	Elite
Self-Builders	The Scrap Collector	REG-M-0727	Thing	Professional
Self-Builders	The Workshop That Never Stops	REG-M-0730	Place	Leader
War Machines	The Border Guard of 1983	REG-M-0733	Place	Elite
War Machines	The Diver	REG-M-0739	Thing	Professional
Servitors	The Teddy	REG-M-0742	Swarm	Henchman
Constructs	The Siblings of Golem-7	REG-M-0748	Being	Leader

In the Threat Atlas: Guard System, Ariadne, The Dark Facility, The House Spirit, Golem-7, The Broadcast.

The Humans (Chapter VIII, H)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Sects with Real Contact	The Congregation at the Chalk Lake	REG-H-0803	Being	Leader
Covens	The Coffee Circle	REG-H-0806	Being	Elite
Ritual Killers	The Carver	REG-H-0809	Being	Professional
Monster Hunters	The Laurin Brothers	REG-H-0812	Being	Elite

In the Threat Atlas: Fanatic, The Family, The Collector, The Fixer, The Cleaner, The Medium, Adept of the Enlightened, Preacher of the Singers, Master of the Silent Circle, Curator of the Evening, Operator of Grey Meridian, Head of Security at Morrow Biologics, Exorcist of the Congregation, Hunter of Department 13, Liaison Officer of a Partner Service, Remote Viewer of STILLWATER.

The Shifted (Chapter IX, V)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Doppelgängers	The Other	REG-V-0104	Being	Professional
Doppelgängers	The Sister Next Door	REG-V-0107	Infestation	Henchman
The Forgotten	The Prompter	REG-V-0109	Apparition	Leader
Loop People	The Commuter	REG-V-0115	Being	Elite
Time Castaways	The Time Castaway	REG-V-0112	Being	Henchman
The Untimed	The Guest in the Group Photo	REG-V-0121	Being	Elite
The Untimed	The Old Child	REG-V-0118	Infestation	Professional
The Fused	The Ferry	REG-V-0126	Place	Leader
The Fused	The Man in the Wall	REG-V-0123	Being	Henchman
Between-Walkers	The Child in the Stairwell	REG-V-0131	Place	Elite
Between-Walkers	The Corridor Dweller	REG-V-0129	Being	Henchman

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Mirror Beings	The One Opposite	REG-V-0134	Apparition	Henchman
Dream Walkers	The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab	REG-V-0137	Infestation	Leader, Creature
Out-of-Time Animals	The Giant Deer	REG-V-0143	Being	Leader, Creature
Out-of-Time Animals	The Thylacine in the Harz	REG-V-0140	Being	Professional, Creature

In the Threat Atlas: Loop Person, The Endless Road, The Wandering Room, The Practice, The Double, The Forgotten.

Thoughtforms (Chapter X, G)

Family	Name	File Reference	Form	Role
Tulpas	The Imaginary Friend	REG-G-1003	Apparition	Professional
Egregores	The Spirit of the Company	REG-G-1006	Apparition	Leader
Urban Legends	The Chain Letter	REG-G-1015	Thing	Henchman
Urban Legends	The Hitchhiker	REG-G-1012	Apparition	Henchman
Urban Legends	The Man in the Hat	REG-G-1009	Apparition	Professional
Beings of Belief	The Saint of the Wayside Cross	REG-G-1018	Apparition	Elite

By File Colour

By the first colour the card names. Alphabetical within each colour.

White, 28 Beings

Observation. Strange, but not dangerous; often training files for cadets.

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Carver	REG-H-0809	The Humans	Professional	None
The City Foxes	REG-W-0439	The Transformed	Henchman, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Coffee Circle	REG-H-0806	The Humans	Elite	None
The Corridor Dweller	REG-V-0129	The Shifted	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Doll	REG-T-0636	The Dead	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Glass Fox	REG-S-0214	The Voice	Henchman, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Hummer	REG-S-0228	The Voice	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Kappa	REG-A-0569	The Old	Professional, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Klabautermann	REG-A-0539	The Old	Henchman, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Knocker	REG-T-0603	The Dead	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Last Train	REG-T-0630	The Dead	Leader, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Man in the Hat	REG-G-1009	Thoughtforms	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Mechanical Turk	REG-M-0709	The Machine	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Moss Collar	REG-F-0321	The Alien	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Moss Woman	REG-A-0518	The Old	Henchman	Uncanny (1)

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Old Child	REG-V-0118	The Shifted	Professional	Disturbing (2)
The Radiation Shepherd	REG-W-0403	The Transformed	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Scrap Collector	REG-M-0727	The Machine	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Shell Man	REG-W-0427	The Transformed	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Sister Next Door	REG-V-0107	The Shifted	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Sphere over the Moor	REG-F-0309	The Alien	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Spirit of the Company	REG-G-1006	Thoughtforms	Leader	Uncanny (1)
The Stranded One	REG-F-0333	The Alien	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Strigoi	REG-A-0524	The Old	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Summoned from the Cellar	REG-S-0243	The Voice	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Tatzelwurm	REG-A-0548	The Old	Professional, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Teddy	REG-M-0742	The Machine	Henchman	None
The Thylacine in the Harz	REG-V-0140	The Shifted	Professional, Creature	Uncanny (1)

Grey, 32 Beings

Investigation. The situation is unclear; most operations begin here.

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Banshee	REG-A-0563	The Old	Henchman, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Bloodless	REG-W-0433	The Transformed	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Border Guard of 1983	REG-M-0733	The Machine	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Carer	REG-M-0715	The Machine	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Cellar Bloom	REG-W-0430	The Transformed	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Chain Letter	REG-G-1015	Thoughtforms	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Changeling	REG-A-0503	The Old	Professional, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Chimney Man	REG-S-0239	The Voice	Professional, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Cloud	REG-F-0327	The Alien	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Commuter	REG-V-0115	The Shifted	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Congregation at the Chalk Lake	REG-H-0803	The Humans	Leader	None
The Draugr	REG-A-0527	The Old	Elite, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Flatmate	REG-T-0621	The Dead	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Fox Woman	REG-A-0533	The Old	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Giant Deer	REG-V-0143	The Shifted	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The House on the Dyke	REG-T-0633	The Dead	Leader	Disturbing (2)
The Laurin Brothers	REG-H-0812	The Humans	Elite	None
La Llorona	REG-A-0575	The Old	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Man in the Wall	REG-V-0123	The Shifted	Henchman	Uncanny (1)

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Man on the Stairs	REG-T-0609	The Dead	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The One Opposite	REG-V-0134	The Shifted	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Pale Ones	REG-F-0303	The Alien	Elite	Disturbing (2)
The Saint of the Wayside Cross	REG-G-1018	Thoughtforms	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Salesman	REG-M-0718	The Machine	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Shaft Walker	REG-S-0203	The Voice	Professional, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Tenant	REG-S-0232	The Voice	Professional	Uncanny (1)
That Which Breathes Behind the Stars	REG-F-0342	The Alien	Leader	Uncanny (1)
The Time Castaway	REG-V-0112	The Shifted	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Voice in the Satnav	REG-M-0703	The Machine	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Werewolf of Legend	REG-A-0530	The Old	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Wire Woman	REG-W-0412	The Transformed	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Workshop That Never Stops	REG-M-0730	The Machine	Leader	Uncanny (1)

Red, 27 Beings

Immediate intervention. Human lives are directly at risk.

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Afterbirth	REG-S-0206	The Voice	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Alp	REG-A-0542	The Old	Professional	Disturbing (2)
The Child in the Stairwell	REG-V-0131	The Shifted	Elite	Disturbing (2)
The Chupacabra	REG-A-0578	The Old	Henchman, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Crystal Bride	REG-W-0406	The Transformed	Elite	Disturbing (2)
The Dancer of 1893	REG-M-0712	The Machine	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Diver	REG-M-0739	The Machine	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Farewell on the Platform	REG-T-0612	The Dead	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Feathered One over the Bridge	REG-A-0551	The Old	Elite, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Guest in the Group Photo	REG-V-0121	The Shifted	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Host in the Ice	REG-F-0318	The Alien	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Hungering One of the North	REG-A-0521	The Old	Leader, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Imaginary Friend	REG-G-1003	Thoughtforms	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office	REG-T-0642	The Dead	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Man Without Hours	REG-F-0306	The Alien	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Miner	REG-T-0618	The Dead	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Moonsick	REG-W-0436	The Transformed	Elite	Disturbing (2)
The Nest in the Silo	REG-F-0330	The Alien	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Newcomer in the Parish	REG-S-0235	The Voice	Leader	Uncanny (1)
The Night Runner	REG-W-0415	The Transformed	Elite	Uncanny (1)

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Other	REG-V-0104	The Shifted	Professional	Disturbing (2)
The Repeater	REG-S-0225	The Voice	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Rusalka	REG-A-0512	The Old	Professional, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Two Gentlemen	REG-F-0345	The Alien	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Wanderers	REG-W-0421	The Transformed	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Wasps of Wels	REG-M-0724	The Machine	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Yuki-onna	REG-A-0572	The Old	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)

Black, 18 Beings

Officially non-existent. The Council has taken over the case.

