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This is a work of fiction.
The Sign of the Shadow

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“Sweetness” is a scenario of mystery and horror for *Delta Green: The Role-Playing Game*, available from Arc Dream Publishing.
Sarah Garrison is a former Chicago police officer and former Delta Green Friendly who has lost everything. First, she lost her police partner to a cult. Then she lost the trust of Delta Green. Finally, after the divorce from her husband Timothy Bernier seven years ago—and the child-custody battle revealing the ritual abuse she perpetrated every night—she lost her children. After she failed her psych evaluation, she lost her job. Now, she finds herself at 46, alone, in a walkup, with nothing but fragments of a pension.

It was only a matter of time before she lost her mind.

Garrison spent only a year in the service of Delta Green. In that time, in Chicago, she faced several threats, human and otherwise. She faced and defeated a cult with access to a power only vaguely understood. She lost her partner, but gained access to things man was not meant to know. In secret, she kept it for herself.

The artifact, the Stone of Yos, is the centerpiece of a storage facility she rents. She spends a lot of time in front of it—and now, in it. Almost all of her time.

Garrison’s ex-husband lives in Tampa, Florida, with her children and his new wife, happy to be rid of her. The kids were content to be away from their mother and the cuts she inflicted on them after dark.

Then the Shadowman came.
The Truth

Sarah Garrison recovered the Stone of Yos from a burned-out drug den in 2008. She uses it to call up a power that allows her to spy on and interact with her children in Florida, from Chicago, every night. She does not know that the entity that manifests from the stone remains behind, invisible, even when Garrison is not using it. As she uses it more and more, the influence of this entity infects her.

Soon, the creature and Garrison will become one. She will be trapped in the stone forever, just as it has fed on human users many, many times before. Then, freed of her influence, it will feed on the Bernier family.

The News Story

Delta Green is alerted to the incidents at the Bernier house in Tampa when a Friendly notices a crime story on the local news—and, in particular, a mark painted on the door of the house.

The news and police angle the story as if the Berniers, a bi-racial family, are the victims of a hate crime by someone terrorizing their house. The story is a short blurb on the news. The police were briefly involved. A small fire was reported, and graffiti and other marks were found on the house. So far, none of the family has been injured.

The mark on the door, scratched into its surface and coated in blood, triggered the call to Delta Green.

The Call

Agents are alerted to the operation via secure means, which can include:

» A FedEx envelope is returned to the Agent. The envelope appears as if the Agent himself filled it out and sent it to an obviously false address. The handwriting is not that of the Agent.

» An unknown person bumps into the Agent, drops a sheaf of stapled papers, and then pawns them off on the Agent as if the Agent dropped it.

» A phone call from the local police department informs the Agent that they’ve recovered the Agent’s wallet. There is indeed a wallet in a plastic ziploc bag, with a state-issued ID for the Agent, plus a folder of papers.

The papers in these hand-offs are all the same. They are a brochure for a real-estate seminar at a Holiday Inn in Tampa, Florida, this coming Friday. The front is marked by a small, hand-drawn, green delta. On the last page is a ten-digit number written in the same ink. It may be a phone number, but it has no dashes in it.

Calling the Number

Calling the phone number on the brochure before arriving in Tampa elicits no response. The phone rings and rings. Investigating the number with Computer Science or SIGINT skill of 35% or more reveals the number is likely a PIN dial-through number; not a real phone number.

The Contact

A huge sign floats above the entrance of the hotel: “THE TAMPA GREENFIELD HOLIDAY INN WELCOMES THE BURKE TORRENCE REAL ESTATE SEMINAR.” Getting a room at the hotel is nearly impossible, as it has been prebooked. It is filled with real-estate agents at all hours—in the bar, at the pool, in the lobby. The Agents have no problem fitting in, if they’re in a suit and tie, and no problem moving about, as they will be assumed to be there for the seminar.

An Agent who makes a Search roll, or has a Search skill of 35% or more, spots their contact in the lobby. He’s a Caucasian male in his late 40s. Sandy blond hair, round, metal glasses, nicotine-stained fingers. He wears a concealed pistol and has the feel and mannerisms of law enforcement. An Agent with a Search of 60% or more notices his shoes are stained with sidewalk salt from a much colder clime.

