

WEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN

KEEPER'S MYSTERY GUIDE

WEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN 1/71



Complexity: 6

Main Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Date: August 202X (Dog Days of Summer)

Contact: Camila Cardón, La Bruja Buena (she/her)

OMEN-CLASS MONSTERS, a series of ritualistic murders in the homeless community suggests that a Door of Power may be located somewhere in the vicinity of Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. City government has requested assistance with ascertaining the cause of these murders and bringing a stop to them. Their designated operative, Camila Cardón, will orient you to the situation and act as your go-between. **ATTENTION:** Be advised that a VIP may be among the people you engage with; DIVISION expects special consideration of their needs be taken into account in all engagements. HARBINGER-CLASS MONSTER is suspected of perpetrating the murders to destabilize the tense political climate. Find the DOOR OF POWER and contain it before the Harbinger claims ASCENSION.

CONTENT WARNING: Homelessness, gentrification, class conflict, gang violence, the drug trade, transphobia, harm and death of children, teen pregnancy, death/murder of sex workers, subliminal messaging and mass mind control, colonization and cultural appropriation..



Description

The city of Albuquerque is experiencing an intense summer heat, with days reaching the high 100's (40–42°C). Hot summers are the norm, but this heat is oppressive and the monsoons are late. As the Mystery progresses, utilize the stuffy sense of overwhelming heat and humidity, clothes sticking, the air feeling charged and ready to burst, but never quite managing to. The sun beats down constantly overhead, and clouds loom over the Sandia Mountains without approaching the city proper.

Wealth and class are drawn along property lines. The South Valley is home to the longest lineages of families, but poverty and neglect make it hard for people to succeed. Downtown is a culture clash of old and new, local diners and storefronts fighting to keep up with hip restaurants and boutique hotels amid a constant hum of bar-hopping twenty-somethings and a homeless encampment on the Historic Route 66. The Northeast Heights hide nice homes behind gated communities and frequent police patrols, itinerant transplants partaking of the city before their next move.

Ranked one of the 10 most dangerous big cities in the country, Albuquerque is a place where gangs run drugs and shed blood on the same streets that tech employees work remotely in coffee shops and go on tinder dates at craft breweries. The discrepancies between the haves and the have-nots are vast; depending on where you live and what you do, the other world can be invisible to you. With such extremes, being supernatural is hardly the worst thing that could happen to someone in 'Burque.

Two stories dominate the news in Albuquerque. A film and TV production giant is looking to establish a new studio in the city. Meanwhile, dozens of local homeless people have been found dead. The apparent cause of death is drowning, but the bodies are found in places where there is no water to drown in.

The global production studio, InstaVids, has recently been considering Albuquerque for a new expansion and sent representatives to scope the area for locations to build a new studio. Consideration of the city is sudden, and it's understood that there are likely other perks being offered to the media conglomerate in addition to the generous tax incentives.

Around the same time these rumors sprang up, mysterious deaths in its homeless population began occurring. Bodies were found in parks, on the sides of roads, or in other unexplainable places; their lungs were full of water, but nowhere near any water in which to drown. Locals fear it to be the work of La Llorona, the wailing woman of legend.

In Hispanic-American folklore, La Llorona is a legend about a woman who drowns her children and mourns their deaths for eternity, roaming the lands as a ghost. Though many tales of La Llorona exist, the general consensus is that she was a woman who had two children with a man she loved deeply. However, the man's love for her faded, and in a fit of despair and rage, she drowned the two children in the river.

For her crimes, she was denied entrance to Heaven. An angel told her she would only be admitted once she had found the souls of the children she'd murdered. Ever since, she has roamed the land in search of the children, stealing away any child she could find and drowning them when she discovered they were not her own. She would also drown any adult who stood in her way.

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Beginning the Mystery

DIVISION's agents drive into the city as dusk settles. While the sprawling city reveals itself between desert valleys, the setting sun paints the Sandia Mountains watermelon pink. Arriving at the upscale Hotel Cinco in historic downtown, heat assails the team immediately as they step out of the car. Nightlife is already in full swing as people walk the streets in search of dining and dancing, avoiding the hopeful hands of homeless people who move through the crowds unacknowledged like phantoms.