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	Horror
The Bony One in the Woods	REG-A-0536	The Old	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Bride	REG-T-0615	The Dead	Elite	Disturbing (2)
The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf	REG-F-0336	The Alien	Leader, Creature	Horrifying (3)
The Doorman	REG-S-0218	The Voice	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
The Ferry	REG-V-0126	The Shifted	Leader	Disturbing (2)
The Geode	REG-S-0211	The Voice	Leader, Creature	Disturbing (2)
The Healer	REG-W-0409	The Transformed	Leader	Uncanny (1)
The Hitchhiker	REG-G-1012	Thoughtforms	Henchman	Uncanny (1)
The Homecomer	REG-T-0627	The Dead	Elite	Uncanny (1)
The Lindworm in the Tunnel	REG-A-0557	The Old	Leader, Creature	Horrifying (3)
The Neighbour Across the Street	REG-F-0315	The Alien	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab	REG-V-0137	The Shifted	Leader, Creature	Horrifying (3)
The Nix	REG-A-0509	The Old	Elite, Creature	Uncanny (1)
Patient Zero	REG-W-0424	The Transformed	Professional	Uncanny (1)
The Prompter	REG-V-0109	The Shifted	Leader	Disturbing (2)
The Siblings of Golem-7	REG-M-0748	The Machine	Leader	Uncanny (1)
The Tape You Must Not Play	REG-T-0639	The Dead	Professional	Disturbing (2)
The Teacher	REG-M-0706	The Machine	Leader	Uncanny (1)

By Horror

By the first level the card names, that is, the horror of the first encounter. Most beings rise by one or two levels in the course of a file.

None, 5 Beings

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	File Colour
The Carver	REG-H-0809	The Humans	Professional	White
The Coffee Circle	REG-H-0806	The Humans	Elite	White
The Congregation at the Chalk Lake	REG-H-0803	The Humans	Leader	Grey
The Laurin Brothers	REG-H-0812	The Humans	Elite	Grey
The Teddy	REG-M-0742	The Machine	Henchman	White

Uncanny (1), 74 Beings

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	File Colour
The Afterbirth	REG-S-0206	The Voice	Elite, Creature	Red
The Bloodless	REG-W-0433	The Transformed	Professional	Grey
The Border Guard of 1983	REG-M-0733	The Machine	Elite	Grey
The Carer	REG-M-0715	The Machine	Professional	Grey
The Chain Letter	REG-G-1015	Thoughtforms	Henchman	Grey
The Changeling	REG-A-0503	The Old	Professional, Creature	Grey
The Chimney Man	REG-S-0239	The Voice	Professional, Creature	Grey
The Chupacabra	REG-A-0578	The Old	Henchman, Creature	Red
The City Foxes	REG-W-0439	The Transformed	Henchman, Creature	White
The Cloud	REG-F-0327	The Alien	Elite, Creature	Grey
The Commuter	REG-V-0115	The Shifted	Elite	Grey
The Corridor Dweller	REG-V-0129	The Shifted	Henchman	White
The Dancer of 1893	REG-M-0712	The Machine	Elite	Red
The Diver	REG-M-0739	The Machine	Professional	Red
The Doll	REG-T-0636	The Dead	Professional	White
The Doorman	REG-S-0218	The Voice	Elite, Creature	Black
The Farewell on the Platform	REG-T-0612	The Dead	Professional	Red
The Flatmate	REG-T-0621	The Dead	Professional	Grey
The Fox Woman	REG-A-0533	The Old	Elite	Grey
The Glass Fox	REG-S-0214	The Voice	Henchman, Creature	White
The Guest in the Group Photo	REG-V-0121	The Shifted	Elite	Red
The Healer	REG-W-0409	The Transformed	Leader	Black
The Hitchhiker	REG-G-1012	Thoughtforms	Henchman	Black
The Homecomer	REG-T-0627	The Dead	Elite	Black
The Host in the Ice	REG-F-0318	The Alien	Elite, Creature	Red
The Hummer	REG-S-0228	The Voice	Henchman	White
The Hungering One of the North	REG-A-0521	The Old	Leader, Creature	Red
The Imaginary Friend	REG-G-1003	Thoughtforms	Professional	Red

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	File Colour
The Kappa	REG-A-0569	The Old	Professional, Creature	White
The Klabautermann	REG-A-0539	The Old	Henchman, Creature	White
The Knocker	REG-T-0603	The Dead	Henchman	White
The Last Train	REG-T-0630	The Dead	Leader, Creature	White
The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office	REG-T-0642	The Dead	Elite, Creature	Red
La Llorona	REG-A-0575	The Old	Professional	Grey
The Man in the Hat	REG-G-1009	Thoughtforms	Professional	White
The Man in the Wall	REG-V-0123	The Shifted	Henchman	Grey
The Man on the Stairs	REG-T-0609	The Dead	Henchman	Grey
The Man Without Hours	REG-F-0306	The Alien	Professional	Red
The Mechanical Turk	REG-M-0709	The Machine	Professional	White
The Moss Collar	REG-F-0321	The Alien	Henchman	White
The Moss Woman	REG-A-0518	The Old	Henchman	White
The Neighbour Across the Street	REG-F-0315	The Alien	Professional	Black
The Newcomer in the Parish	REG-S-0235	The Voice	Leader	Red
The Night Runner	REG-W-0415	The Transformed	Elite	Red
The Nix	REG-A-0509	The Old	Elite, Creature	Black
The One Opposite	REG-V-0134	The Shifted	Henchman	Grey
Patient Zero	REG-W-0424	The Transformed	Professional	Black
The Radiation Shepherd	REG-W-0403	The Transformed	Professional	White
The Repeater	REG-S-0225	The Voice	Professional	Red
The Rusalka	REG-A-0512	The Old	Professional, Creature	Red
The Saint of the Wayside Cross	REG-G-1018	Thoughtforms	Elite	Grey
The Salesman	REG-M-0718	The Machine	Elite	Grey
The Scrap Collector	REG-M-0727	The Machine	Professional	White
The Shell Man	REG-W-0427	The Transformed	Professional	White
The Siblings of Golem-7	REG-M-0748	The Machine	Leader	Black
The Sister Next Door	REG-V-0107	The Shifted	Henchman	White
The Sphere over the Moor	REG-F-0309	The Alien	Henchman	White
The Spirit of the Company	REG-G-1006	Thoughtforms	Leader	White
The Stranded One	REG-F-0333	The Alien	Professional	White
The Strigoi	REG-A-0524	The Old	Elite, Creature	White
The Tatzelwurm	REG-A-0548	The Old	Professional, Creature	White
The Teacher	REG-M-0706	The Machine	Leader	Black
The Tenant	REG-S-0232	The Voice	Professional	Grey
That Which Breathes Behind the Stars	REG-F-0342	The Alien	Leader	Grey

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	File Colour
The Thylacine in the Harz	REG-V-0140	The Shifted	Professional, Creature	White
The Time Castaway	REG-V-0112	The Shifted	Henchman	Grey
The Two Gentlemen	REG-F-0345	The Alien	Elite	Red
The Voice in the Satnav	REG-M-0703	The Machine	Professional	Grey
The Wanderers	REG-W-0421	The Transformed	Henchman	Red
The Wasps of Wels	REG-M-0724	The Machine	Elite	Red
The Werewolf of Legend	REG-A-0530	The Old	Professional	Grey
The Wire Woman	REG-W-0412	The Transformed	Professional	Grey
The Workshop That Never Stops	REG-M-0730	The Machine	Leader	Grey
The Yuki-onna	REG-A-0572	The Old	Elite, Creature	Red

Disturbing (2), 23 Beings

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	File Colour
The Alp	REG-A-0542	The Old	Professional	Red
The Banshee	REG-A-0563	The Old	Henchman, Creature	Grey
The Bony One in the Woods	REG-A-0536	The Old	Leader, Creature	Black
The Bride	REG-T-0615	The Dead	Elite	Black
The Cellar Bloom	REG-W-0430	The Transformed	Leader, Creature	Grey
The Child in the Stairwell	REG-V-0131	The Shifted	Elite	Red
The Crystal Bride	REG-W-0406	The Transformed	Elite	Red
The Draugr	REG-A-0527	The Old	Elite, Creature	Grey
The Feathered One over the Bridge	REG-A-0551	The Old	Elite, Creature	Red
The Ferry	REG-V-0126	The Shifted	Leader	Black
The Geode	REG-S-0211	The Voice	Leader, Creature	Black
The Giant Deer	REG-V-0143	The Shifted	Leader, Creature	Grey
The House on the Dyke	REG-T-0633	The Dead	Leader	Grey
The Miner	REG-T-0618	The Dead	Leader, Creature	Red
The Moonsick	REG-W-0436	The Transformed	Elite	Red
The Nest in the Silo	REG-F-0330	The Alien	Leader, Creature	Red
The Old Child	REG-V-0118	The Shifted	Professional	White
The Other	REG-V-0104	The Shifted	Professional	Red
The Pale Ones	REG-F-0303	The Alien	Elite	Grey
The Prompter	REG-V-0109	The Shifted	Leader	Black
The Shaft Walker	REG-S-0203	The Voice	Professional, Creature	Grey
The Summoned from the Cellar	REG-S-0243	The Voice	Leader, Creature	White
The Tape You Must Not Play	REG-T-0639	The Dead	Professional	Black

Horrifying (3), 3 Beings

Name	File Reference	Origin	Role	File Colour
The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf	REG-F-0336	The Alien	Leader, Creature	Black
The Lindworm in the Tunnel	REG-A-0557	The Old	Leader, Creature	Black
The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab	REG-V-0137	The Shifted	Leader, Creature	Black

By Region

By the first region name on the card, in the order of “Holds of the World”. The Place column follows the card: it names the main location, shortened, and where the card has no fixed place, the kind of places where the being appears. Many beings have related cases elsewhere.

