

THE TANGLED WEB OF TRUTH

War rages in Central America, tensions between dragons are on the rise, and the Watergate Rift has been closed in a display of power that shook the city of DeeCee to its core. To many, the world is becoming more disordered and unpredictable—but there are those who look underneath the surface chaos and see order, or even a plan. They see people and organizations who pull the strings and make the world shake, and they wonder if they can find out what these people are up to before it's too late.

CONSPIRACY THEORIES is a deep dive into the underbelly of the Sixth World, a place filled with crackpot theories and insane ideas that would be laughable if it weren't for the fact that some of them are most assuredly true. If they want to stay alive, shadowrunners need to know this information to keep them a step ahead of the forces that may be massing against them behind the scenes. If they want to do more than survive—if they want to prosper—they really need to know this data, because any runner worth a damn knows that manipulating people based on what they believe to be true is a great way to make a few nuyen.

Bringing together plot elements from *War!*, *Spy Games*, and the *Dawn of the Artifacts* series, *Conspiracy Theories* adds a twisted element to *Shadowrun* games. *Conspiracy Theories* is for use with *Shadowrun*, *Twentieth Anniversary Edition*.

Sample file

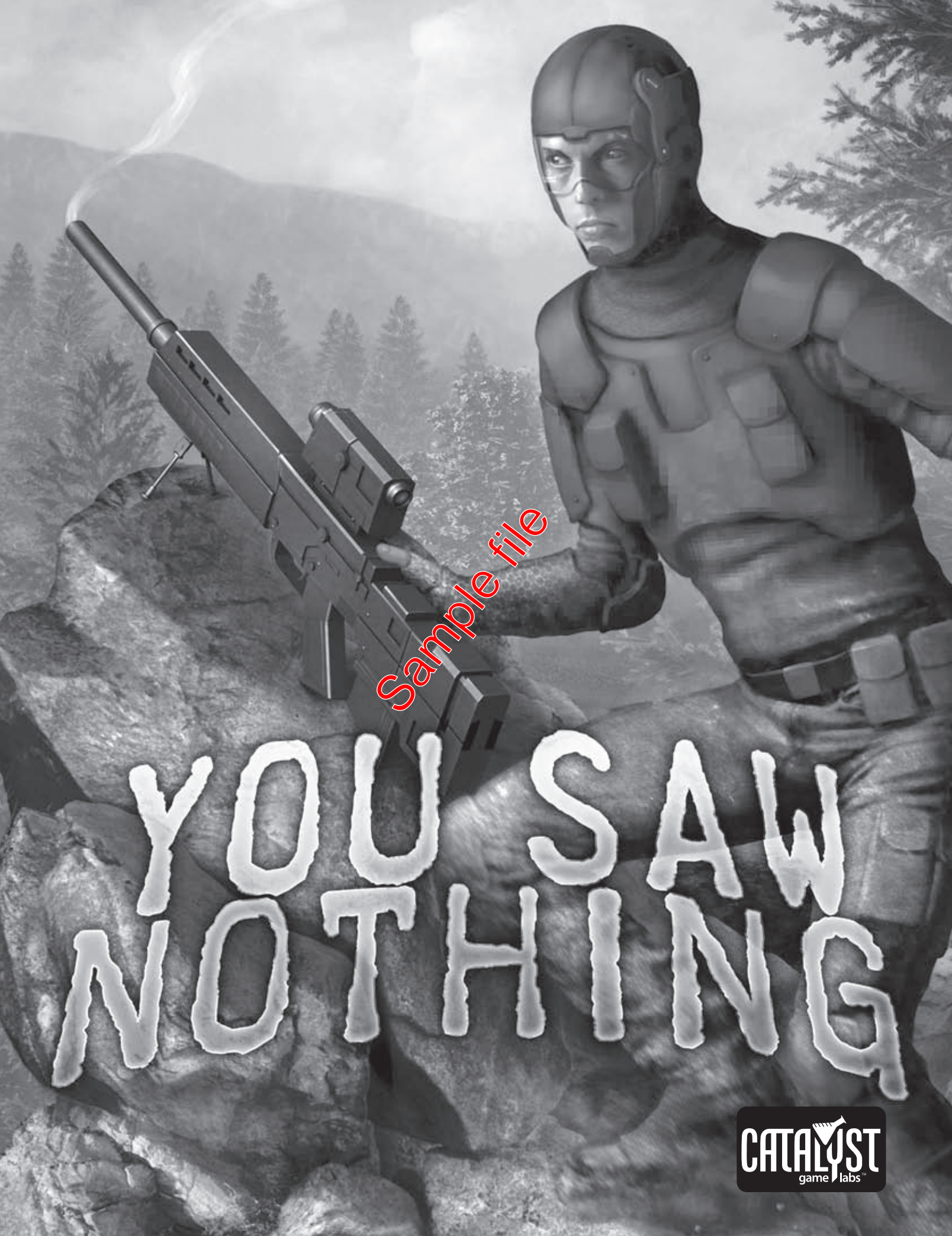


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Sample file

YOU SAW
NOTHING

... TABLE OF CONTENTS ...

IT'S THE FALL THAT'LL KILL YOU	5	The Truth about Léonization	64	Getting In and Around	86
INTRODUCTION	9	Bugs are Everywhere	66	Law Enforcement	87
PARANOIA WON'T DESTROY YA	10	Gnomes of Zurich vs. The Immortal Elves	67	Social Basics	87
Plan 9	10	Wuxing Quintuplets	68	Medical Care	88
Snopes	14	Dragon Eggs	69	Media	88
Fianchetto	16	Aliens Caused the Awakening	71	History	88
SHADOWTOWN SHOWDOWN	20	The Philosopher's Pill	72	Rise of the New Druidic Movement	90
THE POWERS THAT BE	25	The Kriofsk	73	City of Secrets	93
