


# JUST A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE

## AN OUTLINE FOR A CASTING THE RUNES SCENARIO

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*This outline acts as an introductory adventure for the **Casting of the Runes** roleplaying game. Designed to bring together a small group of investigators, it exposes them to the world of the supernatural and occult horror that lies hidden just beneath the surface of polite Edwardian society.*

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 ur story opens on a bleak autumn's day in 1908, with the soon-to-be Investigators gathered by a respected banker, Sir Michael Mooreland, to assist him in the collection of a unique 17<sup>th</sup> Century book from a not-quite-so-respectable seller in Norwich. While this acquisition occurs without much difficulty trouble soon begins after the party returns to London and the truth about the book's true purpose is revealed.

### A NOTE ON INVESTIGATORS

While any character of any background will work in this scenario, Investigators with an in-depth knowledge of books and antiques are the most likely to be called upon by Sir Michael, as would any character employed as a law firm agent or similar (i.e. such as a respected courier or case investigator, etc.). Of course, the option to have the Investigators simply be friends or distant family of Sir Michael Mooreland also works well.

### THE PLOT SPINE

This scenario is broken into five sections:

§ **Scene One: An Unexpected Invitation.** In which the Investigators gather to assist Sir Michael

Mooreland. During this scene, the party will learn of their host's interest in the theological aspects of the occult and will be asked to collect a unique manuscript of this type from a seller in Norwich.

§ **Scene Two: Collection Duty.** In this scene, the investigators travel to Norwich and locate Jeremiah Ankle, a dealer in rare books. After needing to negotiate the seller's weird habits, the party will purchase the book and return home.

§ **Scene Three: A Second Summons.** Shortly after returning to London, the investigators will learn that Sir Michael is dead. Drawn into this mystery, they will discover that the book they acquired has let loose a source of great evil, a demon created from the sin of Wrath!

§ **Scene Four: Return to Norwich.** Perhaps driven by the need for justice or simply to ensure the demon is defeated, the party decides the Investigators will return to the Cathedral City to learn that death already stalks the land and that wrongs must be righted before others suffer.

§ **Appendices.** This section collects all details on the Creatures and Non-Player Characters encountered in this scenario.

### SCENARIO BACKGROUND

In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century, the cathedral at Norwich was left damaged after an uprising of Puritan fury early in the Civil War. For years afterwards, the complex was left untouched by the new order of the land (under the short-lived Commonwealth of England), and it was only upon the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, that a new Dean, John Crofts, was appointed to restore the cathedral to its prior glory.

As these rebuilding efforts commenced, behind the scenes, Crofts and a few of the cathedral's Canons began to plot revenge against those who had so openly desecrated the cathedral a decade prior. Attacking the Puritan beliefs from the pulpit with vehemence and vitriol unmatched by any sermon since seen in the church, this assault had an unforeseen side effect.

From these orations of rage and hatred, a demon of sin was created, and unbidden by any living soul, embarked on a vicious and unchecked killing spree against locals of the Puritan faith. It was only after one of the

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## ABOUT SIR MOORELAND

Before to the adventure, the Investigators might already know the following about Sir Michael Mooreland.

- § Sir Michael is 72 years old and the last scion of his branch of the Mooreland family tree.
- § Coming from a long line of Scottish bankers and financiers, he has made and spent many fortunes over his life but has always been generous with his money.
- § A widow of nearly a decade, he has few extend family and lives alone in London with a small but loyal staff.
- § Since his retirement, Mooreland has been collecting books of occult and ecclesiastic interest and has spoken of donating these to the British library after his death.
- § Still an active outdoorsman, Sir Michael fell from a horse a week ago and has been bed ridden at his home in London with a badly broken tibia ever since.

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Canons, Thomas Boxall, realised what the congregation had summoned, that the chapter acted in response, all its members immediately repentant for their words and actions. Gathering the ministry, Dean Crofts led a service of regret and remorse, in which they were able to bind the Sin Demon in a text they called the *Liber Irae Iniussae*. Knowing that they could never truly defeat the manifestation of pure sin, Canon Boxall buried the Liber Irae within the cathedral's grounds (near the Erpingham Gate), believing the consecrated soil would silence the creature. For many years, Boxall, Crofts, and many subsequent Deans protected the location of the cursed book, ensuring that the secrets of the past remained hidden and safe.

## MR ANKLE'S UNEARTHS THE PAST

That was until a few weeks ago, when Jeremiah Ankle, an unscrupulous dealer in rare books, discovered a reference to the burial of the safe in Canon Boxall's diary (having come into possession of the text via an estate sale). While details were scant, the author mentioned the interment of a 'vault' under the cathedral's Erpingham Gate and believing that this must be a lost treasure trove, late one night he stole onto the cathedral's land and dug up the safe. While disappointed that he had

not discovered a horde of church gold or other riches, he knew that he could at least make some profit by demanding a hefty sum for the old book from the right buyer.

Through a variety of contacts and traders, word soon spread that a long-lost ecclesiastic text was for sale, and while many a collector made inquiries, it was Sir Michael Mooreland, who finally agreed on a price for the book.

## THE CURSE OF THE LIBER IRAE

Unbeknown to all parties, the same powers of belief, faith and the all-mighty that trapped the creature in the Libre Irae have been weakened since it was dug up by Ankle and these protections will diminish further as the book moves away from its rightful resting place at Norwich Cathedral. Once in London, the Libre Irae's last defence is broken by Sir Michael, and demon freed to continue its only purpose - to kill all in the bloodline of the mob who vandalised the cathedral all those years ago.