The team is shown to the rooftop bar of the hotel and ushered into a private casbah. Camila Cardón, professionally known as La Bruja Buena, is waiting with another woman.

Establishing Questions

Ask each one to a different PC:

✿ **Camila Cardón is a fortune-teller extraordinaire.** You met a few years ago and she foretold something that shook you to your core. You have never forgotten her, nor the fact that she knows that ominous fortune. What complex feelings do you have for Camila? Why have you kept in touch with her since then?

✿ **You remember a tale of this place and the blood that was shed here as the pink daylight drains from the mountains.** What do you recall about She who Sleeps Under the Mountains? Who told you the tale? What did they leave behind here, and why do you want to find it?

Contact: Camila Cardón, la Bruja Buena (she/her)

Knowing eyes, stylish evening dress, understated turquoise jewelry. Camila is a mid-twenties Latina with black hair and brown eyes. Youthful and angular, she moves in a careful manner. While her makeup is fashionable, she her eyes carry the weight of ancient secrets. A whiff of lavender and honey are always at the edge of her presence. Her trade is fortune telling, and she shuffles tarot cards like a shark.



Drinks are offered, inventive cocktails in expensive glasses. The rooftop view shows the city spread around them, revealing that what Albuquerque lacks in tall buildings, it makes up for in sprawl. Camila introduces her companion, City of Albuquerque Economic Development Advisor Tomoe Takanashi. Camila explains that she facilitated this meeting with the agents on the city's behalf.

The first body was found three weeks ago. It was discovered in a conspicuous location where a famous crime show was recently filmed. After that, a new body appeared every three days, each at a movie or television filming location. The victims were always homeless people with no ties. The bodies were found with lungs full of water and dry clothes, especially strange in a major drought with the bodies never found near water.

The news runs the story nonstop, and it threatens a major opportunity for the city; they are trying to convince major media conglomerate InstaVids to build a studio in the area. The studio would bring millions of dollars in jobs and business, and raise Albuquerque's profile as a major destination in the Southwest. With the influx of

revenue, the city would undergo rapid growth in a matter of a few short years. While InstaVids seems close to signing the agreement, these murders are a black mark on their negotiations.

Theories circulate that local gang Los Testamentos—The Testaments, a longstanding crime family that has its hands in the drug trade and local politics—is attempting to sabotage the deal in order to keep the city tethered to the drug trade; current revitalization efforts are hampered by local gangs with ties to the Mexican cartels. There are also accusations that such a partnership would not benefit local citizens, but only serve to make the wealthy even more so and widen economic disparities in the area. At the forefront of this push is Los Testamentos.

The PCs have arrived just in time; it is the third night again, and a body was just discovered at the Albuquerque Rail Yards.

People of Interest

TOMOE TAKANASHI (she/her)

City of Albuquerque Economic Development Advisor. Severe suits, severe bangs, severe manicure, it's a way of life. Tomoe Takanashi doesn't take anyone's shit and she'll decimate her enemies with a comeback so sweet and so backhanded that they won't realize how bad the burn was until they're in the hospital.



Tomoe's worked for the city for the past year, and the InstaVids deal could be her next big step. She thinks Mayor Margolis is an idiot, and knows she's doing the heavy lifting here. She'd like nothing more than to work for InstaVids VP Habiba Hoffman, but her feelings for Camila complicate things. While only recently aware of DIVISION, as a professional she takes everything in stride.

QUOTE: *The situation with the deaths really is a tragedy, but a bigger tragedy would be jeopardizing this opportunity for the city. InstaVids means more jobs, more business. We could put Albuquerque at the center of a holistic approach to bettering the lives of all our citizens.*

AZUL (she/her, they/them)

Sex worker. Soft feminine features, with a penchant for cherry-red lipstick and maybe a little too much highlighter. Now that she's regularly on hormones, her face is rounding out. She's been seeing the same guy, Ricky, regularly and he said he wanted to be her only client. Then her friends started dying.



She is housing insecure, and though she can usually find a place to crash, she's no stranger to Tent City. Azul knows things are tense with the city right now with the murders, rumors about a new drug, and a mayor with something to prove. The latest victim was a working girl she knew, and now she's afraid to be out at night.

