A Victim of the Art

A Scenario for *Delta Green: The Role-Playing Game*

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Background

The first murder in five years in the quiet Long Island town of Glenridge was grisly. The victim, identified through dental analysis and fingerprints as local dentist Carl Maretti, was found in a culvert near the edge of the Great Peconic Bay, just inside a small park. His body had been extensively mutilated, and the exact cause of death could not be pinned down by the medical examiner. Maretti's spine had been forcibly removed from his torso and was never recovered. The head was found a small distance from the scene, missing its lower jaw.

Maretti was a family man with no enemies. Despite an extensive investigation, the Glenridge Police Department came up empty-handed.

The second murder occurred 22 days later. This time the victim was a local librarian at Glenridge High School, Vanessa Hatvan. Her body was discovered by groundskeepers early one morning hanging from the branches of an oak tree at the school. The mutilation resembled that of Dr. Maretti. Hatvan's spine had been removed, as had her head; this time, however, the head was not recovered. The Glenridge P.D. did what they could to keep this murder's details from the press but soon it was public knowledge that the killer had struck again, and the identical nature of the killings suggested a serial offender.

The physical evidence was strange, to say the least. No typical samples of the perpetrator's hair, skin, blood, saliva, or bite indentations could be found on the victims. Samples of tissue taken from underneath the fingernails proved to be a pulpy grey organic substance which defied analysis. The medical examiner could only



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say that the substance was an unidentifiable complex organic polymer. The huge wounds in the victims showed serrated marks reminiscent of heavy tree-cutting equipment. These wounds were ragged, however, leading the medical examiner to believe that whatever the instrument was, it was quite dull.

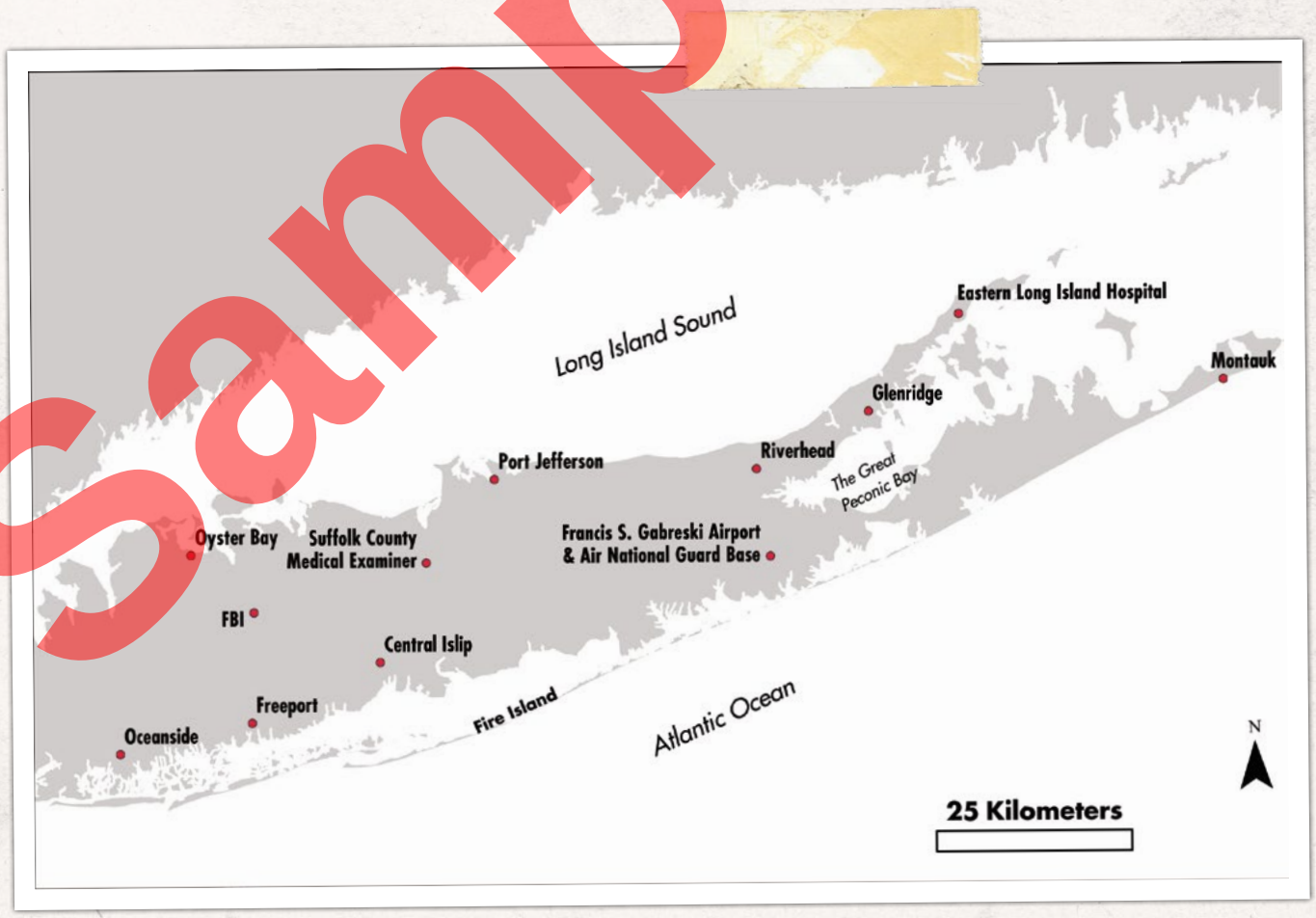
The fact that Hatvan's body was recovered 12 meters up a tree was another strange consideration. It was clear that the body had not been dragged up the tree; there was no evidence of blood or hair on the trunk beneath, and no evidence of rigging in the trees. Further examination revealed that the Maretti body had suffered blunt trauma consistent with a fall from a great height, like the Hatvan body. The medical examiner hypothesized that the bodies were being dumped at night from some sort of aircraft.