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## SCENE ONE: AN UNEXPECTED INVITATION

The Investigators all receive an invitation to attend the London residence of Sir Michael Mooreland, a well-known collector of occult and religious texts (*see the nearby sidebar for further details on what the Investigators might already know of Sir Michael*). Arriving at the large Kensington home, the party is met by Rutledge, Sir Michael's dour Butler, who invites them to wait in a well-appointed Sitting Room while he ensures that 'the master' is ready to receive his guests.

Rutledge is a very 'traditional' servant, who refuses to be drawn into any discussion on either his employer or the request for the party's attendance at the house, and although the wait for the butler's return is only short, this is a good opportunity for the characters to introduce themselves to one another, if already acquainted.

Rutledge reappears a few minutes later and announces that Sir Michael is ready to receive them, before leading the group, through the house into a large library. Here, Sir Michael Mooreland is found laid up in

a large, comfy-looking bed that seems very out of place in the sea of books and bookcases. His right leg in traction, Sir Michael looks quite pale and even slightly shrunken among the plush pillows, while a stern-looking nurse dabs repeatedly at his head with a damp cloth. Upon seeing the party, however, he immediately brightens up and with an obvious wince of pain attempts to sit upright. The nurse ‘tuts’ him for such efforts and attempts to straighten the pillows and blankets around him as he complains about the fuss.

Despite his obvious physical injuries, Sir Michael maintains his loud, booming voice as he welcomes the Investigators and in the same breath apologises for his appearance. He orders Rutledge to bring chairs for his guests and then turns to shoo the nurse out of the library, saying to the party that she is ‘*a fine woman, but a little too overbearing at times...*’.

Once all are seated, Sir Michael wastes no time, stating that he needs the group to undertake a simple task for him – to travel to Norwich and retrieve a book from a Mister Jeremiah Ankle, a trader in rare texts. Obviously, he says, he would usually undertake such endeavours himself, or even dispatch one of his staff, but given his current predicament and the fact that he has never dealt with Mr Ankle before, sees him requiring agents of a certain respectability for the purchase.

He will not take ‘no’ for an answer and will wangle, cajole, and even attempt to bribe the party to take on this opportunity. Once convinced to assist, Sir Michael can provide the following information about the job.

- § **The Book.** Sir Michael has purchased a one-of-a-kind ecclesiastic text purportedly written in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. This will be a fine addition to his collection of many such rare works (examples of which he happily points out from the vast array of books of all sizes and shapes stored carefully on the Library’s imposing bookshelves).
- § **About Ankle.** Jeremiah Ankle is based in Norwich and comes with something of a reputation for being a hard man to deal with directly. He does, however, seem to have the knack of being able to locate the rarest books from the oddest of places, so collectors like Sir Michael are happy to overlook his otherwise erratic nature.
- § **The Task.** Simply travel to Norwich, pay for, and collect the book, and return it here to Sir Michael

post-haste. All costs of this trip will be covered by Sir Michael and the Investigators will be recompensed appropriately.

After answering any further questions to the best of his ability Sir Michael directs Rutledge to pass the Investigators a bank cheque for £9/6s, which he states was the agreed amount for the text.

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## SCENE TWO: COLLECTION DUTY

The easiest way to travel to Norwich is via the Great Eastern Railway (GER) service departing from Liverpool Street Station, which has a journey time of 6 and a half hours.

Jeremiah Ankle currently works out of a small, free-standing two-storey building located down a narrow alley behind Colegate Street in central Norwich. The sign above the door proclaims the store to be *Ankles Rare Books & More* (with educated Investigators noting that the apostrophe in ‘Ankles’ is missing). Unfortunately, no matter what time the Investigators arrive, they will discover a ‘closed’ sign in the locked shop door window, and all the store’s curtains drawn.

Asking nearby shopkeepers or residents about Mr Ankle will reveal the following:

- § Jeremiah has owned Ankles Rare Books & Mores’ for over a decade and lives above the store.
- § Ankle is a sour man at the best of times, and has little to do with the local community, seemingly happy to quietly run his business without any pomp or ceremony.
- § As far as anyone is aware, he has few walk-up customers, and the speaker believes that he must rely almost exclusively on ‘out of town’ sales to keep his business afloat.
- § The shop has been shut up like it is now for three days, and Ankle has been seen only a couple in the interim entering the store for a few minutes before hastily departing.

§ With the use of an appropriate **Interpersonal Ability**, they will learn that Jeremiah had been acting quite strange before he closed the store, and when he has been seen in the alley or about town, he is usually drunk (the speaker will add that they don't recall Ankle being a heavy drinker, no matter how unclean he might have appeared).

§ With a *point spend* in an appropriate **Interpersonal Ability**, the speaker will add that they have heard that Ankle has been seen drinking in the Wheatsheaf, a local public house with a reputation for hosting 'rougher type of clientele'.

## FINDING JEREMIAH

The Investigators will eventually locate Jeremiah Ankle in the Wheatsheaf. Having consumed too much cheap gin, he is drunk, unkempt and smells terrible. If confronted he will initially want nothing to do with the 'strangers' claiming not to be Ankle, and it is only after they say that they represent Sir Michael Mooreland that he straightens up and pays attention to what they are saying.

His greed still overwhelming any fear, he leads the party back to his store, fumbling with his keys and almost tripping over himself in the rush to get rid of the book.

