

BRINDLEWOOD BAY

Complexity: 8

Note: The tiny village of Mucky Point is a dangerous place, loaded with hints of the strange and supernatural. Only play this mystery if Layer 3 of the Dark Conspiracy has been unlocked.

Presenting the Mystery

Present this mystery at the top floor of The Candlelight Booksellers, during the weekly meeting of the Murder Ravens mystery book club.

Paint the Scene: *As the camera pans around the loft where you hold your Murder Ravens meetings, what do we see that shows how this is one of the coziest spots in all of Brindlewood Bay?*

After the meeting, the Ravens are approached by Janet Flock, owner of the bookstore. Janet shows them a story in the local paper, about a Mucky Point lighthouse keeper, Cyrus Creel, who died after falling off the little walkway just outside the lighthouse's lantern room. The article quotes several locals who think Mr. Creel was murdered, as the grizzled old lighthouse keeper had kept the lantern lit for decades and only someone green would lose their footing and tumble to their death. The paper also quotes the Mucky Point constable, Alvin Deschain, who says the death was strictly an accident and any talk of murder is baseless speculation.

Janet reminds the Ravens that Mucky Point is only a few miles up the road, and suggests that perhaps Constable Deschain might appreciate their unique insight into the case. If the Ravens press Janet for why she is so interested in the case, she will reveal that Cyrus was an old family friend, and that it would put her at ease knowing—definitively—there was no foul play involved in his death.

Mucky Point is a tiny hamlet in Brindlewood County. It has existed to support the operation of the lighthouse for most of its history, but in recent decades, as the lighthouse has become less and less important to maritime navigation, Mucky Point has shrunk to just a few small homes and businesses. In Brindlewood Bay, Mucky Point has a reputation for being a shriveled little place, isolated and

A Murder Most Mucky

unfriendly to outsiders. In Mucky Point, folks from Brindlewood Bay are viewed with some animosity, especially after the Mucky Point lighthouse never took off as a tourist attraction, in part because of interference from Brindlewood Bay's tourism board.

As the Ravens arrive in Mucky Point, give them a quick lay of the land:

- To the east, on a raised, rocky area, is the lighthouse.
- Near the base of the lighthouse is a small shack used by the lighthouse keepers as storage and lodging.
- Mucky Point proper consists of a single thoroughfare, along which can be found: The Golden Bull Roadhouse, Deschain's Gas & Sundries, The Mucky Point Lighthouse Museum, and Codswallop's Bait & Tackle.

Establishing Question: *Mucky Pointers are rumored to have a strange physical characteristic they all share. What have you heard?*

Suspects

Alvin Deschain, the constable

Lanky. Slightly hunched back. Messy uniform. Alvin has lived in Mucky Point all his life. He is suspicious of outsiders, even those from places as close as Brindlewood Bay.

Quote: *"There's no way Cyrus was murdered. It simply wouldn't happen in Mucky Point. We're a close-knit community—we care for each other—but I suppose someone like you wouldn't understand something like that, would you?"*

Tara Hill, a tavern keeper

Husky. Mullet. Sleeves rolled up. Tara moved to Mucky Point ten years ago when she inherited The Golden Bull Roadhouse from her uncle, Milton Hill. Her wife, Sandy Hill (née Deschain), was born and raised in Mucky Point, and is the only reason she doesn't feel like a complete outsider.

Quote: *"Mucky Pointers are a special breed. Have you talked to Thurgood yet? No? Well, if you do, make sure you don't catch him in the middle of one of his... spells. You might regret it."*

Sandy Hill, a tavern keeper

Ruddy-cheeked. Pile of red hair. Messy apron. Sandy has lived in Mucky Point all her life. She almost got out before she met Tara. They fell in love ten years ago, got married, and have been running The Golden Bull together ever since. She is Marvin's daughter and Alvin's niece.

Quote: *"Cyrus Creel was a hateful old bastard. He hated everyone and everything—everything except that damn lighthouse. You know, the county tried to tear it down last year—to make room for new development—but he and Eleanor managed to stop them. Those two lobbied hard to have it designated an historical landmark. And let me tell you: they made a lot of enemies during that fight."*

Eleanor Ripley, the historian

Costume jewelry. Streak of gray. Colorful scarf. Eleanor runs the newly-established Mucky Point Lighthouse Museum, carefully tending to the books and antique lighthouse equipment that make up the museum's modest collection. She was in love with Cyrus, and, if pressed, will admit to having had a long-term romantic relationship with him.

Quote: *"There are all sorts of fascinating things about the lighthouse that very few people are even aware of. For example: the base of the thing predates the lighthouse structure by some 300 years, and is made of a strange, black stone I haven't seen anywhere else in this area. I've been trying to get geologists to come take a look at it for years, but for some reason they always back out at the last minute."*

Marvin Deschain, the gas station attendant

Haggard. Flint-eyed. Greasy overalls. Marvin owns and operates Deschain's Gas & Sundries with his brother, Alvin. He was best friends with Cyrus growing up, but had grown distant from him in recent years. He is Sandy's father.

Quote: *"Cyrus was a tough old gizzard, and nimbler than a monkey when it came to getting around that lighthouse. There's no way in Hell he slipped and fell—I don't care what my brother says. Someone killed him. And you know what? The S.O.B. probably deserved it!"*

George Codswallop, the store owner

High-pitched, whistle-y voice. Limps. Pronounced physical characteristic from the Establishing Question. George is a middle-aged man who has worked in the Bait & Tackle all his adult life. If Mucky Pointers are generally suspicious of outsiders, George is downright hostile.

