



# HOCUS FOCUS

A DRESDEN FIASCO

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STARS AND STONES, BILLY!  
ISN'T THERE ALREADY A  
GAME WITH ME IN IT?

BASED ON THE DRESDEN FILES  
BY JIM BUTCHER

*Yeah, but this one's great too! It's  
about flawed people who come up with a  
bad plan that falls apart in a big way.*

## CREDITS

Written by Peter Woodworth

OH, THAT SOUNDS... FUN.

Edited by Matthew D. Gandy

*I know, right!*

Art by Logan Bonner

...YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEART, KID.

Layout by Bully Pulpit Games and Fred Hicks

Playtested by Scott Adams, Rich Brodsky, Kristen Carlson, Dominic Ciarocchi, Greg Curley, Sarah Curley, Alyssa Foote, Genevieve Harbuck, Amy Houser, Scott Katinger, Michael Pucci, Dan Schermond, Andrew Scott, Tali Teichman, Meg Woodworth, and Ashley Zdeb

## BOILERPLATE

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

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For more information about *Fiasco* or to download other Playsets and materials, visit [www.bullypulpitgames.com](http://www.bullypulpitgames.com). If you'd like to create your own Playset or other *Fiasco*-related content, write Bully Pulpit Games at [info@bullypulpitgames.com](mailto:info@bullypulpitgames.com).

For more information about the Dresden Files Roleplaying Game, visit [www.dresdenfilesrpg.com](http://www.dresdenfilesrpg.com) and [www.evilhat.com](http://www.evilhat.com).



**EVIL HAT  
PRODUCTIONS**



# THE SCORE

## IT WAS ALL GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN...

Occult Chicago. Beneath the surface there are movers and shakers, magics and artifacts, all hidden from mortal eyes. There's so much right there for the taking—money, power, fame, respect—it feels like all you need to is just reach out and grab it. And that's just what you intend to do. You've got supernatural powers, a foolproof plan, and then? Easy street. What could go wrong?

## ...BUT THEN HARRY DRESDEN SHOWED UP.

This playset has a special twist—Harry Dresden is the Tilt. One way or another, Harry gets involved in the action, which in turn leads to the characters' plans going awry (if they weren't heading off the rails already). To represent Harry's presence shaking things up, you'll find a special Tilt table near the end of the playset, detailing his involvement. Unlike the normal Tilt table, there are only three categories, each with two corresponding numbers instead of one. Otherwise, they function exactly as the normal Tilt tables.

During the Tilt phase, players are required to select at least one element from this special table. They may still select the other Tilt element from the regular *Fiasco* rulebook, or they may select both elements from the new Tilt table, but should not select both elements from the original Tilt table.

## IN THE KNOW

This playset follows a group of characters as they attempt to pull off some kind of impulsive, dangerous, or otherwise ill-advised scheme in the shadowy world of occult Chicago. It might be a magical conspiracy of some kind, or perhaps it's an "ordinary" crime they intend to carry out using their supernatural abilities. As such, it is assumed that all the characters are, if not actual supernatural beings or wielders of magical powers, at least "clued-in" about some of the paranormal forces at work in occult Chicago.

SO WHEN I SHOW UP, EVERYTHING GOES WRONG? PERFECT.

If you're the Tilt, does that make you a "pinball wizard"?

What's a pinball wizard?

QUIET, BOTH OF YOU.

# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FAMILY TIES

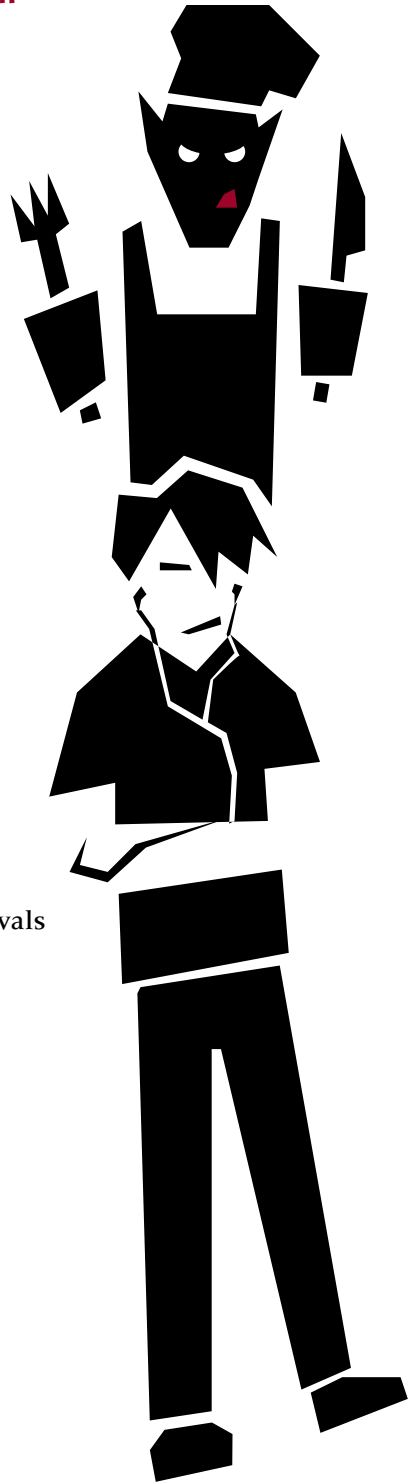
- ▣ Parent/Child
- ▣ Estranged siblings
- ▣ Kissing cousins
- ▣ Golden child/black sheep
- ▣ Adopted family
- ▣ Long-lost relatives

## 2 STRICTLY BUSINESS

- ▣ Hitman/target
- ▣ Client/bodyguard
- ▣ Pusher/addict
- ▣ “Legitimate business partners”
- ▣ Shop owner/disgruntled employee
- ▣ Gang leader/muscle

## 3 FRIENDS AND LOVERS

- ▣ “Best friends” who are actually bitter rivals
- ▣ Mentor/protégé
- ▣ Buddies from way back
- ▣ Faithful spouse/cheating spouse
- ▣ Friends with benefits
- ▣ Your least favorite ex



## 4 SPELLCASTERS

- ◻ Wizard/impatient apprentice
- ◻◦ Weekenders with no idea what they're doing
- ◻◦ Wizard/illicit supernatural contact
- ◻◻ Necromancer/drummer
- ◻◻ Sidhe noble/mistreated vassal
- ◻◻◻ Warden of the White Council/Lawbreaker

## 5 PREDATORS AND PREY

- ◻ White Court virgin/vampire wannabe
- ◻◦ Denarian/would-be recruit
- ◻◦ Ambitious sorcerer/starry-eyed acolyte
- ◻◻ Red Court vampire/their thrall
- ◻◻ Werewolf packmates
- ◻◻◻ Ghoul/intended victim

## 6 FRINGE ELEMENTS

- ◻ *Midwestern Arcane* reporter/anonymous source
- ◻◦ Changeling/their last mortal friend
- ◻◦ Witch hunter/minor practitioner
- ◻◻ Hustler psychic/desperate client
- ◻◻ True believer/diehard skeptic
- ◻◻◻ Faerie godparent/godchild

WAIT, WHAT HAPPENS  
IF ONE OF YOUR  
RELATIONSHIPS SAYS  
YOU'RE ONE TYPE OF  
SUPERNATURAL BEING,  
BUT THEN YOUR OTHER  
RELATIONSHIP SAYS  
YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE?

*Well, you could just  
select a different  
Relationship, if you've  
got choices remaining.  
You could also make it  
about just one of you,  
or even someone else  
entirely who's important  
to your characters. If  
one Relationship says  
that you're a wizard,  
for example, but your  
other Relationship says  
"Werewolves in a pack",  
you might be a wizard  
who just happens to  
have a close connection  
with a particular  
pack of werewolves.*

*As though such a bizarre  
relationship could ever work.*

**...UNDER INVESTIGATION  
BY HARRY DRESDEN**

# NEEDS...

## 1 I GOTTA GET PAID

- ...and nobody better get in my way.
- ...because I owe some dangerous people.
- ...and get out of this life for good.
- ◐ ...and finally make it to the big leagues.
- ◐ ...and give them the life they deserve.
- ◑ ...but I have this one last job to do first.