## AN ENCOUNTER AT THE WHEATSHEAF

If the Game Master wishes to raise the stakes during this early part of the scenario, they may wish the Investigators to encounter some of the local patrons who either a) take a dislike to the *Jollock and Gibface (overweight and ugly) Toffs*' intruding in their pub or b) see the group as easy targets to rob.

How this encounter plays out depends on how the players respond to such gibes and provocation, but if things start to turn violent, a Constable from the Norfolk Constabulary will arrive and calm down the protagonists before any real harm can be done.

## INSIDE RARE BOOKS & MORE

Entering the store, the Investigators find it unkept but not unclean, with a smell of old paper and aging books permeating the air. The small space is cramped full of bookshelves and various items of antique furniture,

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## WHAT HAPPENED TO ANKLE?

After unearthing the lead safe in Norwich Cathedral, Jeremiah has been haunted by the demon as it slowly regains its power. At first, these manifestations exhibited themselves as minor disturbances, such as a book shifting untouched, or the sound of a single deep breath from a dark corner, but over the last week, these events have grown in intensity.

Now, Ankle finds himself haunted by the demon, although it is unable to affect him directly in his current form. At night items fly from shelves and growling whispers awake him from his slumber, and while he suspects that it is something in the Libre Irae is the source, his own greed means that he resists disposing of the book before he can complete its sale to Sir Michael.

As such, to free his head of the horrors, Jeremiah now spends most of his waking hours at the Wheatsheaf, a notorious Norwich public house, and has also taken a temporary room at a dosh house nearby.

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forming narrow pathways that are challenging to traverse for anyone of a larger frame.

The most surprising and out-of-place aspect of the scene is that many of the books and manuscripts which should be up and on display for sale seem to have been haphazardly thrown about the store; laying open, upside down, bent and in some cases broken, all over the floor and furniture.

Ankle seems unperturbed by this mess, however, and quickly navigates his way through the narrow spaces to the counter, where he unlocks a large safe. If questioned, Jeremiah dismisses the question, stating that *'I has been meaning to tidy up, but ain't got around to it just yet'*.

He soon returns to the Investigators with the cloth-wrapped Libre Irae Iniussae, which he thrusts into the hands of the nearest party member while slurring the words *'nice doing business with you'*. He remains there, wobbling slightly until he receives his payment, at which point he smiles and tips his non-existent hat to the Investigator.

After the Investigators depart, Ankle returns to the Wheatsheaf to drink himself into a stupor.

## THE JOURNEY HOME

With trains running regularly from Norwich back to London the Investigators should have little trouble arranging their return home at any hour of the day or night. If the party decides to find accommodation in Norwich overnight, the Royal Hotel (located near Norwich Castle) happily takes their booking.

The following strange events can be used during such a stay or on the journey home to London, with the Game Master encouraged to add their own subtle encounters reflecting the presence of the demon in the party's possession.

- § **The knock at the door.** In the middle of the night someone knocks on an Investigator's door, repeating itself after a few moments. No answer is forthcoming if the Investigator calls out, and the knocking increases in intensity until it is open. No one is at the door.
- § **The breeze.** An Investigator notices a page of a book or newspaper in the room turning by itself. This 'flip' is a slow and deliberate action (as if someone was there reading the text), but just before the character acts in any way, a breeze flows across the room.
- § **A ghastly smell.** As an Investigator passes by a doorway, they are struck by a smell of fetid swamp water, which immediately makes them gag. This horrid odour vanishes as quickly as it appears.

## DELIVERING THE BOOK

When the party goes to drop the Libre Irae off at Sir Michael's home, they may be disappointed to be told by Rutledge that the master is unable to see them. The Butler explains that Sir Michael has had a turn for the worse since their visit, and although his Doctor indicates that he should recover quickly, he is unfortunately in no condition to receive guests.

Very apologetically, Rutledge will accept the tome and will ensure the Investigators are squared away in whatever immediate payment is necessary. He will say that he is sure that Sir Michael will be in touch as soon as he is able.

*Note: If the characters break etiquette and somehow force their way into seeing their friend, they will find everything as Rutledge revealed. A bad join in the set bone of his broken leg has had an adverse effect on the*

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## THE LIBRE IRAE INIUSSAE

It was within the pages of this book that the chapter at Norwich Cathedral trapped the physical manifestation of their sins.

- § When Jeremiah Ankle hands the Investigators the Libre Irae Iniussae, it is wrapped in a new green felt cloth.
- § The Libre is a thick tome, some 15 inches tall and 8 inches wide (roughly 38cm by 20cm) and is bound in a red-dyed leather cover, which looks almost new. There is no title embossed on the cover.
- § Access to the book's contents is restricted by a golden latch, which shows signs of recent scratching (from where Ankle pried it open with a small chisel). If opened, the book is full of hard-to-read crabbed handwriting interspersed with pages that just have lines and circles upon them. Some of these shapes seem to have faded over time and will oddly vanish quite quickly as the party moves further away from Norwich and the cathedral (see *The 'Empty' Libre* below for more details).
- § All the text in the Libre is in Latin, but even if the reader understands the language, they find its contents confusing, seemingly made up of biblical quotes that start and stop mid-verse.

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*aging Sir Michael. Thankfully a prompt response by his GP, Doctor Colin McBride, (who has had to painfully rebreak and realign the tibia) means he should recover quickly. At present, however, Sir Michael is unconscious, having taken a vast quantity of opiates to dull the considerable pain of this treatment.*

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## SCENE THREE: A SECOND SUMMONS

The Investigators will be called upon in the early morning two days later, when they receive an urgent telegram from Rutledge, asking the party to come to Sir Michael's home as soon as possible.