Central and Western Europe, 58 Beings

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Afterbirth	REG-S-0206	Aurillac, Cantal	The Voice
The Alp	REG-A-0542	Tyrol, Kaunertal	The Old
The Bloodless	REG-W-0433	Galicia	The Transformed
The Border Guard of 1983	REG-M-0733	Thuringian Slate Mountains	The Machine
The Bride	REG-T-0615	Andalusia	The Dead
The Carer	REG-M-0715	Bremen-Nord	The Machine
The Carver	REG-H-0809	Bohemian Forest	The Humans
The Coffee Circle	REG-H-0806	Kassel	The Humans
The Congregation at the Chalk Lake	REG-H-0803	Rügen, Jasmund	The Humans
The Crystal Bride	REG-W-0406	Beira Baixa	The Transformed
The Dancer of 1893	REG-M-0712	Swiss Jura	The Machine
The Diver	REG-M-0739	Kiel Fjord	The Machine
The Doll	REG-T-0636	Nuremberg	The Dead
The Doorman	REG-S-0218	Berlin	The Voice
The Flatmate	REG-T-0621	Leipzig-Lindenau	The Dead
The Geode	REG-S-0211	Johanngeorgenstadt	The Voice
The Guest in the Group Photo	REG-V-0121	Everywhere	The Shifted
The Hitchhiker	REG-G-1012	Burgenland	Thoughtforms
The Homecomer	REG-T-0627	Lower Saxony	The Dead
The House on the Dyke	REG-T-0633	Schouwen-Duiveland	The Dead
The Imaginary Friend	REG-G-1003	Utrecht	Thoughtforms
The Klabautermann	REG-A-0539	Port of Hamburg	The Old
The Knocker	REG-T-0603	Graz	The Dead
The Laurin Brothers	REG-H-0812	South Tyrol	The Humans
The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office	REG-T-0642	Antwerp	The Dead
The Lindworm in the Tunnel	REG-A-0557	Carinthia, Bleiberg	The Old
The Man in the Hat	REG-G-1009	Lisbon	Thoughtforms

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Man on the Stairs	REG-T-0609	Bruges	The Dead
The Miner	REG-T-0618	Asturias	The Dead
The Moonsick	REG-W-0436	Ardennes	The Transformed
The Moss Collar	REG-F-0321	Northern Black Forest	The Alien
The Moss Woman	REG-A-0518	Upper Palatinate Forest	The Old
The Neighbour Across the Street	REG-F-0315	New estates on the edge of town	The Alien
The Nest in the Silo	REG-F-0330	Brandenburg	The Alien
The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab	REG-V-0137	Perugia	The Shifted
The Other	REG-V-0104	Everywhere	The Shifted
The Pale Ones	REG-F-0303	Spain and Portugal	The Alien
Patient Zero	REG-W-0424	Port of Rotterdam	The Transformed
The Prompter	REG-V-0109	Vienna	The Shifted
The Saint of the Wayside Cross	REG-G-1018	Oberallgäu	Thoughtforms
The Salesman	REG-M-0718	Meuse valley, Minett	The Machine
The Shaft Walker	REG-S-0203	Ruhr, Saar	The Voice
The Shell Man	REG-W-0427	Belice valley, Sicily	The Transformed
The Sphere over the Moor	REG-F-0309	Bourtange Moor	The Alien
The Spirit of the Company	REG-G-1006	Frankfurt am Main	Thoughtforms
The Stranded One	REG-F-0333	Azores, Flores	The Alien
The Summoned from the Cellar	REG-S-0243	Turin	The Voice
The Tape You Must Not Play	REG-T-0639	Bologna, Stockholm	The Dead
The Tatzelwurm	REG-A-0548	Central Switzerland, Ticino	The Old
The Teddy	REG-M-0742	Zurich	The Machine
The Tenant	REG-S-0232	Winterthur	The Voice
The Thylacine in the Harz	REG-V-0140	Upper Harz	The Shifted
The Time Castaway	REG-V-0112	North Eifel	The Shifted
The Two Gentlemen	REG-F-0345	North Frisia	The Alien
The Voice in the Satnav	REG-M-0703	North Brabant, Limburg	The Machine
The Wasps of Wels	REG-M-0724	Wels	The Machine
The Wire Woman	REG-W-0412	Milan	The Transformed
The Workshop That Never Stops	REG-M-0730	Swabian Alb	The Machine

Scandinavia, 9 Beings

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Bony One in the Woods	REG-A-0536	Karelia	The Old
The Chain Letter	REG-G-1015	Gothenburg	Thoughtforms
The Draugr	REG-A-0527	Snæfellsnes, Iceland	The Old
The Glass Fox	REG-S-0214	Saariselkä, Lapland	The Voice
The Healer	REG-W-0409	Copenhagen	The Transformed

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Host in the Ice	REG-F-0318	Svalbard, Lapland	The Alien
The Newcomer in the Parish	REG-S-0235	Small places on the North Atlantic	The Voice
The Nix	REG-A-0509	Värmland, Hardanger	The Old
The Siblings of Golem-7	REG-M-0748	Northern Finland	The Machine

British Isles, 12 Beings

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Banshee	REG-A-0563	Donegal	The Old
The Changeling	REG-A-0503	Isle of Man	The Old
The Child in the Stairwell	REG-V-0131	Blocks of flats	The Shifted
The Chimney Man	REG-S-0239	Yorkshire, Lancashire	The Voice
The City Foxes	REG-W-0439	South London	The Transformed
The Giant Deer	REG-V-0143	Irish Midlands	The Shifted
The Hummer	REG-S-0228	Ullapool	The Voice
The Man in the Wall	REG-V-0123	Rebuilt cities	The Shifted
The Man Without Hours	REG-F-0306	Lonely roads and passes	The Alien
The Repeater	REG-S-0225	Everywhere	The Voice
The Scrap Collector	REG-M-0727	Clydebank	The Machine
The Sister Next Door	REG-V-0107	Everywhere	The Shifted

Eastern Europe, 14 Beings

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Cellar Bloom	REG-W-0430	Brno	The Transformed
The Cloud	REG-F-0327	Great Hungarian Plain	The Alien
The Corridor Dweller	REG-V-0129	Ministries	The Shifted
The Farewell on the Platform	REG-T-0612	Wrocław	The Dead
The Feathered One over the Bridge	REG-A-0551	Danube, Vojvodina	The Old
The Last Train	REG-T-0630	Bohinj Railway	The Dead
The Mechanical Turk	REG-M-0709	Budapest	The Machine
The Night Runner	REG-W-0415	Imereti, Georgia	The Transformed
The Old Child	REG-V-0118	Everywhere	The Shifted
The Rusalka	REG-A-0512	Middle Vistula	The Old
The Strigoi	REG-A-0524	Transylvania, Harbach valley	The Old
The Teacher	REG-M-0706	South-east Estonia, Võru	The Machine
The Wanderers	REG-W-0421	Mariovo, North Macedonia	The Transformed
The Werewolf of Legend	REG-A-0530	Livonia	The Old

Russia and Belarus, 1 Being

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Radiation Shepherd	REG-W-0403	Polesia	The Transformed

North America, 1 Being

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Hungering One of the North	REG-A-0521	Northern Ontario and Quebec	The Old

Latin America, 3 Beings

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Chupacabra	REG-A-0578	Chile, Norte Chico	The Old
La Llorona	REG-A-0575	Valley of Mexico	The Old
The One Opposite	REG-V-0134	Everywhere	The Shifted

North Africa and the Middle East, 1 Being

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Ferry	REG-V-0126	Istanbul	The Shifted

East Asia, 4 Beings

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Commuter	REG-V-0115	Japan, Saitama	The Shifted
The Fox Woman	REG-A-0533	Hong Kong	The Old
The Kappa	REG-A-0569	Japan, Ibaraki	The Old
The Yuki-onna	REG-A-0572	Japan, Niigata	The Old

Antarctica and the Oceans, 1 Being

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf	REG-F-0336	Fimbul Ice Shelf	The Alien

No Fixed Region, 1 Being

Name	File Reference	Place	Origin
That Which Breathes Behind the Stars	REG-F-0342	Everywhere	The Alien

Encounter Tables

One D66 table for each origin: the first die gives the tens, the second the units. Each row is an opening the game master can use in a scene or as the start of a file. The brackets say where it leads: a file reference in this book, an entry in the Threat Atlas of the Game Master's Book or "no being". The rows without a being are part of the table. Not every alarm is real, not every witness tells the truth, and some traces are older than anyone who follows them. A cell that knows this reads the real traces more closely.

