

## THE HUSTON VEIL

BY DEVON APPLE

### THE WITNESS

*Candle* works evenings, carrying a torch to light the way for local London pedestrians (a role historically known as a “link-boy” or “Glym Jack”). *Candle* currently works the area between the East India Docks on the River Thames, and the East India House. Despite earning a meager subsistence, *Candle* feels great empathy for others, and often keeps tabs on familiar clients in case they need a hand. *Edony*, an older sibling who was more like a parent, died shielding *Candle* with their body when their ramshackle slum collapsed, and *Candle* has always sought to earn that sacrifice. The beatific smile on *Edony*’s pale and bleeding lips has served *Candle* like a warm beacon through dark nights, tough times, and temptation, encouraging *Candle* to do the right thing in *Edony*’s memory.

### OTHER CHARACTERS

- *Thomasin Noke*, a tough and determined young woman prying into the East India Company’s business because her father Gilbert, a smuggler, disappeared completely after a raid by the Huston Veil, a Company ship enforcing their shipping rights.
- *Christabell Henshawe*, the mournful but resourceful wife of Oliver Henshawe, an East India Company man languishing in Pembroke House, an insane asylum, following an unspecified tragedy at sea.
- *Ambrose Alicock*, a suspicious and strangely mannered ship’s pilot, who served on the same journey that led to Oliver Henscombe being committed; when he has had too much to drink, Ambrose quietly hints at terrible atrocities committed by the colonials, which will one day return to haunt them.
- *Giles Wexcomb*, the gruff cook for the local parish, is a Catholic in hiding, and often helps *Candle* with food and a warm place to sleep by the hearth; his deceptively beautiful singing voice belies church choir experience.

### LOCATION AND ERA

*London, England, 1825*, the area around the East India Docks, off the River Thames. The Anglo-Burmese War and the Anglo-Ashanti War (Gold Coast Africa) are raging overseas. The world's first stock market crash, "the Panic of 1825", is caused by a massive fraudulent loan through a prominent London bank to a fictitious Central American republic. The Vagrancy Act made begging or sleeping in the street criminal offences in England.

### OTHER LOCATIONS

- ⊙ *Pembroke House*, London (insane asylum serving the East India Company)
- ⊙ *East India House*, Leadenhall Street, London (formerly the Craven House, a mansion built in the Elizabethan era)
- ⊙ *The Huston Veil*, an East India Company ship docked at the company pier, taken out of service after its return from a mysterious tragedy

### CARDS

- ⊙ Victims
- ⊙ Objet D'art
- ⊙ Reprisals
- ⊙ Sorcery

**THE HUSTON VEIL: SAMPLE CLUES:**

- ⊙ A blood-spattered brass sextant
- ⊙ A torn section of map depicting a shipwreck in the Indian Ocean, lacking useful navigational referents
- ⊙ A charred ship's logbook, mostly burned but partly intact
- ⊙ A coded, innuendo-laden letter between scheming functionaries
- ⊙ A circular for a local bordello, with a note scrawled on the back: "I must see you at once, Octavian", signed with a set of handwritten symbols
- ⊙ A forged East India Company requisition for an assortment of esoteric items to be delivered to the Huston Veil.
- ⊙ A finely wrought meerschaum pipe filled with a chalky residue
- ⊙ A ravensquill feather caked with dried blood
- ⊙ An architectural sketch of the Craven House, dated 1648
- ⊙ An ornate jewelry dish filled with small seashells that turn out to actually be cleaned, polished, and lacquered human toenails
- ⊙ A worn wooden serving dish, with blood-caked scratches in the back that look like gibberish carved with fingernails
- ⊙ A black clay statuette of a stylized raven with two faces and two beaks