



# A LAMP GONE DARK

*A threat SAVE contained decades ago re-emerges. Preying on the dead, the weak and the young, this creature now operates in an ideal nest: St. Virgilius Hospital. Will the envoys defeat a monster they can't see? Will they fall prey to interference from hospital administration seeking to cover up the creature's actions?*

**Important Traits:** An envoy with medical credentials (like Thomas Simpson) will be less restricted in moving around the hospital. Envoys that can disrupt the Eye Biter's abilities (like Rory Calhoun) will also be useful, but may become a target of the Eye Biter once it realizes their power.

**Suggested Characters:** Esther Adebayo, Reggie LaRoux Cole, Jennifer Joyce, Jeff Mackintosh, Kayla Justine Proffitt, Thomas Simpson

**Major Menace:** The Eye Biter, a creature that fools the eyes of the living and eats the eyes of the dead.

**Minor Menace:** Laura Gosse, a hospital administrator trying to cover up the Eye Biter's actions.

## SETUP

St. Virgilius Hospital is Milwaukee's oldest medical facility. Built in the 1850s, it started its service with three smaller settlements that eventually merged into the modern city: Kilbortown, Juneautown and Walker's Point. The hospital is situated near downtown Milwaukee, and a recent construction project undertaken by its owners, the Glorian Health Group, promises a bright future for "Old Virg". The new St. Virgilius is already dwarfing the old but impressive building with its shining glass towers and massive health care premiums.

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Old Virg holds a dark secret. Uncovered by construction workers two weeks ago, it threatens the staff, patients and the future of the hospital. Attracted by the hospital-standard mix of negative emotions and ready-made victims, a creature known as the Eye Biter found its way into St. Virgilius in the mid-70s. It fed on the bodies in the morgue, turning the eyes of the corpses into a milky white liquid before licking the sockets clean.

Two employees were unfortunate enough to disturb the creature during its meals. After the bodies of a janitor and a security guard were discovered with missing eyes, SAVE dispatched a team of envoys to the hospital to deal with the monster. Though the Eye Biter doesn't consume the eyes of the living, it can cloud them, making detecting it difficult. The envoys were thus unable to destroy the creature, and resorted to sealing it in an unused tunnel connecting the hospital to the church across the street. Of the remaining envoys, only Eleanor Henry remained in Milwaukee, deciding to work as a nurse at the hospital, both to help people and to keep a watchful eye on the sub-basements.

Construction on the new St. Virgilius accidentally broke open the sealed tunnel, and the Eye Biter returned to its feeding grounds in the morgue. Laura Gosse, the recently-installed hospital administrator, is under a lot of pressure from GHG to keep the project on time and under budget. When the reports of mutilated bodies first crossed her desk, she wrote them off as tall tales from overworked floor staff. Recently, the Eye Biter began attacking helpless patients, and those reports are harder to dismiss. She buries them instead, afraid of the consequences if the reports go public. Having cut corners and endangered hospital staff, she fears the bad publicity if the local media starts digging, and that her superiors at Glorian will fire her. It doesn't matter if she believes the Eye Biter is real; she's become an unwitting pawn of the Unknown.

## SAVE

Eleanor Henry retired from nursing five years ago. She moved to a house in the Washington Heights neighborhood with her son, Dennis. Semi-retiring from SAVE shortly after the crash in the 90s, she remained alert for strange and unusual happenings in the city and began actively investigating again when word filtered back from old friends and co-workers at St. Virgilius. Eleanor passed away two weeks ago, and her son believes the investigation killed her. The Eye Biter might not have attacked her directly, but Dennis is adamant that the knowledge it had returned put too much stress on her heart.

Dennis is not a SAVE envoy, though he is aware of his mother's past and knew she was investigating the situation at St. Virgilius. Eleanor left specific instructions for Dennis to contact SAVE when she died, to ensure her coded, hand-written journals reached envoys who would find them useful in the future. Dennis made reluctant contact, but his years of worry about his mother's work and his grief at her loss will make him a hostile witness to the envoys. He believes SAVE robbed him of time with his mother, and isn't friendly to envoys seeking to interview him about what Eleanor was investigating when she died.

