

Loot The Room

Trinkets - Books

Matt Sanders



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Credits

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This supplement focuses on books and all other types of written records. From primitive carvings through to ornate and mysterious tomes. It can be used for simple loot, helping develop NPCs, or even as a basis of whole quests and stories.

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Using this supplement

During preparations you can roll on the table below to generate a category of item, then follow through to the table for that category and roll to get a specific item. Formats are listed roughly from the most primitive through to most sophisticated.

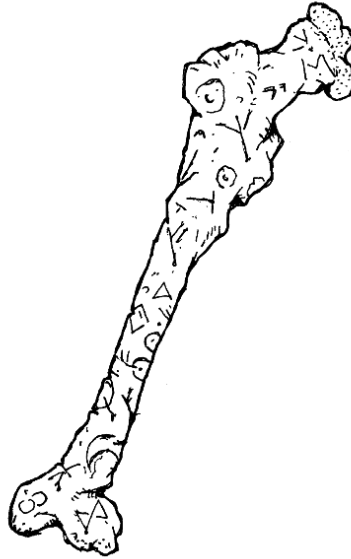
Alternatively, read through the tables as you please and find an item you like and use it. The die is not your master.

This can also be used in a session when your players have gone off in a totally different direction to you expected. You can roll up a quick and interesting take on what any books they find look like in here.

After the items, there are three tables of NPCs, locations and plot hooks. They all revolve around the theme of books. These can be linked up with items from the rest of the book or used independently.

D10	This...	Next Step
1	is a crude natural object, carved with text.	Carvings
2	is a tablet, typically made of stone, hefty and thick.	Tablets
3	bundle of dried leaves is roughly bound together.	Leaf Books
4	animal skin parchment, made by drying animal skin in the sun.	Parchment & Animal Skin
5	bundle of wooden strips is bound together and has carved, inked, or stamped characters.	Wooden Books (Slips)
6	piece of woven material has been used as a writing surface.	Cloth Writings
7	is a scroll. These vary greatly in size, from miniscule to massive.	Scrolls
8	is a stack of unbound papers, perhaps loosely tied together. Careful of the wind!	Stacks & Sheaves
9	crystal plate contains otherworldly text, suggesting an unusual origin.	Crystal, Ethereal and Unusual Texts
10	is a modern bound book. Can be printed or handwritten.	Books (multi-table)

“This long bone, perhaps a human thigh bone, has a chipped and porous surface. Characters cover it from tip to tip, and look almost as if they have been burned in, or scratched in with something incredibly hot”



“This ornate looking tablet has chipped edges, and a large chunk is missing from the top left. The carvings are elegant, an image of a rope running around the outside, meeting a fleur de lis at the top. The cursive text must have taken great skill to carve.”



Carvings

These texts are all created using natural objects as a page. In general, their origins are likely to be historical, tribal, religious or some combination thereof. This means they may often be of great cultural significance to a particular group or people but have little monetary value outside of that group. Other origins could be as an improvised text, created by a prisoner or someone stranded without writing tools.

D10 This...

1	large rock is bigger than a man's fist and covered in carved text. The text is deeply and roughly carved, flowing with the natural shape of the stone. This is pleasing to the eye, but tough to read. Can only hold short texts but can be part of a set for longer texts.
2	long branch has had its bark peeled and the wood has been carved with delicacy and finesse. The text and images are clearly a labour of love and great time was taken over them. GM Note: Could be cut from a tree containing a longer text.
3	bizarre egg-shaped stone has a smooth, polished surface of dark basalt. On the front is a calming face with a muted expression. Beautifully chiselled text runs in two bands above and below the face.
4	is a skull, complete with jawbone and teeth. Into the surface of the dome, jagged letters have been scraped, their rough edges give this macabre text an aura of foreboding.
5	roughly hewn wooden hippo, its key features indelicately hewn with a primitive tool. Carved into its back are letters and words. This would likely have been a gift for a child, and as such the text is simple and easy to read.
6	small cast metal statue is less than a foot tall. It holds a torch aloft in a triumphant pose. The base and its legs have been defaced with chaotic etchings of almost random letters and words, dense on the base and swirling upwards, dropping in frequency towards the chest and body.
7	small red sandstone obelisk is pentagonal in shape and has a pyramid point on top. Along each side run square and blocky pictograms. A couple of sections of text are illegible where the large pieces have been chipped away.
8	long animal horn is polished and hollowed out. An ornate metal rim curved with patterns is attached to the open end. Two metal bands run around it near the centre, with loops to attach a small standard hanging below. Runes are inscribed into the surface using a fine-pointed tool.
9	long bone, perhaps a human thigh bone, has a chipped and porous surface. Characters cover it from tip to tip and look almost as if they have been burned in or scratched in with something incredibly hot. Can be used as a club without improvised weapon penalty.
10	huge clam shell is pitted with chips and scratches. Inside, clearly intended for display, is a multicoloured, lustrous sheen of purple and green. Carefully and methodically etched letters and a beautiful central image of a whale sit at the base of the lid.