Glenridge became nationally famous due to the unusual nature of the crimes. Both the *New York Post* and *New York Daily News* sent two correspondents in town to keep tabs on the investigation. News agencies from around the U.S. reported on the "Glenridge Chiropractor," as the killer had become popularly known. Amateur conspiracy theorists from Phenomen-X.com took an interest.

The next murder occurred 15 days after Hatvan's. Lauren Harrogate was a popular cheerleader at Glenridge High School. She was snatched from the second story of her house by an unknown assailant who burst through a French door from a balcony off her room, setting off an alarm and alerting the police. Her mother, the only witness to the incident, has been completely catatonic since the attack, incapable of communication. Mrs. Harrogate had suffered from depression before the incident and it is believed that the trauma of the event has pushed her over the edge. She is now under the care of the Swansea Psychiatric Institute near Montauk, Long Island.

Lauren Harrogate's body was located early the next morning by police helicopters, hanging nearly 20 meters up on a large electrical tower near State Highway 31 on the north end of town. The mutilations matched the other victims, and again, the strange gray polymer was found beneath the fingernails.

The Glenridge police asked the FBI for help.



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>> Travel Times From Glenridge

A travel time of an hour or more can be halved if an Agent gets the FBI to provide a helicopter and/or government flight. That requires the equivalent of a Major expense using the official requisition rules on page 86 of the *Agent's Handbook*.

Destination	Travel Time
Eastern Long Island Hospital	15 minutes
Francis S. Gabreski Airport & Air National Guard Base	30 minutes
Suffolk County Medical Examiner	1 hour
FBI, Long Island Resident Agency	1.25 hours
Swansea Psychiatric Institute (near Montauk)	1.5 hours
LaGuardia Airport, NYC	1.5 hours
Pennsylvania Station, NYC	2 hours
FBI, New York Office, NYC	2 hours
Philadelphia, PA	5 hours
Quantico, VA	8 hours

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The FBI and Delta Green

The case fell in the lap of Assistant Special Agent in Charge Thomas Carson. Carson heads up Behavioral Analysis Unit 4 of the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC). NCAVC is part of the Investigative & Operations Support Section of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group. Based at the FBI facilities in Quantico, Virginia, NCAVC uses computer tools to track crime details, find similar details in other crimes, and piece together suspect profiles in conjunction with psychological, medical, criminological, and specialized academic and scientific techniques. Behavioral Analysis Unit 4 helps law enforcement agencies investigate and prosecute serial, spree, and mass murders, serial rape, kidnapping, extortion, and other serious crimes against adults. (Unit 3 handles crimes against children.)

Carson is a Delta Green contact who has had a few brushes with the unnatural, and he is well placed to help Delta Green arrange investigations of strange crimes. The bizarre details of the Glenridge deaths led him to think Delta Green might be required. He reached out to his Delta Green contacts, who worked with the Agents' own case officer to have them deputized by the FBI or hired as FBI consultants.

The Agents

The Agents find themselves in Glenridge under the guise of the FBI, helping the police track a killer. Agents who are already federal agents have credentials deputizing them as part of an FBI task force run by Carson in Quantico. Other Agents are listed as FBI consultants working under a contract for the task force.

During their preliminary briefing in Quantico, Carson tells the Agents that they may talk to him about legitimate FBI matters on FBI-issued secure smartphones. They are to *never* discuss the unnatural or the Program on those phones or any other forms of digital communication. If they need advice or help, one of them must head down to Quantico to ask Carson in person.

It is crucial for the players to understand that this is not an FBI case. Unless it occurs on federal government property, murder is not a federal crime. Officially, the Agents are here to help the Glenridge Police Department catch and prosecute the killer. When and if they find the truth behind the deaths, they must concoct some mundane explanation that lets the Glenridge police close the case without further exposure to the unnatural.

>> Timeline of Events

SEPTEMBER 1: Thomas Dengler receives a trunk full of his grandfather Derek Wheeler's mementoes from his travels in South America. Dengler takes to wearing the Ai-Apa amulet and unknowingly stirs the Ai-Apa from its interstellar rest.

SEPTEMBER 10–15: Thomas undergoes a series of painful surgeries at the hands of his friendly dentist, Dr. Carl Maretti.