Quote: *“Unless you plan on buying a bucket of worms, I don’t have anything to say to you!”*

Stephen Blair, a lighthouse keeper

Handsome. Thoughtful. Well-pressed uniform. Stephen grew up in Brindlewood Bay, and moved to Mucky Point last year when he got the job as Assistant Lighthouse Keeper. Most people will tell you that Cyrus was openly abusive to the young man, but Stephen will laugh it off, claiming that the old lighthouse keeper was simply “complicated.” If pressed, Stephen will share stories about some of the strange events he has witnessed over the last few months (reveal a Void Clue).

Quote: *“I suppose it’s kind of strange for someone from my generation to want to be a lighthouse keeper. But I’ve always been fascinated by this lighthouse in particular, and there was no way in heck I was going to keep working at my parents’ bakery in Brindlewood Bay.”*

Benny “Tug” Williams, a drunk

Red-nosed. Slurred speech. Partially untucked plaid shirt. Tug spends most of his time at The Golden Bull and is rarely sober. Because no one takes him too seriously, he’s been able to observe a lot of the goings-on in Mucky Point, and is a good source of information—if the Mavens can keep him lucid, that is.

Quote: *“I’ve seen some dark and terrible things in Mucky Point—things that would make you go white as a sheet if you saw ‘em. ‘Course, no one listens to me—no one ever listens to a drunk.”*

Thurgood Bryant, a fisherman

Pitch-black eyes. Extremely small teeth. Pronounced physical characteristic from the Establishing Question. Thurgood is nearly as hostile to outsiders as George, his close friend, is. Thurgood is sometimes found sitting in his little boat, staring out to sea, feverishly whispering strange, unintelligible words to himself.

Quote: *“I have frequently seen the sea in my dreams. She calls to me. She calls to all of us. She wants us to return to her, to the icy womb from which we all crawled. I guess that’s why I chose the line of work that I did. It keeps me close to her.”*

Genevieve Deschain, the mayor

Shiny coat. Good teeth. “Mayor” medallion on her collar. Genevieve is a golden retriever that belongs to the Deschain brothers. The town elected her mayor a few years ago in an attempt to gin up some publicity. Most days she can be found at the end of the pier, staring out to sea, occasionally barking at phantoms only she can see.

Paint the Scene

The lighthouse

As you step inside the lighthouse, what evidence do you see that suggests all the lighthouse keepers through the years have had... strange beliefs?

The lighthouse keepers’ shack

In 1882, one of the lighthouse keepers savagely murdered the other. What do you see here, even today, that is a reminder of this grim history?

The Golden Bull Roadhouse

The Golden Bull was originally a lodge for a group of spiritualists in the 1920s. What did they leave behind?

Deschain’s Gas & Sundries

The Deschains are the oldest family in Mucky Point. What here is a reminder of that?

The Mucky Point Lighthouse Museum

How do you know the museum is the newest building in Mucky Point?

Codswallop’s Bait & Tackle

For Mavens who have marked The Pallid Mask on The Crown of the Void: *You are able to see something here from the “other side.” What is it?* For everyone else: *Why does this place give you the creeps?*

Clues

- ☐ A diary containing evidence of a forbidden love.
- ☐ A newspaper clipping about Cyrus’s involvement in a fatal car accident decades ago.
- ☐ A piece of frayed rope, speckled with blood and found in a strange place.
- ☐ A heated argument between a lighthouse keeper and a local.

- ☐ A note explaining why Cyrus intended to dock Stephen’s pay.
- ☐ Buried treasure (pick one: ale/gold/munitions/something else), unearthed.
- ☐ A confession of hatred murmured in someone’s sleep.
- ☐ A slick substance (pick one: fish oil/bacon fat/soapy water/something else) spread on a precarious surface.
- ☐ A stack of overdue bills.
- ☐ Sun Tzu’s The Art of War, with notes written in the margins about how the techniques presented will be used against a particular local.
- ☐ Evidence that Cyrus was repeatedly detained by Alvin for drunken and disorderly conduct.
- ☐ A skeleton found in an unexpected place (pick one: closet/foot locker/trunk of a car/somewhere else).
- ☐ Evidence of black magic being worked on someone.
- ☐ A chessboard with pieces carved to represent Mucky Point locals (the pawns are Genevieve). One piece is conspicuously missing.
- ☐ A hidden pregnancy.
- ☐ Cell phone records showing a suspiciously high number of calls between a Suspect and Cyrus.
- ☐ A deed in dispute.
- ☐ A whiff of political scandal in Brindlewood County.
- ☐ A bottle of whiskey with a diamond ring at the bottom of it.
- ☐ Forged Social Security documents.

Void Clues

- ☐ A local’s wild-eyed ravings about the existence of mermaids and selkies in the waters off Mucky Point.
- ☐ A pile of dead seagulls, with one living seagull standing atop it, preening.
- ☐ A prayer to King Poseidon, followed by baleful, dissonant song.
- ☐ Mermaid dreams, terrifying and erotic.
- ☐ A small, half-decayed biped, caught in a crab pot. It appears... human-ish?
- ☐ A circle of lamplit rowboats at night, a few hundred yards out to sea. The rowers are standing up in the boats, loudly singing the praises of Hecate, Persephone, Athena, and other goddesses.