When the Agents notice him, he waves them over. He says nothing else, but leads them to one of the smaller conference rooms (The Pine Room) for their briefing.
The Briefing

“Call me John,” he says. He’s brief and to the point.

» A Friendly called in a possible unnatural incident after seeing a restricted symbol on the door of the Bernier house. (See THE MARK on this page.)
» “John” shows the Agents the news story on a projector from a laptop. The news story is on the usual streaming video services. (He writes a URL on a sheaf of hotel stationery.)
» He hands out a brief dossier on the Bernier family.
» Delta Green has reason to believe the mark on the door is serious enough to warrant investigation.
» The Agents are to identify the origin of the mark and remove all vectors which might produce it.
» The Berniers are eager to cooperate with authorities, though they believe it is some sort of mundane harassment. John recommends the federal hate-crime angle, but how the Agents enter remains up to them.
» “Questions?” He answers what he can, never revealing his name or place of origin.

He excuses himself to use the restroom and does not return. He leaves the laptop. It is new, nearly unconfigured, and its browsing history only shows the news video. There are no email accounts or passwords.

After the briefing, the number from the brochure connects to “John.” It is not there for the Agents to ask for help. He only wants to hear confirmation that the threat has been neutralized.

The Mark

The mark is an oblong circle cut with two lines, with a smaller circle and line within it, drawn in what appears to be blood and effluvia on the tan front door of the Bernier home.

A successful Forensics roll, or Forensics of 30% or more, identifies the marks in the door as made with some sort of horn or claw—something sharp enough to deform the door, but also somewhat blunt. The outside
edges of the cuts are marked with black streaks. A police report says the blood and effluvia are a mixture of cat, lizard and small rodent innards. By the time the agents arrive, this effluvia has been removed by industrial cleaner, and a new door is ordered and expected to arrive within the week.

A successful Occult roll, or having an Occult of 60% or more, identifies the mark as a symbol for a deity worshipped by a Greek mystery cult, called Kore, Kos, or Yos, about which very little is known. One source calls Kore the “queen of the underworld,” related to rituals called Katabasis—a physical descent into the underworld. The etymology of the names Kos and Yos is unknown.

A successful Unnatural roll, or having an Unnatural skill of 30% or more, indicates that Yos is actually an abbreviation used in many restricted hypergeometrically active books, usually written “Yo.s.” It stands for Yog-Sothoth, a Great Old One said to control the ways between worlds.

The Bernier House

The Bernier house—at 3591 North Ridge Avenue, Tampa, Florida—is a recently-built, 3,500-square-foot rambler in the upscale North Ridge area. Timothy Bernier purchased it eight years ago, new, from the QuadMark Housing development company. He paid $350,000 with a mortgage from Bay Street Bank. These facts are easily checked out, and nothing illegal is involved. Before the housing development, the area was occupied by a large scrap yard from 1913 to 1988.

The house is recessed behind a high wall, with a large garden, a back yard with pool, and several fruit trees. The garage is accessible via remote-controlled gate, with a long driveway up through the yard.

The house is pink stucco, the roof new with grey shingles, and the decor light and airy. It is has no structural secrets, cubbyholes, or a basement (this is common in Florida), and is temperature-controlled.

The Berniers lived here for six years without incident until the mark appeared on the front door.

The Berners

The Berniers are a normal family who, until recently, lived a quietly unremarkable existence in Tampa. Tim Bernier is a microchip designer for Altex Microelectronics, a local secure chip production company. He makes a very good living. His wife Evelyn is a stay-at-home mom who was once a dispatcher for the Tampa Police Department. Though the children are not hers biologically, their relationship is as close to perfect as can be imagined.

The children have not seen their birth mother in years. They barely remember her and never speak of her. Kathryn was born deaf in both ears, and the entire family is fluent in American Sign Language.

The family’s days are mostly concerned with getting the kids to school, various sports, shopping, and generally enjoying each other’s company. They are a tightknit family. However, lately, it seems something has been haunting them.

Count all of the Berniers except young Kathryn as having 10 HP and 50 SAN. Kathryn, still growing, has 5 HP and 30 SAN.