Tablets

Early formalised writing was done on clay tablets, left to dry in the sun or baked in ovens. More permanent or important writing was chiselled into heavy stone, and as technology advanced, but before paper and papyrus were available, wax tablets were reusable and portable in ways stone and clay were not.

D10 This...

1	single rough-edged piece of stone is clearly part of a larger tablet. The dark grey stone has black flecks and is extremely hard. Its damaged and worn text is still legible, though incomplete.
2	collection of rough stone chunks can be assembled to make a half complete text of brutish, ugly letters. The text is an early form of a more modern language, but its grammar and vocabulary are simpler, and some words are unfamiliar.
3	magnificent tablet is made of polished gneiss and has beautiful black and white lines running through it. It is rectangular in shape, with curved corners. Some great force has broken the tablet in two. Its edges fit perfectly together, the break almost imperceptible to those who aren't looking for it.
4	ornate looking tablet has chipped edges, and a large chunk is missing from the top left. The carvings are elegant, an image of a rope running around the outside, meeting a fleur de lis at the top. The cursive text must have taken great skill to carve.
5	hulking tablet is well-preserved despite its great age, with only minor wear and tear visible. Its chunky carvings depict a hunting scene, with a variety of animals fleeing from spear-wielding figures.
6	stone slab appears almost new and has a depiction of an oak tree in slim, curving lines. The text flows with the shape of the branches.
7	almost inch-thick metal sheet has been embossed using great force. It shows a coat of arms above a forceful text. It can be flipped over and the reverse image viewed.
8	smooth, marble tablet has an almost mirror-like surface with almost imperceptibly fine and shallow carvings. Viewed carefully, a knight wearing armour is shown riding a horse.
9	finely polished piece of slate has a wooden border, which is larger on the righthand side. A wooden panel slides open to reveal a small storage space containing some chalk.
10	slim brass box has an inlay of soaring boards in agate on the cover. It opens up to the reveal two panels of wax and a small compartment holding a beautiful stylus for carving letters into the wax. The text can be reset by heating the wax.

Leaf Books

Many cultures produce writing on dried or smoked leaves from palm leaves. Many other types of dried leaves can also accept ink when dried. They are inked using sharp styli dipped in a black paste made from charcoal or similar substance. Leaf manuscripts can be rudimentary products of a hunter gatherer society, right through to artisanal works of lifelong craftsmen who sell their services to kings and aristocrats.

D10 This...

1	pile of cracked, dry leaves has hurriedly scribbled letters on it, sometimes words are spread across leaves and the order seems chaotic. The ink is dark brown and might possibly be blood.
2	loose bundle of dried palm leaves is bound by a single piece of rope looped through a hole in the middle. The rough letters are inked into the crumbling pages.
3	pile of large leaves has been stitched together along one edge, and carefully dried to retain flexibility. While amateurish in construction, it seems great care was taken to make this using limited materials.
4	stack of dried palm leaves has been cut to have uniform edges and is bound with a good quality rope knotted at the top and with a plain wooden plate at the bottom.
5	book of neatly-edged palm leaves has a wooden plate at both ends with ornate carvings of tree roots around the title. A neatly punched hole through the middle holds a soft, golden rope with a large knot at one end and a loop at the other.
6	beautiful leaf book has plain ivory plates on both top and bottom and its pages remain blank. Slotted into the thick top plate is an ivory-handled stylus with a sharp point for inking the pages.
7	circular gold plate with leaf patterns and studded with small jewels. In the centre of the plate a lion's head has its mouth open, the ropes that bind the books disappearing down its throat. The gold bottom plate has four robust feline feet, the rope that loops out of the bottom. Inside, the text is written in a spiral and pages can be spun to read the words.
8	finely made fan-like manuscript pivots open around a metal rod into a fan of text, the text and lines of each piece aligning only once it is fully open.
9	script is capped by two heavy wooden plates, painted with beautiful mandalas, the paint beaten and chipped from use. The pages have clear signs of aging, but the text is finely inked and the illustrations are vivid, leaping off the page with their bold colours.
10	looks like a common book at first, but upon closer inspection, the cover and pages are made of pressed leaves, the veins and edges still barely visible.



“This pile of cracked, dry leaves has hurriedly scribbled letters on it, sometimes words are spread across leaves and the order seems chaotic. The ink is dark brown and might possibly be blood”

Parchment & Animal Skin

Many cultures and climates mean paper as a technology is rare or unheard of, and animal skins are used for anything that needs writing down.

D10 This...