Here the group will be greeted not only by Rutledge but also by Doctor Colin McBride. The two will explain that Sir Michael was found dead in his bed at 7.30 this

morning, and that the cause was most definitely not from his leg injury. They will say that they have been holding off from summoning the police until they speak with the party.

## THE BODY OF SIR MICHAEL

Sir Mooreland is still in his bed, a large sheet pulled up over his body. Beside the bed, the Libre Irae is lying face down on the floor, having fallen from the dead man's hands in the night.

*Note: While the Investigators are in the library they will detect a faint, earthy, damp smell that seems to come and go on a non-existent breeze. If asked about this, both Rutledge and McBride will say that they too have smelt the odour, but that it seems to have no source.*

## EXAMINING THE BODY

Before anyone lifts off the sheet covering Sir Michael, Doctor McBride will lay a gentle hand on the character's wrist and warn them that it is a grizzly sight. Sir Michael has the look of a man terrified to death, with his face and limbs contorted in a disturbingly. Anyone seeing this must make a **Stability (4)** test or lose 2 Stability.

Examining the body with the use of an appropriate **Investigative Ability** (i.e. Medicine or Forensics) will be able to determine that Sir Michael died of a heart attack after what must have been a massive shock (Doctor McBride will say that this is his theory as well). In addition:

- § There are ink stains on Sir Michael's fingers, and on his nightshirt also. A large ink mark is on bed sheets beside the body (the man was making notes as he tried to break the Libre Irae, which he dropped on the appearance of the demon, and which was moved by Rutledge upon the discovery of his body, an action the butler will own up to – see *The Scribbled Note* below).
- § He has bruise marks on his left arm, these look as if someone has gripped the limb tightly. On closer inspection, it looks as if whoever did this only had three fingers and a thumb (i.e. was missing their little finger). These marks are slightly damp to the touch, and this 'liquid' cannot be removed.
- § All lividity markers indicate that Sir Michael died around 1 in the morning.

## WHAT KILLED SIR MICHAEL?

The unfortunate Sir Michael accidentally released the Wrath Demon from the Libre Irae, a mistake that led to his death (induced mainly by fright at the presence of the creature). The scholar's attempts to translate a hidden code within the book's fragmented Latin verses broke the last bindings (already weakened by distance) holding the demon within the Libre.

Able to physically materialise, the creature touched the terrified Sir Michael on the arm (which set off a heart attack), before departing through the Library windows in its incorporeal form. This manifestation has left behind some evidence as outlined below.

## LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM

The library looks unchanged from the last meeting the Investigators had with Sir Michael. Beside the bed is a desk upon which a writing block (providing a hard surface upon which Sir Michael could write while sitting in bed), along with ink, pens, and paper (both blotting – which includes a ripped sheet and writing) have been placed. Piled on the corner of the desk are half-a-dozen books on theology and Latin, all scholarly works that the master of the house was referencing.

Any character with an appropriate **Investigative Ability** (such as Evidence Collection or Occult) looking around the scene will discover two damp patches on the floor next to Sir Michael's bed. The earthy, wet smell previously detected seems strongest at these spots.

Upon closer examination, these prints are in the shape of large, clawed footprints, and cannot be dried by any material (this damp will slowly fade over the next 48 hours). For a *point spend* the Investigator can track these footprints to the library's large French windows and note that one of the lead-lined panels is lined with condensation (which like the damp footprints cannot be naturally dried).

## THE 'EMPTY' LIBRE

The Libre Irae Iniussae is found, face-down on the floor next to Sir Michael's bed, its spine a little worse for wear for such treatment. When examined, the Investigators might be astonished to see while all the

handwritten verses remain as before, all the strange lines and circles have vanished, almost as if they never existed at all.

*Note: The lines and circles in the text will reappear the closer the party gets to Norwich Cathedral, as the words that bound the demon to the text get stronger. Once within the Cathedral Close, all of the previously invisible shapes have returned to the pages in bold and black ink.*

### THE SCRIBBLED NOTE

While the Investigators are looking over the scene, Doctor McBride will give Rutledge a knowing look, and the Butler will produce a piece of blotting paper upon which a scribbled message has been shakily written. Rutledge will pass this to the closest character and will say that this was found crumpled in Sir Michael's hand this morning (Doctor McBride will nod his agreement to this statement).

The blotting paper is the same type as found on the desk next to Sir Michael's bed, and the handwriting is that of the dead man.

The barely legible text reads *"IT must go Back"*.

Any character with an appropriate **Investigative Ability** (such as Bookkeeping or Forensics) will be able to deduce that the author of this message was under great stress or extremely ill at the time of writing, given the amount of shaking and movement in the hand.

### THE DOCTOR'S OPINION

After the group has collected all they can from the scene, Doctor McBride will ask to have a moment alone with the Investigators, politely dismissing Rutledge from the room. Free to talk his mind, the doctor will state that he has no idea what is going on, but that in his opinion there is no possibility that Sir Michael's death was from 'natural causes'. He suggests, despite his own beliefs and his Presbyterian upbringing, that something supernatural is afoot – and while Mooreland might have brought such a fate onto himself, seeing his keen interest in the occult – Sir Michael was a good man and whatever is happening here needs to be resolved.

The Investigators are in the best places to act on this mystery, and the doctor will say that he will do his best to hold off the police until they have time to complete

whatever they must. Additionally, if the party is desperate for finances, he is willing to offer up enough money for any transport and accommodation needs in completing this task.

