

## Day I

The word goes to Cinereus Indigo.

Take the timer and make sure that everyone is holding their *Couple sheet*, then gather with the others in the Village Square.

*Before us was the Village, and with the Village were the Laws. Space must be shared. We knew why: The Square was tiny, our Houses were few and cramped. Their intimacy was sacred.*

Enter your House with Corvinus, and have other Couples do the same.

*Two must live as one. We knew why: The world outside was dangerous, and unity in our Couple made us stronger.*

Make sure everyone is listening, then read the *Second question* on your side of the *Couple sheet* and wait for Corvinus to answer. Once they have, give them the *Couple sheet* and have them ask you their *Second question*. Then tie your *Thread of Partnership* around Corvinus's left wrist and your own right wrist.

Have the next Couple to follow the same steps, then another and so on, going clockwise from your House. At the end, go on reading.

*The Taboo must be respected. We knew why... Or at least some of us did. They felt it in their bones, and they were eager to tell everyone else. So those of us who doubted asked questions. Many, and often. We all wanted to remember. We all knew the importance of memory. For before us was the Village, and it was everything we had ever had. This Day was a day like any other, and we prepared to face it like we always had before. Discord, Alliance and Authority already bound us, like they bind everyone to their neighbour, but they were nothing more than distant suggestions. Intangible, still incapable of chaining us or pulling us apart.*

*With the Village were its Villagers. And back then, we were one and the same.*

Set the timer to 10 minutes.

The Day begins now.

## Night I

The word goes to Corvinus Indigo. (Start the soundtrack if there is one).  
Pick up your *Couple sheet*, then start reading.

*Go back to your Houses. Do not dare move or speak. Bear witness to my act.*

Drag Cinereus to the Square and break the Taboo. Taste the forbidden fruit, violate the sacred ground, shout the forsaken word or seek the denied touch.

*The Taboo is broken.*

*Azures, step forward. Only one of you must answer my Question. Do not lie.*

Ask them the *Third Question* on your side of the *Couple sheet* and wait for an answer. Then have Cinereus do the same with the *Third Question* on theirs.

*Azures, you may speak. The Indigos are willing to answer your Questions.*

Answer the Azures' *Questions* with Cinereus, then take the ball of blue thread. With Cinereus and the Azures, bind your Houses by the *Thread of Authority*. String it at floor level (or overhead), loose enough to pull on it.

*The Thread of Authority is strung. The Azures watch, and the Indigos are watched. Let us return to our Houses.*

*Saffrons and Goldens, step forward. Ask each other your Third Questions. Only one of you must answer each Question. Do not lie.*

After they have answered all four *Questions*, have them take the yellow thread and bind their Houses by the *Thread of Alliance*, strung at floor level.

*The Thread of Alliance is strung. Nothing may come between the Saffrons and the Goldens. Let the two Couples return to their Houses.*

*Vermilions and Crimsons, step forward. Ask each other your Third Questions. Only one of you must answer each Question. Do not lie.*

After they have answered all four *Questions*, have them take the red thread and bind their Houses by the *Thread of Discord*. It must be strung at waist level, to keep anyone from crossing the Square.

*The Thread of Discord is strung. It divides the Vermilions and the Crimsons. It divides us all. The Village is torn, nothing is the same anymore. The Taboo is broken.  
Let us return to our Houses and prepare for the Day to come.*