## TIMELINE

**August 11th, 1855:** St. Virgilius opens to the public in Milwaukee.

**May 19th, 1927:** Sewer system renovations allow the hospital to build a connecting tunnel underneath Wisconsin Avenue to St. Paul's Church, where services for the dead and dying can be held.

**September 19th, 1953:** St. Paul's Church moves to a new building further west on Wisconsin Avenue. The tunnel connecting the old building is closed and used for file storage.

**April 8th, 1960:** The old St. Paul's Church building is bulldozed for public housing. The public housing is later purchased by Glorian Health Group and razed for more hospital space.

**November 16th - November 30th, 1975:** The Eye Biter begins to feast on the bodies in the St. Virgilius morgue.

**December 1st, 1975:** Brian Lynn, the night shift janitor at the hospital, comes across a body



with missing eyes, pulled out of its morgue drawer. He runs to the phone to call the police, but is struck blind and then killed by the Eye Biter before he can make the call.

**December 6th, 1975:** The Eye Biter kills night watchman Anthony Staruk while he walks a patrol on the morgue floor. The Eye Biter is only able to eat one of Anthony's eyes before being scared off by a group of hospital employees investigating the sound of Anthony's gun going off.

**December 8th, 1975:** A group of SAVE envoys consisting of Eleanor Henry, Margot Rademacher, Jack Traber and Mike Holmes are tipped off to Anthony Staruk's death and begin investigating St. Virgilius.

**December 10th, 1975:** In the first encounter with the Eye Biter, Jack Traber is killed and Margot Rademacher seriously injured.

**December 13th, 1975:** Eleanor and Mike seal up the Eye Biter in the old tunnel beneath Wisconsin Avenue, using an improvised explosive that partially collapses the ceiling.

**January 9th, 2017:** Construction efforts near the St. Virgilius building disturb the rubble and the Eye Biter is able to escape.

**January 19th, 2017:** Eleanor Henry and her son Dennis argue about Eleanor reopening the Eye Biter case.

**January 20th, 2017:** Eleanor passes away in her sleep. Dennis Henry discovers her body.

**January 24th, 2017:** Dennis contacts SAVE about Eleanor's passing and investigation.

**January 25th, 2017:** The PCs arrive in Milwaukee.

#### START OF CASE FOR PCS

**January 26th, 2017:** The Eye Biter begins striking nightly at the hospital to sate its hunger.

**January 28th, 2017:** Dennis Henry takes matters into his own hands and tries to stop the Eye Biter on his own. He becomes its next victim, the first of at least a dozen kills before the creature seeks a new hunting ground.

## THE CASE

The activation notice offers two avenues of investigation for the envoys. They may start with interviewing Dennis Henry, Eleanor's son, or head to the hospital to follow up on the rumors Eleanor was investigating.

### THE HENRY HOME

Dennis Henry lives in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Milwaukee. It's a predominately African-American neighborhood, with a mixture of middle class homes and lower income housing. The Henry residence, on a tucked-away street, is an older residence that's seen better days.

The inside of the home is in better shape, thanks to the efficient cleanliness Dennis inherited from his mother. Many pictures of her hang on the walls, and many pictures of Dennis, but few of both together. The living room is neat and orderly. The dining room table currently has a few boxes from the attic stacked across the surface. Dennis is still going through his mother's things, carefully cataloguing what he's keeping and what he's donating to charity.

Dennis is a middle aged African-American man who works in sales at a local car dealership. He lets the team inside, leads them to the living room and sits in his mother's old chair in awkward silence waiting for the envoys to talk. Dennis doesn't look at the envoys. He wants them to ask him for the journals as soon as possible, so he can hand them over and ask them to leave.

Dennis's relationship with SAVE is complicated. He knows the work they do is important and knows his mother saved many lives in her time as an envoy. He's still processing her death, however, so his reception of the envoys is a bit chilly. He would be happiest if they collected her journals, offered some sympathy for his loss, and then left him alone. His attitude provides a -10 TN to any Interview check.

Dennis brings a banker's box full of spiral notebooks into the room and drops it on the coffee table. The journals are full of Eleanor's SAVE casework, written in a cypher to keep their contents safe. Dennis doesn't have the code and thought her code was some sort of SAVE procedure. Going through the journals for information on the Eye Biter takes 24 hours to yield a solid lead with a Research roll. Other envoys can help. Each assisting envoy can roll Research to cut the time in half, as can using a relevant specialization (Computer to run the journals through a cryptographic program, for instance).