A Great Dragon Civil War?	27	Maine's Algorithm	73	Age of the Pendragon	94
Bug Spirits:		New Wyrm Order	74	Geography	95
The Next Generation?	33	Sinners	75	West End and the Underplex	95
The Corporate Court:		The Annunaki	76	City of London	97
Stolen Protocols?	42	Japanese	76	Westminster	98
Ares: The Beginning of the End?	44	China	76	East End	99
Aztlan: A Deepening		Australia	76	The Unreal City	100
Global Crisis?	47	India	76	Barking and Dagenham	101
Human Nation: End Game		Middle East	76	The Undercity	102
Solution for Metahumans?	51	Africa	76	Conspiracy Culture	103
The Black Lodge and the IOND:		Europe	77	Enablers	103
A New World Order?	53	South America	77	Nurturers	105
BUBBLING TO THE SURFACE	58	America	77	Investigators	107
Dunkelzahn Lives	61	King Anu	77	People to Know	109
Dunkelzahn's Real Will	62	The Illuminati	77	Queen Caroline	109
		2011	77	Prime Minister William Darch	110
		The Awakening	77	Johnny Spinrad	111
		IT JUST HAPPENED	80	Rhiannon Glendower	111
		LONDON	84	Celedyr	113
		Facts at Your Fingertips	86	Lord Justin Carmichael	113
		Climate	86	Sir Adam Dashwood	114
				Martin Kennedy	114
				Ramona Cubbins	114
				Sheila Bennett	115



Jackie Crumb	116
DEECEE	117
Facts at Your Fingertips	118
Life in the Swamp	118
The Region	118
Getting In	120
Air	120
Rail	121
Automobile	121
Getting Around	121
Law Enforcement	122
Norms in the Beltway	123
Medical Care	124
Media	124
How It Got This Way	124
Slouching Toward Gomorrah	124
Rush 'N Attack	127
Neck Deep	128
... And Upside-Down	129
Urban Warzones	130
The Dragon	131
A Faded Golden Era	131
The End of the World	132

The General Returns	133
WEIRD WASHINGTON	135
Occult America	135
After the Watergate	135
The Hidden Vatican Archives	136
The Next Los Angeles?	137
Revolution Carousel	137
The Daviar Conspiracies	138
Digital District	141
The Beltway Sprawl	141
Washington	141
Arlington	145
Alexandria	147
Fairfax	148
Howard County	148
Montgomery County	148
Prince George's County	149
Beyond the Sprawl	150
Who Do You	
Know in This Town?	151
UCAS Government	151
Independent Fixers	158
True Power	159
Corporate Assets	160

