



BACK TO THE OLD HOUSE

A FIASCO PLAYSET BY SEAN BUCKLEY

SBO1 BACK TO THE OLD HOUSE

CREDITS

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BOILERPLATE

This Playset is an accessory for the *Fiasco* role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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"When you play, play *hard*." - Theodore Roosevelt

THE SCORE

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN CALLING YOU

It's dead dust breath seeping though splintered doorways. The dark hiss of long forgotten stations. Endless nights huddled in the death shed, and tears at bedtime. The house is calling, but you don't pick up.

You've tried to forget, to make a fresh start and be somebody new, but it's all bullshit. Everything that counts for anything went down in that fucking house. Bad things happened, and you were a part of it. You left unfinished business. That's why you need to go back. To finish it. To end it all.

You would rather not go back to the old house.

But you will.

MOVIE NIGHT

Mulholland Drive, Sapphire and Steel, Pan's Labyrinth, The Changeling, The Haunting (original version), A Tale of Two Sisters, Let the Right One In

BOOK CLUB

The October Country, Happy Like Murderers

PUMP UP THE VOLUME

Winter in the Belly of a Snake, Hatful of Hollow

SPECIAL RULE

At the end of the Aftermath, after the dice are gone, players should describe something good that happens in the future at the site where the house once stood.

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 BETRAYAL

- ◻ Benefactor and impostor
- ◻.◻ Protector and unprotected
- ◻.◻.◻ Blackmailer and victim
- ◻.◻.◻ Bully and bullied
- ◻.◻.◻ Buyer and seller
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ Agent and double agent

2 OBLIGATION

- ◻ Feeder and fed
- ◻.◻ Jailor and jailed
- ◻.◻.◻ Clown and machinist
- ◻.◻.◻ Master and servant
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ Butcher and meat-hook
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ Nurse and patient

3 FAMILY

- ◻ Childhood accomplices
- ◻.◻ ...in name only
- ◻.◻.◻ Parent and child
- ◻.◻.◻ Auntie Beryl and Uncle Death
- ◻.◻.◻.◻ "It made us from the same old bones"
- ◻.◻.◻.◻.◻ Rival/devoted siblings

4 IN DREAMS

- ◻ Amnesiac and fantasist
- ◻ Ancient child and imaginary friend
- ◻ “We dream the same dream”
- ◻ Hunter and hunted
- ◻ “It landed in the desert and we took it home”
- ◻ One heard the voices, one made the plan

5 LOCAL NEWS

- ◻ Concerned neighbor and neighbor from Hell
- ◻ Radio DJ and creepy folk musician
- ◻ Paranormal investigator and podcaster
- ◻ Law enforcement officer and fugitive
- ◻ Photographer and victim
- ◻ Washed up celebrity and notorious graffiti artist

6 HOUSEHOLD CHORES

- ◻ Chef and meal
- ◻ Plumber and saboteur
- ◻ Architect and builder
- ◻ Decorator and debt collector
- ◻ Cleaner and dirt
- ◻ Gravedigger and murderer

...IN THE OLD HOUSE

NEEDS...

1 TO FEED

- ...the family, whatever the consequences
- ◻ ...lies to the hunters
- ◻ ...a prisoner, or *on* a prisoner
- ◻ ...something very big into something very small
- ◻ ...intercepted data to an addict
- ◻ ...one pet to another pet

2 TO BUILD

- ...a trap to set us free
- ◻ ...an addition to the house
- ◻ ...a machine that will do our work long after we are gone
- ◻ ...a bridge that might take us truly home
- ◻ ...furnishings from flat-packed kits
- ◻ ...an exact replica of something incredibly complicated

3 TO GET REVENGE

- ...on the family
- ◻ ...on a murderer
- ◻ ...on a coward
- ◻ ...on a traitor
- ◻ ...on the one who forgave you
- ◻ ...on the one who brought you back

4 TO CONTROL

- ◻ ...the pain from the wound and/or operation
- ◻◦ ...dangerous emissions
- ◻◦◦ ...the food supply
- ◻◻◻ ...the volume
- ◻◻◻◻ ...an overwhelming sense of guilt, grief or shame
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...the crowds that seem to be gathering

5 TO EXPOSE

- ◻ ...the lie that holds everything together
- ◻◦ ...your own skeletons
- ◻◦◦ ...your naked flesh to the baying mob
- ◻◻◻ ...a parasite
- ◻◻◻◻ ...the truth about what they did to you
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...what's really on the menu

6 TO BE LOVED

- ◻ ...until Tuesday
- ◻◦ ...by the mourners
- ◻◦◦ ...by the voices
- ◻◻◻ ...by the family
- ◻◻◻◻ ...by the Old Ones
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...by your victims

...IN THE OLD HOUSE

LOCATIONS...