1	collection of tiny fragments needs extensive piecing together. The rough textured parchment is yellowed and brittle. Around the edges some of the fragments are worn extremely thin.
2	ragged scrap of primitively cured parchment is full of holes and much of the text is faded badly.
3	pigskin retains its porcine shape, tail and head. Before death, square and brutish text was tattooed into its skin.
4	painted buffalo hide may have been used as a cloak. It is certainly warm enough. The inside is painted with vivid colours of both images and text in a radial pattern.
5	large sheet of parchment hasn't been trimmed and still has holes in the edges from where it was stretched and cured.
6	square piece of vellum has a cut-out pattern around the edges. The pattern shows vines and bunches of grapes.
7	8-foot long snakeskin has been cured with great care to keep it in a single piece. The text has been rendered by colouring individual scales.
8	single page of thick vellum looks as if it is from a larger text. Its heavily serifed text has large and detailed drop caps.
9	fine vellum sheet is mounted on a thin frame of bleached, white wood. The vellum is delicately thin and has exquisite text in gold ink scribed carefully on it.
10	enormous mat is made of stitched together squares of leather. The squares nearer the top are ancient and faded whereas the ones near the bottom are quite recent. Clearly this has been produced over generations, if not centuries.

Wooden books (Slips)

Before paper or other techniques were viable, thin slats of wood or especially bamboo were engraved with characters. For long texts, many of these individual slips may be bound together with twine or thread.

D10 This...

1	bamboo slip has clearly been broken at some point, its end is splintered and some of the characters are damaged. The brushwork is very fine, but age and wear have taken their toll.
2	single wooden slip is in good condition. The bamboo is varnished to protect the brushwork underneath and the letters show good brushmanship.
3	set of blackened slips with white lettering forms a set when placed next to each other but a number of them are damaged and broken.
4	large set of slips on pale wood with red letters is antique and in good condition. Its threading has been lost and broken in some places.
5	small set of threaded slips is in one piece... barely. The dark wood looks as if it has been chewed and has many dents and cracks. The letters have suffered but are still legible.
6	jumble of slips is in total disarray; the slim brown pieces of wood and their spidery lettering clearly belong in order but are far from it at the moment.
7	book of oak slips is in two pieces, and they were clearly separated with some force, as the slips around the break are mashed and mostly illegible.
8	long book of slips forms a neat pile, with the threading and thickness of the wood crafted so it forms a cube. Each slip is neatly engraved and each letter blackened, a laborious and lengthy task for its creator.
9	indulgent text is made of fine, dark red wood and each slip is inlaid with bone that has been carved and then polished, giving a subtle shine. Sections of the text are illustrated with inlaid stones of many colours.
10	enormous stack of slips would take incredible strength and resources to move. Each slip is like a log, 6 feet long, a foot wide and several inches thick. They are bound together with thick, expertly made rope and the engraved characters are deep and wide enough to run a finger inside the grooves.

Cloth Writings

This covers a range of texts, from simple pieces of cloth with a message daubed on them using what was available, through to more complex stitched or woven texts of great craftsmanship.

D10 This...

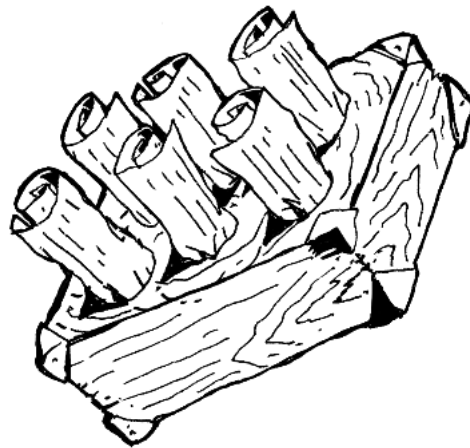
1	pile of sackcloth scraps has been stitched with letters and then fallen into decay. The letters are still legible if you arrange the pieces properly.
2	lovingly made piece of white cloth has finely detailed cursive text on it. This seems like a gift of great sentimental value.
3	long bolt of dark red cloth unrolls to reveal a large painted battle scene with long passages of text underneath. It is flea-bitten and threadbare, but still bears some of the magnificence it must have done when first made.
4	cloth is only 6 inches high, but long. It rolls up into a thick, fat bolt. The text is painted in faded gold paint and the dark blue cloth has a musty smell but is in good condition.
5	large, loose monk's robe has brief snatches of text inside it. They are broken up almost randomly, words break in the middle or start halfway through. GM: If folded correctly will reveal complete text.
6	huge bolt of cloth stands almost as tall as a man. Its patterned edges swirl with psychedelic colours and it depicts a macabre mix of Boschian scenes where men, devils and worse struggle and writhe. The text is spiky and disturbing, and the effort of reading it leaves the reader with a sense of unease.
7	tapestry has been slashed, piled on the floor and soiled. It depicts a group of men at a great feast, but their faces have been cut deliberately. The text underneath is stitched in rich gold thread which still shines bright despite the damage.
8	monstrous war banner still has the remnants of its bamboo pole and is so large and heavy it would need a strong man to lift it. Its large, powerful letters are woven in stark black on the now scruffy white linen.
9	well-preserved set of seven tapestries features a series of magnificent warriors of different races. The text features magnificent drop caps in a martial style, each depicting deeds of the warrior.
10	monumental silk tapestry is 6 feet wide and over 100 feet long. It features giant flowers in beautiful subtle colours. The text winds around the outside of each flower, steadily flowing down the tapestry in a majestic fashion.