PLOT HOOKS	162
Identity Crisis	162
Playing Cupid	162
The Three-Five	164
A Better Roach Motel	164
Five Point Fixers	165
Frankenware	165
Dragon Scale	166
A Regular Life	166
The Mr. Fizzy Code	167
MAGIC RITUALS	168
Aztlán	168
The Black Lodge	169
Sirrurg	171
Illuminates of the New Dawn	172
Draco Foundation	173
Atlantean Foundation	173
Apep Consortium	174
Intangible	174
Lucky	174
Piercing Vision	175
Regenerate	175

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First Printing by Catalyst Game Labs, an imprint of InMediaRes Productions, LLC
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UNION #NIT AXI AXNO JCLAXX



Connecting JackPoint VPN ...
... Matrix Access ID Spoofed.
... Encryption Keys Generated.
... Connected to Onion Routers.
> Login

> Enter Passcode

... Biometric Scan Confirmed.
Connected to <ERROR: NODE UNKNOWN>
"Civilization is a conspiracy. Modern life is the silent compact
of comfortable folk to keep up pretences."

JackPoint Stats

94 users currently active
in the network

Latest News

* <102673> Sorry, I let some maintenance slide over the past few days. Had to take care of some business, but all is good now. -FastJack

Personal Alerts

* You have 7 new private messages.
* You have 8 messages queued for anonymous re-routing.
* You have received 3 new Metalink Friends add requests.
* You have 19 new responses to your JackPoint posts.
* PDA: Local Illuminati chapter meets tonight, 11:30 PM
* PDA: Sell that last dragon claw clipping before someone comes looking!

First Degree

You are hidden from all contacts.

Your Current Rep Score: 65
(83% positive)

Current Time: 26 October 2073 2:14

PREFERENCES

FEEDS

TASKS

LINKS

HISTORY

Welcome back to JackPoint, omae;
your last connection was severed: 33
hours, 8 minutes, 20 seconds ago.

Today's Heads Up

- * How a part of the world blew up, and some people made good money off of it [Tag: [Artifacts Unbound](#)]
- * We couldn't get all the good stories into a single posting. [Tag: [Street Legends Supplemental](#)]

Incoming

- * Keep up. No one ever died from being too current. [Tag: [State of the Art](#)]
- * The corps are hiring. Can you live long enough to get paid? [Tag: [Corporate Intrigue](#)]

Top News Items

- * Lofwyr says Celedyr is behind intercent for S-K communications in Great Britain. [Link](#)
- * Gov. Brackhaven officially kicked off his 2074 re-election campaign with a rally held at the foot of the Space Needle. In his remarks, the governor said that Seattle has become a safer, more livable community, but fights still need to be waged to ensure future prosperity. A group of pro-Ork Underground supporters briefly interrupted the rally in support on the upcoming Proposition 23. In discussing Prop 23, Governor Brackhaven said, "I am confident that on November 7 the voters of Seattle will make the right decision." [Link](#)
- * Woman found slain in Denver confirmed as a victim of the Mealtime Killer. Victim discovered at home with throat torn out, words "Midnight Snack" scrawled in blood on the wall above her body. Other victims in Seattle, Portland, and Las Vegas had similar messages left behind. Knight Errant says they are coordinating efforts with other cities. [Link](#)



CHAT

MESSAGES

FILES

POSTS

NEXUS

SEARCH

Active

TomStar
Firewall

Active

Jack-in-the-Box
Antivirus

Active

SpamWitch
Filter

On/Receiving

Commscode

Excellent



Signal

Active



Hidden
Mode



Local
Map

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Posts/Files tagged with
"Conspiracy Theories"

Paranoia Won't Destroy Ya
The Powers That Be
Bubbling to the Surface

[More]

CONTINUE

ADVANCED
SEARCH

SAVE

... IT'S THE FALL THAT'LL KILL YOU ...

FastJack was armed to the teeth, at least in a metaphorical sense. He had loaded a full combat suite onto his commlink, and as he approached the node he took the JackHammer into his virtual hands and held it ready. The node he was approaching was supposed to be a representation of an idealized Arcology Mile, before the Twins, and before El Infierno. It was a system of orderly function and efficiency instead of chaos and ruin. One of these gleaming towers of commerce hid the Horizon Office of Special Projects, and inside of it was the Dawkins Group. FastJack had been studying and probing the Horizon system off and on for a year and had held off his response. He wanted to wait, assess the situation, and have a plan. He hacked Zurich-Orbital, the Aztechnology Heart of Darkness, and the Vatican, but now this was becoming personal.

