



The  
Plague

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# THE PLAUGE

## CREDITS

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## BOILERPLATE

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

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

# THE SCORE

## "DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, DOCTOR?"

1947, Oran, Algeria. The major port city and commercial center has one of the largest populations of Europeans (primarily French) of any Northern African city. Oran possesses a unrivaled diversity of culture—including a peaceful intersection of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—decades before revolution will drive the Europeans out. Due to the peace and prosperity of the city after the end of World War II, few are willing to accept the reality of the situation as plague sets in.

First, rats die in the streets by the thousand. Then people start to develop fevers and buboes, and are soon dying like the rats. A quarantine is placed on Oran, leaving its inhabitants to their fates...

## BOOK CLUB

This playset is primarily based on Albert Camus's novel *The Plague*.

## MOVIE NIGHT

*Le Peste*. *Outbreak*. *Children of Men*. *Twelve Monkeys*. *The Plague* (History Channel Documentary). *Panic in the Streets*.

## SPECIAL RULES

At the end of the setup, add a single card to the center of the table that says "City quarantine in effect due to plague."

During the Tilt, the conditions in Oran worsen significantly. Conduct the Tilt as normal, but keep the plague in mind when interpreting the Tilt elements. In addition to the normal Tilt elements, add the element "Martial Law declared and curfew enforced."

During the Aftermath, the plague begins its full retreat, and the gates of Oran are opened. As with the Tilt, conduct the Aftermath as normal, but keep these details in mind when interpreting the results.

# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FAMILY

- Loving spouses
- Estranged spouses
- Parent and young child
- Aging parent and adult child
- Siblings
- Close as siblings

## 2 CITIZENS AND NEIGHBORS

- Landlord and tenant
- Journalist and citizen
- Volunteer Workers
- Sanitation leader and sanitation group member
- Sentry and ruffian
- Magistrate and protester

## 3 FRIENDS

- Coworkers
- Inseparable
- Strained friendship
- Friends of necessity
- Uncomfortable acquaintances
- Bully and victim

## 4 RELIGIOUS

- Fellow believers
- ◻ Clergy and believer
- ◻ Zealot and stray believer
- ◻ Zealot and doctor
- ◻ Blasphemers
- ◻ Church friends (who despise each other)

## 5 CRIMINAL

- Smugglers
- ◻ Black market supplier and customer
- ◻ Thief and victim
- ◻ Criminal and someone who has seen too much
- ◻ Bribe offerer and recipient
- ◻ Swindler and swindled

## 6 MEDICAL

- Practice partners
- ◻ Experienced doctor and medical student
- ◻ Doctor and patient
- ◻ Patient's family
- ◻ Hospital administrator and government official
- ◻ Faith healer and desperate infected

...IN POST-WAR ORAN

# NEEDS...

## 1 TO FIND

- ...a cure
- ...a way out of the city
- ...the spiritual root of the affliction
- ...peace at last
- ...the true God
- ...fortune

## 2 TO LOSE

- ...your life for an important cause
- ...empty faith
- ...emotional attachment before all the death drives you mad
- ...whoever has been tailing you
- ...lose yourself in the moment, as there aren't many left
- ...virginity before the inevitable occurs

## 3 TO KEEP

- ...order in the city
- ...crimes hidden
- ...the faith
- ...your slowly slipping sanity
- ...your religious conversion secret
- ...your life as you begin to succumb to the plague

## 4 TO MAKE

- ...a personal connection amid the exile
- ◻ ...out like a bandit
- ◻ ...amends with a stubborn acquaintance
- ◻ ...off with a prized artifact
- ◻ ...an impression on those close to you, finally
- ◻ ...something of yourself after all

## 5 TO GET

- ...back to a lover
- ◻ ...the government to act
- ◻ ...pardoned for your crimes
- ◻ ...lost in the crowd
- ◻ ...back a shred of dignity
- ◻ ...laid, despite everything

