

God's Breath

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Introduction

Denver, Colorado. October 2017. Biotechnology innovator Genetic Agricultural Products, Inc. (GAP), holds a minor but lucrative share of the American food additives market. Its market share has shown modest but consistent growth year over year since 2001. In fiscal year 2016, GAP posted \$100 million in sales with \$11 million in earnings. An in-house study a few years ago estimated that crops grown with GAP additives comprise 0.93% of American caloric intake.

In 2010, GAP launched a successful cultivation center for medical marijuana in Colorado. Dozens more followed in other states. Its involvement in legal marijuana would not last. Limited seed production restricted cultivation of its signature crop series, *Yerba Loca*, and Colorado state testing found excessive insect-part contamination. Meanwhile, GAP's share of the agricultural and food additive market showed growth for the fifth year in a row. In 2014, GAP began selling subsidiaries and pivoting away from marijuana.

So much for the public story.

What is not known to the public, or even to much of Delta Green, is that Delta Green has fought a quiet war with GAP's leaders since long before they took over the company. Inhuman, predatory doppelgängers stalk the one place the U.S. will never bomb: a corporate boardroom. They bolster GAP's products with unnatural infusions and use its profits to spread their

influence. Their human sacrifices and cruel rituals continue, held on private resorts and disguised as the more usual depravities of the international business community. Money has always been the best defense against American government interference. Year by year, as other priorities rise, the horrors behind GAP have fallen off Delta Green's radar.

With the enemy ascendent and Delta Green blind, a grasping entrepreneur stumbled upon a remnant of the old war.

In 2013 and 2014, legalization consultant Dakota Knight worked hard to help GAP's cannabis business succeed. It did not go well. Between communication problems with GAP leadership and the products' failed lab tests, Knight failed to get GAP marijuana operations approved in Colorado. After languishing in his office for a few months after legalization, Knight's contract with GAP expired. He wasn't too broken up about it. By the time he was escorted from the premises, Knight already had his first crop of seeds stolen from GAP sprouting in his basement. He founded his own cannabis company, Avalon Gardens. He intended to use all the sound advice his employers had ignored and get rich off their golden strain.

In less than two years, he would feed his first victim to the plants.

Dakota Knight doesn't so much grow the crop as they cultivate each other. Knight has no idea that *Yerba Loca* began as a terrestrial plant mutated by the milky seed of Shub-Niggurath. His new iterations evolved new corruptions of that fecund god into the world. Their increasingly otherworldly properties draw users ever closer to worship of the Black Goat.

Avalon Gardens has metastasized into a rampaging unnatural vector vining its way through Colorado's legalized weed industry, at a time and place where federal enforcement of drug law has never been under more public scrutiny.

Briefing

Monday, 9 OCT 2017, 2:30 p.m.

Agents are redirected from current assignments to an emergency meeting at the DEA Division Office in Denver. They're supposedly to be briefed into a joint FBI/DEA task force code named HOLIDAY, tasked with gathering interstate narcotics trafficking intelligence in post-decriminalization Colorado. Task Force HOLIDAY is as old as their plane tickets. Its booked conference room shall sit empty. It will be quietly shut down next fiscal quarter.

The Agents' case officer gives each of them the last-minute details by phone on encrypted, disposable devices. The Agents' real destination is Denver County Jail. On 8 OCT 2017, a Friendly in the U.S. Marshal's service was serving a prisoner transfer when the

facility entered lockdown. Officials reported a small riot and mattress fire, but the Friendly insists he saw something "alien" onsite. His voicemail, recorded frantically into what he had been told was the "official secret" hotline, contains a few concerning details. The case officer sends the relevant excerpt:

"I then proceeded to ascertain the video feed of the cell in question over the right shoulder of the guard. The suspect puked up—sorry, regurgitated—what appeared to be...some sort of alien worm, sir. It engaged with the canine unit for a moment, but then visual confirmation was lost when concussion grenades were used. By the time optics had recovered in the security center, the threat had been neutralized by the accidental ignition of...of a contraband accelerant present in the suspect's cell."

Pharmaceutical Marijuana

The contents and effects of *Cannabis sativa* are more hotly disputed than most drugs prescribed in the U.S. When legalization came, the lack of national best practices for testing forced state officials to cobble together a regulatory apparatus out of private labs, hearsay data passed through the black market, and the sporadic cooperation of academic institutions. Categories of examination such as potency and contamination tend to stay static, organized around old laws for agricultural and pharmaceutical production and consumer demands. Clear benchmarks and tests for reporting in those categories are not standardized between states, nor between labs within the same state. One meta-study found multiple genetic deviations across 30 dispensary samples of the strain "Purple Kush." Some mutations developed naturally; other claims proved openly fraudulent. Conversely, strains advertised as new hybrids proved to be exact clones of other plants. In every instance, the THC, CBD, and terpene profiles used to market products as *indica* or *sativa* had no correlation to the actual concentrations of those compounds. In 2017, every state that has decriminalized weed performs different tests for pesticides, mildew contamination, and potency. Genetic testing beyond a terpene inventory is not required. Some operations sequence the genome of every strain; others describe compounds with the scientific rigor of a horoscope. Once the minimal requirements of state approval are met, useful data tends to go up in smoke.

