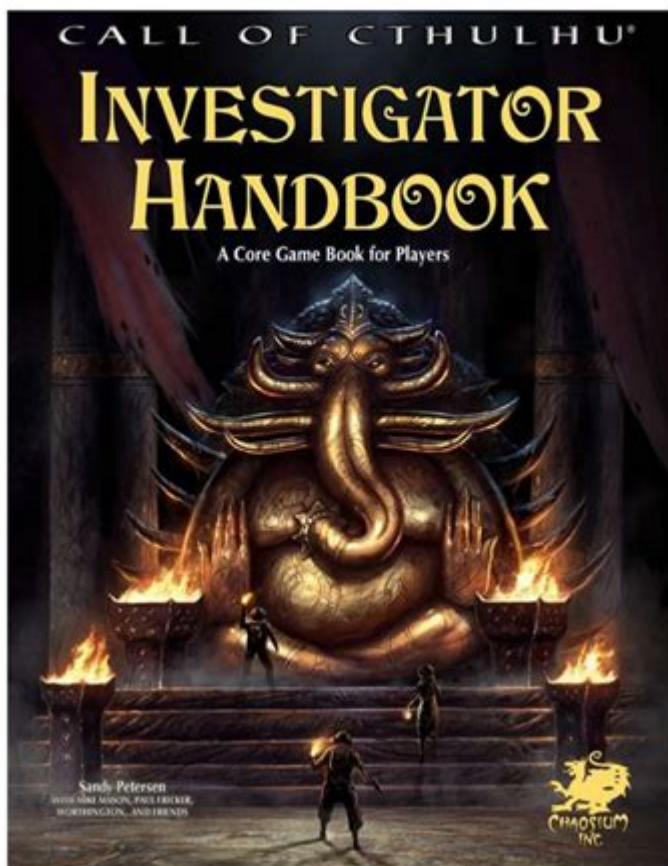# Call Of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook

Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook is an essential resource for players and game masters alike in the beloved tabletop role-playing game (RPG) based on the works of H.P. Lovecraft. This handbook serves as a guide for players stepping into the shoes of investigators as they navigate the chilling and often perilous world filled with cosmic horrors, mysterious cults, and unspeakable terrors. With its rich lore, comprehensive character creation mechanics, and detailed gameplay instructions, the Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook sets the stage for immersive storytelling and thrilling adventures.

Understanding the Call of Cthulhu RPG

The Call of Cthulhu RPG first emerged in the early 1980s, quickly gaining popularity due to its unique blend of horror, mystery, and investigation. Players take on the roles of investigators—ordinary individuals such as journalists, scholars, or private detectives—who confront the supernatural and the unknown.

Thematic Elements

The game is steeped in horror and existential dread, heavily influenced by Lovecraftian themes. Key thematic elements include:

1. Cosmic Horror: The idea that humanity is insignificant in the vastness of the universe, facing ancient and powerful entities.
2. Madness: Characters can lose sanity when confronted with horrifying truths, affecting their abilities and actions.
3. Mystery and Investigation: The core of the gameplay revolves around solving mysteries, uncovering secrets, and piecing together clues.

Components of the Investigator Handbook

The Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook is divided into several sections, each offering crucial information for players and game masters. Here are the main components:

Character Creation

The handbook provides a detailed guide for creating investigators, including the following steps:

1. Choosing a Profession: Investigators can come from various backgrounds such as:
- Private Investigator
- Librarian
- Doctor
- Police Officer
- Archaeologist

2. Attributes and Skills: Players allocate points to different attributes (Strength, Dexterity, Constitution, etc.) and skills (such as Library Use, Spot Hidden, and Occult). The system allows for customization and specialization.

3. Sanity: Each character starts with a certain amount of sanity points, which can diminish as they encounter horrific events. Importance is placed on maintaining mental health throughout the game.

4. Background and Motivation: Players are encouraged to create rich backstories and motivations for their characters, enhancing role-playing opportunities.

Investigator Development

As the game progresses, investigators can gain experience, develop skills, and face personal challenges. Key aspects include:

- Skill Improvement: Players can improve their skills by using them frequently, reflecting a character's growth and learning.
- Sanity Mechanics: The handbook details the mechanics surrounding sanity loss, including how to recover or cope with mental strain.
- Personal Goals: Investigators may have personal quests, which can intertwine with the main storyline, providing depth to character arcs.

Gameplay Mechanics

The Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook outlines essential gameplay mechanics that guide players through their investigations.

Dice Rolling and Resolution

The game primarily uses percentile dice (2d10) to determine outcomes. Key mechanics include:

- Skill Checks: When a character attempts a task, players roll against their skill percentage. Success is determined by rolling equal to or lower than the skill level.
- Opposed Rolls: In situations where characters face off against adversaries, both parties roll, and the higher result wins.
- Critical Success and Failure: Rolling the lowest possible number can yield a critical success, while rolling the highest can result in critical failure.