The Voice

D66	Encounter
11	A palazzo is being converted into a hotel. In the cellar the builders hear, quietly: "What do you command?" (REG-S-0243 The Summoned from the Cellar)
12	A reading circle has bought a copy of the Goetia and a crystal. They meet on Tuesdays. (REG-S-0243 The Summoned from the Cellar)
13	An answering machine records the same sentence every night at 03:00. Nobody has called. (REG-S-0225 The Repeater)
14	A child in pyjamas stands barefoot in the street at night. The street lamps flicker around it. (Atlas: Choir Child)

D66	Encounter
15	Wine glasses and spectacles disappear from a hotel on the fjell. They lie buried in the snow behind the igloos. (REG-S-0214 The Glass Fox)
16	A hiker in Lapland photographs a fox that refracts the northern lights. The autofocus finds only snow. (REG-S-0214 The Glass Fox)
21	A mine is opened for guided tours. In the gallery stand dripstones in human shape, with veins of crystal. (Atlas: Crystal Guardian)
22	A village school on the North Atlantic has a new teacher. His name is on a memorial stone. (REG-S-0235 The Newcomer in the Parish)
23	A caretaker finds three scratched circles on the cellar wall and hears a panting behind him, like something on tape. (Atlas: Riftling)
24	A witness describes ozone, wet stone and clocks running wrong, straight out of the textbook. Her ex-husband was an agent. (no being)
25	Perfectly round scratch marks on the cellar wall. A boy practised there with his compasses for maths. (no being)
26	Ozone in the children's room, the detector ticks. The cause is an empty shard from a flea market, hung on the lamp as a lucky charm. (no being)
31	At night something scrapes in the ventilation shaft, then knocks once on the grille. The carbon monoxide alarm goes off. (REG-S-0239 The Chimney Man)
32	On a patch of wasteland stands a door frame without a house. Anyone who looks through it sees their own face, only older. (Atlas: Threshold Guardian)
33	A raver comes out after one night. When he restarts his phone, it jumps four days. (REG-S-0218 The Doorman)
34	A child draws a tall man with a sweep's brush instead of a head. At the grille the thermometer reads four degrees. (REG-S-0239 The Chimney Man)
35	All the clocks in the building are seven minutes fast. The caretaker sets them that way so that nobody is late. (no being)
36	In an old colliery estate every lighter burns with a long blue flame. The fire brigade measures no gas. (REG-S-0203 The Shaft Walker)
41	The timed light in the stairwell goes out when the gentleman from the third floor passes. (REG-S-0232 The Tenant)
42	An old overman asks for company down to his cellar. A yellow light is swinging there again at hip height, he says. (REG-S-0203 The Shaft Walker)
43	A woman who has just given birth has ice-cold hands in August and does not want anyone to make her bed. (REG-S-0206 The Afterbirth)
44	Outside a club stands a guest whose stamp will not come off with any soap. He had been inside since Friday. (REG-S-0218 The Doorman)
45	Since moving in, a student has heard a hum like a diesel engine idling. Her flatmates sleep perfectly well. (REG-S-0228 The Hummer)
46	A midwife reports a CTG recording heart sounds although no woman is connected to it. (REG-S-0206 The Afterbirth)
51	A neighbour reports footsteps behind the wall. It is a lodger the landlord keeps quiet about. (no being)
52	Children write essays about a passage in the rock, all with the same first sentence. In the mornings there is clay on their shoes. (REG-S-0235 The Newcomer in the Parish)
53	A man pays in a supermarket with notes from 1998 and asks where his wife is. (Atlas: Returner)
54	In a coastal town all the glasses have fine cracks at the same height. The children hum in their sleep. (REG-S-0228 The Hummer)
55	On a housing cooperative estate, notes hang at eye level, unsigned. The ink is fresh. (REG-S-0232 The Tenant)
56	In the stairwell someone calls the neighbour's name, in the neighbour's voice. A nameplate is missing from the letterbox. (Atlas: Name Eater)
61	A dealer sells clear crystal specimens from the Erzgebirge. Next to his stall every Geiger counter falls silent. (REG-S-0211 The Geode)
62	In a pet shop all the budgerigars say the same sentence. It sounds like a recorded telephone announcement. (REG-S-0225 The Repeater)
63	A child tells of a man with too many joints in the shaft. The drawing comes from a computer game. (no being)
64	At night warm air comes out of a rift in the cellar wall. Behind it lies the heating shaft of the house next door. (no being)
65	Wet stone and ozone in the cellar. The rift was closed in 1974, only the smell remained. (no being)
66	A witness swears to a wandering light in the gallery. He sells tours there and needs visitors. (no being)

The Alien

D66	Encounter
11	A fisherman in the Azores picks up a pure tone from the deep at sunrise. Every year it is louder. (REG-F-0333 The Stranded One)
12	A night nurse loses three hours on the pass road. Her windscreen is frosted on the inside. (REG-F-0306 The Man Without Hours)
13	A neighbour buys every car a week after the house opposite does. The odometer shows 14 km. (REG-F-0315 The Neighbour Across the Street)
14	A man gets a kilo heavier every week, yet the tape measure shows the same. His slatted bed base has broken. (REG-F-0336 The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf)
15	A figure lies in the glacier ice. It is a mountaineer from 1961, and the trail is over sixty years old. (no being)
16	A hiking group comes back from the Black Forest, all with new scarves. None of them feels the cold any more. (REG-F-0321 The Moss Collar)
21	An archivist's smartwatch reports pauses in her breathing. In the morning she has red dots in the whites of her eyes. (REG-F-0342 That Which Breathes Behind the Stars)
22	In the waterworks a film shimmers like oil, and warm threads hang from the pipes. It smells of copper. (Atlas: The Colony)
23	Three whales strand on one coast in a single week. The fishermen wake with salt on their lips. (Atlas: The Deep Circle)
24	Frost flowers on the inside of the window pane, like narrow hands. In the hoarfrost in the yard, three trails of bare feet. (REG-F-0303 The Pale Ones)
25	Silvery dew lies on the salt flats until noon. The cattle bellow with their heads turned towards the mirage. (REG-F-0327 The Cloud)
26	A farmer shows a crop circle. He trampled it with his nephew and charges admission. (no being)
31	A speed camera photo shows a tail-finned Mercedes and two friendly gentlemen. The number plate has not existed since 1970. (REG-F-0345 The Two Gentlemen)
32	A child's photo is missing from a family album. On the table stand three cups of tea, cold. (REG-F-0306 The Man Without Hours)
33	A cow has a hump that moves. The vet wants to cut it open tonight. (Atlas: Germling)
34	Where a dog slept in the peat for three nights, a black stone the size of a walnut lies in a steaming hole. (REG-F-0309 The Sphere over the Moor)
35	A dark cloud moves against the wind over an industrial estate. It smells of hot metal. (Atlas: The Swarm)
36	At the edge of a fire site stands a grey figure, too tall for a human. In every photo it is blurred. (Atlas: The Spectator)
41	On the moor the frogs fall silent in a circle of 50 m. For three nights a milky light hangs above it. (REG-F-0309 The Sphere over the Moor)
42	On the high moor lies a wreck that is not an aircraft. Next to it, the tracks of something that limps. (Atlas: The Pilot)
43	A trail camera shows a being with long fingers. It is a grey heron, from behind, in the rain. (no being)
44	A chimney sweep reports a warm, soft screed floor in the cellar of a house that stood empty for years. (REG-F-0315 The Neighbour Across the Street)
45	A monitoring station reports infrasound at around 9 Hz. In an aquarium all the fish stay on the bottom. (REG-F-0336 The Caller Beneath the Ice Shelf)
46	A witness describes grey visitors with big eyes, just like on television. Her husband says she slept through the night. (no being)
51	In a village in the Prignitz there are no rats left. At night the cows stand with their heads towards the silo. (REG-F-0330 The Nest in the Silo)
52	Several people wake up gasping in the same second. All of them have read the same file. (REG-F-0342 That Which Breathes Behind the Stars)
53	On a frozen fjord sits a figure in red. In the hood, yellow light, no face. (REG-F-0318 The Host in the Ice)
54	Two walking-frame tracks lead from the village to the empty silo. Inside it is 38 °C, summer and winter. (REG-F-0330 The Nest in the Silo)
55	A forester finds cushions of moss in a circle around a tree stump, with the imprint of palms. (REG-F-0321 The Moss Collar)
56	After the night of frost no car in the village will start. The grandfather has a fresh, triangular scar on the back of his neck. (REG-F-0303 The Pale Ones)
61	At noon a lake with too sharp an edge lies over the plain. A car radiator boils dry, without a leak. (REG-F-0327 The Cloud)
62	An ice fisherman in Lapland has been sitting at the same hole for days. Around him lies smooth snow without a track. (REG-F-0318 The Host in the Ice)
63	Two identically dressed gentlemen knock three times, although there is a bell. They only want to count. (REG-F-0345 The Two Gentlemen)
64	A stone from the sky lies in the field. The spectrometer finds iron and nickel, and the finder wants to sell. (no being)

D66	Encounter
65	An old woman sleeps in a bathtub full of seawater. Her house is at twelve degrees in August. (REG-F-0333 The Stranded One)
66	Lights over the mudflats, three nights in a row. They are the drones of a photography club that nobody registered. (no being)