## WHAT TO DO NEXT?

While no one is ordering the Investigators to act in any way, they will likely want to undertake Sir Michael's last hurried instruction and return the book to its previous owner. Both McBride and (in his own more reserved way) Rutledge, will encourage this course of action.

*Note: If the players seem uncertain about what to do next, newspaper reports (see below) of the strange deaths in Norwich can filter down to London Newspapers allowing them to be drawn back to the city.*



## SCENE FOUR: RETURN TO NORWICH

The return trip to Norwich is easily arranged again via the Great Eastern Railway, with the Investigators arriving in the Cathedral City in the late afternoon/early evening (if they depart as soon as possible after leaving Sir Michael's home). With the most logical destination being Ankle's shop, the party arrives to discover that much has changed since their last visit.

### THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Upon arriving at Norwich station, the Investigators might notice the day's copy of the Norwich Evening News. The front page includes a small article on an accident that occurred early in the day.

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### A DEATH ON HIGHSTREET

Norwich Constabulary wishes to talk to witnesses of an accident that occurred on Norwich's High Street earlier today. Mrs Elizabeth Bailey (43) was declared dead after being tramped in what is suspected to be a pursuit by an unknown individual. Of particular interest are details of the events leading to the accident or the identity of the man seen chasing Mrs Bailey.

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## AT RARE BOOKS & MORE

When approached, the curtains across the windows of Ankle's Rare Books & More are raised and the door sign reads 'open', even if the party arrives there after normal business hours. While no light or movement can be seen inside the store, the door is closed but unlocked.

The inside of the store is a lot tidier than previously seen, with all the books and other knickknacks now returned to their shelves and appearing to be in some semblance of order. The interior of the store remains slightly claustrophobic, however, with the bookcases and furniture still constraining the routes of access.

Investigators entering the shop smell the same earthy dampness they likely detected in Sir Michael's Library after his death.

### ANKLE'S BODY

Jeremiah Ankle's body is found at the bottom of the narrow stairway leading between the store and the living rooms above. Dressed in a tatty dressing gown over a set of rough work clothes, it looks as if he has fallen down the stairs and broken his neck. On examination a character with an appropriate **Investigative Ability** (i.e. Medicine or Forensics), can determine the following:

- § The cause of death is a broken neck, most likely caused by a fall down the stairs. Given the smell of the man, it is safe to say he was intoxicated at the time of the accident.
- § Ankle passed away in the late morning of the same day Sir Michael died.
- § Examining the corpse notes the same four-finger handprint that was seen on Sir Michael's arm present at the top left shoulder of Ankle. Upon discovering this the Investigator get the impression that someone or something shoved Jeremiah down the stairs.

Searching Ankle's pockets will reveal a set of keys, that includes both the front door key and a large brass key for the shop safe.

### THE SHOP SAFE

Located behind the store counter is a large modern safe, that is locked shut with a robust lock. If the key is

## DEATHS & DISARRAY

The Sin Demon has acted quickly since being released by Sir Michael and has flown back to Norwich to resume its grisly task of centuries earlier. Its first port of call was Jeremiah Ankle's, where it pushed the shopkeeper down the stairs of his home (this was an act of spite and malice rather than any connection to the past). From here it will kill three or four local descendants of the old Puritan mob each day until it is stopped.

While many of the descendants of the vandals who ruined the cathedral have long departed the city and region, many other families remain, although few even know of the rebellious acts of their forefathers.

If required the following provides a list of people killed each day, their age and cause of death:

#### Day One

- § Elizabeth Bailey, 43, Distracted by the demon and run down by a horse in Norwich city centre.
- § William Goodman, 24, Heart attack and fell from second story window after being frightened by the appearance of the demon.
- § Norris Halfpenny, 18, Taken while ill with influenza.

#### Day Two

- § John Dellow, 68, Heart attack while in the bath at home.
- § Richard Bailey, 27, Heart attack, dying in the street after being touched by the demon.
- § Charles Pocock, 52, Heart attack at home in Norwich after the demon appeared at his table.
- § Emma Pocock, 48, Heart Attack at home in Norwich at the same time as her husband. Charles.

#### Day Three

- § Lincoln Dellow, 33, Heart attack at his place of work (a bakery), after the demon reached out to him from the oven.
- § Emily Halfpenny, 7, shocked by the appearance of the demon while at school, she died of sudden heart failure.
- § Patrick Podmore-Goodman, 19, Heart attack while working as an assistant farrier, when the demon appeared on the horse's back.



found on Ankle's body or the safe is otherwise opened, the Investigators find the following inside:

- § A tray of money for the shop, although this only adds up to about a pound in smaller denominations.
- § A few old and rare books, which characters with **Academic Abilities** such as Art History, History or Theology will be able to identify as rare and expensive.
- § An old handwritten journal (see below) in which Sir Michael's bank cheque, has been used as a bookmark.

### CANON BOXALL'S JOURNAL

This handwritten journal is a record of Canon Thomas Boxall's life at Norwich Cathedral. Badly damaged sometime in the past only a small section of its contents is easily readable. This legible text covers a period from the middle of 1660 to late in the same year, however unlike a diary (which is a day-to-day record of events) this book captures just the Canon's thoughts and ideas as they come him.