QUOTE: *Jessica wasn't stupid; we learned on the streets together. We did some dumb stuff years ago, but she would never have put herself in a situation to get herself killed! Y'all may look tough, but that girl was ten times tougher than the lot of you.*

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RICKY ROSALES (he/him)

A leader of Los Testamentos. A swaggering man with the looks of a novela star, if it weren't for the scars. As the youngest to ever become leader of Los Testamentos, Ricky Rosales is looking to prove himself to the family. Maybe if he can prove his worth, he won't care what they might say about his relationship with Azul.



Ricky is increasingly worried about rumors that some of his boys are covertly dealing a new drug with some wicked effects. He's also worried for Azul's safety as the homeless deaths get more and more persistent. Things are especially rough with his sister Raquel, who has been pushing him to get clean and get away from the family, but he's close to being promoted.

QUOTE: *Mira, it's not that easy, okay! It's not some job I can just walk away from. Tío Miguel would never forgive me. I'm surprised Mayor Matty hasn't already ended up in that gorge they're digging for the new studio, and I don't want to join him when it finally happens.*

MATTHEW MARGOLIS (he/him)

Mayor of Albuquerque. Dimpled smile, looks much younger than he is, even smells expensive. Matthew Margolis is in his first term and despite sky high promises, seems to be delivering. He's a very busy man, and if he's spending time with you, you'd better appreciate the dollar value of his time.



Matthew isn't as worried about the details of the murders as he is about the optics. Elections are coming and he wants to land the InstaVids deal to sweep the deaths under the rug. He expected DIVISION to take care of it without bothering him. He can't function without Tomoe, but won't give her a raise. He'll badmouth Los Testamentos any chance he gets, even to his girlfriend Raquel, a member of the gang family.

QUOTE: *I don't know why we're even discussing this. You were hired to take care of it, but you just keep asking questions Tomoe could answer. I have three minutes before I need to get to a meeting with the InstaVids rep, so is this something only the mayor can help you with?*

RAQUEL ROSALES (she/her)

News reporter. Conservative floral blouses, moderately tall heels, liberal pointed questions. Raquel Rosales is a hard-hitting journalist for the local news station. Spares no one, not the city—even though she's dating the mayor—and not Los Testamentos—even though her family is thick in it.



Raquel is determined to find out who is behind the murders and has the PCs in her sights. She knows how to move through different Factions, but her allegiance is first and foremost to the truth. She knows nothing about the supernatural or DIVISION, and if she were to discover the truth about the PCs it would cause more trouble than her life might be worth.

QUOTE: *These are people in my community dying in horrific ways. No one does something like this unless they're trying to send a message. I don't know who you are, but if you can help me figure this out, maybe get some justice, then I'll help you any way I can.*

HABIBA HOFFMAN (she/her)

Associate Vice President of North American Operations for InstaVids. Louboutins, skinny jeans, never takes her airpods out. For a woman who runs corporate operations across an entire continent, Habiba Hoffman is surprisingly down-to-earth. Classified as a VIP by DIVISION, she's more than happy to help an agent out, so long as she can count on a little help in return.



Habiba isn't concerned with the murders; her focus is on landing the deal for InstaVids. She also doesn't much care who she makes that deal with. She allows the city (and Tomoe) to court her, but will happily sit down to a meal with Los Testamentos (and Raquel) if it works to her advantage. She prefers dealing with women because they're used to getting things done.

QUOTE: *No, I don't think too much about these strange deaths. When you walk as close to the sun as I do, nothing much seems strange anymore. You just have to get the job done so you can go home, you know? Are you sure you wouldn't like something to eat? It's on me.*

MARIA (she/her)

La Llorona. Sopping black hair, white shirt and white jeans, red puffy eyes. The spirit "responsible" for the murders is actually a teenage girl whose life was cut short decades ago when her family discovered she was pregnant out of wedlock. Unjustly drowned in an arroyo, she wanders the city looking for the child that washed away with her body.



