

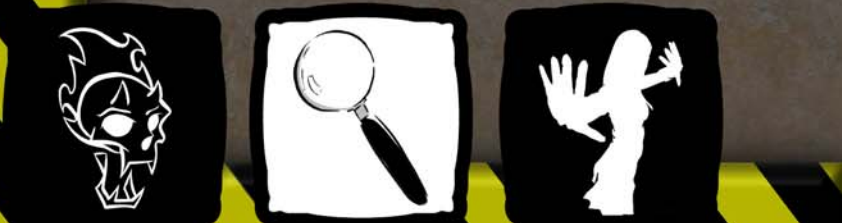
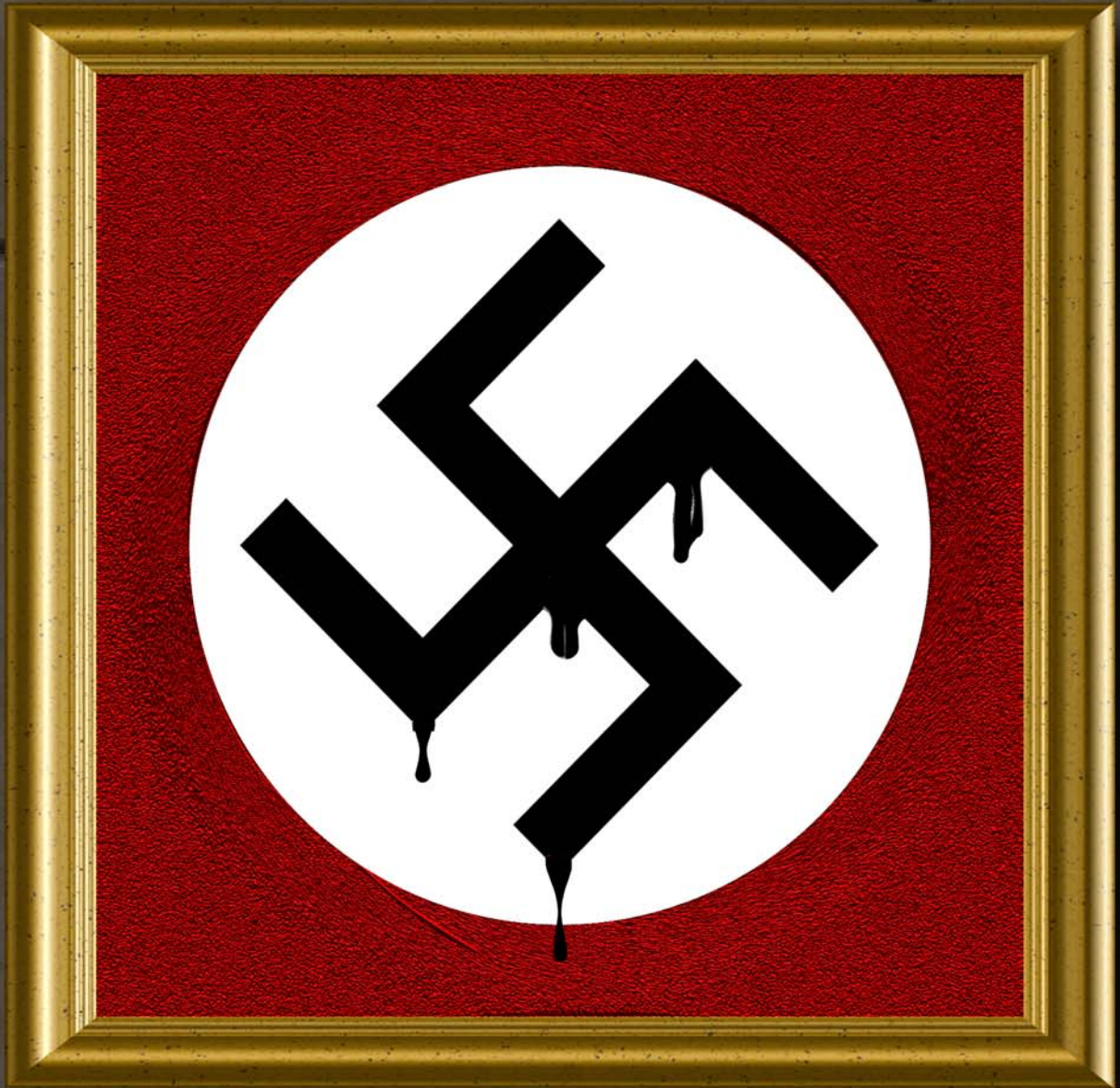
Requires the use of the d20 Modern™ Roleplaying Game, published by Wizards of the Coast, Inc.