## INTERVIEW: DENNIS HENRY

- *Vital:* His mother, Eleanor, was quietly investigating one of her old SAVE cases when she died, dealing with a creature called the Eye Biter at St. Virgilius Hospital. The creature preyed on the dead, but was not above killing. Eleanor was contacted by a fellow nurse, Rosalita Clemmons, about some strange goings-on in the hospital's morgue. On a Botch, Dennis's temper flares up and he blames SAVE for killing her because he thinks the monster used its powers on her. He will try to stop the Eye-Biter himself and end up underfoot during a pivotal moment of the case.
- *Interest:* Eleanor was the only living envoy left from the team that dealt with the Eye Biter. It killed Jack Traber during the case and inflicted wounds on Margot Rademacher that eventually led to her quitting SAVE. Mike Holmes died from lung cancer 10 years ago. Eleanor took a job at the hospital to keep an eye on things because she believed that while her team stopped the monster, they didn't kill it.
- *Esoteric:* Dennis spent the past few days decoding her mother's journals to find out more information about the Eye Biter. He considered going after it himself but talking with the envoys puts him a bit more at ease. He helps the envoys with the journals, bumping their success level up by one if they look for information about the Eye Biter inside.

## RESEARCH: ELEANOR HENRY'S JOURNALS

- *False Lead:* The envoys learn about a second case directly connected to St. Virgilius involving a Dr. James Morton, a vampire posing as a doctor to gain easy access to prey in 1985. The case was apparently resolved by a stake through Morton's heart, but Eleanor's entry wonders if that superstitious stuff really works.
- *Vital:* The Eye Biter stalked the halls of St. Virgilius in 1975. It feeds on the eyes of the dead and can make you feel "like your head is being held in a bucket of dishwasher." The entry mentions the other envoys involved and their plan to trap the creature in the tunnel. An envoy with military training, Mike Holmes, set off a small explosive device that brought the tunnel down on the creature.
- *Interest:* An autopsy report stolen from the hospital describes the wounds to envoy Jack Traber. His back was broken in a manner consistent with a serious car or industrial accident; his spine was "cracked like a whip."
- *Esoteric:* A later entry about the passing of Margot Rademacher mentions her discovery that sounds disorient the creature. During her battle with it, Margot escaped only because she reached a fire alarm and pulled it. The Eye Biter spun in a circle until it decided to flee rather than finish her off.

## ST. VIRGILIUS HOSPITAL

The hospital is surrounded by construction. Glorian Health Group bought out the surrounding blocks and are currently building new towers on those sites, including the old church site across the street. Working on the foundation for the new building freed the Eye Biter.

The feeling inside the old hospital is battered but not broken. The last major remodel happened in the 1950s during the hospital's centennial. The lower floors have a slightly menacing quality, and areas like the morgue and other non-public places still feature fixtures dating back to earlier periods in the hospital's history. Due to the influence of the Unknown, what seems warm and intimate in patient rooms becomes claustrophobic in the lower levels.

The construction site, by contrast, is cold and garishly lit by temporary light racks. The work lights provide illumination, but also create awkward shadows for envoys hunting for a monster. The envoys can find plenty of improvised weapons across the work site, like table saws and nail guns. Many of these devices can also provide loud noises to distract and herd the Eye Biter into a trap.

## RESEARCH: ST. VIRGILIUS HOSPITAL

- *Vital:* St. Virgilius hospital was built in 1850 and has served Milwaukee's central city since the foundation of the city. The area has fallen to hard times in the past few decades but construction by the hospital's new owners, Glorian Health Group, is expected to create jobs and spur economic growth. Glorian purchased the area around St. Virgilius to expand into new facilities and compete with other area hospitals.
- *Interest:* The last major remodel of the building was 1950. Promoted as a celebration of the hospital's centennial, it was also an opportunity to remove iconography that connected the hospital with St. Paul's Church.
- *Esoteric:* An urban spelunking site discussed forgotten sites in Milwaukee. The tunnel between the hospital and the church is mentioned, including the fact it was once used to move bodies between the sites, but none of the members of the website can confirm it still exists.