Scrolls

Scrolls are historically and geographically widespread and can range from very simple to exquisite and enormous works of art. Scrolls have been used in almost every society from the invention of writing.

D10 This...

1	minute scroll is barely the size of a thumbnail and is remarkably delicate. The text inside is illegible to the naked eye and must have taken great skill to ink.
2	finger-sized scroll is wrapped around a single thin wooden roller. The text is every day, but the construction is uncommon. Perhaps this was a novelty or gift.
3	plain drawstring bag contains a cracked and crumbling scroll of thin yellowed paper. The lettering is slightly unfamiliar, like an obsolete dialect of a common language, still legible to a modern reader with some effort.
4	battered papyrus has holes and cracks in it. The inks have faded somewhat, only the blacks remain strong, meaning some of the ideograms have lost their aesthetic quality.
5	wooden block has a set of six cylindrical holes bored into it, each containing a small, plain-looking scroll of yellowed paper. Together, they form a cohesive text.
6	two-foot-tall scroll has two thick wooden rollers with carved handles. Its many pages are glued together expertly, and show signs of use, but also of expert and careful repair.
7	humble scroll of a few pages is unremarkable except that its letters are embossed into the text.
8	scroll has rough black rollers of a shiny, brittle substance and woven spider's webs that create a textured, patterned background. The letters are woven using a darker, more matte silk.
9	scroll is stored in a polished black wooden case of great craftsmanship. On opening it, the paper almost glows, it is so white. The two rollers are made of finely polished steel and engraved with arcane symbols. The text on the pages glows faintly and seems to shift slightly when you look away.
10	scroll appears quite normal. When unrolled, it keeps rolling, and rolling, and rolling. The text within repeats, but with subtle variations each time as if being recalled by many different people.



“This wooden block has a set of six cylindrical holes bored into it, each containing a small, plain-looking scroll of yellowed paper. Together, they form a cohesive text.”

Stacks and Sheaves

Not all writings get bound together into books, many texts are jotted down on loose leaves of paper and held together in all manner of ways.

D10 This...

1	nondescript stack of papers is held together by a curious bent piece of wire that moves apart slightly as papers are slid into it.
2	stack of paper almost reaches the ceiling. The papers near the bottom are yellowed and of considerable age, whereas the newest sheets are still white and crisp. A few dividers stick out at points throughout it, although they have no labels.
3	square cards are thick, with a linen texture to them that makes them a pleasure to write on. One corner of each has been precisely punched and a brass split ring put through them.
4	small pile of dark grey paper contains sketches done in white chalk of a variety of subjects. While slightly scuffed, the quality of the art shines through.
5	small mound of papers is totally disorganised. There is an enormous variety of different types of papers and inks here.
6	foot-tall pile of paper is made of colossal sheets, 6 feet by 4 feet. The paper is thick and strong and can easily be rolled.
7	stack of paper has been meticulously built so that each piece is in slightly different position to the last, creating a spiral effect as it increases in height. Once complete, a robed figure has been pointed on the twisting stack.
8	small bundle of papers is bound together with a thin strip of plain paper. Each one is identical and drawn with the face of an ancient king and has a 50 written on each corner.
9	string-wrapped pile of letters are dated almost forty years ago but are all unopened. A variety of names and handwriting adorn the front of these.
10	brown piece of folded card is stamped with a skull on the front. A couple of pieces of paper poke out from inside.

Crystal, Ethereal, and Unusual Texts

The world is a vast and ancient place, and many mysterious things lie within it that are beyond the skill or even comprehension of the living.

D10 This...

