

SHATTERED ILLUSIONS

A CONSPIRACY X 1ST EDITION SCENARIO

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SHATTERED ILLUSIONS IS A RACE AGAINST TIME to solve the mystery before the Black Book can clamp a lid on everything. This operation can be played from one of two perspectives: Internal Plot with the player characters all members of an Aegis Cell. Or the External Plot with the player characters being unaffiliated to any conspiracy group and simply seeking the truth, though this will lead them to possible recruitment by Aegis.

PLOT OPTIONS

- **Internal Plot:** Generate Aegis operatives as normal, though it is recommended that one of them should have forensics and or pathology experience.
- **External Plot:** Generate characters as normal, except that they may not be from Aegis-specific careers and do not generate a Cell background. This can be done at the end of the scenario if they are recruited by Aegis.

RECOMMENDED CAREER HOOKS:

- **For an FBI character:** The FBI will be called to the scene of Dr Alexander Truman.
- **For a CDC character:** You arrive home to find several answer phone messages from your old friend, Dr Alexander Truman, with whom you were at medical school together. If using the Internal Plot option or no player chooses to play a doctor, then this character role should be filled by the NPC Dr Andrew Thain.
- **For an Outsider Psychic character:** You often work with the police on unusual or missing persons cases. The psychic talents possessed by the character will determine in which capacity the character will be called in. Recommended psychic talents include Retrocognition and Clairvoyance.
- **For an Aegis Recruiter character:** The character is a member of Aegis and should have the trait Veteran. This character is on the lookout for new agents and is keeping a close eye on things. This character can be masquerading as one of the other character types and should have a personal link to events that are unfolding.

SCENARIO HOOK

The discovery of Dr Alexander Truman's body in this flat by his elderly next-door neighbour will spark a police investigation. Problems will arise with the police enquiry almost immediately when a cause of death cannot be determined.

BACKGROUND

An Aegis mole deep within the Black Book uncovered information on the placement of several Saurian agents within academic research facilities around the country. Local Aegis cells were immediately mobilised, and a termination order was approved for the Saurian agent masquerading as Dr Frank Wiess. After tracking the movements of Dr Wiess for several days, the Aegis cell set up an ambush. As Dr Wiess walked the short distance between the university where he worked and the local tube station, the Aegis gunman simply walked up behind him and shot him in the back of the head. The agents made their getaway in a waiting car, leaving the doctor for dead.

Dr Wiess was rushed to the local ER, where the duty doctor (Dr Alexander Truman) operated on the head injury. Having saved his patient's life, Dr Truman had Dr Wiess sent for brain scans (MRI and PET) to assess the seriousness of the internal wound. The scans came back looking extremely abnormal but with little signs of any real damage/ Dr Wiess was sent for a second set of scans, which came back the same.

With two sets of identical but equally confusing results, Dr Truman sought the opinion of Dr William Manson, the hospital's resident head trauma specialist. Dr Manson immediately recognised what he was dealing with and assured Dr Truman that he would take some time to look closely at the case, advising him to get some rest. Dr Manson then contacted his Black Book employers and apprised them of the situation. A Black Book Clean-up and Containment team were despatched immediately.

Within six hours, the Black Book agents were on the scene, Dr Wiess comatose body was removed, and the hospital records were doctored to make it appear that no such patient had ever been admitted. With the assistance of the MHIC-

EDOM, they visited those staff who had been on duty during Dr Wiess's admission and 'corrected' their memories; some simply blanked, while others now recall only false memories.

