

From the Dust

A Delta Green Operation by Dennis Detwiler

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Introduction

An evil has haunted Brooklyn since its earliest days. It was cut off at its apex in summer 1925, just before it brought something terrible to our world. With this ruin came the destruction of one of Brooklyn's most storied and reclusive residents, Robert Suydam.

An aged bachelor of old Dutch money, Suydam was the last of an ancient family that had landed in New York in 1666 when the young port was still called New Amsterdam. By all accounts, he was a wholly strange man. Excepting eight years in Europe searching for peculiar books, he spent his secretive life studying the occult in his once opulent, rotting Flatbush mansion. At age 60, in 1924, came his sudden and wholly unlikely transformation into an eligible bachelor. This coincided with Suydam's new associations with a church in Red Hook, a place of questionable providence, whispered to be linked to evil rituals on nights of the new moon. Suydam appeared to grow younger, more sane, and more coherent. He made a match with young Cornelia Gerritsen, of the Brooklyn Gerritsens, as wealthy and powerful as could be desired. It seemed a wonderful if wholly bizarre union.

In summer 1925, the newlywed Suydams turned up dead on a Cunard liner on the night of their honeymoon. Robert Suydam's body disappeared in

the possession of associates from his church. Cornelia Suydam, some said, had been clawed, ravaged, or strangled, but one thing was certain: the blood had been drained from her body. Still, the tale grew stranger. Brooklyn police entered Suydam's apartments at Parker Place and found a warren of tunnels, passages, and canals connecting to the East River. The excavations made possible the secret transit of people (or perhaps bodies) under the noses of the authorities.

The nightmare ended with a police raid—the maddened testimony of a detective trapped beneath Suydam's remains—the collapse of three worm-rotten houses at Parker Place—untold dozens dead beneath it, engaged in some unholy practice—the revelation that a cult had preyed on the children of east Brooklyn for decades. The news rose to the headlines but soon was forgotten amidst greater man-made horrors.

With no direct heirs, the property of the Suydam Mansion was left to Cornelia Gerritsen's father, Gunther Gerritsen, who took possession in summer 1926 after various legal disputes with far-flung Suydam relatives.

After that there was silence.

Until now.

What's Really Going On

Robert Suydam was a true seeker after the unnatural, and through a vast collection of odd books gathered in Europe he worked dark magics in Brooklyn. In early 1923, he was drawn to a Red Hook church, the Visitation of the Blessed Woman, ostensibly Catholic but bearing a much darker reputation. There, Suydam found like-minded individuals already caught in the immoral and degenerate worship of the "outer ones." They enacted rituals and tribulations in secret, orgiastic rites on the nights of the new moon. Suydam, already a believer and of significant means, threw himself into the cult whole-heartedly. With its secrets, he rebuilt his fortune through smuggling, illicit trade, slavery, and kidnapping. Before long, Suydam, seemingly blessed by the dark powers the cult worshipped,

appeared to have grown younger and more healthful than ever.

The cult was dedicated to a creature called Lilith, quite real. Its rituals involved the sacrifice of abducted children on moonless nights.

The cult worked to breed unwilling slaves with Lilith, in the hopes of producing offspring to act as their messiah. In all the time it had operated, back to the 15th century according to some whispers, not one child produced in such an unholy union had lived. Most perished in the womb, killing the mothers along with them. Others died with horrific deformities, unable to withstand exposure to any light. Still, the group called up Lilith on the nights of the new moon and made offerings to it.

The cult's magics worked many tunnels in and *through* our world, a vast series of interconnected spaces throughout Red Hook *and beyond*. Suydam carried on his rituals, interrogations, and learning. Finally, with the blessing of its inhuman patron, he took on a more public life, marrying in 1925.

On the Suydams' honeymoon, *something* horrific manifested, killing Suydam and his new bride. Such was the ritual. The cult brought Suydam's corpse to the cult's secret tunnels to reanimate it, to complete the creation of Lilith's avatar—but the ritual was interrupted by an intruder. The ritual failed and their fickle deity brought ruin down on the cult.