## 2 I'M IN LOVE

- ...with someone who doesn't deserve it.
- ...as deep and as true as it gets.
- ...and it scares the hell out of me.
- ◐ ...and I need to make them love me back.
- ◐ ...but if they ever find out, it'll ruin everything.
- ◑ ...and I just wish I could make my love happy.

## 3 I WANT POWER

- ...and it will be mine, all mine.
- ...and I don't care who gets hurt.
- ...just for the rush.
- ◐ ...because I deserve to be in charge for once.
- ◐ ...so I can finally make them notice me.
- ◑ ...to make the world a better place.

THESE GUYS ARE ALWAYS THE WORST, BECAUSE NOT ONLY ARE THEY DETERMINED, THEY CAN BE REALLY HARD TO SPOT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. IT REALLY WOULD BE A LOT EASIER IF THE BAD GUYS ACTUALLY WORE BLACK HATS.

## 4 I WANT PAYBACK

- ...because it's all I've got left.
- ◻ ...so I can finally sleep at night.
- ◻ ...so I can watch them suffer.
- ◻ ...for the little guy.
- ◻ ...and they'll never see it coming.
- ◻ ...on the whole damn world.

## 5 I LOST SOMETHING

- ...and I'm running out of time.
- ◻ ...but I bet that bastard has it.
- ◻ ...and without it I'm losing control.
- ◻ ...but when I get it back, everything will be perfect again.
- ◻ ...and I didn't realize its value until just now.
- ◻ ...and nobody can ever know it's missing.

## 6 I'M CHANGING

- ...and I'm scared of what I'm becoming.
- ◻ ...but nothing will be different. Nothing. At. All.
- ◻ ...as soon as the ritual is complete.
- ◻ ...and now we can be together forever.
- ◻ ...but I can still stop it if I just find a way.
- ◻ ...and when it's over, they'll see who they're messing with.

