

Treatment: "Collecting" Series #1

Time: 1994

Place: A university Campus

The Goal: The Professor (and his graduate assistant) want to engineer three students to help him locate spots to find a spot for the papers and documents to be buried. (Maybe instead we'll have videos of someone explaining the artifacts). The professor/ga are descendants of the Thrall/GT who are here to make sure that all the evidence is continually moved and hidden, like the Knights Templar.

Meta Goal: The goal of this section is to generate several user-generated pieces of content that focus on Indiana history; we also want it to relate to the Indiana State Museum.

The Story:

I.

Three senior students enroll in a Religions of History class at a university. During a study group, one of them receives an encoded video message that tells them everything about their professor's class isn't as it seems. The three initially dismiss the video as a weird college conspiracy prank. They continue with class, and receive a series of assignments that require them to gather and create visual information from across Indiana. They come across a conspiracy BBS that, when hacked with a code from the first video, gets them in touch with the mysterious owner of the site who says that all is not what it seems, and that there is a mystery bigger than what they know. They decide to pursue the professor.

II.

The students continue to with class, taking the assignments, marking out locations, visiting them, and creating a map of everything they find **[these should be historically significant and tied to the artifacts from the museum]**. They encounter several strange people - some who seem to want to stop them, some who want to help -- as they try to decipher the professor's main goal. Their mapping of the assignments leads them to see New Harmony, Indiana as important to the professor. They travel there, and encounter resistance once they arrive. They explore the town and stumble upon the secret organizations of The Thrall/Golden Troupe. One of the students is killed, the other two escape. They are worried, but in control of evidence. Realize they have to try to get this out. They try to escape, and run into the professor - who is a descendent of The Thrall -- and in the struggle to get their information out, the professor is killed.

III.

The two remaining students escape New Harmony, and take this knowledge and retreat to the hometown of one of the students. Along the way, they have to hack into the voicemail system of the professor and hear a message from the graduate student, and realize the two were working together. The two split up, with the one in the hometown deciding to get in touch with the Conspiracy guy and the second to head out across the state to hide the materials so they

two can use them for leverage. The second student takes off to hide the materials in the place they decoded for the professor in act 1, and the graduate student follows. The first student decides to go into hiding.

Characters:

- Protagonist Trinity: 3 college students
- Antagonist: Professor (Thrall), Graduate Assistant (Golden Troupe)

Other Characters:

- Conspiracy Website Operator

Websites:

- University → College → Department → Professor
- Conspiracy
- Students
- Player Hub

Treatment: "Finding" Series #2

Time: 2012

Place: The hometown of the college student

The Goal: Three high school students stumble across a message from a former resident who says there's an important message they discovered 21 years before. As the students race to uncover and re-assemble the puzzle pieces, mysterious forces attempt to keep them from releasing the message, which could change the world. But it wasn't the two students who hid the information; instead it was the conspiracy website guy to whom they mailed information.

Meta Goal: The goal of this section is to generate several user-generated pieces of content that focus on Indiana history; we also want it to relate to the Indiana State Museum.

The Story:

I.

Three high school seniors are discussing their college plans, and they are doing research on the university they want to attend. While looking around the Web, they come across an old message board with information from the university student who went into hiding, basically catching them up on what happened. There is a message, hidden: You must re-assemble what they hid, and let the world know. Whoever is seeing this is the only hope. The high school students decide it will be fun to play the game, but they don't take it seriously. They start to mess with the conspiracy website, and they are given a puzzle to solve that requires information from the video, which reveals a network of websites, each with a series of puzzles. They find strange reports/incidents of certain artifacts disappearing. The students decide to take on the challenge of re-assembling all the files.

II.

Armed with various bits of puzzle information, the trio set off across Indiana to discover what is hidden in the different locations. **[These should be related to the artifacts, like *National Treasure*]** In some places, they find the pieces they need, in other places, they are thwarted by unknown antagonists. With each piece they find, they reveal more of the back story initially uncovered in Series #1. They find out the story of the three college students, and receive messages from the one from their hometown helping guide them from piece to piece. The graduate student from Series #1, now 18 years later, reveals himself/herself to the high school students. There is a standoff of some kind, where the original two students return and they battle with the only survivor being the one who left the home town in Series #1.

III.

Armed with the information, the students make their way back to the hideaway of the home town college student where they intend on releasing the information they have. Upon returning, they find a video left by the hometown college student who perished in the fight with the grad student. The video tells them where the website is with the entire story, one the code is cracked. At the end of the video, there's a call to build a new repository of information, and they call for people to build a repository of videos from their trip to historical sites.

Characters:

- Protagonist Trinity: 3 high school students
- Antagonist: 2 towns folk who are related to the organizations

Other Characters:

- Conspiracy Website Operator

Websites:

- Conspiracy -> Subsites
- Students
- Local Businesses
- Player Hub

ARTIFACTS IN PLAY

1. New Harmony
2. Mastadon
3. Patents
4. Fine Arts/Paintings
5. Music artifacts
6. Mortuary stuff
7. Deformed animals

REAL PEOPLE IN PLAY

Notes from Matt Mullins:

"A present day college student is taking a class focused on the debate between creationism and evolution. The professor in this class is somehow tied to one of these past organizations (GT or Thrall). The student discovers this professor's link to the organization/the events of past, which in turn threatens to reveal the truth surrounding HOW Darwin came to his conclusions about evolution and subsequently reveal the existence of these two secret orders (GT and Thrall) who have since become powerful hidden forces in their respective realms (science and religion) and have been fueling this debate (with its attendant social consequences) ever since. By getting involved in the mystery/mix (DaVinci Code) what the student learns threatens both the "validity" of the scientific community (See it wasn't Darwin, you guys don't have your facts straight) and the morals/ethics of the creationist community (Hey, you guys have long been trying to suppress the factual evidence of evolution). The student is then faced with a choice. Reveal the past to a world that isn't ready for it and may even be harmed by this info, or keep it buried. ~~We could play out both endings with their attendant consequences~~ (**Don't reveal it**, things continue as is and the sides haggle on, ignoring the larger social problems that need attention). ~~Or (Do reveal it and these two groups are forced to take responsibility for their actions which then leads to a "New Harmony" of thinking that allows evolution to be seen as a metaphor for God's creation of life on earth."~~