The cult collapsed along with Suydam's secret tunnels. At least, that is, those tunnels and spaces that existed in *our* world. Other, more secret tunnels remained in places *beyond* our three dimensions, unharmed, occupied by inhuman servants. To them, time was of little consequence. They knew to wait.

The mandate of those servants is simple: to once again begin the dark offerings to Lilith on nights of the new moon. To draw in those dedicated to the release of the "outer ones." To begin the cult anew.

The etchings and pentagrams that offered access to these secret spaces beyond our world were destroyed in all but one location. In Suydam's Brooklyn mansion, a sliding wooden panel in his study could open a portal *beyond*. This panel was folded in such a manner that the opening could not be accessed or seen by any who did not know its secret.

Twenty-two months ago, construction began to convert the Suydam mansion, now called the S. Gerritsen Mansion, to condominiums. A door to the other world has been reopened. Others have been built by less-than-human hands.

And things have come through to begin the chain of terror again.

Briefing

It is August in a year of the Handler's choice. A routine scan of crime reports brought a cluster of child disappearances around a suspected unnatural location to Delta Green's attention. No one except Delta Green has noticed the strangeness or linkages of the crimes.

Yet.

The site is the S. Gerritsen Mansion. Delta Green knows almost nothing about the mansion, only that it was entered in a database of hotspots in 1961 during a wholly redacted operation called BLISTER.

The report is concise: Over the last three months, three children have gone missing within five kilometers of the mansion: an infant in the Windsor Terrace neighborhood, another in Boreum Hill, and a two-year-old in Carroll Gardens. Local law enforcement have attempted to explain away the vanished children as kidnappings or parental abductions, though two of the three are still under active investigation.

Location, Time, Information

The Agents meet "Agent Blake" in an empty Burger King on 14th Avenue in Borough Park, Brooklyn, after dark. Blake is 40-something, balding, overweight, with a southern accent, obviously law enforcement. He seems put out. When he's not eating, he watches the street. He has a rolling suitcase with tags from JFK and ATL.

He briefs the Agents, with a focus on *brief*. He hands over case files for the children's disappearances. Welcome to Operation BLISTER II. The Agents are to:

- » Investigate the disappearances of the three children.
- » Determine whether the source of the disappearances is unnatural in nature, and whether they are connected to the S. Gerritsen mansion.

Red Hook Players' Map



In the Field: The Thousand-Faced Moon

When the Agents receive their briefing, the next new moon comes in 10 nights. That means the moon was full a few nights ago and the third-quarter half-moon is a few nights away. Use the phases of the moon to determine exact dates in your campaign. Online almanacs and calendars offer all the detail you need.

Keep track of the days that pass. Threats gather as the new moon approaches.

- » If they uncover the unnatural, Agents are to stop the incursion and report it to Delta Green. A telephone number is provided along with a code: 6644.
- » Bring any books recovered to Green Box 1191 (map and code provided).

Blake shoves a Burger King double meal across to the Agents, wipes his hands, and says, "That's on us." Agents never see or hear from him again.

The Phone Number

The telephone number calls into an automated message for Vacu-Care, a vacuum repair business registered in Newport, Connecticut. The message is always the same, and ends with "If you know the extension of your party..." If the code provided by Blake is entered, after two short rings, a female voice answers, "Go."

This voice wants to hear that BLISTER II is either resolved, a non-issue, or ongoing. She is also interested in books or items recovered by the group, asking for names and descriptions if possible. This phone number can be called any number of times, but the female voice on the far end provides no substantial assistance under any circumstance.

Green Box 1191

Green Box 1191 is located in a fenced site in Jamaica, Queens, called WE-STORE-U. The gate can be opened 24 hours a day with a push-button code. Fifty percent of the time, a security guard is at the gate (Dennis Kahn, white male, age 35), but he knows nothing about who rents the box or what's in it. He's just a minimum-wage grunt punching the clock. He glances up at those that enter or exit, but with a Search of only 20% he misses all but the most obvious of contraband. Any trouble and he immediately calls the police.

A five-meter fence around the property is topped by razor wire. Inside a space about the scale of a football field are 40 storage units.

Each storage unit is a single room, five meters square, with cement walls and a padlocked garage door. The roof is corrugated steel. The only other openings in the building are two vent stacks, each one foot square.