1 TRANSPORT

- Elevator
- Ghost train
- The rear of the last night bus
- Old burnt-out car in the woods
- Clinging to the back of a demon
- Tandem bicycle

2 CRIME SCENES

- Caravan you grew up in
- Behind the big iron gate at the scrapyard
- Behind the bins at a service station
- Room where all the killing will happen
- Room where all the kissing did happen
- Top floor of the Crestmoor, Upper West Side, New York City

3 DARKNESS

- ...in a beautiful sun-lit garden
- ...under the monster's bed
- ...and death on the stairs
- ...at a terrible performance
- ...in the little box
- ...in the tunnels under the house

4 OUTSIDE

- At the crossroads
- ◻ On the bridge
- ◻ Immediately after the accident
- ◻ At another funeral
- ◻ ...the hospital incinerator
- ◻ In the long, dark trenches

5 BETWEEN THE CRACKS

- An impossible beach
- ◻ In the fire of burning souls
- ◻ In a rowboat with a dead hare
- ◻ Inside a hologram of her bedroom
- ◻ Lost in television
- ◻ Trapped under the ice

6 HOME COMFORTS

- Radio room
- ◻ Cupboard under the stairs
- ◻ Basement pump room
- ◻ Forgotten attic *Wunderkammer*
- ◻ Dark stairway to the battlefield
- ◻ "Feeding paraphernalia" room

...IN THE OLD HOUSE

OBJECTS...

1 FOOD AND DRINK

- Leftovers from the feast
- ◻ An unhappy meal
- ◻ Sound and vision
- ◻ Fresh, warm, and wriggling
- ◻ In a black plastic bag in the back of the wardrobe
- ◻ Soul soup

2 APPLIANCES

- Feeding equipment
- ◻ Radio that broadcasts the dreams of the dead
- ◻ Humming medical pump
- ◻ Walk-in freezer with multiple padlocks
- ◻ Huge archaic switchboard
- ◻ Camera that puts the dead people back

3 WORKING FROM HOME

- Comfy chair
- ◻ Regrettable contracts
- ◻ Hidden CCTV
- ◻ Surgical instruments
- ◻ Instruction manual
- ◻ Projector of an unusual sort

4 DANGEROUS

- Last Will & Testament
- ◻ Box of old letters
- ◻ Cage
- ◻ “Get better” medicine
- ◻ Faulty generator
- ◻ Valium harpoon

5 HIDDEN

- Photographs that should stay hidden
- ◻ Diary that should never be read
- ◻ Costume that should not be worn
- ◻ Partially completed to-do list
- ◻ Tragic confessional letter
- ◻ Doorway connecting physically unconnected places

6 KEEPSAKES

- Chunks of meat
- ◻ Scars
- ◻ Murder weapon
- ◻ Cattle prod with “happy smiles” scratched on its casing
- ◻ Bottle of tears
- ◻ Dirty skeleton in an old sports bag

...IN THE OLD HOUSE

A INEVITABLY MELANCHOLY INSTA-SETUP

RELATIONSHIPS IN THE OLD HOUSE

For three players...

- * "It made us from the same old bones"
- * Benefactor and Impostor
- * Nurse and patient

For four players, add...

- * Gravedigger and murderer

For five players, add...

- * "We dream the same dream"

NEEDS IN THE OLD HOUSE

For three players...

- * ...to expose a parasite

For four or five players, add...

- * ...to feed the family, whatever the consequences

OBJECTS IN THE OLD HOUSE

For three or four players...

- * A radio that broadcasts the dreams of the dead

For five players, add...

- * Bottle of tears

LOCATIONS IN THE OLD HOUSE

For three, four or five players...

- * The dark stairway to the battlefield