

THE FACE OF EVIL

By JOSHUA FOX

WITNESS

Sajeeda Rahman, a journalist from the Edinburgh Evening News. She has been sent to Peebles to do a feature on the town as a holiday destination. Her strength is *insatiable curiosity*, and her personality trait is *night owl*.

OTHER CHARACTERS

- ⊙ *Lady Neidpath*, the reclusive heiress of the Neidpath name and fortune. Her family died in mysterious circumstances a decade ago.
- ⊙ *Edward "Ted" McCruire*, an antiquarian and tour guide whose rambling stories of the town's history occasionally veer into strange rumour and myth.
- ⊙ "*Henry Cavill*" (not his real name), a regular visitor to the town who resembles a popular movie star. He never talks to anyone but is often seen walking the nearby countryside late in the evening.
- ⊙ *Agatha Sangster*, the proprietor of the Wee Dram, as well as a dozen or so local houses which she lets out to visitors. She continues to run a cottage industry distilling and selling whisky, which is renowned for its unusual flavour.

Incredibly complex labyrinthine interior. We would surely be lost if not for our use of paper trail.

Wall sculptures intricate, beautiful and demonstrating undeniable cultural complexity and depth.

Significant historical details can be gleaned from the carvings.

The Elder Ones seem to have enjoyed bathing at the bottom of the great river.

LOCATION AND ERA

The Scottish border town of Peebles, a market town once famed for its whisky, on the banks of the river Tweed, in 2015.

OTHER LOCATIONS

- ⊙ *Neidpath Castle*, a forbidding fortress on a hillside, originating in the 12th century. The castle is accessed via a narrow, winding road through forest. Parts of the castle are open for private visits, while others remain private. There is a dungeon beneath the castle.
- ⊙ *A disused railway tunnel* runs through the nearby hills. The tunnel is curved so that the centre is completely dark, and is the subject of numerous strange rumours. Supposedly used as a hiding place for the royal family during WWII.
- ⊙ *Cross Kirk* is an ancient priory dating back to medieval times, since abandoned for a modern replacement. Its shattered remains are overgrown, and its grounds are full of graves whose marker stones have been plundered for building material.
- ⊙ *The Wee Dram hotel*, a former whisky distillery, containing some of the old equipment which you can visit for a price (free to visitors).

CARDS

- ⊙ Anachronism
- ⊙ Dreams/visions
- ⊙ Eldritch technology
- ⊙ Spatiotemporal distortion
- ⊙ Warped bodies

Reference to Necronomicon no longer seems absurd. Facts so far are reminiscent of Plateau of Leng, the Mi-Go, even the abominable snowman.

THE FACE OF EVIL: SAMPLE CLUES

- ⊙ Eyewitness statements that put someone in two far-apart places at the same time.
- ⊙ Someone who acts with extreme inconsistency, showing radically different personality at different times.
- ⊙ A photograph or portrait dating back to the 19th century, whose subject bears an uncanny resemblance to a still-living character.
- ⊙ A convoluted apparatus containing a strange chamber, coffin-like - just big enough for one person.
- ⊙ Uncanny sounds echoing from the tunnel at night, and the murmur of what might be voices.
- ⊙ A highly distinctive birthmark in the shape of a star, recurring over generations of one family.
- ⊙ Someone has an unusual appetite, consuming bizarre kinds and/or outlandishly large amounts of food.
- ⊙ Someone who speaks, acts and dresses in a curiously anachronistic way.
- ⊙ A journal written in a familiar hand. It is ancient and crumbling, and its entries are dated to the 19th century.
- ⊙ Someone who seems extremely youthful and vigorous turns out to have lived in the town for over 50 years.
- ⊙ A character is overheard speaking in a completely different voice to the one they normally use.
- ⊙ A crime is committed, but the apparent perpetrator seems to have amnesia and bewildered as to what happened.
- ⊙ A cache of rare and illegal chemical substances, carefully concealed.

The Elder One civilisation existed over vast spans of time, surviving geological catastrophe and more.

Maps show shape of the city eerily reminiscent of the mirage we saw on approach to the mountains, including features long since worn away.