## 6 TO GET AWAY

- ...from your shameful past
- ◻ ...with murder
- ◻ ...from the people who are looking for you
- ◻ ...from the long arm of the law
- ◻ ...with the loot before anyone finds out
- ◻ ...from your increasingly zealous religion

**...IN POST-WAR ORAN**

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 GOVERNMENTAL

- City Hall inner chambers
- Front Steps of City Hall
- Magistrate's Estate
- Post Office
- Customs Office
- Barracks

## 2 MEDICAL

- Overcrowded Hospital
- Isolation camp
- Black market dealer's rendezvous point
- Research laboratory
- Sanatorium
- Doctor's Home

## 3 PUBLIC

- City streets
- The Terrace
- Municipal Opera House
- Movie theatre
- Arab Quarter
- Slums



## 4 THE HARBOR

- On a fishing boat on the sea
- ◻ Lighthouse
- ◻ Docks
- ◻ Beach
- ◻ Ship caught in the quarantine
- ◻ Secluded cave

## 5 OFF-LIMITS

- City gates
- ◻ Any exit from the city
- ◻ Quarantined home
- ◻ Train station
- ◻ Secret tunnels
- ◻ Supply stockpiles

## 6 RELIGIOUS

- Cathédrale de Sacré Coeur
- ◻ Great Synagogue
- ◻ Bey Othmane Mosque
- ◻ Cemetery
- ◻ Clergy's Home
- ◻ Unmarked (but remembered) grave

**...IN POST-WAR ORAN**

# OBJECTS...

## 1 VITAL

- Untested anti-plague serum
- ◻ Working radio
- ◻ Basic medical equipment
- ◻ Secret source of unspoiled food
- ◻ Unshakable will to live
- ◻ Awareness of your responsibilities

## 2 CONTRABAND

- Cigarettes
- ◻ Forged travelling papers
- ◻ Cheap liquor
- ◻ Crate of miscellaneous smuggled goods
- ◻ Weapons stockpile
- ◻ Underworld contacts

## 3 ALMOST USELESS

- Legitimate travelling papers
- ◻ Lost loved one's personal effects
- ◻ Newspaper from before the quarantine
- ◻ Boat ticket
- ◻ Letter opener
- ◻ Ticket to the play Orpheus & Eurydice

## 4 DESPERATE

- ◻ Unsent love letter
- ◻◦ Dead sentry's uniform
- ◻◦ Consuming memories of a lost loved one
- ◻◻ Notes for a damning sermon to be delivered during the upcoming Catholic mass
- ◻◻◻ Mother's locket
- ◻◻◻ "Miracle" cure

## 5 DANGEROUS

- ◻ Dead rat
- ◻◦ Rifle
- ◻◦ Stolen uniform
- ◻◻ Dark plan
- ◻◻◻ Steadily climbing fever
- ◻◻◻ Deathwish

## 6 ORGANIZATIONAL

- ◻ The ear of the inept city government
- ◻◦ City Medical Association membership
- ◻◦ Black market connections
- ◻◻ Ecclesiastical endorsement
- ◻◻◻ Growing civil unrest
- ◻◻◻ Old money

...IN POST-WAR ORAN

# A PLAUGE-RIDDLED INSTA-SETUP

## RELATIONSHIPS IN POST-WAR ORAN

For three players...

- \* Family: Estranged spouses
- \* Criminal: Black market supplier and customer
- \* Religious: Zealot and doctor

For four players, add...

- \* Medical: Doctor and patient

For five players, add...

- \* Citizens and Neighbors: Landlord and tenant

## NEEDS IN POST-WAR ORAN

For three players...

- \* To find: ...a way out of the city

For four or five players, add...

- \* To get away: ...with murder

## LOCATIONS IN POST-WAR ORAN

For three or four players...

- \* Off-limits: Quarantined home

For five players, add...

- \* Governmental: Front steps of City Hall

## OBJECTS IN POST-WAR ORAN

For three, four or five players...

- \* Desperate: Dead sentry's uniform