SEPTEMBER 15: Maretti is found dead in a park only seven hours after Dengler's last dental appointment.

SEPTEMBER 16: Maretti's body is remanded to Dr. Stephen Santorini, the Suffolk County Medical Examiner, by Glenridge Police.

OCTOBER 6: Dengler is cited for speaking in study hall by Vanessa Hatvan, the high school's librarian. He endures an hour and half of detention after school, harassed by the thuggish louts suffering the same fate.

OCTOBER 7: Hatvan is found dead.

OCTOBER 8: Hatvan's body is sent to the Suffolk County Medical Examiner. Glenridge police worry that a serial killer may be on the loose.

OCTOBER 13: The first members of the New York press arrive in Glenridge and dub the killer the "Glenridge Chiropractor."

OCTOBER 21: Dengler calls Lauren Harrogate to ask her on a date; she turns him down. Harrogate is subsequently kidnapped from her home and is found dead later that night. Her mother collapses into catatonia.

OCTOBER 22: Harrogate's body is sent to the Suffolk County Medical Examiner. The Glenridge police ask the FBI for help.

OCTOBER 24: The Agents arrive.

Victim	Date Found	Location
Maretti, Carl	September 15	Peconic Park
Hatvan, Vanessa	October 7	Glenridge High School
Harrogate, Lauren	October 21	Electrical tower, Highway 31



Glenridge Map Key

1) Lauren Harrogate's body

2) Carl Maretti's body

3) Vanessa Hatvan's body

4) Carl Maretti's house

5) The Dengler house

6) Lauren Harrogate's home

7) Glenridge High School

8) Carl Maretti's office

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Help From the Program

What help Carson can provide on behalf of the Program is up to the Handler. He could easily put the Agents in touch with a specialist in South American history, replacing the need for museum research and granting them the lore in **ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS IN PERU** on page 11. But a question about the unnatural details of the case gets a useful response if the Agent makes a **Luck** roll. Such a response turns up 1D4 days after Carson ushers the question up the chain and it may not be germane to the current operation. A few guidelines follow.

First of all, the information should be vague and may not be current. For example, a question about a "flying creature" may bring back a half-dozen files from the 1950s and 1960s which involve all manner of Delta Green operations that sighted, killed, or saw agents killed by flying beasts. Some or none of them may be about the creature the agents are searching for, so some or none of the information may be useful.

Second, the information should be sparse. Nothing in-depth should be provided. At best, the information may lead to other, more relevant, sources; at worst, it is useless or even misleading. If the Agents make such a request and send a photo of the amulet, and succeeds at an **Archeology, History,** or **Occult** test to establish its particular historical context, they might get a heavily redacted research summary that says the amulet represents a mythical "Ai-Apa" or "Silent One," an air spirit that ancient priests supposedly summoned by providing a "Victim of the Art," a human sacrifice. An Agent could get the same detail by succeeding at an **Unnatural** test while conducting research in museums and restricted libraries in and near New York City. There is no chance of getting a spell that controls or banishes the Ai-Apa, and the words "winged servitor" will never be used.

The Program does not have a team of experts ready to send in as backup for the Agents. The Agents are the experts. If further personnel do show up, it will be a security team escorting a research specialist, and it will only complicate matters. See **THE CORAL NOMAD OPTION** on page 8.

The Perpetrator

Thomas Dengler, a local teenager, has come into possession of an ancient Peruvian religious artifact originally found by his grandfather, Derek Wheeler. This artifact links the soul of the wearer to the soul of a "Silent One" or "Ai-Apa," an unnatural creature known elsewhere as a winged servitor. The possessor of the amulet can summon and control this creature to do his or her bidding as long as a so-called "Victim of the Art," a human sacrifice, is provided. If the command involves no sacrifice for the beast it will take one, and if none is present save the caster then he is forfeit.

Thomas has no knowledge of the artifact's power. He wears the medallion as nothing more than a good luck charm. The beast still submits to his wishes, however. When Dengler dreams and his subconscious is loosed, the creature acts, killing sources of discomfort or pain in Thomas's life. As with most teenagers, Thomas has no shortage of enemies, real or imagined. All the victims are linked to Thomas in various ways: Dr. Maretti recently performed a rather painful root canal on the unfortunate youth; Vanessa Hatvan, the school librarian, cited Thomas for talking in study hall; and Lauren Harrogate was the object of his frustrated adolescent lust.

Thomas continues about his normal course like any teenager, listening to music, watching TV, going to movies, and so forth. All the while his hormonal subconscious is unwittingly selecting its next victim as a token for the silent one.

Getting Started

The Agents arrive in Glenridge late in the afternoon of October 24, posing as an FBI team sent to help the local police. They're greeted by Glenridge Police Detective Hannah Gregson. Gregson goes over the facts of the case as described in **BACKGROUND** on pages 1–2, answering the Agents' questions to the best of her ability. Gregson is not an incompetent investigator, but she is one of only four detectives in the Glenridge Police Department, including their supervisor, and the demands of this case have overwhelmed them.

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