

# MANNA HOTEL

VACANCY  
POOL



A FIASCO PLAYSET BY  
DAN PUCKETT

# DPO1 THE MANNA HOTEL

## CREDITS

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Manna Hotel was Playset of the Month, July 2010.

## BOILERPLATE

This playset is an accessory for the Fiasco role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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If you'd like to create your own playset or other Fiasco-related content, we'd like to help. Write us at [info@bullypulpitgames.com](mailto:info@bullypulpitgames.com).



“When you play, play *hard*.” - Theodore Roosevelt

# THE SCORE

## AN OASIS FOR WEARY TRAVELERS

The Manna Hotel is three miles north of Manna, Kansas, population 1,200.

The Manna Hotel is a twenty-room motor lodge with its own in-ground swimming pool, now unused. The hotel burned down and was rebuilt in the fifties. Wood paneling and window-unit air conditioners were installed in the seventies, and it looks like that's the last maintenance anyone did to the place.

Business has been slow ever since they moved the Interstate, so ten of the rooms are closed all the time now. The other ten rooms are rented and cleaned by a manager who lives on the premises.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Bottle Rocket, The Big Lebowski, Twin Peaks (TV)

# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FRIENDSHIP

- ◻ Friends with benefits
- ◻ Went to high school together
- ◻ “You let me down when I needed it most!”
- ◻ Fought side by side in the war
- ◻ Friendship ended after one humiliated the other
- ◻ Spiritual advisor / truth-seeker

## 2 FAMILY

- ◻ Husband and wife
- ◻ Ex-husband and ex-wife
- ◻ Siblings
- ◻ Identical twins
- ◻ Stepchildren
- ◻ Parent and child

## 3 CRIME

- ◻ Blood brothers in the Kansas City Mafia
- ◻ Mortal enemies in the Kansas City Mafia
- ◻ Together, planned and executed a daring, drunken theft of the badger from its pen in Manna’s tiny zoo
- ◻ Watched June Alexander’s murder and did nothing to stop it
- ◻ Got caught setting a fire
- ◻ Did three years together in Lansing Correctional Facility

## 4 COMMUNITY

- ▣ Neighbors
- ▣ VFW Post 1161
- ▣ Manna First Baptist Church
- ▣ Manna high school football
- ▣ National Pony Express Association, “an all-volunteer, non-profit historical organization for the purpose of identifying, reestablishing, and marking the original pony express trail”
- ▣ Bingo!

## 5 ROMANCE

- ▣ Forbidden love
- ▣ Infatuation
- ▣ Romantic bliss
- ▣ On the rocks
- ▣ Insane jealousy
- ▣ Loathing

## 6 WORK

- ▣ Manager and employee
- ▣ Sergeant and private
- ▣ Innkeeper and guest
- ▣ Seventh Degree Master of Fell Secrets and Initiate
- ▣ Lawyer and client
- ▣ Doctor and patient

...**AT THE MANNA HOTEL**

# NEEDS...

## 1 TO GET EVEN

- ... by taking what is rightfully yours
- ... by destroying what she never should have had in the first place
- ... by humiliating him
- ... but no one can know it was you
- ... and everyone *has* to know it was you
- ... for the good of America

## 2 TO GET OUT

- ... of these handcuffs
- ... of sight for a while
- ... of your “relationship”
- ... of a promise you made
- ... of your marriage
- ... of your contract

## 3 TO GET RESPECT

- ... by making everyone afraid of you
- ... by making everyone mad at you
- ... through the exercise of subtle mystical powers
- ... from the one you love
- ... from the one you hate
- ... by living an epic story that will make you a hero forever

## 4 TO GET LAID

- ... because she can protect me
- ◻ ... because I can use him to get what I *really* want
- ◻ ... because that's what you do when you are deeply in love
- ◻ ... because I want to hurt someone else
- ◻ ... to propagate your superior bloodline
- ◻ ... to prove you are not the slightest bit gay

## 5 TO GET RICH

- ... and you don't care who you have to hurt to get it
- ◻ ... but no one can know it was you
- ◻ ... and everyone has to know it was you
- ◻ ... right now!
- ◻ ... but the money isn't for you. It's for somebody who needs it bad.
- ◻ ... enough to buy your safety

## 6 TO GET THE TRUTH

- ... for the good of America
- ◻ ... about what really happened to him
- ◻ ... about the cover-up in Manna
- ◻ ... about what happened to the loot
- ◻ ... about why they did what they did to you
- ◻ ... about who you *really* are

**...AT THE MANNA HOTEL**

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 OUT FRONT

- ☐ In the dry swimming pool, currently filled with dead leaves
- ☐ The flagpole, flying a crisp American flag
- ☐ The trunk of a car
- ☐ Out by the road, where you can see who's coming half a mile away
- ☐ The dumpster - vandals have spray-painted "USA #1" on it
- ☐ Under the old, spreading oak tree. This tree must have been alive for at least a hundred years.