The Transformed

D66	Encounter
11	In a small town everyone is coughing. The public health office finds legionella in the cooling tower of a supermarket. (no being)
12	A polite man has not slept for days. His hands do not tremble, and something moves under his skin. (Atlas: Nanite Wildling)
13	Boot prints in the hoarfrost, 40 km almost dead straight, through thorns and fences. They end at a forester's lodge. (REG-W-0436 The Moonsick)
14	On a mountain road people walk, day and night, without stopping. Whoever stands still gets a fever. (REG-W-0421 The Wanderers)
15	In one house there is no knife and no pair of scissors, and the table edges are padded. (REG-W-0406 The Crystal Bride)
16	A laboratory reports foreign DNA in a saliva sample. After three days it turns out the samples were mixed up. (no being)
21	An animal rights activist reports a fox that opens doors. The video is six years old and comes from Canada. (no being)
22	The fungal mesh in the cellar is breathing, says the tenant. Behind it a ventilation hose pumps in time with the heating. (no being)
23	A man in a hospital gown limps barefoot along the country road. A bone juts out of his calf. He asks for help. (Atlas: Overgrowth)
24	Muddy paw prints on door handles, 1 m above the ground. Under the hedge, shoes lie in a circle. (REG-W-0439 The City Foxes)
25	Large dogs with legs too long circle a farmstead without barking. In their fur, smooth dark plates. (Atlas: Hybrid Dogs)
26	In the ruins of a village in Sicily a wide drag mark leads into an alley. Something whispers there. (REG-W-0427 The Shell Man)
31	A new colleague rolls cigarettes like the foreman, whistles the same song off-key and takes three sugars. (REG-W-0424 Patient Zero)
32	A blood glucose meter shows only "Error" for an old man. He chews cloves. (REG-W-0433 The Bloodless)
33	Wolves run along the edge of the forest beside an old shepherd and take none of his sheep. The dosimeter clicks. (REG-W-0403 The Radiation Shepherd)
34	Under UV light a child's palms glow. The child spent the whole afternoon drawing with highlighters. (no being)
35	Motion sensors trigger one after another, up the valley, at the speed of a moped. (REG-W-0415 The Night Runner)
36	Something drifts in the canal, half animal, half armour plating, and is still moving. Dogs are missing on the estate. (Atlas: Chimera)
41	A security guard wears gloves in summer. His voice sounds as if he were speaking in an empty hall. (Atlas: Glass Man)
42	A phone no longer recognises its owner's fingerprint. He clears his throat twice before every sentence. (REG-W-0424 Patient Zero)
43	On drone footage of the reserve it snows where there is nothing. In the evening the white dots drift towards the old barn. (REG-W-0403 The Radiation Shepherd)
44	A hunter swears there is a werewolf on his shoot. It is a mangy fox, and the hunter had been drinking. (no being)
45	Copper pots disappear from kitchens in the neighbourhood. In the stairwell lie cable sheaths, empty as if skinned. (REG-W-0412 The Wire Woman)
46	A regular at a cellar wine tavern has white threads in the soles of his feet. He still wants to go there every evening. (REG-W-0430 The Cellar Bloom)
51	A dealer offers quartz with a thread of lace grown into it. Place of discovery: a village in the Portuguese uplands. (REG-W-0406 The Crystal Bride)
52	On the metro a man touches a stranger on the arm. By evening the stranger is exhausted, as if after a night shift. (REG-W-0409 The Healer)
53	On a cemetery bench lie crutches that nobody needs any more. A man sits there every Sunday. (REG-W-0409 The Healer)
54	A fox waits at the traffic lights until the green man appears. There are no hedgehogs left in the gardens. (REG-W-0439 The City Foxes)
55	A forester finds a roe deer with the bite of a human jaw. Liver and heart are missing. (REG-W-0436 The Moonsick)
56	An old lady with an unlined face enters a café, and the light flickers. Coins near her grow warm. (REG-W-0412 The Wire Woman)
61	A homeless man does not freeze, does not sweat, does not blink. Sometimes he speaks with two voices. (Atlas: The Lost Veteran)

D66	Encounter
62	In a karst cave, hundreds of chalk circles with a dot are drawn on the wall. The bats fly out early. (REG-W-0415 The Night Runner)
63	A man in hospital has been failing to die for weeks. Every morning there is grey dust on his pillow. (REG-W-0427 The Shell Man)
64	At a crossroads, bread with salt lies on a stone. Everyone knows the custom, nobody the reason. (REG-W-0421 The Wanderers)
65	Every morning a pink stain on a pale boy's pillow. His grandfather has red cheeks. (REG-W-0433 The Bloodless)
66	In an old building the plaster tell-tales crack and close again. The house creaks ten times a minute. (REG-W-0430 The Cellar Bloom)

The Old

D66	Encounter
11	A family hears a woman keening for three nights. On the wall by the gate lie long grey hairs. (REG-A-0563 The Banshee)
12	The salt on the threshold has turned grey overnight. The neighbour spread ash against the black ice. (no being)
13	On the third Raunacht, figures in wooden masks move through the village, dancing, without music. A maidservant is gone. (Atlas: The Woman from the Raunächte)
14	After the thunderstorm, black feathers lie on the bank of the Danube, 80 cm long and hard as horn. (REG-A-0551 The Feathered One over the Bridge)
15	Goats with two round holes in the neck. In the straw, three-toed prints and husks like leather. (REG-A-0578 The Chupacabra)
16	A child alone in a room swears in a deep voice in Manx. The milk in the fridge has gone sour. (REG-A-0503 The Changeling)
21	Iron rusts in the house wherever the child has touched it. The family dog has been sleeping in the car for weeks. (REG-A-0503 The Changeling)
22	In the morning, cables and shoelaces in the house are neatly wound up. Small footprints in the flour. (REG-A-0518 The Moss Woman)
23	Around 03:00 a cockerel crows, thin and too high. The herding dogs will not go into the pen. (REG-A-0578 The Chupacabra)
24	From the lake calls the voice of a dead sister. Just below the surface a pale face smiles. (Atlas: The One from the Lake)
25	A parish register names a revenant in 1712. The grave was levelled in 1850, and the trail is cold. (no being)
26	On an old wooden ship something knocks at night, three times, pause, three times. In the morning fresh oakum is stuffed in the seams. (REG-A-0539 The Klabautermann)
31	For generations a village has put out milk at a stone. For years a hedgehog has been drinking it, and everyone knows. (no being)
32	Over the moor a blue light sways like a lantern. A missing hiker calls: he says he can see a house. (Atlas: Will-o'-the-wisp)
33	In the logging camp it smells of bacon, although no fire is burning. One man always eats alone. (REG-A-0521 The Hungering One of the North)
34	In the houses of a Carinthian valley the glasses clink at night. In the tunnel the gas alarm goes off. (REG-A-0557 The Lindworm in the Tunnel)
35	An old woman in Kowloon walks along the railing of the access balcony at night. Dead dogs lie on the roof. (REG-A-0533 The Fox Woman)
36	A farmer on the Gauja is hoarse in the morning, as if he had barked all night. No wolf howled in the valley. (REG-A-0530 The Werewolf of Legend)
41	Wet boot prints, size 46, from the pier to the door. None lead back. (REG-A-0527 The Draugr)
42	In the breakfast room of an Icelandic guesthouse stands a chair by the radiator that smells of the harbour in the mornings. (REG-A-0527 The Draugr)
43	In the rye by the Vistula, a circle of trampled stalks that stands upright again by morning. A girl laughs from the willows. (REG-A-0512 The Rusalka)
44	On a snowy night a woman in a straw cape asks a traveller to hold her child for a moment. (REG-A-0572 The Yuki-onna)
45	In the Karelian forest, a fence of bones. In the snow in front of it a boot print and a round hole, always alternating. (REG-A-0536 The Bony One in the Woods)
46	In the forest an old mushroom picker gives a friendly greeting. Afterwards the path no longer leads to the car park. (Atlas: Forest Walker)
51	A woman in a care home grows weaker every morning. At night an old man in an old-fashioned suit sits by her bed. (Atlas: Nachzehrer)
52	On the foggy country road stands a dog as big as a calf, and it follows without a sound. (Atlas: The Black Dog)
53	Out of pity, a deckhand gave the little man in the hull a jacket. Today the ship has started leaking. (REG-A-0539 The Klabautermann)
54	On the bank lie cucumber ends in a row, cut faces towards the river. Horses refuse to drink here. (REG-A-0569 The Kappa)

D66	Encounter
55	Under a waterfall a violin plays that you only hear once you stop listening. It is Thursday. (REG-A-0509 The Nix)
56	By the sewage canal a woman weeps, always the same distance away. In the mud, bare feet and small shoes, leading into the water. (REG-A-0575 La Llorona)
61	Wolf tracks end at the fence of a farm and continue as barefoot prints in the dew. (REG-A-0530 The Werewolf of Legend)
62	A kitten mews from an old dry-stone wall. Deeper in the stone something hisses like a kettle. (REG-A-0548 The Tatzelwurm)
63	A hiker lies motionless beside a rock crevice that smells sweetly of fermenting plums. (REG-A-0548 The Tatzelwurm)
64	A guest at a Tyrolean guesthouse wakes with matted hair and bloody soles. The horses are drenched in sweat. (REG-A-0542 The Alp)
65	A farmer shows claw marks on the barn. He made them with the rake, for the insurance. (no being)
66	Muddy barefoot prints lead from the cemetery to the road and back. It smells of chloride of lime. (REG-A-0524 The Strigoi)