MISSION EVENTS/TIMELINE

- **19:25 Day 1** - An Aegis assassin shoots Dr Weiss in the back of the head at point-blank range before leaving him to die.
- **19:40 Day 1** - Dr Wiess is admitted to the ER, and Dr Truman operates to save his life. The operation, as per standard procedure, is videotaped.
- **21:15 Day 1** - Dr Wiess is sent for PET and MRI brain scans to assess the degree of damage that the bullet wound has caused.
- **23:24 Day 1** - Dr Truman orders another set of brain scans for Dr Wiess because the ones he has appear to be spoiled; he puts these scans into his office bin.
- **16:24 Day 2** - Dr Truman arrives on shift and consults with Dr Manson concerning the second set of equally bizarre brain scan results. Dr Manson confesses to also being perplexed and takes the brain scans under the pretence of consulting further with a personal friend who may know more.
- **18:20 Day 2** - Dr Manson phones his 'friend' to arrange a meeting with a member of the Black Book.
- **20:00 Day 2** - Dr Manson meets with the Black Book and provides them with information concerning Dr Truman's discoveries.
- **22:00 Day 2** - Dr Truman phones his friend Dr Thain in the hope of getting a second opinion. He leaves a message on his answering machine.
- **22:30 Day 2** - The Black Book cleaners remove the body of Dr Wiess and doctor the hospital records. They search Dr Truman's office finding the but don't find the brain scans that he put into the bin.
- **24:00 Day 2** - Dr Truman finishes his shift, decides to look in on his patient. Dr Wiess is missing, and no one seems to know where he is or whom Dr Truman is talking about. He returns to his office to think and finds it ransacked. In a fit of paranoia/realisation, he recovers the brain scans from the waist paper bin and puts them in an envelope, which he addresses to Dr Thain.
- **00:30 Day 3** - Dr Truman makes another phone call to Dr Thain again and is forced to leave a message. He also posts the envelope with the surviving records of Dr Wiess to Dr Thain.
- **03:00 Day 3** - The Black Book cleaners pay Dr Truman a visit, and they attempt to use the MHIC-EDOM on him. A struggle ensues, and the device is damaged. Left with no immediate alternative the Black Book team murders Dr Truman.
- **08:30 Day 3** - Mrs. Hanley discovers Dr Truman's body, and the police are called.
- **10:40 Day 3** - Dr Thain phones the hospital, trying to reach his friend Dr Truman. Dr Manson takes the call and explains that Dr Truman is working nights, but he does take a message for Dr Truman. Dr Manson then immediately alerts the Black Book cleaners of the leak.
- **11:30 Day 3** - The player characters become involved by whichever hook is appropriate to them.
- **15:20 Day 3** - The Black Book team visits Dr Thain claiming to be investigating his association with Dr Truman and the case he was working on. Thain is already suspicious after the second phone call and refuses to co-operate with them, claiming ignorance.
- **19:40 Day 3** - The Black Book returns to Dr Thain's apartment (if Thain is an NPC he will be murdered at this time). They ransack the apartment looking for evidence but find nothing.
- **09:00 Day 4** - The medical records posted by Dr Truman arrive in Dr Thain's letter box.

DR TRUMAN'S APARTMENT

Dr Truman's body will have been removed from the scene of his death (this flat) and moved to the city morgue, where it now awaits a formal autopsy. On the floor of his apartment is marked the chalk outline where he fell. The police have

already taken photographic documentation of the crime scene, and the doorway to the hall is marked off-limits by black and yellow crime scene tape. The apartment itself does not appear to have been searched or ransacked, but the front door shows signs of a forced entry.

DR TRUMAN'S AUTOPSY

In order to obtain this information, the players will have to perform the autopsy themselves or bring in a forensic pathologist who is familiar with this type of operation. The pathologist at the morgue lacks the experience to provide them with a cause of death, but will be able to provide basic information.

MORGUE PATHOLOGY

Dr Truman died from a massive haemorrhage in the brain. There are indications around the wrists that some force was exerted there, perhaps the use of restraints or physical force. The time of death can be estimated to approximately 0300, and there is evidence that a Taser may have been used at close range to stun him.

FORENSIC SPECIALIST

In the nasal cavity are tiny traces of cotton wool and dried blood; this outwardly invisible injury was probably caused by a hypodermic syringe. The cotton wool would prevent bleeding, which is common with nasal injuries. There is no trace of the chemical, if any, that was used; a full toxicology will reveal nothing.

EVIDENCE

While the Black Book are extremely efficient at cleaning up situations like this, there is evidence to be found despite their efforts.

MEDICAL VIDEO RECORD

The hospital tapes all operations so that they can be reviewed, but the Black Book, not being of a medical background, has overlooked this completely. This tape will prove that Dr Truman treated a patient who does not appear in the

other hospital records and that no one else remembers.

MEDICAL RECORDS

The records that Dr Truman posted to Dr Thain are the only existing reports concerning Dr Wiess and his very unusual neurology. It should be evident to anyone with some medical knowledge that the scans do not show a human brain.

ABOUT THE ANTAGONISTS

The following details the major NPCs encountered in this adventure.