Inside unit 1191 is a cluttered array of items, including a pool table, a smashed Wurlitzer jukebox, a large pile of antiquated ski equipment, and a wooden pallet covered with a tarp. Under the tarp are several obviously out-of-place items:

- » A small stone dais of elaborate design stands at a slight angle in an orange Home Depot bucket. The dais was obviously removed with a jackhammer. Spray painted on the stone in red paint is "DO NOT TOUCH." A small teakwood-lidded box sits on the dais. The box is extremely dangerous. Contained within it is a winged servitor (see **WINGED SERVITORS** on page 230 of the *Handler's Guide*.) Touching the box at night releases it instantly and it attempts to kill everyone present before running rampant. At dawn, it is once again trapped inside the box. During the day, touching the box does nothing.
- » Fourteen Chinese made AK-47s still packed in crates stamped with Chinese characters, and four cases of Soviet ammunition (20 loaded magazines per case).
- » A plastic medical chest brace with a Glock 19 installed to point inward, toward the chest of whoever wears it. A pneumatic push-button attachment operates the trigger. Inside the chest plate is a long-dried bloodstain.
- » A shrinkwrapped bag of \$125,000 in American dollars with a stamp: *PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE*. It is covered in yellow, grating dust.
- » Half of a previously unknown, handwritten copy of *De Vermis Mysteriis* in Latin. If forensically examined, it is most likely of French origin, created sometime in the 16th century. It was torn in half by hand and certain pages are burned. Studying it grants +5% Unnatural skill and costs 1D6 SAN. See **DE VERMIS MYSTERIIS** on page 163 of the *Handler's Guide* for details. A handwritten note on the back cover reads: "9 9 2 0 .2 2 9 9 8 9 2 1 2 .3 3 3 *THIS IS IT.*"



The Disappearances

The New York Police Department deals with almost 500 missing children reports per year. Most of the missing are 13 or older, and most are considered “voluntaries,” those that run away of their own accord. Familial abductions number in the dozens a year and are most often resolved when the offending guardian is arrested in another state.

The three cases tagged as hits by Delta Green are different. The children were all very young. Suspicious elements were found at some scenes or no suspect of parental abduction could be identified.

March 6: Catherine Strauch

White female, age 7 months. The child was sleeping in a child carrier on a bed in a third-floor, one-bedroom apartment in the Windsor Terrace neighborhood of Brooklyn. Her mother (Emily Strauch, white female, age 22) was folding clothing in the living room, within sight of the bed. Outside the window, raccoon footprints were found in excrement on the fire escape.

At 6:08 P.M., the bedroom door slammed shut. Before she could reach it, the mother heard the lock turn. The mother broke the door down and found the carrier empty and overturned on the floor. In the bed she found three old, split bones with the marrow scraped out. These were later identified as human remains, the bones too old to have come from the kidnapped child.

The only suspect is the estranged mother-in-law (Janice Strauch, white female, age 61) who has a

history of psychiatric problems and saw the baby only once. The child’s father, Emily Strauch’s husband is serving active duty overseas.

Janice Strauch is under indefinite voluntary commitment to the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. Mother and father are not considered suspects. This case is still in active investigation.

April 5: Franklin Elders

Black male, age 11 months. The child was with his father (Devon Elders, Black male, age 29) at the Atlantic Avenue street market in the Boerum Hill neighborhood at 4:39 P.M. when he vanished. The father, in front of witnesses, was sitting and eating pizza, allowing the child to walk back and forth to a nearby food tent (unoccupied). The child went behind the tent, laughing, and was never seen again.

Suspicion fell on the father first, but dozens of witnesses came forward in his defense, and two cameras at the scene corroborate his story. Neither camera captured what happened to the child.

Extensive searches, a public outreach campaign, and multiple news stories failed to locate the child. On May 10, remnants of the child’s clothing were found at the mouth of a drainage pipe near the Brooklyn Heights piers about a kilometer away. The clothing had rips and tears consistent with animal bites and scratches, though no blood was present.

The current theory is the child fell down a sewer catch basin opening and drowned. Since no body was recovered, the case is still in active investigation.