Maria is certainly not the spirit who originated the legend of La Llorona, but she is being forced into the role by the culprit. She doesn't know who compelled her to commit the murders, but they promised to give back the child she lost when she died. She may be ordered to attack the PCs if the culprit thinks they're getting too close.

QUOTE: *They said they'd give him back to me! I just want my little boy back, and then I can rest. I'm so sorry for the people who I had to kill, but you don't know how much it hurts searching for someone you might never find!*

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Factions

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Drive: Use law and politics to centralize power and wealth.

Description: There is nothing quite so cutthroat as local politics and the people working for the City of Albuquerque will carve you up with a smile (mostly figuratively, but literally when necessary). Armored in pressed suits and stylish haircuts, their preferred weapon is the letter of the law and they wield it as befits their aims.

The city and its agents work hard to increase the success and visibility of Albuquerque on a state and national level. Though there are certainly true believers who work to better their community, there are plenty of people who see these efforts as a path toward more money and power. That often means that enrichment is distributed unequally, with wealthier, more desirable areas receiving far more attention than others. The city will do anything to ensure that more money, prestige, and power flow into Albuquerque (and if some of that flows into their own coffers, well, that's just the price of doing business).

Moves:

- ✦ Reveal precautions, taken well in advance
- ✦ Disclose weighty secrets they shouldn't know
- ✦ Levy crippling sanctions to hinder action or resources
- ✦ Obfuscate and derail a conversation or line of inquiry
- ✦ Wield brute force through sheer numbers

Faces:

- ✦ **Matthew Margolis**, Mayor of Albuquerque
- ✦ **Tomoe Takanashi**, Economic Development Department Advisor
- ✦ **Jules Garcia**, Information Technology Supervisor
- ✦ **Stirling Whitecrow**, Lead Investigator
- ✦ **Camila Cardón**, consultant

Establishing Questions:

- ✦ *The city has a bounty on your head for something that was truly an accident. What did you do and who helped you escape?*
- ✦ *A past lover has taken up a post in city governance. Who are they, and why did it end? Are you avoiding them or seeking them out?*

LOS TESTAMENTOS

Drive: Take the tools to grow and thrive by any means necessary.

Description: Los Testamentos—The Testaments—have been around in one form or another almost since Juan de Oñate brought Spanish colonists to the area in 1598. Whether it is reborn in name only every few generations or the line has carried directly from the start is a hotly-contested and irrelevant matter. What does matter is that Los Testamentos is here and aims to outlast anyone who gets in their way.

The current incarnation of the gang is a long-standing family-centric organization in the South Valley of Albuquerque. Composed of multiple generations of Rosales and orphans they adopted, they have a rigid hierarchy of leadership and internal code of ethics that includes strict gender roles. When it comes to surviving in this city, you need all the help you can get.

Their present struggle centers on a shift toward legitimate business. Some want to get out of illegal markets and are willing to sacrifice power and money. Others want to expand into more dangerous trade and the accompanying benefits that brings.

Moves:

- ✦ Bargain enticing intel to look the other way
- ✦ Strike out with startling brutality
- ✦ Make a flashy escape with guns blazing
- ✦ Overpower or spring a trap on intruders to their turf
- ✦ Disorient with a mysterious substance or power

Faces:

- ✦ **Lorenzita Rosales**, Matriarch of the Rosales Family, skilled curandera
- ✦ **Paz Rosales**, Second in Command, also known as Señor Rojo
- ✦ **Ricky Rosales**, younger leader of Los Testamentos
- ✦ **Raquel Rosales**, local news Lead Reporter
- ✦ **Quan Duong**, newest adopted member of the gang

Establishing Questions:

- ✦ *You crossed arms with Lorenzita Rosales many years ago. What scar did she give you? What scar did you give her? Why can you laugh about it now?*
- ✦ *The newest member of the gang finds you fascinating. What about them secretly fascinates you too?*

INSTAVIDS

Drive: Expand product reach to complete global market saturation.

Description: Every day, hundreds of millions of people fire up InstaVids. Whether they're binging the latest original hit show, watching a blockbuster movie, or just working their way through *The Workplace* for the twelfth time, all eyes are glued to the world's number one streaming service. "Are you still watching?" Of course you are.