Timothy Bernier

Timothy “Tim” Bernier (African-American male, age 49) is a microchip engineer with a degree from CalTech and a string of high-paying jobs. His job history, easily searchable, meanders from California to Chicago to Tampa. His employer is ecstatic to have him, and has lavished him with bonuses, raises, and perks like free vacations.

Tim thinks the current string of problems at the house are a combination of some idiotic racist, overexcited children, and a protective wife. He has seen nothing “supernatural” (and he doesn’t believe in such things). He always works to talk down a situation back to the solid ground of reality.

Tim is the only one who will talk about Sarah Garrison. His children do not mention her, and Evelyn does not believe Tim’s relationship with his first wife is her business. If probed, Tim reveals that he gained
custody of the children after their mother was found to be suffering from psychological problems and to have been abusing the children. He grows visibly uncomfortable, at this point, clearly disturbed by memories and unwilling to share them. If the Agents press, he says the abuse had ritualistic elements. The children had burns and cuts, and Chad, then only seven, had to be coaxed into saying that she prayed over them in words he could not understand.

Tim says Garrison lives in Chicago, as far as he knows. She has had no contact with the children in years. Further prying reveals that she was a Chicago police detective.

If her name is run up the chain, Delta Green has no organizational memory of Sarah Garrison.

Evelyn Bernier
Formerly a Tampa Police department dispatcher, Evelyn (Caucasian female, age 42) met Tim Bernier at a Clearwater beach a year after his move from Chicago. They became involved quickly, and Evelyn, who cannot have children due to polycystic ovarian disease, nearly instantly became the surrogate mom to the Bernier children. They took to her just as quickly.

Tim and Evelyn have been happily married for nearly seven years. Having deep involvement with law enforcement, she knows the ropes, and cooperates with feds (or people pretending to be feds) unless she spots something unusual. Anytime an Agent makes a miscue, have them make a Luck roll to avoid her becoming suspicious.

Evelyn is certain something bizarre is going on in the home, and has entered a mode where she hopes to brute force her way to the bottom of the mystery. She can’t say exactly what is going on, but she has a terrible feeling of foreboding.

Chad Bernier
Chad (African-American male, age 16) is a teen boy, and all that implies. His mind is elsewhere. He knows of the things going on in the house, but chalks all the concern up to overzealous women. He believes the mark on the door might have been a prank by someone at his school. Twice, he has heard things in the house when he thought he was alone, at night. Once, he thought he heard his sister and someone else moving around upstairs when he knew they were alone. But this doesn’t weigh too much on him. He is out and about until 10 P.M. almost every night.

Kathryn Bernier
Kathryn (African-American female, age 10) is a very smart young woman who is completely deaf. She attends the Tampa Language and Learning Center, a school which caters to those with hearing impairments. She is an excellent student. She is clearly the favorite of the family. Even her brother dotes on her.

Kathryn has a secret. Something has been visiting her at night since the mark was made on the door. At first, she was terrified. (She woke her parents the first night complaining of nightmares.) Later, as the creature approached her and contacted her through American Sign Language, she became fascinated with it. She does not know what “Sweetness” is (that is how it identified itself in ASL), but she is so drawn to the mystery that she lies to cover it up. Only very careful interviewing can coax the secret out of her.

She has no idea it is her biological mother.

Incidents in the House

The Shadowman appears only at night. However, a version of it (the non-Garrison version) haunts the shadows of the house even during the day. In this shadow mote form, it can do next to nothing but listen and follow, creeping along the cracks of the house where the light cannot go. (See THE SHADOWMAN on page 10 for details.)

When Garrison is piloting the Shadowman, it appears late at night in some random, reflective surface near the Bernier house. Then she asserts control. Under Garrison’s guidance, it swims through the air back into the nearest reflective surface, and emerges from another reflective surface in the Bernier house (usually the
Capturing or killing her is not enough to stop the Shadowman manifestations.

Chicago PD

Asking the Chicago police about Sarah Garrison is like talking to a brick wall. The Agents are connected with human resources, who connects them with a department lawyer, who says only that Sarah Garrison was in fact employed by the Chicago Police Department but is no longer. Trying to impress or intimidate the police with the Agents’ status as federal agents, if they are, gets nowhere. The FBI has no jurisdiction over Sarah Garrison’s case file. Even saying that she is suspected in an interstate crime does no good.