1	stack of thin glass pages is delicate and beautiful. The words have been etched with great care upon the pages. Reading it is difficult there is interference of the backwards text from the other pages.
2	flat sheet of glass is plain and empty until touched. As soon as it is held, it glows slightly and words appear on the surface. Pages can be turned by touching the edges.
3	weighty book has been bound with two sheets of glass for covers and a translucent sort of tape for a spine. The name of the book has been etched inside the cover. The pages within are normal paper.
4	impressively thick book is a translucent blue. It floats slightly above whatever surface it is placed on. When touched, the book responds as if it were touched, so it can be opened and pages turned, but the user gets no physical sensation from doing so.
5	slim black volume responds to voice commands. It can be told to turn pages and will make notes in itself is asked. There are notes on the inside cover that explain briefly how to use it. Once the user is comfortable with commanding the book, it will even float along and follow a user, or can take itself out of a bag if possible.
6	small magnifying glass has a pale bone handle with brass letters embedded saying "read". When the glass is looked through closely, words can be seen a few inches beyond the lens. As the reader moves, the words do too, allowing the whole text to be read if you have enough space.
7	chunk of rock has been chipped away at the corners to reveal a book is somehow encased inside it. The book can't currently be opened unless more of the rock is removed.
8	small wooden box is fairly nondescript, just plain wood. When opened, a ray of light comes out and words float in the air around it, rearranging themselves to spell out a message in the centre that slowly changes if the box is left open.
9	glass cube contains a quill that rattles around inside. It has scrawled jagged text on the inside of the glass which can be read if the cube is rotated in the correct order.
10	crystal orb has words that shimmer and dance within it. They appear suspended in the centre of orb. When focused on, they sit still, and seem to sense when the reader is the ready for more. When not looked at, different words and occasionally images shimmer within it.

Bound Books

This section covers traditional bound books. To generate a book from here roll or choose from one or more of the tables to create a book with as much detail as needed.

Book Size

D10	This...
1	book would fit on a thumbnail. Its tiny spine, pages and text are all unimaginably small to most creatures. Either this is incredible workmanship, magically created, or perhaps the work of tiny hands.
2	miniature book is circular, with one slightly flattened edge allowing it to be bound. The text on each page curves to fit the non-standard shape.
3	palm-filling volume would fit in a pocket or pouch with ease.
4	tome is square in shape and is about 6 inches long on each side.
5	is a common size of book, about six by nine inches. Classic and easy to read.
6	is a large, but not unusually so, text, about 10 inches by 12.
7	is a full folio, 12 inches wide and 19 tall. Books this size are relatively unusual, and generally expensive.
8	fills a good-sized desk when open. Its spine is as thick as a man's arm and it weighs a great deal.
9	box contains a huge text broken up into a number of volumes. Each one is several inches thick and the whole set is over three feet long.
10	dwarfs most people with its gargantuan size. Even turning a page is a noticeable effort.

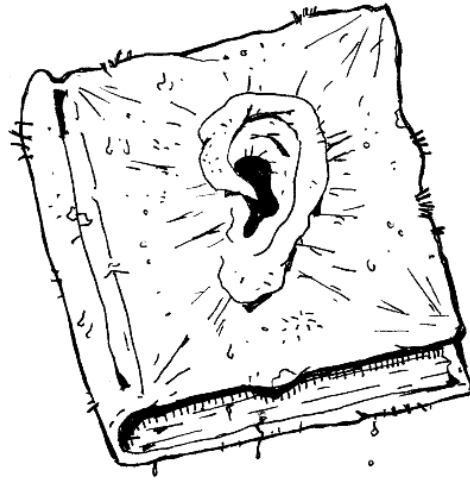
Book Outer Features

D10	This...
1	has been vandalised with a pentagram across its cover. The ink was painted on sloppily and has left trails down the cover as it dried.
2	book has spent some serious time in damp and dark places and has mushrooms growing from its spine. In the dark, the mushrooms emit a faint glow from underneath the caps.
3	is dog-eared and mouldy. Water stains abound on the cover, and spots of dark mould give this a musty, dank smell.
4	has had its title gilded onto the edge of the pages, meaning the title of the book can be ascertained from multiple angles.
5	has a secret. Viewed from the side, its pages appear gilded, but when the book is tilted and its spine angled, a hidden message is revealed, methodically inked on the edge of the pages.
6	is encased in a smooth metal box. At the top, a hinged carrying handle provides a means to lug this around.
7	is wrapped with a thick leather cord. Loops at each end are held together with a strong brass pin.
8	book's spine is made of solid metal, and metal strips have been applied to the cover and riveted on.
9	has a demonic claw holding it closed. The claw folds across the cover and grasps the tops of a skull which girds the pages.
10	is sealed closed with a hand-shaped clasp. The hand is slim, graceful and feminine.

Book Cover

D10 This...

1	book's cover is just cheap paper, and wear and tear has taken its toll as it barely holds together. Handle with care!
2	cover is simple bookcloth in a rich forest green. A good, sensible, intelligent looking book.
3	leather-bound tome has seen better days, but its quality shows and it has many years of use yet. The leather has been finely stamped all around the edge with interweaving lines that knot together in the top right corner.
4	tough-looking book has metal-reinforced corners that have kept the book in good shape despite heavy use that has left it scuffed elsewhere.
5	unusual volume has been bound with leather, and sections of the leather have been lifted away to reveal marbled boards underneath.
6	book is bound in a simple navy blue bookcloth. It's remarkable for its cover which is adorned with a metal figurehead of an angel ascending to the heavens which have been gilded onto the bookcloth above it.
7	luxurious binding uses fine quality lambskin that is as soft and supple as the day this book was made. The title has been debossed and gilded, lending this an air of understated opulence.
8	cover has an animal skin cover with a slightly rough, sandpapery texture. Midway up the book, it changes from almost white to a dark grey.
9	is a rare example of anthropodermic bibliopegy. That is, bound in human skin. The middle of the front cover still bears a rather baleful and dried-out ear.
10	polished crystal is pitch black and its edges are sharp. It is very hard but has resisted chips and scratches. The title has been engraved and its matte finish left unpolished.