The global media corporation, InstaVids, has built an empire on enchanting people with its video programming. Little do most people know that "enchanting" is meant literally. InstaVids is at the forefront of digitizing the occult for fun and profit. Armed with boundary-pushing magical code and an obscene amount of Silicon Valley capital, they do as they please so long as they don't run afoul of world governments. InstaVids even provides funding to DIVISION for various programs.

Their current focus on growth and securing subscribers motivates them to continue pushing into new markets, fudging cheaper and easier ways to create content, and acquiring more occult assets to be leveraged.

Moves:

- ✦ Distract from the point with words, offers, and actions
- ✦ Execute digitized spells from smart technology
- ✦ Casually wield vast sums of money
- ✦ Use artificial intelligence to predict moves
- ✦ Namedrop a much higher-ranking DIVISION member

Faces:

- ✦ **Habiba Hoffman**, Associate Vice President of North American Operations
- ✦ **Icarus**, Senior Occult Software Engineer III
- ✦ **Frej Lundqvist**, Conversation Architect for Parallel Linguistics (Enochian)
- ✦ **Prasong "Song" Wichasak**, Junior Ley Line Cartographer
- ✦ **Odile Gardet**, Personal Assistant

Establishing Questions:

- ✦ *You were an InstaVids employee for a brief period of time. Why were you unceremoniously fired? What did you give up in order to stay alive?*
- ✦ *You recognize a piece of deep magic in the newest InstaVids hit series. What key part did you play in discovering it? Who stole it from you?*

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THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Drive: Survive.

Description: Over 1,500 men, women, and children experience chronic homelessness in Albuquerque. They move through the margins and make a living where they can, sometimes congregating in encampments like Tent City and sometimes going their own way. As people coming from all walks of life and a diverse background of experiences, the homeless “community” is not organized or tightly affiliated, and tracking an individual person can be difficult.

The ritualized murders that are occurring are yet one more problem for unhoused people to deal with on top of securing shelter, food, and general safety. Unhoused individuals understandably prioritize their survival over helping out strangers who may not mean them well to begin with. Gaining the trust of someone society has largely turned its back on will be difficult.

That being said, certain individuals have formed bonds with each other. Encampments can become places to trade for necessities, sleep in relative safety, and let off some steam. Just don't let down your guard too much.

Moves:

- ✳ Close ranks and cut off points of investigation
- ✳ Disappear untraceably into the city
- ✳ Evoke a haphazard curse with no regard for consequences
- ✳ Menace or threaten, with unpredictable fury
- ✳ Spread false information or warn others off the trail

Faces:

- ✳ **Azul**, organizer, working as a sex worker
- ✳ **Yael Omer**, mother, working as a cleaning lady and gas station clerk
- ✳ **Knox**, writer, looking for work
- ✳ **Brody Zahn**, musician, working as a kitchen cook
- ✳ **Valentine Edmonds**, working as a call center associate

Establishing Questions:

- ✳ *You discover a friend from years ago among the unhoused. Who is it and what did they do when you knew them? How does their current circumstance shock you?*
- ✳ *A loose network of informants move through encampments such as this. Who do you see wearing the crest of that network? How have you crossed paths before?*

Locations

HOTEL CINCO

An upscale hotel in the downtown strip with breathtaking views of the city. Frequented by the city's elite, beauty and privilege are the capital for buying yourself into a conversation, a private party, or an intimate moment with a VIP. *What subtle actions do the most powerful people in the room do to alienate those who “don't belong” in their presence?*

ALBUQUERQUE RAIL YARDS

Originally built to service the AT&SF Railway, these reclaimed structures have undergone various revitalization efforts. Now used as an evocative film set and the home of the Rail Yards pop-up markets, they turn a former eyesore into a new economic opportunity. *What remnants litter this area that remind you of its many past lives and uses?*

TENT CITY

A homeless encampment on the roadside right next to the Albuquerque Rail Yards in downtown. Homeless people have gathered amid the bizarre deaths stalking them, leaning on each other for safety, support, and a sense of protection. *What do the PCs witness that shows these people's vow to protect each other, even when no one else will?*