DR ALEXANDER TRUMAN

Dr Truman was a well-liked and well-regarded young doctor (age 28). No one with whom he worked has anything negative to say about his working practice or his bedside manner. He did have a reputation as a bit of a joker with a fast and charismatic wit. He was educated at Harvard Medical School and graduated second top of his class. Since his graduation and internship, he has worked exclusively with this hospital.

DR FRANK WIESS

The real enigma behind this tale, which should become evident fairly early, is the missing patient Dr Wiess. Within the hospital, there is no record of Dr Wiess ever having been admitted (except the videotape of his life-saving operation, see Evidence Missed). Also, after interviewing several of the night staff, it should be evident that something is wrong, as no one remembers a one-hour period of the night in question. It's faster to blank people's memories than to replace them with false ones; only important individuals will warrant hypnotic memory implantation, namely the staff nurse on the admissions desk.

Once the characters are able to get a name for the missing patient (using newspapers to match descriptions of the shooting with the videotape of the example), it will then be easy enough to trace who Dr Wiess was, all his paperwork and government records (tax returns, social security, etc.) are in order. Dr Wiess was a researcher in

the field of high-energy and plasma physics. About three years ago, his wife (Barbara Fielden Wiess) divorced him on grounds of irreconcilable differences; she died four months later in a car accident. Dr Wiess suffered a nervous breakdown at about the same time. Six months later, he was back at work and more brilliant than ever.

The Black Book manufactured Dr Wiess's divorce, but the death of Barbara Wiess was truly accidental. Dr Wiess's breakdown was also engineered, though greatly assisted by the death of his ex-wife. During his time in the hospital, he was murdered and replaced by a Saurian agent who was to guide the research that Dr Wiess's institution was conducting. The change in his personality was attributed to his breakdown and subsequent treatment. The body of the real Dr Wiess can be found under the patio of this home.

DR WILLIAM MANSON

An older man with a greying hairline and lean features, he carries himself with a professional and confident air, with patients, his manner is somewhat more cheerful than when surrounded by other medical staff. Dr Manson is perpetually busy, and while he will consent to interviews with the police, he will make it clear that his time is short and that patients need his care.

As one of the last people to see Dr Truman alive, Manson is expecting to be interviewed at some length, and he will be initially cooperative. He will carefully reflect on each question before formulating a reply. He will at no time volunteer information on Truman's patient, Dr Wiess, unless asked directly, at which time he will reply that, in dealing with so many cases, it is difficult to recall one over another.

The unfortunate truth of the matter is that Dr Manson is an unwitting Black Book agent under the supervision of a local Sandman Team (see Bodyguard of Lie #0 or the Conspiracy X website). He has been programmed to remain watchful for unusual occurrences and then to consult his 'friend' about them. The friend, of course, is a member of the Black Book team.

BLACK BOOK CLEAN-UP & CONTAINMENT TEAM

PETER HARPER

- **All Attributes:** 3 Luck 2/10
- **Trainings:** Awareness: Surveillance, Surveillance
- **Skills:** Small Arms: Pistol 3, Martial Arts 3, Computer Use 3, Lock Picking 2, Cryptology 4, Shadow 4
- **Traits:** Dead, Severed Ties (prior to Black Book recruitment worked for the CIA)

JILLIAN LYNCH

- **All Attributes:** 3 Luck 2/10
- **Trainings:** Awareness: Ambushes
- **Skills:** Small Arms: Pistol 3, Brawling 3, Autofire 3, Shadow 2, Drive 4, First Aid 2
- **Traits:** No Records

SIMON WALLACE

- **All Attributes:** 3 Luck 2/10
- **Trainings:** Awareness: Physical Injuries
- **Skills:** Small Arms: Pistol 2, Martial Arts 1, Computer Use 4, UFOlogy 2, Medical 2
- **Traits:** No Records

DR ANDREW THAIN

This NPC is optional, and his role could be filled by a player character. Having just returned from a vaccination trip to South America on CDC business. Dr Thain is more than a little surprised to hear from his old friend, Dr Truman. If this character is an NPC, the Black Book will kill him once the investigation has begun.

MRS. ESTER HANLEY

Dr Truman's elderly next-door neighbour is now in her 70s and a little hard of hearing.

Consequently, she didn't hear any disturbance next door at the time Dr Truman died. She discovered Dr Truman's body and alerted the police in the early morning when she was making her way to the local shop to purchase provisions. The door was open, so she just went in. She is still a little traumatised by the experience. She'd rather talk about the good old days when things like this didn't happen (it's all those youths that are to blame)!