

A Lovecraftesque
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WITNESS

Andy Ramos, a teenager who helps his father clean the local Calamity Raccoon's restaurant after hours. His source of strength is knowing his father can't afford to lose this cleaning contract. His personality trait is curiosity.

OTHER CHARACTERS

Ignacio Ramos, a hard-working man who runs a cleaning business. He has contracts with several local restaurants, but is not yet able to hire another full-time employee.

Scott Hoheneder, the night manager at Calamity Raccoon's. He's usually around for awhile after the restaurant closes, counting the money in the cash registers or playing skee-ball with his girlfriend.

Audrey Nygaard, Scott's girlfriend, who usually hangs out while he's closing-up the restaurant.

Susan Lundquist, the technician responsible for repairing the restaurant's numerous arcade games and animatronics. She has worked at the restaurant since the early 1970s, and is familiar with all the stories and urban legends that swirl around it.

LOCATION AND ERA

Calamity Raccoon's Good-Time Pizza Farm, located in Hugo, MN, the last of a chain of pizza restaurants that started closing-down in the early 1990s. It features numerous arcade games, an air hockey table, a bank of skee-ball machines, a ball pit, and a central dining room with an animatronic stage show. The show features performances by Calamity Raccoon & His Barnyard Band, including Clarice the Cow, Pig Daddy, Farmer Roy, and Vincenzo the Italian Pizza Chef.

OTHER LOCATIONS

Calamity's Dressing Room, where employees change into furry, big-head costumes of Calamity and his Barnyard Band-mates. It's also a popular place for them to fuck, and over the years, many children have been conceived under the gaze of the cheerfully dead-eyed pelts that hang on the walls. The room reeks of stale sweat, unwashed nylon fur, and old parmesan.

The Fun Hole, a maze-like crawl space located beneath the main stage in the dining room. It was boarded-up in 1986, and a number of bizarre theories explaining its closure have taken hold in Hugo. The most popular is that a little person with a sharp stick hid inside one day and poked children as they crawled by, but some say a

girl celebrating her tenth birthday found the remains of her missing grandmother inside the tunnels. Susan Lundquist is the only person on staff who knows the real reason the Fun Hole was closed, and she jealously guards that particular piece of information.

The walk-in freezer, filled with pizza dough and frozen meat. The overhead light is broken, and the flashlight just inside the door is usually missing batteries. There is a rumor that an employee was once locked inside overnight and froze to death. There are wild scratch marks on the interior walls that lend some credence to this tale.

PIZZA TIME! SAMPLE CLUES

An animatronic character seemingly turns on by itself and says something eerily relevant to the situation at hand.

Civil War artifacts keep mysteriously turning-up in the merchandise case next to the stuffed animals, frisbees, and other Calamity-branded tchotchkes. Their price in tickets is always 1,863.

The Madame Zola fortunetelling machine reveals prophecies of an increasingly dire nature.

The characters in the Urban Warriors II fighting game take out handguns and blow their own brains out before the match begins, covering the screen in pixelated blood and a "Game Over" message. You do not get your token back.

A slick of purple ooze is found in the kitchen. For a brief moment, it seems to recoil at your touch.

When viewing the live feed from the security cameras, a child appears to be roaming around the restaurant. When you go to investigate, they are nowhere to be found.

The Barnyard Band show suddenly springs to life, with flashing stage lights and moving animatronics, but there is no music. Instead, a series of terrified screams mixed with chanting and realistic animal noises can be heard over the speakers.

The Employee of the Month wall shows the same picture over and over, that of a worker who hung himself in the main dining room back in 1984.

The ball pit occasionally turns up a clue related to a famous missing child case.

When you turn off the lights in the women's restroom, frantic whispering can be heard coming from one of the stalls.

When you put a token in the skeeball machine, you get seven normal, wooden balls, plus one covered in pink, slimy flesh.

The back area of the restaurant smells like garlic, cheese and cold pizza dough, except for the manager's office, which smells like lavender, burning hair, and feces. There appears to be nothing out of the ordinary going on in the office.

SPECIAL CARDS

- Flashback
- Early Reveal
- Anachronism
- A Strange Location
- Defeat the Evil



Author's note: I used to work at an old Chuck E. Cheese's. In many ways, it was a fun job, but it also had moments where it felt entirely creepy, or even surreal. What I remember the most, though, are the stories. Our location was one of the chain's very first, and it seemed like every employee, particularly the old timers, peddled in urban legends, many of which were bloody and lurid. I've never worked anywhere else where that kind of weird storytelling culture was so pervasive, but I gather it's a similar situation at theme parks and carnivals. Perhaps it's because these are places for children? Maybe these dark stories and the original Grimm's Fairy Tales are two sides of the same coin? Who knows, but when you're exploring whatever Lovecraftian madness is going on at Calamity's, I hope you'll make some room for urban legends, too.