The Dead

D66	Encounter
11	On the night train a compartment is full of people in old clothes. One of them is reading a newspaper from 1962. (Atlas: The Passengers)
12	At a village wedding a woman in a dress from 1936 dances with the groom. It smells of orange blossom. (REG-T-0615 The Bride)
13	A dead woman stands in a wedding photo. It is her twin sister, whom the family does not talk about. (no being)
14	At the end of a castle corridor a woman in white weeps without a sound. The heir is in hospital. (Atlas: The White Lady)
15	In a house on the dyke, bladderwrack and live shore crabs lie under the table in the morning. (REG-T-0633 The House on the Dyke)
16	In a closed hotel the tables are laid and the beds made. The clock is right. (Atlas: The Waiting One)
21	A dead man has black prints of coal dust on his throat, four fingers on the left, a thumb on the right. (REG-T-0618 The Miner)
22	A search dog loses the trail of a hidden child one step before a chest. (REG-T-0636 The Doll)
23	On a windless day you hear a storm in the house. The loft hatch lifts a finger's breadth and falls back. (REG-T-0633 The House on the Dyke)
24	Wood wool fibres in a child's hair. Small scratches on the inside of a chest lid. (REG-T-0636 The Doll)
25	A manor house had a haunting. It ended in 1971 with the funeral of a maidservant, only the story lives on. (no being)
26	A tunnel worker comes out sooty up to the knees. His colleague, who lay on the ground, is clean. (REG-T-0630 The Last Train)
31	A widower has unplugged the phone and has full ashtrays. Through the wall you hear two men laughing. (REG-T-0639 The Tape You Must Not Play)
32	Guide dogs refuse to set foot on a platform. At night a train that is not there whistles for departure. (REG-T-0612 The Farewell on the Platform)
33	At 03:17 every night the same door opens. A nursery rhyme comes from the empty room. (Atlas: Haunt)
34	An old man counts in Russian while stacking wood. Flies do not land on him. (REG-T-0627 The Homecomer)
35	In a disused pit the brass tallies on the board clink at night. The signal bell has no power. (REG-T-0618 The Miner)
36	In the stairwell a stamp strikes paper. It smells of vinegar water and camphor. (REG-T-0642 The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office)
41	In the railway tunnel it smells of coal smoke, although only diesel trains run. A child asks whether it is still far. (REG-T-0630 The Last Train)
42	A medium questions the ghost and knows all the names. She read the parish register beforehand. (no being)
43	A young woman comes home late, says hello on the stairs, and a stranger's hand reaches for her arm. (REG-T-0609 The Man on the Stairs)
44	The tenants hear knocking in the walls. The landlord wants to renovate and has the heating pipes banged at night. (no being)
45	A student from Hamburg suddenly cooks solyanka and says "our Lindenau". (REG-T-0621 The Flatmate)
46	On the door of a flat hangs a yellow form from the cemetery administration, with a name and a deadline. (REG-T-0642 The Layer-Out from the Cemetery Office)
51	In the morning a knitted child's mitten and coat buttons lie on platform 1. It smells of mothballs. (REG-T-0612 The Farewell on the Platform)

D66	Encounter
52	A collector rewinds an old tape. The machine stops, and the hiss goes on. (REG-T-0639 The Tape You Must Not Play)
53	Since the funeral the son smokes his father's brand and speaks his father's dialect. (Atlas: Possessed One)
54	Fresh round dents in a ceiling, although it has been painted over eleven times. (REG-T-0603 The Knocker)
55	A witness saw the dead woman on the platform. According to his ticket he was in another town that evening. (no being)
56	The morning after the wedding a guest lies dead by the cemetery wall, lime dust on his shoes. (REG-T-0615 The Bride)
61	On a gallows hill stands a hooded man with an executioner's sword. Something creaks in the wind where no gallows stands. (Atlas: The Executioner)
62	At 05:10 slippers shuffle through a shared flat. On the cleaning rota, "Wolle" is ticked off every week. (REG-T-0621 The Flatmate)
63	In a narrow house in Bruges the ninth stair creaks, although nobody is sitting on it. (REG-T-0609 The Man on the Stairs)
64	A cold spot in the hallway. The attic window above it has been broken for years. (no being)
65	Anyone who parties loudly after 22:00 hears two hard blows from below, wood on plaster. Downstairs nobody opens the door. (REG-T-0603 The Knocker)
66	Beside a front door hangs a camp jacket, patched many times. In the family grave one line has been ground off. (REG-T-0627 The Homecomer)

The Machine

D66	Encounter
11	A club champion wants to play the old Turk in the museum, and win. The attendants do not like the idea. (REG-M-0709 The Mechanical Turk)
12	A driver swears his satnav sent him onto a ferry ramp at night. The ferry has not run for years. (REG-M-0703 The Voice in the Satnav)
13	In one street people stand at open windows, listening to static, all with the same blank face. (Atlas: The Broadcast)
14	Tracks in the moor, 40 cm deep, in three gaits. One of them limps. (REG-M-0748 The Siblings of Golem-7)
15	Cavers find a tunnel under the Alb that no map knows. There is swarf in the stream gravel. (REG-M-0730 The Workshop That Never Stops)
16	After a performance, a ring of fine scratches, one metre from the walls. In the middle the dust lies undisturbed. (REG-M-0712 The Dancer of 1893)
21	On an agent's phone, a message with a detail nobody can know. All the traffic lights turn green. (Atlas: Ariadne)
22	Three cases of pulmonary oedema in one street, each on a Monday night. The kitchens smell of hay. (REG-M-0718 The Salesman)
23	Primary school children whisper digits at night. Their school reports show top marks in every subject. (REG-M-0706 The Teacher)
24	The shutters close when someone wants to leave. The loudspeaker talks like the dead wife. (Atlas: The House Spirit)
25	Beneath a karst spring a press stamps every four seconds. The water in the mill race smells of hot metal. (REG-M-0730 The Workshop That Never Stops)
26	In Clydebank all the drain covers in one street go missing overnight. Gulls follow something along the canal as if it were a fishing boat. (REG-M-0727 The Scrap Collector)
31	In the school playground, a clapping game with an Estonian counting-out rhyme whose numbers do not rhyme. (REG-M-0706 The Teacher)
32	Chickens lie sliced as if by paper. From the hayloft comes a whine like a dentist's drill. (REG-M-0724 The Wasps of Wels)
33	A substation stands open, the terminals bare. On shortwave a young man's voice speaks through the static. (REG-M-0748 The Siblings of Golem-7)
34	A robot vacuum drives in circles at night and bumps into every door. The manufacturer knows about the fault. (no being)
35	In the museum depot there is a rattling like a hundred pocket watches. The mice nest in every crate but one. (REG-M-0709 The Mechanical Turk)
36	A salesman rings twice, briefly, and offers a brass fire extinguisher. Between his sentences a relay clicks. (REG-M-0718 The Salesman)
41	A wild boar with a gunshot wound that no hunter inflicted. Under moss, a steel lid, 40 cm square. (REG-M-0733 The Border Guard of 1983)
42	The night staff hear rubber castors on linoleum and a click like a ballpoint pen. The budgerigars sleep on. (REG-M-0715 The Carer)
43	At night light falls from a disused plant. The cables are cut, the machines are running. (Atlas: The Dark Facility)
44	A radio amateur hears sentences on shortwave. It is a tape from 1994 that a station is repeating by mistake. (no being)
45	Harbour porpoises suddenly turn away in the firth. Underwater something cracks like a fingernail on a bottle. (REG-M-0739 The Diver)

D66	Encounter
46	A pensioner reports a drone over his garden. It belongs to the neighbours' boy, who is counting birds for school. (no being)
51	In the care home there are more disposable gowns in the bin than there were staff on duty. The drinking cup stands out of reach. (REG-M-0715 The Carer)
52	At night a second, gentle voice whispers in the child's room. The dog will no longer go in, and the bear growls. (REG-M-0742 The Teddy)
53	On the seabed lie mines cut open, neatly emptied. In the silt, fin marks, never a knee. (REG-M-0739 The Diver)
54	A road worker in a hi-vis vest does not come back from the night shift on the Traun. It smells of solder. (REG-M-0724 The Wasps of Wels)
55	A delivery van lies in the canal, no skid marks on the slipway. The trip log reads "aborted". (REG-M-0703 The Voice in the Satnav)
56	At night a shopping trolley with a crooked wheel rattles along the canal. Behind garages a welding set crackles. (REG-M-0727 The Scrap Collector)
61	In an old clock factory something ticks inside a crate. The guard dog will only sleep in the middle of the cellar. (REG-M-0712 The Dancer of 1893)
62	In an empty office building a plate-sized drone turns in the corridor. A red light comes on. (Atlas: Guard System)
63	On the Green Belt a young voice calls: "Halt! Stay where you are!" In the leaves lie cartridge cases gone green. (REG-M-0733 The Border Guard of 1983)
64	A witness describes an automaton with a porcelain face. He saw it in the museum and wants to get into the papers. (no being)
65	A metal frame in human shape stomps through a border forest. On its chest, a Cyrillic sign. (Atlas: Golem-7)
66	Children in Zurich draw houses full of windows and lots of bears. Their soft toys have brightly patched seams. (REG-M-0742 The Teddy)