“This is a rare example of anthropodermic bibliopegy. That is, bound in human skin. The middle of the front cover still bears a rather baleful and dried-out ear.”

Book Paper / Inner

D10 This...

1	coarse paper is rough and uneven, it barely holds together and has visible fibres and chips in it. Each page has been handmade and the shape is rough.
2	unsophisticated paper is fibrous and rough to the touch. The edges have been roughly cut but are a little frayed and uneven.
3	cheap, pulpy paper gets the job done but gives its lettering a soft quality that comes from the ink bleeding slightly as it dries.
4	plain off-white paper is simple and utilitarian, the kind found in books printed in large numbers.
5	bright white paper is smooth and glossy, making the colours it holds vibrant and strong.
6	cotton paper is intended for creating long-lasting documents with a tough and time-resistant nature.
7	high quality laid paper has the characteristic ribbed texture of the mould-based process. It is heavy in weight, a luxury paper for a discerning writer.
8	is made of thin supple leather. Each page has been stretched and cured to give it the absorbency and flexibility required for writing on.
9	extremely fine paper is translucent and soft to the touch. It is surprisingly tough and pliable.
10	waxed, yellowish paper is water resistant and smooth to the touch. Producing paper like this takes a great deal of time and skill.

Book Writing / Ink

D10 This...

1	is dark blue and uneven in colour, and was inked with a primitive, rough quill, leaving drips and scratches on the lettering.
2	cheap black ink has bled into the paper somewhat, giving the letters an indistinct feel that makes extended reading laborious.
3	pedestrian blue ink has some slight variance in colour from bright blue to dark. The text is childlike, each letter carefully separated and slightly larger than normal.
4	cursive script is rapid and jagged, as if scribbled down in great haste. The black ink is thick and even, of the workmanlike sort a scribe or someone who writes huge amounts would use.
5	bright orange ink has purple edges where the ink has gathered through minor imperfections in penmanship.
6	unusual dark green ink has a red sheen to it, with hints of gold where the light hits it. The lettering is careful, deliberate and consistent.
7	silver ink gives each word a shimmering effect as the viewer moves their eyes or head. The penmanship is as extravagant as the ink, with curls and flourishes in bountiful supply.
8	is inked in dried blood. The dark reddish brown is distinctive and it gives off a slight coppery smell even now. The letters are erratic, and somewhat shaky.
9	glows with a slight magical radiance that seems to increase when a particular word is focused on. The edges have a shifting glow that creates an illusion of subtle movement.
10	is exquisite. Colours are bold, contrasting and even. Each paragraph has a delightful pictorial drop cap and the letter themselves are florid, but legible. A triumph of calligraphy.

Hidden Storage

D10 This...

1	opens to reveal a roughly hewn cavity inside, the paper edges rough. Inside is a crudely made shiv, its rough edge made by scraping it against stone, and a primitive handle has been made by pulping some of the removed pages.
2	has a rectangular hollow cut out of the pages. The cuts are slightly uneven. The hollow is currently empty.
3	has a very slim, pencil-thickness blade with a wicked point hidden up its spine.
4	has a piece of paper glued to the inside. If carefully peeled away, it reveals a hidden message from the book's owner.
5	has a folding panel on the front cover. Opening it reveals a space for the book's owner to write a name and add some notes about the book.
6	has a cut-out in the rear half of the book containing a leather pouch full of old coins.
7	has a sealed section of pages where the paper has not been cut at the page edge. It has been perforated to allow them to be separated.
8	has a wide margin cut-out on the left of each page, almost two inches wide. It contains a small wooden box with a sliding cover. Inside the box is a writing quill and small vials of ink.
9	book has an unusually thick back cover, and on inspection, the last section of pages is in fact solid. The last page, if cut through, reveals a series of small tiny vials containing single doses of a deadly poison.
10	has had its pages carefully cut to create a bottle-shaped recess inside. The bottle is still there and is an aged and expensive bottle of spirits. Sadly, it is empty.

Histories

D10 This...