INSTAVIDS STUDIO CONSTRUCTION SITE

A sprawling empty field between the South Valley and the Sandia Mountains to the east. Construction has already mobilized, even though papers have yet to be signed. The pit where the foundations have yet to be laid seems to gape, unblinking into the sky. *Despite the deserted space, what makes you feel watched in this moment?*

LOS TESTAMENTOS HOMESTEAD

A sprawling, much-renovated family home in the South Valley on acres of land. The parking lot is always full of cars and people coming and going at all hours. Hardened men and women sit around kitchen tables as abuelitas attempt to fatten them up. *What items hint at the generations of Rosales that have called this place home?*

BRUJA BUENA STOREFRONT

Located in a chic repurposed pop-up in the Northeast Heights, Camila's shop and reading room is a social media-ready dream backdrop. Various trinkets, plants, and crystals line minimal shelves, and prismatic lighting illuminates the stark white walls. *How does the storefront tame the feral nature of magic and sanitize it for the masses?*

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Keys of the Apocalypse

- ✿ a puddle of rainwater, despite the desert heat, it refuses to evaporate
- ✿ a haunting story, the name of La Llorona drips into the ear
- ✿ a curb-side memorial, photos, candles, and flowers scattering in the wind
- ✿ vials of a clear liquid, assumed to be MDMA or GHB, it gives off the aroma of salt
- ✿ a pamphlet for new city development, a vision of the future—clean, open, and white
- ✿ a switchblade, perhaps that's rust on the blade
- ✿ a map of ley lines across the city, crisscrossing avenues of power are circled
- ✿ a polaroid photo of a young girl, she's smiling, but there is worry in her eyes
- ✿ a luxury black credit card, no name, no number, no limit
- ✿ a drive-by shooting, the smell of burning rubber and gunpowder fills the air
- ✿ a child's drawing on crumpled paper, the childish figures are crying
- ✿ an occult tome in Spanish, bookmarked with a rosary and filled with marginalia
- ✿ a digital camera with a strange video, when played, water pours out of the screen
- ✿ confidential incentive request documents, water warped and blood stained
- ✿ the desert heat causes visions, something looks back from under the mountains
- ✿ a Walkman playing a lullaby, gentle lyrics that grow darker the longer it plays
- ✿ a ring that bears the Rosales crest, one hand included
- ✿ a movie script featuring impossibly-drowned victims, to begin production soon
- ✿ codes to access the city's emergency alert system, on city letterhead, no signature
- ✿ a flash drive with infernal contracts, written in occult signs that hurt to look at
- ✿ a reliquary with a fetus floating inside, it looks more sleeping than dead
- ✿ an audition tape; yours, to be precise

Facets

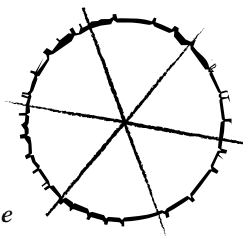
- ✿ The Murders of the Albuquerque Homeless
- ✿ The Raising of Maria
- ✿ The InstaVids Studio Deal
- ✿ The Harbinger
- ✿ The Door of Power

Doomsday Clock (ticks: 6)

MOMENT

Brackish water begins to seep through everything. No amount of cleaning can remove the salt stains or faint smell of rot.

- ✿ What childlike pattern appears in the lines left by the stagnant water?
- ✿ What is the one establishment unaffected by the water?



INTRIGUE

The broken voice of a ghostly child begs for their mother. A hand dripping in jewels covers their mouth. "There are things worse than death."

- ✿ How is the Harbinger keeping the ghost child hostage?
- ✿ What maternal memories haunt the night?

EVENT

People are coughing up briny water. Those who first started coughing see their skin crystallize with salt. What was once flesh crumbles on touch, dissolves in liquid.

- ✿ Which area is flooded and damaged?

MOMENT

Reflections show screaming women, tearful deaths. In glass, in mirrors, in small pools of water, horrors repeating on loop.

- ✿ What reflection contradicts what the PCs know?

INTRIGUE

She Who Sleeps is wracked with nightmares, tears rolling down her face. The tinkle of beautiful jewelry, the smell of rain. "Let's try this again, shall we?"

- ✿ What happens to those in town who are meant to die?
- ✿ How will the PCs learn that a ritual has begun?