- § **June 1660.** Talks of the arrival of Dean John Crofts and his delegation from the Archbishop. It also provides contemplation on the task set to this group, the restoration of the cathedral to its former state.
- § **Mid-October 1660.** In entries around this period, the author raises concerns about the themes of the recently arrived priests' sermons and their focus on the subject of reprisal and revenge against those who vandalised the cathedral a decade earlier. Boxall believes such speech is not proper in the pulpit.
- § **Late October 1660.** Boxall briefly mentions an 'incident' that has caused the deaths of some townsfolk and the need for the chapter to come together and determine their response. It gives no details on this event or its cause, although reading into the language the author used it is safe to say he was greatly concerned by the incident.
- § **Early November 1660.** Boxall describes a private communion with all senior members of the chapter. This gather captured 'the rich rewards for our sins' and the honour his fellows gave to him to resolve the matter at hand.
- § **Mid November 1660.** The last readable entry of the journal details how the author and unnamed others

### EXAMINING THE DEAD

Any character thinking of approaching the Constabulary to examine any of the Sin Demon's victims, will – if they can gain access to the morgue – discover evidence very much like that they have already seen on Sir Michael and Jeremiah Ankle's bodies; damp four-fingered prints somewhere on the body, usually the arms or torso.

Likewise, all the scenes of these deaths, have the same damp, earthy smell about them and at most the demon's footprints can be found nearby. Of course, as witnessed earlier, none of these supernatural marks can be removed in any way by mortal means and will fade away 'naturally' after 48 hours.

went out at night and buried a lead safe next to the cathedral bell tower, two rods (11 yards) south of the Erpingham Gate. Nothing in this entry details exactly what was buried at this site nor why it needed to be so.

### THE ROOMS ABOVE

The two-room space above the store is exactly what one might expect from a man living alone, an unkempt mess of unwashed clothes, remnants of meals (and their accompanying dirty dishes) and empty gin bottles. The smell in these rooms is unpleasant and none of the windows open (having stuck closed with paint). Searching these rooms, the party will uncover the following:

- § The top of the stairs leads directly into the kitchenette. Here the same damp, impossible to remove, claw-toed footprints appear on the floor – a sure sign that the thing that attacked Sir Michael also killed Ankle.
- § Among the clutter and chaos are dozens of books, scattered around haphazardly, most dog-eared, and not treated with much care. The topics of these books vary; from fiction (Dickens and the like) through religious treatises and even some scientific texts. None are worth anything of value.
- § The larger of the two rooms is Jeremiah's living/bedroom, which, in some ways is even messier than the kitchen. Among this junk is the old lead-

lined safe in which Ankle found the Libre Irae (see below).

### THE LEAD-LINED SAFE

Buried under a pile of clothes and old newspapers in Jeremiah's main room is the lead-lined safe that he dug up from the cathedral's grounds. Of a design analogous to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, it is smaller than one might expect, being just a few inches wider and taller than the Libre Irae. Its original padlock has been pried off and is missing, and the hinges on the door have been oiled, but other than that, the safe is very much as it was found.

Examining the safe, the Investigators will be able to note the following:

- § The marker marks identify the safe as being forged in 1654 by a Norwich blacksmith.
- § Carved into the inside of the door is a verse in Latin "**Qui abscondit scelera sua non dirigitur qui confessus fuerit et reliquerit ea misericordiam consequetur**" (*Note this is Proverbs 28:13 and can be translated as "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy"*).

### INQUIRES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Having discovered that several pieces of evidence point to the Norwich Cathedral, the party can investigate further by approaching the chapter there. Here they will be directed to Doctor Andrew Weatherby, the Archivist Canon, who while initially not too interested in talking to the Investigators, can be brought around either using an appropriate **Investigative Ability** or discussing openly elements of the mystery at hand.

Explaining that he is a fairly new appointed to the cathedral and is dealing with trying to bring some semblance of order to the centuries of records stored on-site, he is excited by the idea of having some specific goal to work towards in his research. While he can't immediately recall the details of Dean Crofts's tenure at the cathedral, he does know about the vandalism (the evidence still exists including the musket ball lodged in Bishop Goldwell's grave and the damaged effigies) and where among the archives to find out more about this period.

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### THE CHURCH'S OFFICIAL POSITION

While the Church of England's official opinion on the existence of demons and the supernatural is mixed (with most saying that historical use of metaphor and allegory should not be equated to the works of Satan), the Cathedral Chapter is keen to rebury the Libre Irae back where it once laid (especially if a collation between the sudden deaths in the city and the release of can be determined).

In doing so they will allow Canon Weatherby to be the go-between the party and the Dean, who is reluctant to stir up too much public interest in either the fact something was stolen from the cathedral and that now returned will allow it to be buried once again!

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### HANDING OVER THE JOURNAL

If the party give Weatherby Canon Boxall's journal, the archivist is excited by the discovery of such a precious artifact, saying that the church is most willing to accept it as a donation (or at a pinch, offer to purchase the book for a reasonable price). Although disappointed at the water damage done to the text, he will read through the entries in awe, now fully believing everything the characters might be saying about some 'evil' being on the loose in Norwich.

With the reference to Boxall and some rough dates confirmed, Weatherby can quickly locate what little information the cathedral has on the long-dead Canon and the events of 1660 (see below).

### THE BURIAL SITE

If the discussion turns to either the existence of the Libre Irae Iniussae and its theft from near Erpingham Gate, Weatherby will say that two weeks ago the Assistant Verger found a hole dug in the Precentor's garden, which is near there. This incident was kept from the newspapers, but privately those in the know have been speculating that the spot was everything from the site of a 'church grim' (the practice of placing a cat body inside a wall to ward off evil spirits or as a good luck charm) through to a thief's stash (perhaps related to a bank robbery, as many occurred in the city at the turn of the century).