The old hospital is still open during the construction. There are two people the envoys are likely to encounter at the hospital. Rosalita Clemmons discovered the aftermath of the Eye Biter feeding on one of

her patients. She reported the incident to Laura Gosse, who decided to cover it up to protect herself and the Glorian Health Group. Rosalita can be contacted by asking around the hospital. Laura shows up to give the envoys a tour if they pose as reporters, officials or any other cover story that obscures their true intentions as supernatural investigators.

Laura keeps an eye on anyone who talks with Rosalita and will take an antagonistic position against the envoy's actions. She's likely to phone the police, check backstories and otherwise hamper the investigation. Laura makes sure she's there if the envoys approach the investigation as press or any sort of official inquiry.

Rosalita is working her shift as a cardiac ward nurse. As soon as the envoys mention Eleanor or SAVE, she pulls the interviewer into an empty hospital room and tells them what she knows. She worked with Eleanor who she knew had an interest in "weird things", and decided to contact Eleanor after strange injuries suffered by one of her patients.

## ROSALITA CLEMMONS INTERVIEW

- *Vital:* Rosalita came in for a shift to find one of her patients, Kelly Buckman, had passed away. Something didn't seem right about the body's processing. Usually bodies spend 24-48 hours in the morgue downstairs, but Mrs. Buckman was in and out in 12 hours. She overheard one of the morgue techs say that the body "looked awful," but Mrs. Buckman died of natural causes and there was no trauma to her body.
- *Interest:* Rosalita did a little snooping on her own and discovered Mrs. Buckman wasn't the only patient that had been processed differently. Three others were pushed through before her and two others afterwards. The morgue tech she spoke with said the bodies had all been mutilated; their eyes were missing.
- *Esoteric:* One of the administrators, Laura Gosse, mentioned her regret at Mrs. Buckman's passing while they shared an elevator. Rosalita thought it was strange that Laura said anything because they are not close and Rosalita was unaware of any relationship with Mrs. Buckman.

Both the construction site and the inner workings of the hospital require a little finesse to get inside. Either site requires either a General Movement (Stealth) check to get around without being spotted by one of the workers and questioned, or a General



Communication (Deception) check to talk past them. Rosalita can help envoys get around the hospital, while Laura can arrange for a tour of the construction site.

### LAURA GOSSE INTERVIEW

Should the envoys decide to interview Laura, she proves to be evasive in talking about the case. She knows nothing about the Unknown or the supernatural, and is trying to protect her own interests by covering up the truth. She thinks the missing eyes are the result of a disgruntled ex-employee or political protesters trying to smear Glorian Health Group's reputation in the press. If confronted by supernatural evidence, such as an attack of the Eye Biter or an Art being used in front of her, she is stunned into silence until after the Eye Biter is dealt with and sheepishly agrees to cover up the incident.

- *Vital:* The renovations to St. Virgilius are budgeted in the millions of dollars. Any sort of strange reports could cause the project to be put on hold, costing Glorian Health Group damage to their public image and monetary loss.
- *Interest:* Every hospital has a collection of ghost stories that get passed around the halls. Laura's favorite is the rumors of a Satanic cult that killed itself over Christmas in 1975. Envoys might recognize the story as a distorted version of Eleanor's account of her first encounter with the Eye Biter.
- *Esoteric:* Laura slips up and mentions Mrs. Buckman by name. She breaks down and confesses to covering up the strange bodies and agrees to help the envoys stop the creature.

### THE EYE BITER GETS HUNGRY

While the envoys are at the hospital, the Eye Biter strikes again. The timing and location of this scene is left to the Chill Master to fit into the narrative. Some suggestions:

- When the envoys walk into the morgue, the attendant on duty is the victim.
- If the envoys descend into the old lair, a construction worker is the victim.
- Dennis, Rosalita or Laura can also be used as victims to give the envoys a more personal stake in finding the Eye Biter.

Finding the fresh victim not only confirms the threat as real but is an excellent moment for the Chill Master to add a token to the table to let the envoys know the Unknown is aware. Investigating the body also yields some clues.