modern misfit

THE PAINTING

ADVENTURE



MISFIT



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Adventure

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INTRODUCTION

A valuable painting lost during WWII may have resurfaced. If it is recovered the portrait of Anna Gershing is guaranteed to fetch tens of millions of dollars at auction. The search for this missing work of art turns into a wild chase across Europe and sparks conflict with Nazi blood cults and supernatural creatures.

The Portrait is a **Modern** adventure for 1st through 3rd level characters. This adventure can be inserted into an existing **Modern** campaign or it can be used as the meeting point for a new group of player characters.

This adventure includes a basic story outline with plenty of room for a Gamemaster to add his own twists and turns. Also included are two new supernatural foes, an original arch-villain and maps for the final encounter.

GETTING THE CHARACTERS INVOLVED

One way to write the characters into the game is to recruit them as investigators or specialists for a routine assignment. If you are using this adventure as part of an established campaign this may be the easiest route. An alternate route is having each of them contacted regarding an inheritance and instructed to come to New York City. This method may be useful for a Gamemaster who is trying to bring together a disparate group of characters. The inheritance method also gives the characters a personal, rather than professional involvement with the story.

There are times when a Gamemaster may want to use a combination of these two methods when setting up the story for the players. For instance, the group may consist of some characters that are investigator types and some that are not.

PART ONE: THE LAWYER'S OFFICE

The adventure begins with the characters being asked to come to the office of attorney Doug Hannon for an important meeting. Upon arriving at the plush Manhattan suite they are escorted into a large boardroom equipped with a projector. Doug Hannon and his aides offer everyone food and drinks before the lights are dimmed and a black and white photograph is

projected on the screen. The photo shows an attractive young woman dressed in a fancy gown. Mr. Hannon begins his presentation.

"This photo was taken sometime in 1938. The woman you see here was named Anna Gershing. In the mid-nineteen thirties Anna's parents commissioned a portrait of her to be done by a man named Hans Ruhelm. Ruhelm was a penniless Belgian artist who died thinking himself a failure. In modern times, however, the works of Mr. Ruhelm have become valuable commodities and his paintings now hang in museums around the world.

The portrait of Anna Gershing, if it still exists, would likely fetch a price at auction that measures in the tens of millions. Since this is a previously unknown work by a famous artist, the price could even go as high as one hundred million dollars.

If the inheritance plot hook is being used, the Gamemaster will take a moment to notify the characters that they are distant relations to the Gershing family. They will be told that as the sole heirs, the painting legally belongs to them.

In 1939 the Nazis looted the Gershing family home and Anna's father was arrested on suspicion of being a political dissident. The painting ended up in the art collection of an SS Colonel named Van Braun. The story goes that Van Braun had forced himself on Anna and then threatened to hurt her family if she would not become his mistress. Anna Gershing is known to have committed suicide, so the story may have some truth to it. Colonel Van Braun supposedly raided the Gershing home and took the portrait as a reminder of his victim, since he was denied her in the flesh.

We don't know what happened to the painting during the war, though we do have information that suggests the Colonel may have tried to hide his personal assets somewhere in the Austrian Alps. From there the trail goes cold. The Gershing estate, with myself as executor, has worked for years to locate the portrait and other missing family assets. We have had little luck, until now."