**...UNDER INVESTIGATION  
BY HARRY DRESDEN**

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 TOURIST SPOTS

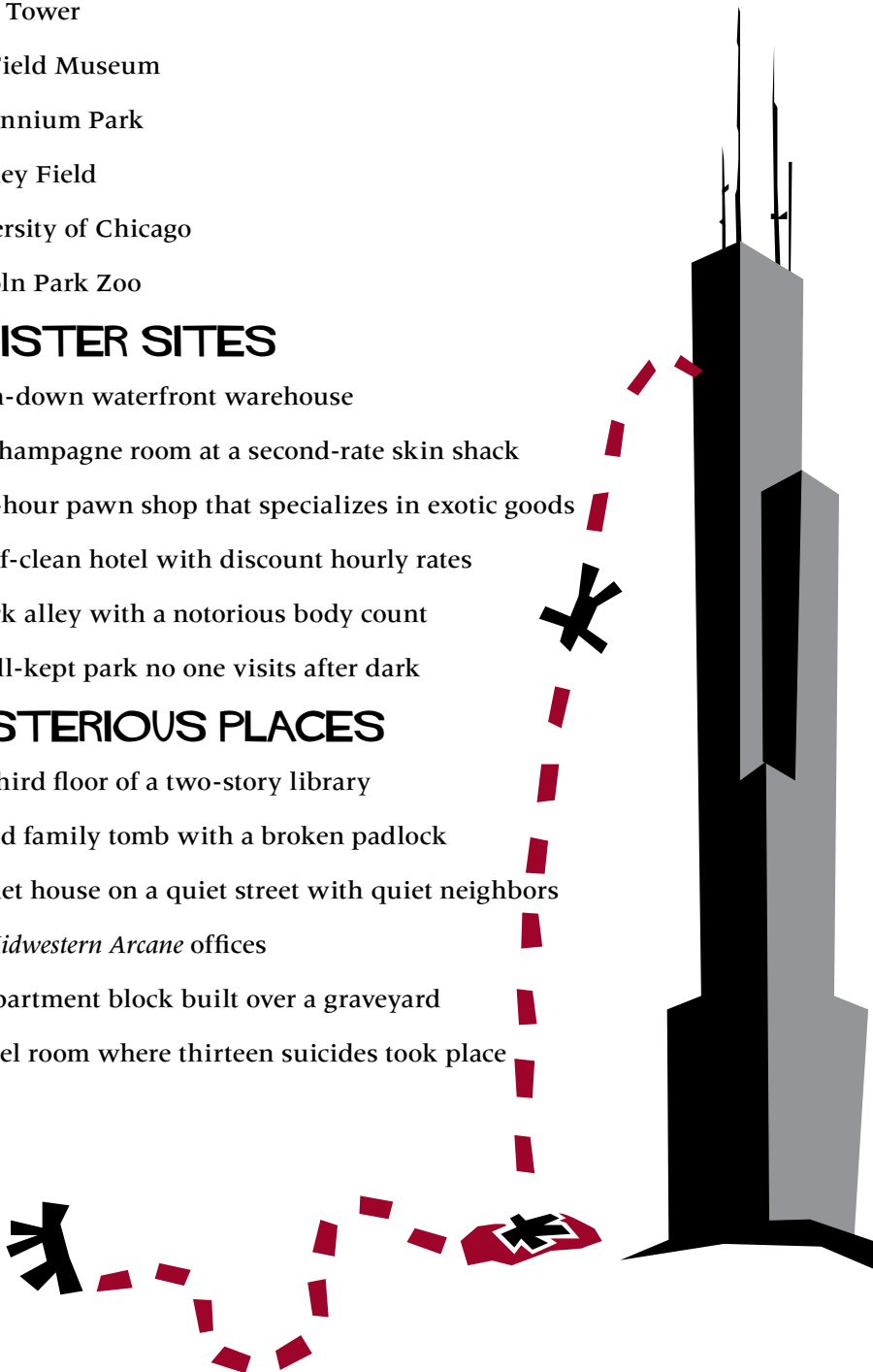
- Sears Tower
- The Field Museum
- Millennium Park
- Wrigley Field
- University of Chicago
- Lincoln Park Zoo

## 2 SINISTER SITES

- A run-down waterfront warehouse
- The champagne room at a second-rate skin shack
- A 24-hour pawn shop that specializes in exotic goods
- A half-clean hotel with discount hourly rates
- A dark alley with a notorious body count
- A well-kept park no one visits after dark

## 3 MYSTERIOUS PLACES

- The third floor of a two-story library
- An old family tomb with a broken padlock
- A quiet house on a quiet street with quiet neighbors
- *The Midwestern Arcane* offices
- An apartment block built over a graveyard
- A hotel room where thirteen suicides took place





## 4 THE NIGHTLIFE

- The Velvet Room
- McAnally's Pub
- Club Zero
- The Green Mill jazz club
- Executive Priority Health club
- Coiffure Cup salon/café

## 5 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

- The city morgue
- Cook County Hospital
- The offices of CPD's Special Investigations unit
- The Hall of Records
- *The Chicago Tribune* offices
- Cook County Jail

## 6 OCCULT SITES

- Chicago-Over-Chicago
- Undertown
- Monoc Securities
- Demonreach island
- The Hidden Halls of Edinburgh
- The Deeps

Pardon my stubborn insistence on sensible chronology, but wouldn't it be difficult to include both locations in the same story, since one replaced the other? After a rather spectacular fire, as I recall?