1	is ancient and considered a formative work of its civilisation. This is only the second copy of this known to exist and would be a great value in the right market.
2	has passed through many hands, is scuffed and scratched, many of the pages bear thumb marks. Inside a number of names have been written, then scratched out or crossed through and replaced by the new owners.
3	has spent some time amongst goblins and orcs, who viewed it as being of great value. Many of them in the local area will recognise it and be determined to get it back.
4	is second hand and the inside cover contains a note from a local bookseller: "Part of our book exchange program. Trade me in for a quarter discount on anything else in stock".
5	was the dearly-loved keepsake of a child. Pictures have been drawn of some of the characters in it, and a few notes about what words mean have been added in a slightly shaky, but careful hand.
6	was used by a herbalist who used ingredients from their trade as bookmarks. Between many pages are roughly pressed flowers and grasses. Some still have their potency and can be used to manufacture potions.
7	belonged to a great and powerful necromancer. At night, this book moans and groans with the horror of tortured souls. It shuts up if exposed to light.
8	was owned by a great musician, and many of its margins contain scraps of musical notation and lyrics.
9	belonged to a great king and is of significant historical value. It contains a heartfelt message from a secret lover inside the cover. This rewrites what is known about the king and even affects the line of succession.
10	spent years in a wizard's library and picked up personality. If well-disposed to a reader, it reads aloud, or helps search for content. If displeased, it snaps shut on fingers, and belligerently flick pages as they are read.

Adventure Hooks

This section is to provide some ideas for how books from here or of your own creation could be used as starting points or elements of quests and storylines.

D10 This...

1	A priest comes to see you and tells you a text has been stolen from his church and he needs help recovering it from a gang of local thieves. The text is of great importance, as it was written by a powerful saint of his order and contains a variety of spells.
2	A mansion on the outskirts of town is believed to be empty. One night as you walk past, you see flickering candlelight at a downstairs window and a figure sitting at a desk reading. They read voraciously through the night, absorbing a number of books. During the day, the mansions appears dilapidated and empty.
3	A travelling bookseller passes through town. From here, he must travel a road plagued by bandits. For escorting him, he will allow you the pick of his wares. He promises, somewhat suggestively, that he'll have something of interest to a connoisseur such as yourself.
4	A small child sits in the town square, reading. As you pass, he invites you to sit down and read with him. When you have finished the book, he says "Would you like to see more books like this? I know a secret place."
5	A nobleman invites you to his estate. Over tea in the garden he tells you, "The last three servants who went to the clean the library, I don't quite know how to say this, haven't come back".
6	A knight rides into town, his shield bearing a painting of a quill and inkwell. He bellows, "Come forth challengers, anyone who lasts through one minute of combat with me shall be greatly rewarded."
7	One night, a book is slid under your door, a note attached to the front. "I am returning this to its rightful owner". When you look outside, no one is there. Who could the rightful owner be?
8	You enter the local bookstore to find the place a mess. The owner looks up and says, "Sorry, been having a bit of a clear out". She then thrusts a box of beaten up books at you and continues "get rid of these for me, there's a silver piece in it for you."
9	a robed man in the town square has set up a temporary table and is thrusting copies of a book into the hands of anyone who will accept one. Many people ignore him or toss the books aside after they pass. He is growing more irate and begins cursing and berating people.
10	a local book collector tells you he has discovered a local goblin tribe worships a book that was left behind when missionaries tried to teach the goblins to read common. It didn't go well, but they came to see the book as of religious important. They ate the missionaries.

NPCs

Books and writing should definitely have some interesting characters associated with them.

D10 This...

1	awkward looking young man wears extraordinarily thick glasses wears tatty robes. He has a strange apparatus of metal arms and glass lenses on his head. Creating miniaturized versions of books or scrolls is his profession. He has a small bag of samples you can browse or purchase.
2	serious looking man carries a bundle of scrolls and wears a quill on his belt. He is quick to tell you about his macabre stories of gory horror. His claim to fame is that he has written more books than he has read.
3	small gnome says she can get you any book you care to name. She does indeed produce a copy of the Book the Dead from under her dark purple cloak but isn't keen to hand it over.
4	gangly and awkward man winks surreptitiously before pitching his wares. He insists he only offers artful scrolls of fine-quality nudes from classically-trained artists.
5	tiny old man speaks slowly and softly. He constantly puzzles over scrolls with strange symbols on and makes notes on a separate roll of paper. His appearance is meticulous, with a neat beard and pressed clothes in plain, functional colours.
6	bespectacled teenager has cropped her hair short and wears loose-fitting clothes in dark brown and green. She is obsessed with the idea of adventure and writes dramatic stories of fight a cult of some reptile god. She would love nothing more than to witness some real adventure as fodder for her tales.
7	rather odd man appears to be talking to a skull. Periodically, he crosses things out on a scroll in front of him and raves about evoking pathos or some such.
8	pallid woman talks tersely, and with little emotion. She complains bitterly that the small-minded people in this town fail to appreciate her poetry that muses on the futility of existence.
9	practically-dressed dwarf carries a number of precise brass tools on his belt, and wears a long, slim leather case on his back. He stops and paces the distances of each room he enters. As methodical a mapmaker and cartographer as you could wish to meet.
10	old woman scribbles furiously alongside every action she takes. Her clothes and appearance are as unkempt as her script. Two huge sacks sit at her side, overflowing with paper in no apparent order.