The Gentrification of Weed

Colorado was the first U.S. state to end recreational marijuana prohibition in 2012. The industry earned more than \$1.6 billion in revenue by its second year. As the possibilities of the "Green Gold Rush" became clear and legalization came to other states, the coalition of justice reform advocates, health professionals, and cultivators who fought for decades to restore sanity to U.S. drug laws found themselves cut out. Instead of rewarding those who fought for change, politicians granted lucrative marijuana licenses to political cronies and friends. Application fees were raised until only corporations need apply. Agricultural practices and genetic strains passed down through generations were stolen by venture capitalists who couldn't grow a dandelion. What criminal statutes remained were wielded selectively. Carrot-and-stick enforcements ensured only the most "professional" weed barons profited off drugs the country still imprisons thousands for consuming. It's a story that repeats with minor variations across nearly every state undergoing marijuana legalization: minority labor, innovation, and culture... stolen by white capitalists. A story as old as America.

The Friendly has already been sent home. He is not cleared for further involvement in this operation. The Agents are the Program's only trusted instruments on site. They are to figure out what the hell is going on. If there is an unnatural vector, identify its source and shut it down. Save lives. Cover it all up.

The jail reported inmate Radomir Reznik as the only casualty in yesterday's fire. The Program had him retroactively flagged as a confidential DEA informant working with Task Force HOLIDAY. The Agents are ostensibly going to Denver County Jail to assess why their witness burned up.

It's cloudy in Denver today, and the temperatures hover around freezing. For the next few days, the weather will be milder, around the teens in Celsius or around 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Denver County Jail

Program assets in the DOJ emailed the county about the Agents' imminent investigation at 2:00 p.m., a mere half hour before their arrival. The waiting area is crowded with angry visitors impatient at wait times even longer than usual. Helming the security station is Charlotte Miller, a junior officer on loan from the women's center. For all her ingrained toughness, she stares at the Agents with their federal government credentials like a deer in headlights.

The office wing is empty. Less than half of the scheduled staff showed up today. The ranking officer for this section of the facility and officers three ranks below him have all taken vacation or called in sick. The bosses weren't the only ones to stay home. The only staff on duty are working the floor or running recreation. Miller has no one above her to make official decisions and suffers all the blowback for making the wrong one.

The paper duty roster's binder stands open on the security station desk, behind a bulletproof window but clearly visible. None of the supervisors are listed on the duty roster for October 8, either, because there is no duty roster for October 8. The page was unceremoniously ripped out. If the Agents look, they find computer logbooks have been equally purged, along with all surveillance footage from yesterday.

Radomir Reznik in God's Teeth

Radomir Reznik's body reacted shockingly to Y3, the active ingredient in Avalon Gardens' popular distillates, in a way seen in no other users. Why? In some campaigns, that may linger as a mystery. In a God's Teeth campaign, the Agents might find out. Radomir Reznik was one of the survivors of Cornucopia House, listed by name in Cornucopia House records. In that case, Pitzerelli assigned MASTICATE as soon as he heard of the death. Maybe it's another Radomir Reznik. But Delta Green can't take the chance. Whether Pitzerelli tells the Teeth before they find out for themselves is up to the Handler.

Since arriving from Czechoslovakia at four, young Radomir managed to survive Babushka's early abuse and later digressions into more personalized depravities. Though forced into total silence alongside the rest by the abusive policies of Sabina Appolonov, Radomir never lost complete grasp of language, retaining some English and his native Czech. This cut him off from the influence of the Nameless God. He could only witness that force at work through the younger children. He avoided them in the yard as another predator trying to snuff out his cursed life.

Nothing he did saved him from becoming one of Babushka's experiments in communing with Shub-Niggurath. Those horrors became part of him. It took Y3 to awaken them.

At age ten, he was the oldest of the children recovered from the Skoptsi, one of the last brought to America through the international child-trafficking front Families Without Frontiers. If any Agent managed to get an older child to speak after the raid, it could very well have been Radomir.

Any Agent with **Bureaucracy, Law, or Military Science** at 30% or higher, or who makes a roll at +20%, can plainly tell they've walked in on a cover-up in progress.

The message is painfully clear: Somebody fucked up. Bad. But they thought they could weather the death of one vagrant. Now it turns out he was a high-value informant for the DEA.

The only people Agents are going to find here either had nothing to do with Reznik's death or have been thrown to the wolves by their superiors. Sgt. Eddie Pelaez, for example. Officer Miller says he's on duty in Block 2. She can get an officer to escort them through the checkpoints to talk to him. If they take her up on that, see **SGT. PELAEZ'S ACCOUNT** on page 6.