Agents with police background get the sense that stonewalling this complete can only be due to potential liability issues. The department must see something about Garrison’s service as a serious lawsuit risk.

It requires a search warrant to get access to Garrison’s official files. An Agent making that argument to a local federal judge needs to make a Law roll.

The Agents could also get more information by approaching one of Garrison’s old coworkers privately, off the record, by explicitly saying the conversation is not part of an official investigation. One of Garrison’s former colleagues was Detective Adrienne Moreno.

Moreno, or a case file produced by warrant, can reveal that Garrison and her partner, Detective Hank Thomas, were on an extended drug case that involved some very paranoid confidential informants and some very bad perpetrators. Moreno does not know any details, and the case file is extremely cursory, but after about two months it went bad. Thomas died in a shootout and Garrison was clearly suffering bad PTSD. She tried to tough it out, but it just got worse. The department let her go, and the union negotiated a partial pension, and that was that. Nobody on the force has seen or heard from her since.

Investigating Hank Thomas proves a dead end. His lived alone and nobody knew a thing about his work.
The door. The key. The keyhole. All the same.
Open the way for me now.
The living. The dead. The dying. All the same.
Open the way for me now.
Praises to Yog-Sothoth. Praises to his name.
Open the way for me now.

Piles of bills are scattered about, some ripped open.
Looking these over as a whole and making an Accounting roll (or having Accounting skill at 30% or higher) indicates two things:

» Garrison is on the brink of bankruptcy. She’s moving money between credit cards to cover bills she can’t afford. In the last year, those payments have become crazily erratic.

» She has defaulted on her Jeep, but is up to date renting a storage facility in Chicago: Unit 31, Lock ‘Em Up Self-Storage, 3306 North Kedzie Avenue.
Neighbors questioned about Garrison make faces indicating they know something is deeply wrong with her, and that frankly, the building might be better without her. But they are reluctant to speak too much about her, with her “being a cop and all.” No one, including the super, seems to know she was dismissed from the Chicago police.

They say they see her at odd hours coming and going from the building. They get the feeling she’s not here too often. Twice, due to complaints, the super watched as she filled garbage bags with filthy food and trundled them down to the compactor. She did so willingly, though she seemed sick, miserable, and “pretty messed up.”

Garrison’s Schedule
Garrison goes to a few all-night shops, cashes her pension check, and spends the money on junk food. She drives around in a rusted-out Jeep Cherokee which is falling apart. She makes no secret of going between the storage location to her tiny walkup on the lake. She doesn’t believe she has anyone to hide from.

She spends most of her time not in her apartment or the storage facility but in the Stone of Yos.

The Storage Facility
Lock ‘Em Up Self-Storage is a four-level, climate-controlled facility with forty big lockers (20 feet by 15 feet, or about six by five meters) on each floor. It is maintained by a clerk 24 hours a day. There are three clerks, each with a very different attitude on life and the value of personal property. No one can access the upper levels without a key card (carried by one of the clerks). To enter, visitors they must pass the front desk.

Larry Martinez (Hispanic Male, Age 24): Flash a badge, any badge, and Larry jumps to attention. He lets anyone into any locker with no hassle if they even vaguely smell of the police. He did two years in federal prison for auto theft, which is something no one at Lock ‘Em Up knows. He eagerly identifies which unit is rented by Sarah Garrison.

SONNY CARDWELL (Caucasian Male, Age 36):
Sonny is aggressively libertarian. He carries a copy of the Bill of Rights on his person, and immediately reacts to any badge by actively filming the Agent while asking for their ID number, agency, and full name. He refuses access to anything without a warrant. Even then, he tries to insist (without legal grounds; it’s a rented unit) that the Agents involve the renter of the unit. He does everything he can to not identify which unit is rented by Sarah Garrison.

Amber Broderick (Caucasian Female, Age 29):
Amber is a student of the human condition. Anyone attempting to bluff her must beat her Persuade skill of 44%. If they fail, she knows the Agents have no authority and openly demands a $200 bribe. If paid, she hands them the key card and says “30 minutes.” Amber identifies Garrison’s unit for an additional $50.