## Day II

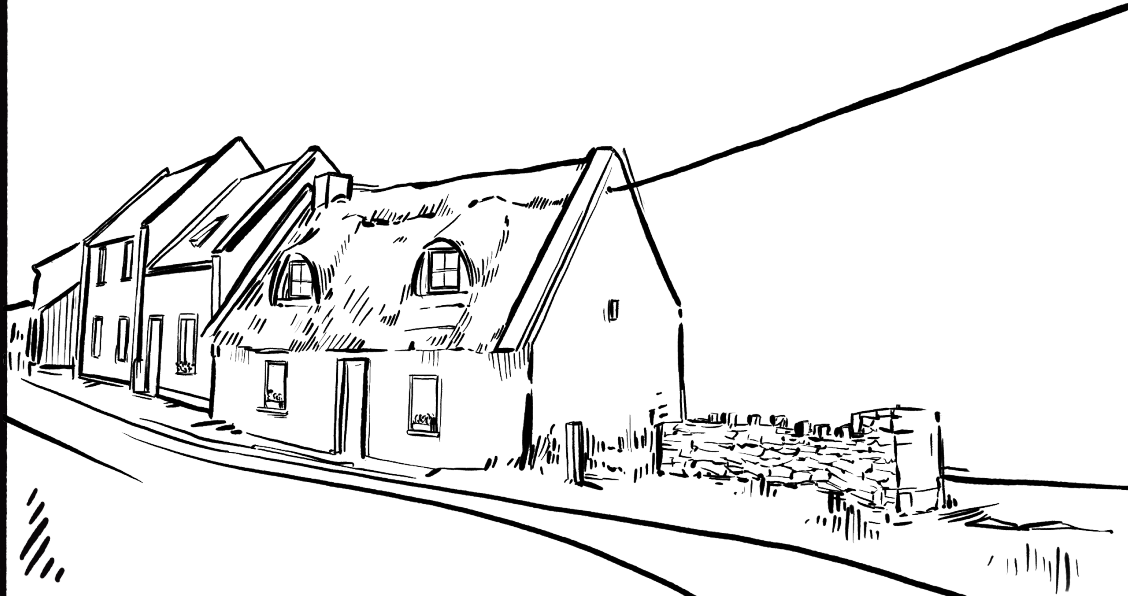
The word goes to Pallidus Azure.  
Take the timer and start reading.

*The Taboo lay broken. It was a blasphemy the Village had never witnessed before. We all knew the crime of the Indigos called for an answer.*

*That night, before the gathered Square, we the Azures had once again agreed to carry the burden of duty and become watchers. We were to protect the Village from those who threatened its very foundation. Some of us were certain this wouldn't be enough. Others rallied around the Indigos, with the insane conviction they had acted in good faith.*

*We all knew their crime called for an answer, but none of us could fathom which. And when we gathered in the Square on the next day, we were astonished to find ourselves standing on two sides of a rift.*

Set the timer to 15 minutes.  
The Day begins now.



## Night II

The word goes to Plumbeus Azure. (Start the soundtrack if there is one).  
When everyone is in their House, move to the centre of the Square with Pallidus and start reading.

*Indigos, step forward. Everyone else, do not dare move. Hold silent and listen.*

*The Taboo is broken, nothing is the same anymore. Us Azures have always been guardians. Always have we protected you. Always have we suspected the Indigos. Our Houses are bound by Authority. You have all felt its pull.*

*People of the Village, you who are watching us and the Indigos from your Houses, you must judge the bond we share. We will accept your verdict.*

*Hold up your free arm and keep your fist closed.*

Wait for everyone but the Azures and the Indigos to follow your instructions, then go on reading.

*Authority was our answer to the crime. To bring the Village back to the old order, or create a new one. But the rift runs deep, and the Thread tenses under its weight.*

*Close your eyes and reflect in silence. Let this Night bring you counsel.*

*If you feel the Thread of Authority can still resist, point your thumb up.*

*If you feel the tension will sever it, point your thumb down.*

Count the thumbs up. Count the thumbs down. Does the *Thread* resist?  
A tied vote is enough for the tension to sever it.

Before announcing the result, go on reading.

*Open your eyes. Look at your Partner's hand. Remember what you see.*

*Do their feelings mirror your own? Keep silent, but never forget.*

■ If the *Thread* must be severed, take the scissors and hand them to the Indigos. Let Pallidus help you hold the *Thread* and have the Indigos cut it. Then finish reading:

*The Thread of Authority is severed.*

*Let us return to our Houses and prepare for the Day to come.*

■ If the *Thread* can resist, finish reading:

*The Thread of Authority resists.*

*Let us return to our Houses and prepare for the Day to come.*

### Day III

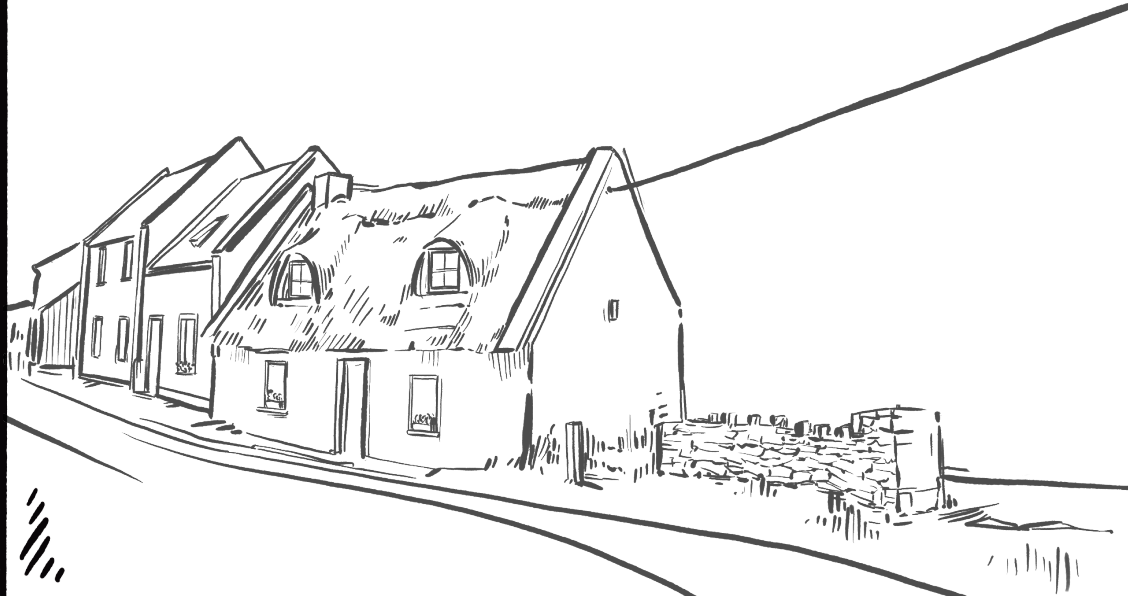
The word goes to Albus Saffron.  
Take the timer and start reading.

*It was a new day, and the gash in the middle of our Square still kept bleeding. We could not see it, but we felt it there. Every word grew dark as it went from one end of the Square to the other, and when it got there, it was a sharp and twisted thing. By then, we were no longer debating the crimes of the Indigos or the answers of the Azures. There was more to it than that. It was as if the fall of the Taboo had stirred something, a restlessness deep in our hearts.*

*Arguments flared up like heatless flames. No matter how measured the words, below their surface cowered the fear of an impending end.*

*And what of the Saffrons? We tried to meet the Goldens' uneasy gaze, hoping our old friends would find a cure for this wound. If there was any cure to be found.*

Set the timer to 15 minutes.  
The Day begins now.





### Night III

The word goes to Atrus Saffron. (Start the soundtrack if there is one).  
When everyone is in their House, move to the centre of the Square with Albus and start reading.

*Goldens, step forward. Everyone else, do not dare move. Hold silent and listen.  
The Taboo is broken, nothing is the same anymore. Us Saffrons have always  
shared our joys with the Goldens. Always have the Goldens lent us a caring hand.  
Our Houses are bound by Alliance. You have all witnessed it.*

*People of the Village, you who are watching us and the Goldens from your Houses,  
you must judge the bond we share. We will accept your verdict.*

*Hold up your free arm and keep your fist closed.*

Wait for everyone but the Saffrons and the Goldens to follow your instructions, then go on reading.

*Alliance was our cure to the wound. So that our words could open your eyes.  
But the wound runs deep, and the Thread tenses under its weight.*

*Close your eyes and reflect in silence. Let this Night bring you counsel.*

*If you feel the Thread of Alliance can still resist, point your thumb up.*

*If you feel the tension will sever it, point your thumb down.*

Count the thumbs up. Count the thumbs down. Does the *Thread* resist?  
A tied vote is enough for the tension to sever it.

Before announcing the result, go on reading.

*Open your eyes. Look at your Partner's hand. Remember what you see.*

*Do their feelings mirror your own? Keep silent, but never forget.*

■ If the *Thread* must be severed, take the scissors and hand them to the Indigos. Let Albus help you hold the *Thread* and have the Goldens cut it.  
Then finish reading:

*The Thread of Alliance is severed.*

*Let us return to our Houses and prepare for the Day to come.*

■ If the *Thread* can resist, finish reading:

*The Thread of Alliance resists.*

*Let us return to our Houses and prepare for the Day to come.*

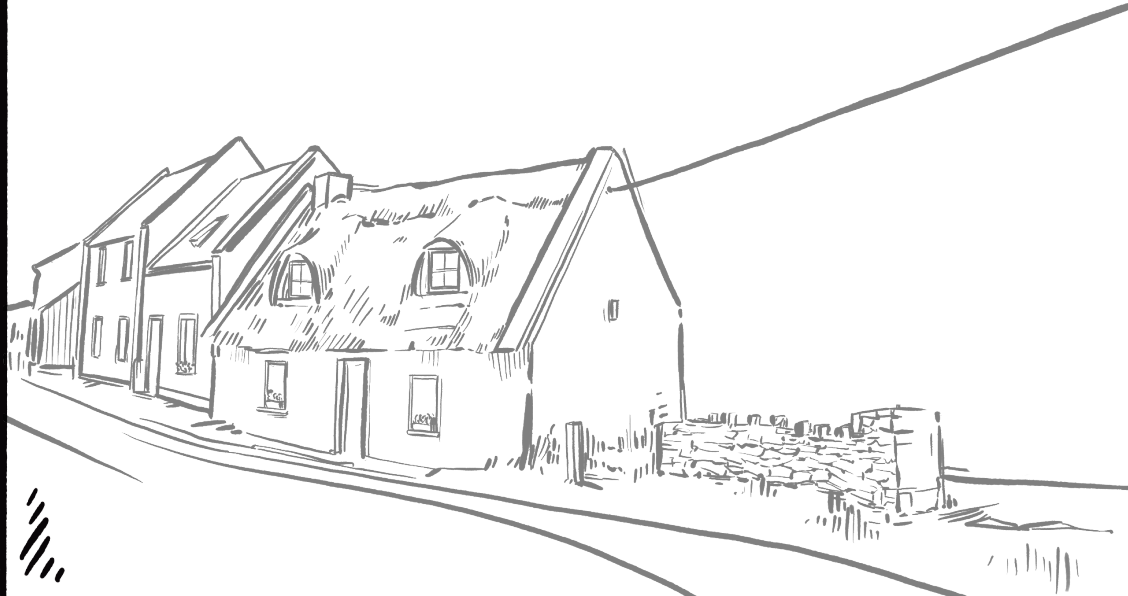
## Day IV

The word goes to Ebur Golden.  
Take the timer and start reading.

*The Village had been still for days. All of us felt it impossible to just return to our former lives, and even the smallest gestures grew heavy with unbearable tension. How were we supposed to put our hands to better use, our minds to calmer thoughts, when every small act was haunted by the ghost of the broken Taboo? If our trusted neighbours had been able to defy the most important of the Three Laws, how could we not fear betrayal, even from those living under our very roof?*

*The walls of our Houses felt too tight, suffocating, so we sought solace in the Square. Outside, we could still count on the strength of our union, on the support of our Partner against everyone else. It was our last hope that sooner or later, life would begin where it had stopped.*

Set the timer to 15 minutes.  
The Day begins now.



Night IV

The word goes to Ebum Golden. (Start the soundtrack if there is one).  
Take the scissors and go back inside your House with Ebur. Wait for every-  
one to do the same, then start reading.

*The Taboo is broken, nothing is the same anymore. We sought an answer in  
Authority and a cure in Alliance. But Discord has stretched every Thread to its  
limit, and it has seeped in our very Houses. Our Nights grow restless.*

*Ebur, turn and look me in the eye. And all of you, meet your Partner's gaze.*

Offer the scissors to Ebur, then go on reading.

*Remember each of our past Nights. Have we ever disagreed in our judgements?  
Or have we always felt as one, on every matter in this Village?*

■ If you have ever voted thumbs up while Ebur voted thumbs down in  
the previous *Nights*, or vice versa, hold up your *Thread of Partnership* and  
have Ebur cut it. Then go on reading:

*The Thread of the Goldens is severed.*

■ If you have always voted the same, take back the scissors and read:

*The Thread of the Goldens resists.*

In both cases, go on reading.

*Look at your Partner. Look and remember what you saw over the past Nights.  
Only if you have always agreed in your judgements may your Thread still resist.  
Otherwise, let the tension sever it and condemn your bond to break.*

Give the scissors to the House to your left, and have everyone in turn use  
them or pass them along to the next Couple.

Each time the fate of a Thread is sealed, announce it out loud:

*The Thread is severed.*                      or                      *The Thread resists.*

When the scissors are back in your hands, return them to the centre of the  
Square and finish reading.