Reznik's Records

The Agents can find past data on Radomir Reznik, aka "Radds," in FBI databases. There are no federal records for Radomir before 2002, when he was taken in by a now-defunct Denver private mental health facility for at-risk youth. Colorado youth services might have more. Reznik caught his first adult charge for solicitation in Denver a month after he turned 18. He was arrested on multiple minor drug and solicitation charges from 2009 to 2011. A burglary charge put him in Colorado State Penitentiary from 2011 to 2017, two days ago. Yesterday, Denver City Police arrested him on a charge of disturbing the peace, public intoxication, and theft.

Bad Breath

In a *God's Teeth* campaign, Teeth who successfully use the **Scent** power (see **POWERS OF THE TEETH** on page 9 of *God's Teeth*) while at the jail detect a faint unnatural taint, bloody and effervescent, like a meatloaf-flavored seltzer. It comes most strongly from food in the cafeteria and kitchens, provided by Keefer Farms, LLC, a subsidiary of Genetic Agricultural Products, Inc.

That nauseating odor is overwhelming in the body of Radomir Reznik.

The same scent is in the vape juice in the evidence of Reznik's last crime.

And on the breath of anyone the Handler deems to have used Avalon Gardens marijuana products up to three days earlier.

And in the food services of every Colorado government facility.

And anywhere else the Handler decides GAP food additives own market share.

The reek is more often choking than helpful. The Handler can describe different, more intense odors around more corrupted individuals, giving players hot-and-cold clues at the cost of sanity.

Agents that link the same taint to Radomir Reznik's remains, Keefer Farms, and Avalon Gardens may roll for **Medicine** at -20% or for **Unnatural**. On a success, the Agent realizes that Reznik was exposed to unnatural contagion for most of his life: first through Cornucopia House, then in the tainted food provided by a series of Colorado state institutions, and finally through a high-potency unnatural narcotic. Reznik led the race to a mutagenic tipping point, but based on a corrupting exposure everyone shares. He won't be the only; he was only the first.

If the Agents also learn of Dakota Knight's background with GAP, they have all the puzzle pieces to connect Radomir Reznik's death to the true source of unnatural corruption.

Of course, using maddening supernatural senses to achieve such investigative success gives the Program all the more incentive to leash the freaks in MASTICATE and turn them into Delta Green's bloodhounds for life.

The Incident

The Agents have no legal standing to search the penal records of the Denver County Jail or the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC). But with so many supervisors gone, no one is going to get in their way. If they ask Officer Miller at the security desk for visitor passes into the office wing, she asks why. If they give any reason even remotely plausible—anything that would let a supervisor who likes her say she was probably right—she hands the passes over.

Multiple desktop computers are still on and logged in. The Agents need only have a seat and get to work. CDOC files show a single incident report after re-incarceration, filed yesterday. The scant report wasn't meant to withstand deep scrutiny. See **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS INCIDENT REPORT** below.

Evidence for Case 17CR1182 can be found at Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse on the other side of town. It was dropped off at the courthouse in preparation of Reznik's arraignment. See **CASE 17CR1182** on page 8 for details.

Youth Records

With a successful **Computer Science** or **Search** roll, an Agent can string together enough desk blotter passwords to sign in as a juvenile corrections officer. This allows access to Reznik's sealed records in the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services, through cross-networking.

Reznik came to Colorado in 2002 at age 10 as ward of Cottonwood Corners, a now-defunct private mental health facility for at-risk youth. Cottonwood Corners received him from Mary's Place, a Maryland state-run orphanage that was defunded by Gov.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS INCIDENT REPORT

Prisoner Number: 179166

Reporting Employee: Sgt. Pelaez

Case Number: 17CR1182

Date of Incident:

Cell Number: 201

Time of Incident:

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Prisoner #179166 (Case 17CR1182) complained of difficulty breathing and requested medical assistance. Sgt. Pelaez opened Cell 201 to assist #179166. #179166 proceeded to assault Sgt. Pelaez as Sgt. Pelaez entered room. CDOC K9 Unit "Keller" intervened. #179166 fatally wounded K9 Unit "Keller" as Sgt. Pelaez exited and closed the cell. Prisoner #179166 disabled the security camera in Cell 201. Denver CERT arrived at 0645 and made entry on the cell at 0655. A flashbang was deployed. CERT could not ascertain the presence of a contraband alcohol distiller erected in the cell by #179166. The flashbang combusted accelerant in the still. This caused a fire and forced CERT withdrawal. Fire extinguishers were used to contain the blaze and limit damage to Cell 201. Prisoner #179166 expired in the flames. The remains were transferred to the Office of the Medical Examiner of the City and County of Denver. No next of kin could be found for contact.