Unit 31, the Stone of Yos
Any clerk’s key-card opens Unit 31, which has a rolling garagelike door that rises easily with a tug. The Stone of Yos is the only significant object, standing in the center of the room, a waist-high, polished blob of obsidian which weighs about 160 kg (350 lbs). Nearby are a filthy sleeping bag and a bucket filled with urine cut with industrial cleaner.

When the Agents find it, there’s a 50% chance that the Stone of Yos is “active,” with Sarah Garrison inside it. Otherwise it is “dark.”

When active, the stone catches the light in unusual ways, seeming to emit blue green highlights where there should be none.

No one else may enter the stone when it is active. An Agent touching the stone must make a $\text{POW} \times 5$ roll. Failure indicates 1 $\text{POW}$ permanently lost; luckily, this can only happen once per victim. This psychic drain costs the victim 1/$\text{D10}$ $\text{SAN}$. If the SAN roll succeeds, the victim sees nothing, but feels a crazed wrenching of their consciousness. The victim’s point of view seems to be accelerated at speed across the surface of the Earth, before returning to their body. If the SAN roll fails, the...
Sarah Garrison

If caught outside the Stone of Yos, Sarah looks and smells sickly and homeless, with clearly crazed eyes. Her old colleagues at the Chicago police would barely recognize her. But she might recognize the Agents—not by name, but as murderous members of “The Group,” come to ruin her last chance of happiness with her children. Those accusations may clue the Agents in that they are dealing with someone who once served Delta Green. African-American female, age 46.

STR 12 CON 7 DEX 10 INT 14 POW 9 CHA 9

HP 10 WP 9 SAN 0

SKILLS: Alertness 45%, Athletics 30%, Bureaucracy 45%, Criminology 35%, Dodge 55%, Driving 55%, Firearms 45%, First Aid 25%, Forensics 30%, Law 25%, Persuade 45%, Stealth 35%, Search 60%, Unarmed Combat 45%.

ATTACKS: Charter Arms “Bulldog” revolver (.357 magnum, 5 shots) 45%, damage 1D12.
Unarmed 45%, damage 1D4–1.

The Shadowman

When Sarah Garrison “enters” the Stone of Yos, she vanishes into the stone and manifests in a shadowy, otherworldly form near the Bernier house. (The location is always a random, reflective surface from which it “emerges.”) When it moves fast, it appears as if dozens and dozens of silhouettes were overlaid in movement in time-lapse. It swims through the air as if through water.

When it holds still, it appears as an indistinct, humanized shadow which looks wrong. Distances to it are difficult to judge when it is not moving, as if it is both two- and three-dimensional at the same time.

It has no eyes or orifices of any kind and is utterly silent. It can collapse into a mote of darkness at a moment’s notice, like a shadow receding, and is nearly undetectable in this “hidden” form.

The Shadowman’s plan—when manifested by Garrison—is to gain her daughter’s trust, and then pull the victim is overcome with otherworldly visions of space-time which lasts for minutes.

When dark (unoccupied), the stone is completely black.

An Agent touching the stone vanishes instantly into it. For a moment, the stone glows bluish white, and then fades back to normal. Inside, to the “operator” it feels as if they are in a diving suit. They become the Shadowman (see below) and may explore its abilities normally. When they wish to “leave,” they can exit instantly. Exiting the stone, the victim loses 1 POW permanently (only once per victim) and 1/1D10 SAN (each time).

Destroying the stone is as easy as striking it with a sledgehammer. Guns have little effect. Anyone inside the stone when it is destroyed is lost forever, and the manifestations of the Shadowman cease. Those who realize that the Shadowman has been stopped gain 1 SAN.

Researching the Stone of Yos

Anyone with Occult of 40% or more or Unnatural of 20% or more can find the Stone in a few minutes on the Internet. It was first identified in Greece in 1946, sold at auction in 1951, and stolen from the Drake Field Museum in London in 1967. Since then, it has been reported missing.

The stone is linked to the same mythology as the Mark (see THE MARK on page 3).
girl into a reflective surface with her. Garrison has no idea what or why this compulsion has gripped her. She feels that doing so will solve all her problems.