- *Vital:* The victim was killed by blunt force trauma to the head. The eyes are missing, but there are no cuts or scratches around the sockets.
- *Interest:* The victim was knocked down from behind and then their head was smashed into the floor. The body was then rolled over onto its back. The eye sockets contain traces of milky white fluid (if the PCs have the knowledge to analyze it, it is similar to the vitreous humor of the eyes, but contains digestive enzymes as well).
- *Esoteric:* The victim seems to have been headed for the fire alarm when they were attacked, judging by the position of the body. The fire alarm switch has been damaged.

## CONFRONTING THE UNKNOWN

The Eye Biter is a carrion feeder that eats the eyes of the dead. It's aware that it will be killed in a stand-up fight against well-armed and knowledgeable envoys. It keeps to the shadows whenever possible, preferring to strike isolated targets or pairs with its Evil Way Disciplines, killing them and then feasting on their eyes.

The creature is a hideous beast that, when seen with the naked eye, looks like a centipede, roughly two to three feet long with tiny human arms for limbs and a strange, doll-like head. Its eyes are solid white and it scuttles about on the floor, walls or ceiling as it pleases. Seeing the Eye Biter's true form triggers a Terror check (Serious Trauma).

The Eye Biter leaves a telltale sign when it uses its powers to blind people. Human eyes leak white, milky tears while they can't see the creature. Seeing this effect causes the onlooker to make a Revulsion check (Minor Trauma).

The envoys may come across the creature while it's feeding on a lone victim. They might have split up on their own, set up a trap with someone willing to play bait, or stumbled across an attack while investigating the hospital. Envoys split into small teams or pairs to investigate the hospital offer a golden opportunity to have the Eye Biter show up.

The creature may also attack the investigators while they explore the tunnel. The tunnel was opened on the construction side, but subsequent vibrations allowed it to wriggle through to the hospital. The tunnel on the construction side is easy to get inside, once the envoys figure out a way how to get into the hole. The tunnel is filled with rusted filing cabinets, old medical equipment and evidence of the Eye Biter's diet during its captivity: rat bones and dead rats missing their eyes.

Finally, the creature may attack if the envoys corner it in its lair. The Eye Biter has been hiding out in the construction area on the old church block. It usually feeds where the victim drops, but it may leave a trail of awful bits and pieces which may lead the envoys back to its nest. The Eye Biter rests in a shadowy cove near the top of the construction, and getting to it requires a bit of climbing and a tolerance for vertigo. The Eye Biter can climb girders and jump from great heights with no problems; human envoys less so.

If the envoys discover the creature's weakness, they will likely create traps and other items to hurt the Eye Biter. Fieldcraft can make devices like airhorns with the trigger taped down, or portable speakers blasting loud music. These devices won't necessarily hurt the Eye Biter but will cause it to flee to a quieter, safer

place. If cornered, the Eye Biter will try to destroy these devices with a flick of its tail or by sending a free walking limb to turn off a speaker.

### THE EYE BITER

EWS: 95  
(Potent)

REF: 80

STA: 70

**Injury:** Superficial, Minor -10x, Serious -20x, Major -30, Critical -50, Lethal

**Disciplines:** Detachable Parts (doll hands and legs), Ignore, Stifle

**Aspects:** Deadly Attack (Serious, body whip attack), Parasitic (Unique), Special Weakness, Supernatural Speed, Unfeeling

**Deadly Attack:** The creature may whip its entire body at a target, dealing a Serious Injury when it hits.

**Detachable Parts:** The Eye Biter doesn't see so much as it feel vibrations through its body to detect living things. It can send one of its multiple limbs out, scouting targets to discover what they are doing and if they are alone. A detached limb has 10 STA.

**Special Weakness (sound):** Machines that make a lot of noise distort the Eye Biter's senses. Short, sharp noises (like airhorns or gunshots) cause -10 penalties to the Eye Biter's actions in the same round, and the Eye Biter moves to attack or destroy anything used in such a capacity. Being in the same room with a machine that makes a loud noise (like a jackhammer) reduces the creature's REF score by half and prevents it from making Resistance checks. This level of noise will also cause it to flee back towards its lair in the tunnel or construction site, whichever is easier to get to.