Weatherby can show the Investigators this location, which is just inside the Cathedral Close, on the grounds of the Canon Precentor house (the old bell tower having been converted into this new home in the early 1800s). The hole has been refilled (although not too heavily compacted) and its outline can be readily seen next to the Close's high flint and stone wall.

## SEARCHING THE ARCHIVES

Located in Abbeyfield House, this old Canon's house has recently been turned into a temporary library and archive for the cathedral's records. Unfortunately due to this move, locating any artifact or document with speed is difficult. However, with the leads in hand, Weatherby's knowledge of his archives, and the use of the Investigators' **Library Use Academic Abilities**, the party can soon uncover a variety of clues that should allow them to determine their next steps in stopping the Sin Demon.

## REFERENCES TO THOMAS BOXALL

Although Canon Boxall was a key member of the chapter in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century, there are few remaining records of the man or his time in Norwich (*Weatherby says that unfortunately, this is the case for many of the chapter records, as too many documents were lost in a fire in 1862*). Among what can be found is the following:

- § Thomas Boxall was appointed to Norwich Cathedral in 1642, and this accession notice records that he was ordained in 1623 and served in the parish of Great Yarmouth before he joined the chapter.
- § Among a few letters between Dean John Crofts and William Juxon, the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of the Dean's orders to restore the cathedral, Boxall is repeatedly mentioned as a 'worthy and wise Canon whose guidance and advice is appreciated'.
- § Boxall's name appears as leading many sermons between 1642 and 1674 (barring a break during the time of the Commonwealth of England), but no records on the topics of these readings remain.
- § There is, however, a note on a service held in October 1660 which records Boxall's defence of the 'actions of the past by men angered by the church' and how 'the word of vitriol from the Dean and

*others in the pulpit must be tempered by forgiveness and understanding*'.

- § Thomas Boxall passed away in 1682 at the age of 81 although records of his burial are lost.

## HENRY SALISBURY'S NOTES

None of Canon Boxall's personal records remain in the archive, and Weatherby will suggest that – as the Journal has reappeared – it is likely that most of the man's possessions would have gone to some family member after his death. However, among the notes from 1680 is a letter in which a young chorister, Henry Salisbury (who would later be Dean at Christ's College) records a discussion with the elder 'retired' Canon Boxall.

*Elder Boxall spoke to me today of why we maintain the empty garden on the grounds of the bell tower. He says that great evil is trapped in the ground there, and that 'it' must be kept quiet, and never removed. I have now been charged with watching over the site and to, if I ever see the earth there disturbed, attend the land at midnight and sing forth the Lord's Prayer.*

*It seems strange to be asked to do such things, but Canon Boxall is insistent, saying that there are but few left of those 'who put their evil in the ground'. Afterwards, I was able to approach Dean Sharp (as he spoke with Precentor Lawrence) and inquire (much to the choir master's annoyance) on Canon Boxall's health, believing perhaps that he was ill or now showing signs of his age.*

*The Very Reverend surprised me with his answer, saying that as a young man of wit and intelligence, I should listen to my elders and do as I was told. Even Canon Lawrence was taken aback by this reply, and I of course nodded my accent.*

*But now what am I meant to do? Sneak out from my chambers each midnight and watch a patch of unturned soil? I am bewildered to believe that even the Dean considers such things.*

## A RECORD OF DEATHS IN 1660

Researching events from 1660 in the archives will note a special service held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November at the cathedral. This gathering, requiring the attendance of the whole chapter, was to honour several people (all of

whom are from poorer local families). The exact purpose of the gathering is not detailed, but the communion included sermons on repentance, hubris, and the manifestation of sin. Among those remembered in the gathering were:

- § Daniel Goodman
- § Walter Bailey
- § Simon Pocock
- § Ralph Dellow
- § Margery Halpenny
- § Alice Halpenny

### A FRAGMENT OF DEAN CROFTS' LETTER

The last record of interest the group might find in the archives is a scrap of a draft letter from Dean John Crofts to the Right Reverend Edward Reynolds, Bishop of Norwich.

*We have done as discussed and repent our sins of wrath. Until the end of days that, which is buried should lie hidden, lest the evil be released once more.*

### REBURYSING THE BOOK

The only way to stop the sin demon is to rebury the Libre Irae on consecrated ground. While the lead safe is not necessary, it does make disposing of the book a little easier (a replacement padlock is also easy to locate).

To complete the ritual, the Lord's Prayer in Latin must be spoken over the burial, which will silence the demon fully. When and how this ceremony takes place depends on the Investigators' actions, however, the demon might not go easily (see the Sin Demon's abilities below).

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#### APPENDICES:

## CREATURES & NON-PLAYER CHARACTERS

The following collects all the major Non-Player Characters and creatures encountered in this scenario. Each entry provides a physical description of the individual as well as their detailed in-game statistics.

### SIR MICHAEL MOORELAND

RETIRED FINANCIER, 72 YEARS OLD

Once an athletic man, Sir Michael has put on considerable weight in his elder years. Despite this growing frame he has tried to remain active, enjoying his horse riding and hunting. A gregarious and friendly individual, he is quick to smile and slow to anger and has always used his wealth to support those less privileged than himself. An avid collector of occult and theological texts, he scoured England and abroad to add to his collection before his death at the hands of the Sin Demon.

**General Abilities:** Athletics 2, Connection 8, Firearms 5, Gambling 4, Navigation 1, Preparedness 2, Riding 4, Sailing 2, Scuffling 3, Sense Trouble 1. Trade 7, Weapons 2

**Investigative Abilities:** Art History 1, Folklore 2, History 2, Languages (Latin 1, French 1), Law 1. Library Use 2, Occult 2, Theology 1, Assess Honesty 1, Bargain 1, Charm 1, Class 3, Bookkeeping 2, Fieldcraft 1.