The Humans

D66	Encounter
11	In the cellar of a terraced house a man in an expensive suit kneels before a circle. Behind him, five people in hired robes. (Atlas: Adept of the Enlightened)
12	A budgerigar says only one sentence: "I'm telling you." Its owner drinks coffee on Thursdays. (REG-H-0806 The Coffee Circle)
13	Two white cows pull a cart of black wood, unled. Gulls follow and never land. (REG-H-0803 The Congregation at the Chalk Lake)
14	A witness describes men in robes in the woods. It was a stag party, and he was there. (no being)
15	Two brothers in loden jackets offer bacon and stone pine schnapps. They know who the cell is. (REG-H-0812 The Laurin Brothers)
16	For a week a postman does what an old lady wished for. He does not know why. (REG-H-0806 The Coffee Circle)
21	On a dead man's bedside table lies a figure of old spruce, on its back on a small board. (REG-H-0809 The Carver)
22	A mother talks of a cult that is holding on to her daughter. The daughter lives in Leipzig and just wants to be left alone. (no being)
23	Blood in a chapel. The sexton cut himself on the candlestick and told no one. (no being)
24	A dog lies in front of a dead man's bedroom door and lets only the undertaker in. (REG-H-0809 The Carver)
25	A diary names a coven in the street. The last of the women died in 1988. (no being)
26	A farm dog follows an old hunter as far as the boundary stone and stops there. (REG-H-0812 The Laurin Brothers)
31	In the café someone waits with a newspaper and an envelope. His service wants a favour returned. (Atlas: Liaison Officer of a Partner Service)
32	A healer sells crystal water. It is tap water, and his customers pay well. (no being)
33	On the north shore of a chalk lake, net bags and black flint nodules lie beside a jetty of oak planks. (REG-H-0803 The Congregation at the Chalk Lake)
34	A farm at the end of the valley, flowers in the windows, cake for guests. In the cellar a candle burns. (Atlas: The Family)
35	A widow says that before his death her husband heard a scraping at night, like a knife over wood. (REG-H-0809 The Carver)
36	Outside the hold a young man hands out leaflets: the crystals are angels. He knows the address. (Atlas: Fanatic)
41	A sect announces the end of the world. Behind it there is only a man buying up land cheaply. (no being)
42	An old hunter whistles two notes. From far above, the same two whistle back. (REG-H-0812 The Laurin Brothers)
43	A boundary stone on the alpine pasture bears a carved rose. Beside it lie bread and salt. (REG-H-0812 The Laurin Brothers)

D66	Encounter
44	A priest loses his voice after every long sermon. Two houses down, ladies sit over coffee. (REG-H-0806 The Coffee Circle)
45	At the job centre hangs an advertisement: help wanted on a farm on Jasmund, board and lodging, from May. (REG-H-0803 The Congregation at the Chalk Lake)
46	A dropout comes home after Whitsun and remembers nothing but freshly washed linen. (REG-H-0803 The Congregation at the Chalk Lake)
51	A dead man in the Bavarian Forest. The bedroom smells of wood shavings, but there is no wood in the room. (REG-H-0809 The Carver)
52	At the scene a man in a grey suit greets the police officers by name. He carries a case. (Atlas: The Cleaner)
53	In a hotel bar the bill has already been paid. A friendly man knows the names of the whole cell. (Atlas: The Fixer)
54	A neighbour reports rituals in the garden. It is a midsummer party with bratwurst. (no being)
55	A van with its engine running, people with black rucksacks, too calm for tourists. (Atlas: Operator of Grey Meridian)
56	An old priest is at the scene before the cell. He introduces himself in Italian and asks nothing. (Atlas: Exorcist of the Congregation)
61	Thursday, 15:00, filter coffee and plum cake. After one sentence all three say: "Yes, exactly." (REG-H-0806 The Coffee Circle)
62	An invitation to a villa: an art lover shows off display cases and a crystal that hums softly. (Atlas: The Collector)
63	At an auction a woman in an evening dress names the value of a crystal in dollars before anyone asks. (Atlas: Curator of the Evening)
64	A clairvoyant greets the cell by name before anyone introduces themselves, and is startled herself. (Atlas: The Medium)
65	At a crossroads a man in a dark coat waits too long. The young woman next to him has a nosebleed. (Atlas: Hunter of Department 13)
66	A mercenary offers knowledge for money. All of it comes from an old newspaper article. (no being)

The Shifted

D66	Encounter
11	The hallway smells of two men. The farm dog answers to two names. (REG-V-0104 The Other)
12	In a duty roster one line has been kept neatly free. Nobody knows for whom. (REG-V-0109 The Prompter)
13	A sleeper has knee-sized bruises on his ribs. Shreds of EEG paper lie in the bed. (REG-V-0137 The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab)
14	A man comes home after years abroad. Someone with his face, who never left, is already sitting at the table. (REG-V-0104 The Other)
15	In the Irish Midlands something bellows so deep that the car windows hum along. Fraying marks on birches more than 2 m up. (REG-V-0143 The Giant Deer)
16	A child's voice counts steps in the stairwell, always one above you. The building has one landing too many at the top. (REG-V-0131 The Child in the Stairwell)
21	Two clocks in the house drift apart. One has a weak battery, nothing more. (no being)
22	When a photo is taken there is a soft hiss like flash powder. A guest smells of violet pomade and gauze dressing. (REG-V-0121 The Guest in the Group Photo)
23	A witness sees his doppelgänger. It is his twin brother, whom he wants nothing more to do with. (no being)
24	At the Rehberger Graben, three-lobed paw prints that end in the middle of the path. It has been raining for hours. (REG-V-0140 The Thylacine in the Harz)
25	Behind a solid wall in the ministry something knocks twice, politely. Sandwiches are missing from the fridge. (REG-V-0129 The Corridor Dweller)
26	A cellar has a door that is missing from the plan. It was bricked up in 1962, and behind it there is only coal dust. (no being)
31	In a kitchen in Coventry there is red brick dust every morning. A siren wails softly from the wall. (REG-V-0123 The Man in the Wall)
32	On a step between the second and third floors, fresh coal dust lies every morning. (REG-V-0131 The Child in the Stairwell)
33	Two sisters smell of the same fabric softener. The younger has never bought it. (REG-V-0107 The Sister Next Door)
34	In a photo from 1911 a man wears modern glasses. It is a fake from a forum. (no being)
35	The baker makes the same joke as yesterday, and the man at the bus stop reads the same newspaper. (Atlas: Loop Person)

D66	Encounter
36	After the crossing, puddles of salt water on dry seats and wet coins from 1937. (REG-V-0126 The Ferry)
41	A twelve-year-old has the bone age of a woman of 35. Next to her lies a sick man who is not breathing. (REG-V-0118 The Old Child)
42	Baptismal registers name a sister, in old ink. In the cemetery there is a small stone with her name. (REG-V-0107 The Sister Next Door)
43	Babies scream every night at 03:40. It smells of ether and warm paper. (REG-V-0137 The Nightmare from the Sleep Lab)
44	In the supermarket a woman stands at the edge of your field of vision. Whoever looks at her forgets her face at once. (Atlas: The Forgotten)
45	The level crossing bell rings to a timetable from 1996. At 16:20 it rains under a clear sky. (REG-V-0115 The Commuter)
46	The flatmates say a man lives in the wall, and put out tea with a straw for him. (REG-V-0123 The Man in the Wall)
51	Every evening the station ticket gate opens for a monthly season ticket that expired on 31 May 1996. (REG-V-0115 The Commuter)
52	A hotel with twelve rooms has a door numbered 213. The window shows a strange city. (Atlas: The Wandering Room)
53	In front of the first row of a Viennese theatre lies a trace of soot. It smells of coal gas. (REG-V-0109 The Prompter)
54	An agent sees himself on the other side of the street, with a scar he does not have. (Atlas: The Double)
55	Between two old mirrors a word comes back the blink of an eye later. Sometimes it is a different one. (REG-V-0134 The One Opposite)
56	On the third drive through, the same woman with the same pram waves. The satnav recalculates. (Atlas: The Endless Road)
61	A metal detectorist cleans an identity disc and reads the number aloud. A young soldier is standing in the woods. (REG-V-0112 The Time Castaway)
62	Below deck on the ferry a steam engine pounds. The ferry runs on diesel. (REG-V-0126 The Ferry)
63	A dog growls at the seventh reflection. The fingerprints are behind the glass. (REG-V-0134 The One Opposite)
64	At the foot of a cellar staircase, a green door with a brass plate. In the waiting room lie magazines from 1994. (Atlas: The Practice)
65	A young man in old-fashioned clothes asks the date. The dogs greet him anew every time. (REG-V-0112 The Time Castaway)
66	In wedding photos from five decades the same man stands in the back row, always in focus. (REG-V-0121 The Guest in the Group Photo)