**Unique Parasitic (eyes):** To regain Stamina, the creature must eat the eyes of a living being. The eyes of a human are worth 20 Stamina each.

## AFTERMATH

There are a few loose ends that can tie into an ongoing Chill® chronicle.

### ELEANOR'S JOURNALS

Decoding the rest of the journals provides a valuable resource to the envoys and to whatever version of SAVE your game uses. A game where the envoys are connected to a larger SAVE organization will find the journals helpful in rebuilding their database of the Unknown. A cell-based SAVE game might turn the envoys into the cell that gets consulted whenever another group comes to an impasse with a monster. Even a lone cell game will benefit as the envoys take more time to read the journals and discover more monsters and plot hooks from Eleanor's extensive career.

### DENNIS HENRY

Dennis is unlikely to join SAVE but may still factor into later games. If the envoys don't take the time to soothe him and help him in his grief, they will lose an excellent resource in the fight against the Unknown.

### LAURA GOSSE

Laura's interests in covering up the Eye Biter's activities may work to the envoys' advantage but how they treat her during the investigation will color how she handles the cover up. The envoys can be made into scapegoats for any damages, or Laura might seek them out in the future if the Unknown continues to plague the hospital.

### GLORIAN HEALTH GROUP

Chill Masters looking for a classic corporate conspiracy can easily find one in GHG. In this situation, the Eye Biter's return was no accident, but the first indication that the Unknown has bigger plans and operates with the aid of corrupted agents within the corporation. A series of adventures linking to GHG's experiments in terror can give the envoys a big, juicy target to take down in contrast to the monster-of-the-week style of play.

## RUNNING A LAMP GONE DARK

The envoys have two avenues of investigation in the beginning: checking in with Dennis for his mother's journals, or heading directly to the hospital. There's a chance the envoys might split up, sending half to talk to Dennis and the other half to begin the initial investigation at the hospital. Splitting up the team is fine, because it's likely to bring the Eye Biter out more quickly.

Both Dennis and Laura can prove to be a challenge since they can be hostile during interviews. Dennis is more willing to talk to the envoys, but handling him poorly may cause the loss of a future ally or the intervention of an untrained, emotional interloper during a deadly hunt. Laura lets the information she has slip despite herself but she can also prove to be a thorn in the sides of envoys that act impulsively or dangerously. These characters can be used as obstacles as well as ways to nudge the players back on the trail of the Eye Biter.

The Eye Biter is devastating in a one-on-one fight but the more envoys that face it at once, the less effective it becomes. This case should have the feel of Alien where the creature takes its time to stalk envoys until it has the advantage to strike. During scenes where the Eye Biter stays in the shadows, make ample use of the dark token "horror movie" effect to even the odds. If Laura, Rosalita or Dennis is with the envoys, flip a token to have something bad happen to them or for them endanger the envoys out of fear, like locking the doors or running for it. The construction site is full of all sorts of hazards to distract and injure, like lights in the tunnel going out or collapsing scaffolding. Use these effects to cut off envoys and whittle down their numbers until someone is alone in the dark, a perfect time for the Eye-Biter to strike.





More...

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## ENVOY ACTIVATION NOTICE

tags: **Inbox****SAVE****S SAVE Milwaukee**

(January 24, 2017, 08:30)

to: <Recipient List Blocked> 

Dear Envoys,

We regret to inform you of the passing of Eleanor Henry at the age of 67. Few envoys see anything like ripe old age, which makes her career remarkable. We should all be so lucky to fight as long and as hard as she did, enjoying a life of rescue as both an envoy and a nurse at St. Virgilius in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Eleanor kept a set of journals that chronicled her work with SAVE. These books should prove vital to our efforts in understanding the Unknown and expanding our knowledge of the creatures we fight. Dennis Henry, Eleanor's son, contacted us about her passing and wishes to make sure SAVE uses these books to keep the light shining on the things in the dark.

We aren't mobilizing you simply to pick up a box full of books. Dennis mentioned that in his communication he thought his mother might have been looking her old cases, possibly connected to the hospital at which she worked. Follow up with Dennis or the administration at St. Virgilius to close up this lead before returning with the journals in hand.

Please direct all questions or concerns to the Milwaukee HQ.

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