Encounters and Combat

Combat in Call of Cthulhu is often dangerous and can lead to severe consequences:

- Combat Turns: Each round consists of actions taken by players and non-player characters (NPCs), focusing on strategy and resource management.
- Health and Injury: Players track health points, and injuries can have lasting effects on character performance.
- Use of Firearms and Weapons: The handbook provides detailed rules for using various weapons,

emphasizing the importance of caution and planning.

Exploring the Mythos

One of the most exciting aspects of the Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook is its exploration of the Cthulhu Mythos, which includes a plethora of ancient gods, creatures, and forbidden knowledge.

Mythos Entities

Players can encounter various entities and deities, such as:

- Cthulhu: The iconic Great Old One, representing chaos and madness.
- Nyarlathotep: The Crawling Chaos, known for its manipulative and deceptive nature.
- Yog-Sothoth: The gate and the key, representing knowledge beyond comprehension.

Each entity comes with its own lore, powers, and implications for the investigators, creating a rich tapestry of threats and mysteries.

Forbidden Knowledge

The pursuit of knowledge can lead to great rewards or devastating consequences. The handbook outlines:

- Tomes and Grimoires: Ancient texts that hold forbidden secrets, often at the cost of sanity.
- Cultists and Organizations: Groups that worship the Mythos entities, providing antagonists for players to confront.
- Artifacts and Relics: Powerful items that can aid or hinder investigators in their quests.

Tips for Players and Game Masters

The Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook offers valuable advice for both players and game masters to enhance the gaming experience.

For Players

- Embrace Role-Playing: Fully engage with your character's backstory and personality to enrich the narrative.
- Collaborate with Teammates: Work together to solve puzzles and share resources.
- Accept Consequences: Understand that the game can be brutal, and be prepared for character loss or madness.

For Game Masters

- Craft Engaging Scenarios: Develop intricate plots that challenge players both intellectually and emotionally.
- Balance Horrors with Hope: While the game is inherently dark, provide moments of respite and success to keep players invested.
- Encourage Exploration: Allow players to explore the world, uncovering secrets at their own pace.

Conclusion

The Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook is more than just a rulebook; it is a portal into a world of mystery, horror, and adventure. Its comprehensive guidance on character creation, gameplay mechanics, and the rich lore of the Cthulhu Mythos equips players and game masters with the tools necessary for unforgettable storytelling. As players delve into the unknown, they will discover that the true essence of the game lies not only in survival but also in the journey of uncovering dark truths and confronting cosmic horrors. Whether you are a seasoned investigator or a newcomer to the game, the Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook promises to deliver thrilling and chilling experiences.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary purpose of the Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook?

The primary purpose of the Call of Cthulhu Investigator Handbook is to provide players with the rules, guidelines, and background needed to create and develop characters in the Call of Cthulhu role-playing game, focusing on investigations into cosmic horror.

What types of characters can players create using the Investigator Handbook?

Players can create a variety of characters, including academics, detectives, cultists, and everyday citizens,

each with unique skills and backgrounds tailored to exploring the game's themes of horror and mystery.

How does the Investigator Handbook help with character development?

The Investigator Handbook includes detailed character creation rules, skills, and backstory suggestions that encourage players to develop rich, complex characters that can engage deeply with the narrative.

Does the Investigator Handbook provide rules for sanity mechanics?

Yes, the Investigator Handbook includes comprehensive rules for sanity mechanics, detailing how characters can lose sanity when confronted with the horrors of the game, influencing their mental health and behavior.

What are some essential skills highlighted in the Investigator Handbook?

Essential skills highlighted include Spot Hidden, Library Use, Psychology, and Firearms, among others, which help characters investigate mysteries and confront the challenges they face.

Are there any specific strategies recommended for players in the Investigator Handbook?

The Handbook offers strategies such as teamwork, careful investigation, and resource management to help players navigate the dangers of the game and increase their chances of survival.

How does the Investigator Handbook address the theme of cosmic horror?

The Investigator Handbook addresses cosmic horror through character backstories, encounters with eldritch entities, and the psychological effects of uncovering forbidden knowledge, emphasizing the insignificance of humanity in the universe.

What is the importance of the setting in the Investigator Handbook?

The setting is crucial as it provides the backdrop for investigations, ranging from the 1920s to various locations, influencing the characters' experiences and the types of mysteries they encounter.

Can the Investigator Handbook be used for solo play?

While primarily designed for group play, the Investigator Handbook can be adapted for solo play with some modifications, allowing players to explore mysteries on their own.

What makes the Investigator Handbook a standout resource for new players?

The Investigator Handbook is a standout resource for new players due to its clear explanations, accessible character creation guidelines, and a focus on storytelling, making it easier to immerse in the game's rich

narrative.

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