

It starts in Lahti. Slaughterhouse city. City of blood. A trash can fire in Laune central park. The can is a Molok, a 1,000 litre plastic drum with an aluminum lid, half buried under the earth with only the head exposed. At the bottom amid the kebab wrappers and smashed bottles is the charred body of a child. The corpse is prayer effected by the fire, hands clasped, eyeless ruin of the face staring up at the hole in the lid. Was she still alive when they dropped her inside? Did she climb in of her own accord? Kids have fallen into Moloks before. Perhaps a lit cigarette...

WHAT YOU HEAR

Satanist murders and Satanist burnings aren't unheard of in the north. Black Metal Inner Circle, Temple of the Black Light... That was twenty years ago, but if we know anything about the Occult Underground, it's full of bitter Gen Xers who can't let go of anything. On the other hand, fussy Finnish Lutherans are always quick to blame the kids and their devil music for anything that goes wrong, and the Carthaginian Tophet predates the earliest appearance of Satan in the Hebrew Bible.

Offerings to Moloch are paid at the start of a great undertaking, the legend goes. The firstborn child, burned. +2d10% to a local objective, d10 for a global, d5 for a cosmic. This is the kind of rumor you *really* want to suppress. The only people who would do something like this are the ones you don't want to succeed.

Or it's a false flag. The Sleepers love a good witch hunt, a pogrom to clean out troublesome occultists and encourage the survivors to keep their fucking voices down. They could have printed a Potemkin body using Sterile Begetting. Or they might have just killed a kid. They're not nice people and the Whisper War didn't make them any saner.

The girl's parents are the prime suspects for anyone who makes the obvious connection to the Moloch rite. That's where any investigation should start...