**Health:** 5

**Stability:** 4

### EDWARD RUTLEDGE

ERSTWHILE BUTLER, 48 YEARS OLD

In service all his life, Rutledge is the embodiment of a major-domo, able to manage not only the house's domestic affairs but most of Sir Michael's social calendar. Broad-chested and squat, he looks and acts as somewhat of a wall between the affairs of the Mooreland house and the outside world. His craggy face, bushy sideburns, and protruding eyebrows hide his intelligence, a disguise he plays on when dealing with people he does not know well.

**General Abilities:** Athletics 1, Drive 1, First Aid 1, Scuffling 4, Sense Trouble 4, Weapons 3.

**Investigative Abilities:** Assess Honesty 2, Class 1 (by association), Bookkeeping 1, Intimidation 2, Streetwise 1.

**Health:** 7

**Stability:** 5

### DOCTOR COLIN MCBRIDE

RESPECTED GENERAL PRACTITIONER, 39 YEARS OLD

A lanky Scotsman, McBride trained and practised in Edinburgh before moving to London to become a partner

in a city surgery. With a ready smile, bright red hair, and many freckles, it is easy for some to dismiss the doctor as something of a clown, however, beneath this appearance, he is a bright, inquisitive man who quickly makes firm friends and few enemies. Not one to dismiss any solution to a problem out of hand, he is willing to listen, learn and contribute to the mystery played out in this scenario without judgment.

**General Abilities:** Athletics 1, Bureaucracy 2, Connections 2, Drive 2, First Aid 8, Hypnosis 2, Scuffling 2, Sense Trouble 1.

**Investigative Abilities:** Biology 2, Class 2, Bookkeeping 1, Languages (Latin 2), Medicine 3, Physics 1, Charm 1, Reassurance 2, Evidence Collection 1, Forensics 1, Pharmacy 1.

**Health:** 8                      **Stability:** 6

**Equipment:** Doctor's Bag.

## JEREMIAH ANKLE

SHADY DEALER OF BOOKS, 57 YEARS OLD

Looking at least 10 years older than his actual age, Ankle is a short, crooked man, who seems to rarely wash. He is driven by greed and his base desires (which at his age is nothing more than getting drunk, although not quite to the extent of being called an alcoholic). Often seen in a tattered cap, this headwear covers his bald pate and holds in place the few greasy strands of grey hair he has remaining.

**General Abilities:** Conceal 2, Connections 4, Disguise 1, Filch 5, Fleeing 3, Gambling 2, Scuffling 2, Sense Trouble 5, Trade 2.

**Investigative Abilities:** Art History 1, Class 0, Bookkeeping 1, Languages (Latin 1), Library Use 1, Occult 1, Charm 1, Streetwise 3.

**Health:** 4                      **Stability:** 2

**Equipment:** Cosh (+0 Damage)

## CANON DR ANDREW WEATHERBY

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY, 42 YEARS OLD

A recent appointment at Norwich Cathedral, Weatherby is seen as one of those new, bright young things able to bring order to a world that until the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was left to its own supervision. Short, round, and bespectacled, he seems to be slightly

detached from events going on around him, until the subjects of history, theology or the cathedral are mentioned. A thorough man, he leaves nothing to chance and already has a reputation among the chapter for being a bit of a pedant.

**General Abilities:** Bureaucracy 2, Connections 1, Fleeing 3, Sense Trouble 3.

**Investigative Abilities:** Anthropology 1, Archaeology 2, Class 2, Contemplation 1, Folklore 1, History 3, Languages (Latin 2), Library Use 2, Occult 1, Theology 3, Art 1, Bookkeeping 1, Photography 1.

**Health:** 5                      **Stability:** 10

## THE SIN DEMON

EMBODIMENT OF WRATH

In its physical form, this 'demon' is a tall, thin creature that appears like a smooth, white translucent humanoid with no definable features (i.e. no eyes, mouth, or nose). Its skin always appears wet, and any prints it makes remain damp for roughly 48-hours before vanishing. These exhibit only 4 digits at the end of each limb, and nothing will dry the prints.

Able to become incorporeal at will, its entire purpose is to kill (usually through fright or accident) the descendants of the mob who raided Norwich Cathedral in the 1640s.

**ABILITIES:** Athletics 5, Scuffling 5, Stealth 5

**HIT THRESHOLD:** 4                      **STEALTH MODIFIER:** 2

**ARMOUR:** 0 (the demon is immune to all physical attacks)

**STABILITY LOSS:** +2 (in its physical form)

**ATTACK:** None

The wrath demon has the following powers:

§ **Incorporeal Form:** The demon can change from physical to incorporeal form at will. In its non-physical form, it can move very fast (as far and fast as required by the adventure's plot).

§ **Hateful Touch:** In its physical form, the demon can grip onto a target (with a successful attack roll) doing 1d6+1 damage per turn. This icy touch will kill a victim if their Health reaches zero, a death that will be classified as a heart attack.

- § **Maddening Whispering:** In its incorporeal form, the demon can create sounds and whispers from nothing. A victim subject to these attacks must make a Stability test (4) or take 2 Stability loss.
- § **Move Object:** The demon can move a non-living object with its mind. This can be used to ‘throw’ items at its victims or make more delicate manoeuvres such as turning a page in a book or picking up and throwing a stone.