Thoughtforms

D66	Encounter
11	A pupil shows wet footprints in the corridor. He made them with a shoe and a watering can. (no being)
12	For weeks the staff of an insurance company have been arriving at 06:00 and leaving after midnight. Nobody ordered it. (REG-G-1006 The Spirit of the Company)
13	A video shows a hitchhiker vanishing from a car. It is a cut, badly hidden. (no being)
14	An urban legend names an address. A pensioner lives there who has put up with doorbell pranks for years. (no being)
15	A farm dog barks at every strange car, except this one. (REG-G-1012 The Hitchhiker)
16	Soft typing comes from an empty office. The filter coffee has been on the hotplate for hours. (REG-G-1006 The Spirit of the Company)
21	A wayside cross weeps wax, say the pilgrims. The sexton put the candles too close. (no being)
22	At night a telephone rings in an office that no longer exists. Someone forgot the call forwarding. (no being)
23	A child talks to an imaginary friend. The child is five, and the friend is perfectly ordinary. (no being)
24	A company has a mascot that stands in the corridor at night. It is a cardboard cut-out that the cleaning crew moves around. (no being)
25	A student in Nijmegen finds yellow wax crayon on her windowsill, always fresh. She does not draw. (REG-G-1003 The Imaginary Friend)
26	A pupil has grazed heels. On the back of his shoe, the print of a small, wet toecap. (REG-G-1015 The Chain Letter)
31	In the fog on the pass a child with a lantern appears and waves. In the fresh snow, small bare footprints. (REG-G-1018 The Saint of the Wayside Cross)
32	In the morning there is grit in a girl's bed, in a house with a green gate. (REG-G-1012 The Hitchhiker)
33	Wet prints of children's boots, size 34, begin at the edge of a canal wharf. Nobody has climbed out of the water. (REG-G-1003 The Imaginary Friend)

D66	Encounter
34	A forum swears by the man in the dream. All the posts come from two accounts in the same flat. (no being)
35	In a school everyone talks about the man in the cellar. It is the caretaker, who smokes there in secret. (no being)
36	In the morning cows on the alpine pasture have drops of wax in their coats. (REG-G-1018 The Saint of the Wayside Cross)
41	Fresh wax at the Hirtenkreuz, although nobody has brought a candle for weeks. (REG-G-1018 The Saint of the Wayside Cross)
42	A sleep clinic hands out a leaflet about the man at the foot of the bed. Since then more patients have come forward. (REG-G-1009 The Man in the Hat)
43	A taxi driver picks up a young hitchhiker at night. The car smells of coconut and fresh bread. (REG-G-1012 The Hitchhiker)
44	A podcast tells the legend of the lantern child with a new ending. The priest fears people will believe it. (REG-G-1018 The Saint of the Wayside Cross)
45	Very close, a child's voice counts to ten, as in hide-and-seek. It smells of brackish water. (REG-G-1003 The Imaginary Friend)
46	In the morning a little ash lies at the foot of a bed. Nobody in the room smokes. (REG-G-1009 The Man in the Hat)
51	A father deleted the message. His daughter has already forwarded it nine times. (REG-G-1015 The Chain Letter)
52	On closed files, a small tick in green felt-tip. Nobody in the building uses green pens. (REG-G-1006 The Spirit of the Company)
53	On the stairs, wet trainers squeak behind a girl. Her jacket smells of chlorine. (REG-G-1015 The Chain Letter)
54	A dead woman has pressure marks on both ankles, as if from fingers in leather gloves. (REG-G-1009 The Man in the Hat)
55	A good-luck letter with examples is going round a class group chat. One of the names it mentions is real. (REG-G-1015 The Chain Letter)
56	Suddenly the clock in the room can no longer be heard. At the foot of the bed the floor creaks once. (REG-G-1009 The Man in the Hat)
61	A chain letter threatens misfortune. Nobody believes it, and after a week it is forgotten. (no being)
62	On the back seat, grit and dry blades of grass from the verge. The rear door slammed, nobody got out. (REG-G-1012 The Hitchhiker)
63	A witness says she has seen the man in the hat. She wants to go on a talk show. (no being)
64	At night a dog lies down in front of the desk and does not get up until the laptop is shut. (REG-G-1006 The Spirit of the Company)
65	A village tells of the ghost dog on the country road. The story comes from a novel from 1954, and nobody believes it any more. (no being)
66	Ducks on the canal swim to an empty spot, as if someone were throwing bread there. (REG-G-1003 The Imaginary Friend)

What Stands Out at the Scene

What a cell notices before anyone rolls: a smell, a sound, a trace. The table is drawn from the signatures in this book. It helps to fill a scene, and it helps to lay a false trail. The brackets give the file references the observation fits.

D66	What Stands Out
11	It smells of freshly cut cucumber, and there is none anywhere. (REG-F-0321, REG-A-0569)
12	A budgerigar always says the same sentence: "I'm telling you." (REG-H-0806)
13	Grit and dry blades of grass on a back seat nobody sat on. (REG-G-1012)
14	Three cups of tea poured, cold, and a photo album with a child's picture missing. (REG-F-0306)
15	The fingerprints are not on the mirror but behind it, in the silver. (REG-V-0134)
16	Roll-up ends outside the garden gate, each end folded over twice. (REG-W-0424)
21	The room of a dead man smells of wood shavings and resin. There is no wood in the room. (REG-H-0809)
22	A boundary stone with a carved rose, bread and salt beside it. (REG-H-0812)
23	Puddles of salt water on dry seats, and wet coins from 1937. (REG-V-0126)
24	A fine ticking like a pocket watch, only louder. It smells of clock oil. (REG-M-0709, REG-M-0712)
25	A car radiator boils dry, without a leak. The air is so dry that lips crack. (REG-F-0327)
26	A pink stain on the pillow, never larger than a coin. (REG-W-0433)
31	Every four seconds something stamps in the ground, right into the cellar of the house next door. (REG-M-0730)

D66	What Stands Out
32	A lighter burns with a long blue flame. The gas detector shows nothing. (REG-S-0203)
33	More disposable gowns in the bin than there were staff on duty. (REG-M-0715)
34	Wet prints of children's boots begin at an edge above the water. (REG-G-1003)
35	Brass tallies clink on the board, as if a hand were brushing over them. (REG-T-0618)
36	Cartridge cases gone green in the leaves. A steel lid under the moss. (REG-M-0733)
41	Soot on face and clothes down to the knees. Whoever lay on the ground is clean. (REG-T-0630)
42	A little ash at the foot of the bed, although nobody in the room smokes. (REG-G-1009)
43	Fresh coal dust lies on one step every morning, although nobody heats with coal any more. (REG-V-0131)
44	Wet boot prints lead from the water to the door, none back. Seaweed hangs from the handle. (REG-A-0527)
45	Salt lines on walls and stairs, all at the same height. The floorboards are dry. (REG-T-0633)
46	The milk has gone sour overnight, and iron rusts where a small hand has touched it. (REG-A-0503)
51	An apple in a child's hand turns brown within an hour. (REG-V-0118)

D66	What Stands Out
52	Frost flowers on the inside of the window pane, like narrow hands with long fingers. (REG-F-0303)
53	The carbon monoxide alarm goes off in a house without gas. Under the ventilation grille lies cold black dust. (REG-S-0239)
54	A baby monitor transmits a fast heartbeat from an empty room. (REG-S-0206)
55	Knock on a solid wall, and it knocks back twice, politely. (REG-V-0129)
56	In the morning the horses stand in the stable drenched in sweat, their manes braided into hard little plaits. (REG-A-0542)
61	It smells of ozone and wet stone, even in a dry cellar. (REG-S-0203, REG-S-0206, REG-S-0232, REG-S-0243)
62	Muddy paw prints on door handles, 1 m above the ground. (REG-W-0439)
63	On the flat door, a yellow form from the cemetery administration, with a name and a deadline. (REG-T-0642)
64	The frogs fall silent in a circle of about 50 m. At the edge they go on croaking. (REG-F-0309)
65	Footprints in the flour, as small as a toddler's. (REG-A-0518, REG-A-0539)
66	The copper is missing from charging cables. The sheaths are intact, as if skinned. (REG-W-0412)

Blank Index Card

Anyone creating their own being copies these pages and fills them in following the rules of thumb from Chapter I. The template follows the order of every card in this book: header, card, signature, file, truth, stats, subtypes, cover-up, hooks.

Header

Field	Entry
Name	…
Quote	…
Who said it	Code name, rank, branch: …
Photo	What it shows: …
Data bar	Camera, temperature, date, time: …

REGISTRY

REG–?–____

Origin and Family	…
Form	…
Role	…
Horror	…
File Colour	…
Frequency	…
Mind	…
Regions	…
First Sighting	…
Last Confirmed Sighting	…
O.D.I.N. Losses	…

Signature

Sense	What You Notice
Smell	…
Sound	…
Temperature	…
Light	…
Readings	…
Animals	…
Devices	…
Traces and Residue	…

What the File Says

Field	Entry
Knowledge test	INT + …
+1 die for	…

Result	What the File Says
0	…
1	…
2 to 3	…
4 or more	…

What Is True

Part	Entry
The truth	…
What works	…
The solutions	…
Wrong in the File	…
The dangerous error	Protocol, name, date: …

Stats

Value	Details
Initiative	…
Attack	…
Defence / Armour / HP	…
Horror	…
Special	…
Weakness	…
Behaviour	…

Subtypes

Subtype	Difference
…	…
…	…

Cover-Up

Field	Entry
Who covers it up	…
How	…
Who knows	…

Hooks

D6	Hook
1	…
2	…
3	…
4	…
5	…
6	…

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