THE DOOR OPENS

Water pours up from the earth, down from the sky; salt tears flood every street and alley with unstoppable swiftness. She Who Was Asleep takes all these children and embraces them. The children cry, their sobs reaching a painful crescendo before a horrifying silence settles. She Who Was Asleep will not let them suffer any more. The Harbinger has unlocked the ancient Door of Power.

- ✿ When the door opens, what form does She take to walk again?
- ✿ What power or wisdom does the Harbinger take from beyond the door?

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Cultural Notes and References

LA BRUJA BUENA Y BRUJERÍA

The character of Camila bills herself as La Bruja Buena, a social media-friendly reimagining of the bruja archetype from New Mexican and other Latino cultures. During the conquest of New Mexico by the Spanish, the Catholic Church made major efforts to forcefully convert indigenous peoples to Catholicism. While some indigenous practitioners adapted their work to conform with Catholic traditions, those who did not convert were ostracized and branded as brujas (witches) doing the devil's work. This tension between fidelity to one's traditions and the need to survive in a changing world is paralleled by tensions seen in our modern age.

We've seen pagan and indigenous traditions such as wicca and brujeria find an increased footing in the modern era, partially by sanitizing and commercializing these traditions. This has led to a certain "trendiness" of spiritual traditions and efforts to make them more palatable to the sensibilities of social media (for instance, the #witchstagram tag or the #bruja tag on Instagram).

Yet even in a moment where many crafts continue to grow in prominence and visibility, there is a tension between authenticity and commercialism that echoes those earlier struggles for survival. How does a craft grow, find new adepts, and expand itself if it is unpalatable to people? How does a craft stay true to itself and ensure that it is honored and cherished if it must veneer itself in respectability and aesthetic?

Camila's character serves to highlight that tension. She is a character who, for all intents and purposes, would generally be excluded from the city Faction. But because she has made herself palatable to that Faction, she can be effective. At the same time, she is not invaluable to them and cannot count on them. That tension goes hand-in-hand with the way indigenous crafts were treated by colonialist forces that invaded the continent so many years ago.

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS AND ALBUQUERQUE HOMELESSNESS

The homeless encampment near the Albuquerque Rail Yards was an actual long-standing encampment in 2014 and 2015. Dubbed "tent city" at the time, its close proximity to the Albuquerque Rail Yards, a location the City of Albuquerque had attempted to revitalize with an indoor/outdoor market and which has been used as a filming location for many movies and television series, caused outrage in local press and among the community that lived in the area. An aggressive campaign by Albuquerque police eventually expelled the homeless encampment.

In 2019, city voters approved \$14 million in a general obligation bond election dedicated to the construction of a new 24/7 homeless shelter. As of the writing of this Mystery in the summer of 2020, the city has narrowed their search to three possible locations. City personnel are still routinely ousting people from their temporary encampments, despite current CDC guidelines to allow unsheltered or encamped individuals to remain in place to diminish the chance of spreading COVID-19.

NETFLIX STUDIOS IN ALBUQUERQUE

In this Mystery, the thinly veiled Netflix clone InstaVids is set to construct new studios in the South Valley. In real life, Netflix purchased the existing Albuquerque Studios lots east of the South Valley in 2018 for about \$30 million dollars, roughly a third of what the facilities cost to build. At the time of their purchase, the studios had been valued at around \$22 million, and the city estimated that Netflix occupancy, maintenance, and rehabilitation could return the studio to at least the \$91M value it cost to build the facility.

In addition, Netflix is set to receive \$14.5 million in government funds for the studio's purchase—\$10 million from the state of New Mexico and \$4.5 million from the city of Albuquerque. Furthermore, Netflix's productions in the state are eligible for a tax credit of up to 30% under the New Mexico Film Tax Credit Program.

Per Netflix's proposal, the company has committed to \$600 million in direct spending related to New Mexico on or before Dec. 31, 2023, and an additional \$400 million in direct and/or indirect spend related to the facility between Dec. 31, 2023, and the end of 2028. Netflix will incur financial penalties, payable to the city and state, if it falls short of those spending targets (based on the percentage shortfall).