*Not necessarily. It's always possible that you could tell a story over a span of time that includes both, or visit the old site in a flashback, or 'jump ahead' and see the newer one in the future.*

...UNDER INVESTIGATION  
BY HARRY DRESDEN

# OBJECTS...

## 1 SPELLCRAFT

- Veil of Invisibility
- Demon summoning ritual
- Tracking spell
- Exploding heart spell
- Spirit binding
- Possession spell

## 2 DARK MATERIALS

- The Heart of Kemmler
- A debt to Queen Mab
- A hexenwolf belt
- A leftover crate of the ThreeEye drug
- An ancient, blackened silver coin
- A vial of vampire blood

## 3 SUPERNATURAL STUFF

- A trapped member of the Little Folk
- A Sword of the Cross
- Ghost dust
- A wizard's staff
- An old skull covered in mystical writing
- A protective amulet

Oh, Billy.

*What? This game is all about how things go wrong. Just think about how bad it would get if the wrong person got their hands on you!*

You **really** don't want to know. Trust me.

## 4 QUESTIONABLE ITEMS

- A stolen Warden's sword
- An ancient totem mask
- A sleazy "love" potion
- A blood-soaked fetish stick
- Lucky cards with bloodstained corners
- A cursed Ouija board

## 5 MUNDANE BUT CREEPY STUFF

- An ancient bone
- A tear-stained letter
- A bloody wedding band
- A raven feather
- A deed to an abandoned manor
- A lock of hair

## 6 HOT PROPERTY

- A stolen car
- A thumb drive full of dangerous information
- A murder weapon
- A briefcase stuffed with cash
- Enough plastique to blow up City Hall
- Fake IDs and a one-way plane ticket to Vancouver



**...UNDER INVESTIGATION  
BY HARRY DRESDEN**

# THE TILT: HARRY DRESDEN

## 1-2 IT'S BUSINESS

- ...and he's on the job for Special Investigations.
- ...and he's on the job for a desperate parent.
- ◐ ...and he's on the job for the White Council.
- ◑ ...and he's on the job for "Gentleman" Johnny Marcone.
- ◒ ...and he's on the job for Queen Mab.
- ◓ ...and he's on the job for a client who hasn't told him the whole truth.

*Isn't this every client  
you've ever had, Harry?*

## 3-4 IT'S PERSONAL

- ...because you targeted Harry, you idiots.
- ...because you targeted an old client.
- ◐ ...because you targeted one of his friends.
- ◑ ...because he can't stand to see a woman treated that way.
- ◒ ...because what you're doing is just plain wrong.
- ◓ ...and it's for your own good.

*SHUT UP, BOB.*

## 5-6 IT'S DUMB LUCK

- ...because Harry happened to witness part of the action.
- ...because you have a crucial piece of evidence that he needs.
- ◐ ...because someone had an attack of conscience and told Harry about it.
- ◑ ...because your plan accidentally destroys his office and/or apartment.
- ◒ ...because something magical goes haywire at the exact wrong time.
- ◓ ...because Harry accidentally soulgazed one of you.

# A HOCUS FOCUS INSTA-SETUP

## RELATIONSHIPS UNDER INVESTIGATION

For three players...

- \* Wizards: Warden of the White Council/Lawbreaker
- \* Family Ties: Long-lost relatives
- \* Friends and Lovers: Your least favorite ex

For four players, add...

- \* Strictly Business: "Legitimate business partners"

For five players, add...

- \* Fringe Elements: Hustler psychic/desperate client

## NEEDS UNDER INVESTIGATION

For three players...

- \* I Gotta Get Paid: ...because I owe some dangerous people.

For four or five players, add...

- \* I'm Changing: ...but nothing will be different. Nothing. At. All.

## LOCATIONS UNDER INVESTIGATION

For three or four players...

- \* The Nightlife: McAnally's Pub

For five players, add...

- \* Mysterious Places: Hotel room where thirteen suicides took place

## OBJECTS UNDER INVESTIGATION

For three or four players...

- \* Spellcraft: Demon summoning ritual

For five players, add...

- \* Questionable Items: A stolen Warden's sword