## 2 INSIDE

- ☐ A ransacked guest room with holes in the walls and ceiling
- ☐ A guest room sealed off since forever
- ☐ Next door
- ☐ A flyspecked windowsill
- ☐ Taped under a rug in one of the guest rooms
- ☐ In the tank of the toilet

## 3 OUT BACK

- ☐ The fuse box - a pair of wires runs from the box into the woods
- ☐ The tornado shelter, its steel door rusted thin
- ☐ There's just enough room for one person to squeeze between the fuel-oil tank and the outside wall of the office
- ☐ A gully leading down to Sumida Creek
- ☐ A laundry line with two sheets and a pair of men's boxer shorts clipped to it
- ☐ Out by the long-neglected lawnmower



## 4 EMPLOYEES ONLY

- The safe
- The office
- ◐ The room where the manager lives, formerly a guest room
- ◑ The desk drawers in the office
- ◒ Up on the roof
- ◓ The supply closet, containing a jug of ammonia and a nest of snakes

## 5 NEARBY

- The dirt road to town
- The railroad tracks
- ◐ Sumida Creek Lake
- ◑ A clearing in the woods, with a fire pit and a makeshift altar
- ◒ Ed Keith's buffalo ranch
- ◓ The old cemetery, unused since the fifties

## 6 IN TOWN

- Manna High School
- The Tyrell & Janes Bank
- ◐ The abandoned Manna railroad station
- ◑ Manna First Baptist Church
- ◒ A padlocked entrance to the underground walkways
- ◓ A tiny zoo - no larger than a city block - run for some reason by the local power utility

**...AT THE MANNA HOTEL**

# OBJECTS...

## 1 UNTOWARD

- A detailed diagram of the interior of the Tyrell & Janes Bank
- ◻ A peephole
- ◻ Five photos held together by a rubber band. Each photo features a different disemboweled corpse surrounded by hooded figures.
- ◻ A long, blond wig, matted with blood
- ◻ The wrong gun
- ◻ Seven dried ears on a dirty string

## 2 INFORMATION

- A WPA mural from 1940 in the lobby of the post office downtown
- ◻ A map showing the 19th-century maze of walkways and passages beneath the streets of Manna.
- ◻ Clipped from a magazine and carefully pressed in a book, an article about "Brother John" Lazia, crime boss in the Kansas City Mafia
- ◻ A photo of the 1931 all-Asian Manna High School football team
- ◻ A Polaroid of Sumida Creek Lake with a penciled "X"
- ◻ A medal. The front side shows two men on horseback in mid-gallop exchanging a mailbag. One of the men is Caucasian; the other has distinctly Asian features. Motto: "Duty drives us -- We stop for none." The back side has the inscription, "1931".

## 3 WEAPONS

- A dagger with a bone handle and a wavy blade. The blade has the inscription, E PLURIBUS UNUM.
- ◻ Two gallons of gasoline
- ◻ A spiked pit
- ◻ A Smith & Wesson Model 10 government-issue revolver, dating from World War II, fully loaded with vintage ammo
- ◻ A Tommy gun, disassembled and carefully wrapped in oily rags to prevent rust
- ◻ A shovel

## 4 TRANSPORTATION

- ◻ A tractor
- ◻◦ A two-ton flatbed truck with an arc welder strapped to its bed
- ◻◦◦ A pickup truck, dented and dirty
- ◻◻◦◦ A Mercedes with a rotten smell
- ◻◻◦◦◦ An ambulance
- ◻◻◻◦◦◦ An empty boxcar on a forgotten siding

## 5 VALUABLES

- ◻ A tiara, hammered flat, jewels removed
- ◻◦ A broken-down 18-wheeler loaded with buffalo jerky
- ◻◦◦ A bag containing \$50,000 of raw gold dust and nuggets, reportedly buried somewhere around Sumida Creek Lake in the 19th century
- ◻◻◦◦ A black bear, recently housed at the local zoo
- ◻◻◦◦◦ A samurai sword with an engraving at the base of its blade
- ◻◻◻◦◦◦ A box of gold teeth

## 6 SENTIMENTAL

- ◻ A U.S. Navy sea bag full of broken padlocks, all violently torn apart
- ◻◦ An unsigned postcard from Niagara Falls, postmarked 1934, addressed to “Johnny” care of the Manna post office. Inscription: “You can count on me.”
- ◻◦◦ A death mask of President McKinley
- ◻◻◦◦ A fossil of a fish with red candle wax dripped all over it
- ◻◻◦◦◦ A buck’s head, stuffed and mounted, mouth agape, glass eyes wild with terror. It is impossible for anyone to sleep with this thing in the same room with them.
- ◻◻◻◦◦◦ A photo of five U.S. soldiers in Vietnam-era uniforms, arms around each-others’ shoulders.

**...AT THE MANNA HOTEL**

# A MANNA HOTEL INSTA-SETUP

## RELATIONSHIPS AT THE MANNA HOTEL

For three players...

- \* Family: Identical twins
- \* Crime: Did three years together at Lansing Correctional Facility
- \* Work: 7th-degree Master of Fell Secrets - Initiate

For four players, add...

- \* Romance: Insane jealousy

For five players, add...

- \* Community: Neighbors

## NEEDS AT THE MANNA HOTEL

For three players...

- \* To get the truth about the cover-up in Manna
- \* For four or five players, add...
- \* To get even by destroying what she never should have had in the first place

## OBJECTS AT THE MANNA HOTEL

For three or four players...

- \* Untoward: Five photos held together by a rubber band. Each photo features a different disemboweled corpse surrounded by hooded figures.

For five players, add...

- \* Sentimental: A fossil of a fish with red candle wax dripped all over it

## LOCATIONS AT THE MANNA HOTEL

For three, four or five players...

- \* Out back: The fuse box. A pair of wires runs from the fuse box into the woods