*Let us think about the Threads we have severed, and those that still bind us.  
Let us stay in our Houses and prepare for the Day to come.*



## Day V

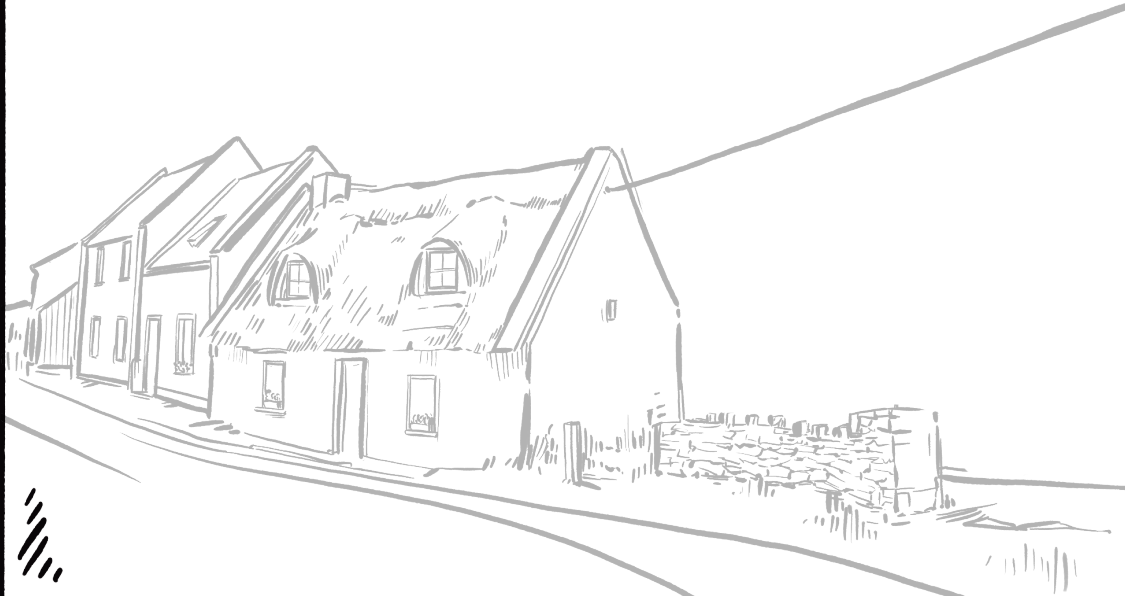
The word goes to Fulgidus Vermilion.  
Take the timer and start reading.

*The very things that had defined our lives in the Village threatened to break, and everything felt more fragile. On that last Day we set foot on the Square with uncertainty, as if the ground threatened to swallow us whole with each step. The cobblestone was ready to crumble, the Houses sagged under an invisible weight. Even the Laws felt flimsy and pliant, even those none of us had yet dared to break.*

*The only thing that felt more solid than ever was the Discord that still separated us. It seemed to be the only force capable of resisting the all-consuming flow of time. Yet I still hoped: Under the fallen leaves of appearances, our roots were still there. And no matter what the Crimsons said, they ran deeper than a broken Taboo.*

*Under the Village were its Villagers. Us.*

Set the timer to 15 minutes.  
The Day begins now.



## Night V

The word goes to Fuscus Vermilion. (Start the soundtrack if there is one).  
Gather everyone in the Square, then start reading.

*The Taboo is broken, nothing is the same anymore. Perhaps we believe we'll write new Laws. Restore the Taboo or leave it behind us once and for all. Or maybe we think there is no hope left for the Village. That it can never be our home again.*

*Let us close our eyes. If you wish to leave the Village, turn your back to the Square.*

Keep your eyes on the page as you decide yourself. Then look at the others.

■ If a *Thread* connects two Partners and only one of them is staying, hand them the Scissors and have them cut it. Go on reading:

*The Thread is severed.*

■ If at least one person has decided to leave, go on reading.

■ Otherwise, skip this paragraph and go on reading below.

*Those who wished to go shall leave the Village forever. From a mountainside, camping with their household goods, the refugees look at the labyrinth of taut threads and poles that rise in the plain. That is the Village still, and they are nothing.*

There is no turning back and no one may change their mind. Step out of the circle of Houses with them if it's the path you chose. Then go on reading.

■ If at least one person has decided to stay, go on reading.

■ If everyone has left, skip ahead and only read the closing lines.

*Those who chose to stay have the chance to cut the Thread of Discord, if they wish. To build a Village more complex and at the same time more regular than the old one.*

Take the scissors, or ask someone else to do it if you chose to leave. Offer them to each of the Villagers who chose to stay.

■ If the *Thread of Discord* is cut, the game is over. The Village survives.

■ If the *Thread of Discord* resists, read these closing lines.

*Discord has doomed the Village to its ruin, be it slow or sudden. Without the walls which do not last, without the bones of the dead which the wind rolls away, the only thing left will be spiderwebs of intricate relationships seeking a form.*