Locations

Any bibliophile can attest that bookshops are a huge part of enjoying reading, and the locations associated with books in your game should be no different.

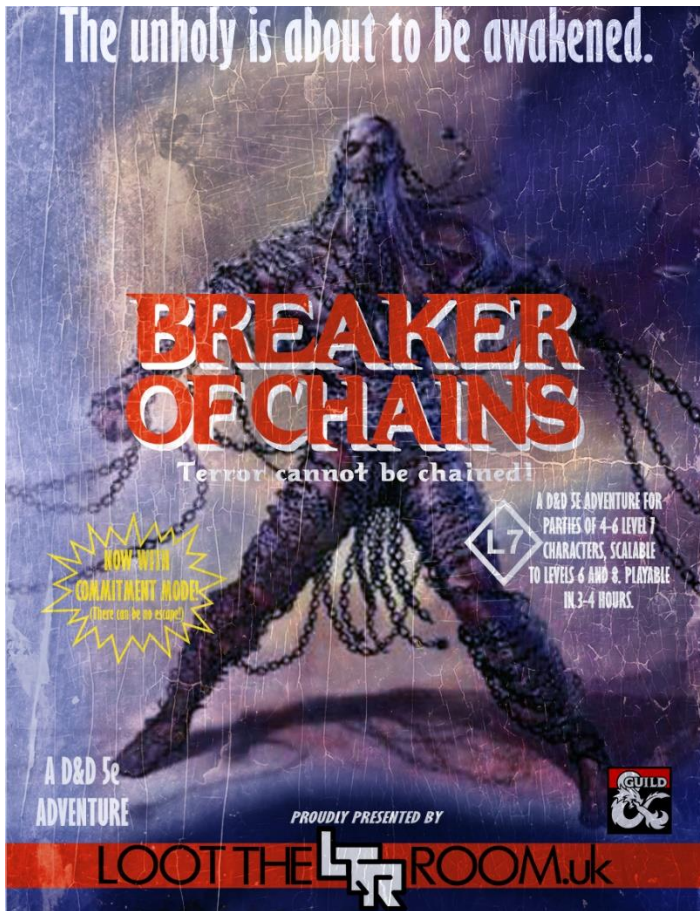
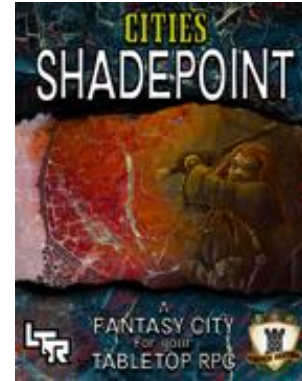
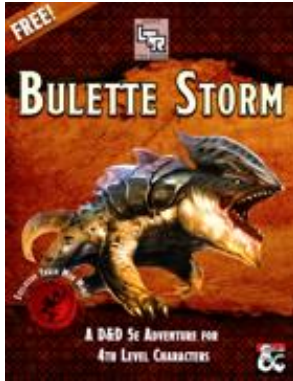
D10 This...

1	corridor has a curved roof made entirely of books that have been stuck in place. Some titles have their spines facing outwards, but others show their pages to those walking through the tunnel.
2	door opens and crumbling yellow scrolls begin to tumble out of the room. The entire room is swamped in them, the shapes of furniture barely discernible beneath them.
3	small, cramped book store is run by a halfling who doesn't quite get the proportions right for larger races, despite his best efforts. Everything is obsessively neat, and many of the books have handwritten labels attached giving a background on the author and its history.
4	musty-smelling shop has heavy barred windows. Inside, racks of ink in glass pots gather dust. There isn't a clear method to how things are organised, and an ancient old woman sits behind a desk, glaring at you from over a titanic ledger.
5	upmarket book emporium has relatively few books on display, but a couple of smartly-dressed staff wait behind desks. They wear white gloves, and a list of topics they are able to offer advice on is displayed in front of them.
6	small shack holds little furniture, a small desk, a chair, and a thin bedroll. Beyond furniture, there are copious amounts of empty whisky and ink bottles, and a few scraps of balled up paper.
7	square room has a huge wooden rack along the right-hand side. The rack contains ten parchment-stretching frames. Some of them contain parchment in different stages of completion. A stack of skins sits in one corner, awaiting stretching.
8	wide double staircase is made up of shelves. Each stair is a shelf, and most are packed with books and scrolls.
9	room overflows with books. Every inch of all the surfaces is covered with stacks of literature of all shapes and sizes. In one corner, a couple of huge piles have toppled over and a skeletal hand protrudes from underneath.
10	chamber of smooth, polished stone contains nothing but a single book placed neatly in the exact centre of the floor.

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