The virtual sun felt warm. This was idealized Los Angeles, where the sun was always golden in azure skies, and the smell of oranges and ocean wafted through the node. Everything was hyper-real, slightly oversaturated, and perfect. Perfect colors. Perfect lines and subtle architectural features of Southern California Modernism, Art Deco, and the modern wonders of architecture that could only exist with computer designs and materials that did not exist seventy years ago, before nanotechnology and magic. No one could sense he was here, thanks to stealth routines, data scrubbers, and agents running pre-programmed deception codes that made everything seem normal until it wasn't.

FastJack didn't like engaging in cybercombat. It was uncomfortable for a man of his age and skill level, but this was a search-and-destroy mission. It was also a message to the Dawkins Group, and Horizon in general, that if they wanted to wage war on him and his friends, then he would return the favor tenfold.



FastJack stared at the three-dimensional holographic photo array against the backdrop of a blank wall. He sighed at the faces of the sixty-four members of JackPoint, including Fatima, and an equal number of guest users ranging from Duante in Lagos to Otaku-Zuku in Neo-Tokyo, and the likes of Dr. Kristine A. Martin and Eliohann. A gross of metahumans, and one dragon's e-ghost, no longer constituted a private intelligence-sharing network.

It was a conspiracy of thieves.

He knew that the corporations maintained data on individual shadowrunners and had done so for decades. He had implemented security features so that the site did not repeat enough for people to

gather network analysis, no matter how many people were logged on. Even when it would, the amount of information collected on data traffic should have made analysis considerably difficult. Part of the reason he recruited Puck was to ensure that there weren't other means that he couldn't predict that technomancers might be able to find.

He didn't count on a prodigy. There were stories about people who could see what even the best computers and cyberlogicians could not see. They had advanced social network analysis software, pattern recognition algorithms, and other analytical and predictive mapping systems, but those all adhered to certain programming limits. Magic didn't care for the limits of human and scientific potential, though he expected that it would be the otaku and now technomancers who'd bypass that limit. But there was no divide between the meat world and the Matrix anymore. He had lost sight of the "real" as he adapted to ensure his footing as the best hacker-decker-hacker in the world.

Horizon didn't miss this. The intuitive human brain once again prevailed over technology, and now he and his allies were targets. It helped them that their analysis drew attention to JackPoint through the non-deckers. Orbital DK was the exception, but she had security and access issues that made her unique. Even Fianchetto was not sufficiently up-to-date on his counterespionage efforts against a dedicated hunter like Horizon, though they did pick up enough disinformation that it was not for a lack of precaution on his part.

A blonde woman of indeterminate age walked up next to him and handed him a coffee mug. He took the cup, not quite sure what to make of the web of lines connecting each of the users to each other, and to external nodes. His analytical programs ran models, and he would pick out certain users and try to think of what he knew about them, hoping for an intuitive leap that the software just couldn't make.

"I appreciate your trust in me. We have dossiers on most of your users, but the personal attention you took to try and preempt Horizon was more than anyone else would have been able to accomplish." She waved away the array and brought up the ten original dossiers that brought JackPoint to Horizon's attention.

The ten who set off Dawkins' campaign to disrupt and destroy the group from the inside, and cause them to hack into the network itself. He had to assume that they had the roster, and kept coming back using the backdoor he left open. He kept it there so that he could track them, but it had some unintended consequences. The anonymous postings ceased to be amusing, but they had provided him with variables that even Horizon could not anticipate. The spies told him not to go down the path of trying to anticipate actions and reactions when he kept the backdoor open. He had to fight every fiber of his being not to shut them down.

"The bias of the analyst and of the Dawkins group affects how they react to JackPoint, and that's not something any algorithm can account for. Even with all we know about Ms. Davis, Integration Analysis, and the Consensus, it's still trying to measure the reaction logically when people do not act that way. If we take Cline and what is known about the Consensus, then it is a massive network dynamic model. The unique attribute the ten share becomes clear from a logic-based analysis."