Though this has not happened yet, and Garrison does not know it, if she does not enter the stone at night, the Shadowman will still manifest. But without Garrison’s guidance, it acts much more primally, attempting to locate and drag one of the Berniers into a reflective surface. If Garrison dies and the stone is not destroyed, this more vicious version of the Shadowman will continue to hunt the Berniers.

**The Shadowman**

**STR** 22  **CON** 30  **DEX** 13  **INT** 7  **POW** 10  

**HP** 26  **WP** 10

**SKILLS:** Jumping 45%, Swimming Through Air 75%.

**ATTACKS:** Grab 50%, damage special.

**GRAB:** If the Shadowman grabs a victim, it swims toward the nearest Portal. Once per turn, the victim may attempt a STR test against the Shadowman’s STR to break free. So can each helper trying to pull the victim free. If the attempt fails, it does not slow the Shadowman and the victim at all.

**THE HOST:** If the Stone of Yos is occupied, the Shadowman’s INT, POW, WP, and SAN scores are those of the occupant, and it knows languages known by the host.

**THE NAME:** The creatures’ chief vulnerability is the name of YogSothoth. Whispering the name is enough to inflict 1 damage on the creature. Saying it inflicts 1D4. Screaming it, 1D20. If the Shadowman hits 0 HP, it is dismissed it as if it had traveled through a Portal, though it may return. And you can bet anyone who knows that name will not see it coming a second time....

**PORTALS:** Any reflective surface can be used by the Shadowman as a portal for escape. The Shadowman’s form must obey the proportions of the surface, so it must be of sufficient size (no leaping into a fork). It typically manifests through mirrors, but a window seen from inside a bright room at night would also work. Whenever the Shadowman moves into a portal, Sarah Garrison loses control of it, and must re-enter the Stone of Yos to establish a new connection. It takes her 1D20 minutes to regain control and move the Shadowman back to the Bernier house.

**SWIMMING:** The Shadowman moves through the air as if it were water. It swims about as fast as a human walks. It can swim upwards, drift down, and float indefinitely in space. Seeing this strange movement for the first time costs 0/1 SAN. When the Shadowman alights on a floor, it can move as a normal human, but always seems to be working against some sort of invisible force of resistance.

**TRANSCENDENT:** The Shadowman is immune to all physical attacks. Period.

**VANISH:** In direct sunlight, or when hit with a high intensity illumination device, the Shadowman collapses instantly into a tiny mote of darkness, like a magic trick. Seeing this for the first time costs 1/1D4 SAN. It is very easy to assume it has teleported away. However, with a successful Search roll, this shadow is still visible as a tiny blob of impossible darkness. Hitting it again with a burst of such bright light causes the creature to retreat to a Portal.

**SAN LOSS:** 1/1D4.
KALI GHATI
A Delta Green operative is missing from a U.S. base in Afghanistan. It's up to the players' agents—soldiers, spies or academics with Delta Green clearance—to find him before the disappearance draws the kind of attention that the group cannot afford. Includes six ready-to-play agents.

THE STAR CHAMBER
A Delta Green operation in Myanmar went disastrously wrong. The players' agents must interview the team responsible. The action plays out from one conflicting point of view to the next. The players must decide who is at fault and who, if anyone, is telling the truth.

OBSERVER EFFECT
If we look too deeply into the roiling chaos of reality, chaos may look back. The Olympian Holobeam Array has gone offline in a catastrophic power surge. Delta Green has reason to suspect the worst. The players' agents have no idea what they'll find when they arrive.

VISCID
Two days ago, retired geneticist Tibalt Grieves and his girlfriend died gruesomely. A CDC specialist found weirdly unidentifiable samples. When the sun rose, Grieves' body began to smolder and disintegrate. When the players' agents arrive, they may find that even death has a half-life.

MUSIC FROM A DARKENED ROOM
Places, like people, go wrong. In the last 50 years, 18 people have died at 1206 Spooner Avenue, and you can feel it. Neighbors stay away. In the hours that stretch like taffy after two, no one hears the music from its darkened rooms. Will the players' agents be the next to die?

NEED TO KNOW & HANDLER'S SCREEN
A 48-page quickstart rulebook has six characters and a starter adventure. A sturdy, full-color game moderator's screen features and useful tables and data to aid the Handler and evocative art to unsettle the players.