



CONTAGION

A Tournament scenario for Pagan
Publishing's
Delta Green

Contagion, by Matt Cowger 1997

"A highly dangerous bacteria, which was created by mistake using the information contained in 'The Cookbook' is accidentally released near a small city... The contagion spreads quickly, it must be stopped at all costs! "

-Blurb

Contagion is a short scenario designed to be played in 2-4 hours by a group of 3-6 investigators. While it is designed with Delta Green in mind it would be easy to adapt to Cthulhu Now or any other modern day role play game. The rest of the material here is designed with the keeper in mind, if you plan to be a player in this scenario you would e advised to read no further.

Contagion-Introduction

Contagion is designed to be played in 2-3 hours by a group of 3-6 investigators. A collection of Delta Green agents is provided at the end of the scenario (2 FBI, 2 CDC, 2 Friendlies) It is a fast paced scenario, the props for it at ShaunCon include a timer, a large Bio-Hazard sign, badges for each investigator. a brief intro to Delta Green and a scenario briefing, printable props appear at the end of the scenario.

Contagion - Background

Before Majestic 12 learned a few harsh lessons in discretion there was a period of open experimentation with the information contained in 'The Cookbook', the text given to them by the unearthly Greys. Many of these experiments ended in disaster, usually fatal. The experiment that spawned the bacteria in Contagion was one such failure. The bacteria claimed three lives before it was contained. A small amount was held for continued research, the rest was sealed in a steel container, buried in a forested lot and written off. With the passage of time and the movement of paperwork, the barrel and its contents were forgotten.

Eventually the city encroached on this forested lot and earthmovers partially uncovered and split the container. The colony, long dormant, awoke and slithered out of its container, after an attack on an unsuspecting surveyor, it took shelter in a nearby crevice. The next day it succeeded in taking an unsuspecting school boy, and its mass continues to grow.

The surveyor was taken to a nearby hospital in a state of shock. The CDC was notified due to the alarming and rapidly spreading bacteria that seemed to be literally devouring the victim. The staff was unable to identify the strange animal like gashes that seemed to be the source of the infection. The report came to the attention of Delta Green, through a friendly, and a group is sent to the hospital to investigate.

And so it starts....

Contagion -Timeline:

Day One:

- 8:00am parents of Zack Danvers report their child missing.
- 10:40am investigators show up at <name> Hospital.
- 10:50am Mitchell Haws' body discovered missing, air ventilation system of containment room found badly damaged.
- 11:30am nurse calls security, reports man 'lurking' in ICU, fled when confronted, couldn't be found.
- 1:50pm infant found missing.
- 3:30pm patient complains of banging in air ducts.
- 5:00pm news report of missing child, last seen in same area as the attack on Mitchell Haws.

Day Two:

- 2:40am visiting relative assaulted in restroom, severe cuts develop the infection.
- 3:15am visitor is put in isolation, doctor and investigators notified if not there.
- 9:45am visitor dies (if no action or ineffective action taken)
- 10:30am remains of infant found in basement maintenance area, bones have been scoured clean.
- 2:50pm police locate skeletal remains of a child near construction site, examination will show them to belong to Zack Danvers.
- 3:30pm Police cordon off end of lot, looking for more evidence. Finding none. They abandon the search by appx. 9pm.
- 5:15pm very upset nurse reports seeing 'a large snake' near the maternity ward, she is sent home for the evening (unless action is taken re: the small cut on her hand)
- 6:45pm intern complains of elevator 'acting funny' to maintenance.
- 9:50pm partial remains of cancer patient found hanging from air duct. The body, beyond the midsection, is not found.

- 10:20pm visitor rises as a new bacteria colony, this is observed by an on-duty nurse if the investigators aren't there. Like the first colony, it attempts to break out through the ventilation containment system.

Day Three:

- 8:30am The two bacteria colonies merge in the tunnels under the hospital, attack and overpower a custodian, the (much larger) colony spends the rest of the day feeding on him.
- 10:30am A construction worker is attacked by what he describes as 'a nest of snakes' he is brought to the hospital with severe lacerations to his leg.
- 12:00pm CDC demands full report.

Day Four:

- 6:00am the massive colony assaults the maternity ward, attempting to drop out of the air duct and kill/eat anyone they encounter.
- 10:00am The source colony, starved, lashes out at a construction crew, injuring four (three become infected) and killing two.
- ...the contagion spreads, city must be quarantined...failure.

Contagion - Creature Information

The main villain of Contagion is a semi-sentient, extremely voracious bacteria. It is an engineered organism, similar in some ways to the oil-eating microbe. It was a by product of Majestic 12 experiments, using some of the information found in 'The Cookbook'. It was found to be highly unstable and all the samples were sealed in a barrel and buried in the late eighties. MJ-12 wrote off the entire experiment and forgot about it. The barrel and its contents remained forgotten, until now.

Development on the edge of town unearthed the barrel and caused a breach in its side. The bacteria-colony escaped and seeped into a small crevice near the construction site. The colony is a bit of a picky eater, preferring human flesh to that of other organisms. The surveyor that was its first unfortunate victim was able to get away and was taken to a hospital in a state of shock. The curious school boy it captured next wasn't so lucky and it is on this unfortunate that it is feeding at the start of the scenario.

The bacteria-colony grows by infecting hosts and devouring the flesh on those it attacks, eventually turning the unfortunates into smaller colonies of the bacteria. An attack has a potential of infecting a victim. If the percentage is rolled under, the victim must make a Con. Vs. Pot. roll to resist the infection. (The Pot. of the Bacteria starts at a base of 15). If infected by the bacteria the victim has Con-1d8 hours of life remaining. A massive IV anti-biotic flush, as well as treating the wound has a chance of saving the victim. If untreated the infection kills the host and begins to render the flesh into a sort of protoplasm/bacteria like substance. The victim then rises as a smaller colony in Siz-1d4 hours. The new colony operates under the same conditions as the first bacteria-colony, spread and devour.

A recently risen colony has the following stats:

Str:22 Con:15 Dex:13 Int:8 Pow:10 Siz:(Remains as it was before infection) Edu:0

HP:25 MP:10

It has three modes of attack-

Bite 1d4 & 15% chance of infection

Slash 1d6 & 15% chance of infection

Entangle 1d8/round 20% chance of infection. Victim must make a Str vs. Str test on the resistance table to break free.

It does not like bright sunlight and actively avoids it if possible. It takes the minimal damage inflicted by gunfire (i.e. a pistol that does 1d6 damage would only do one point of damage to it), but takes double damage from fire. Additionally, alcohol/peroxide/etc. is very toxic to the colony inflicting damage along the following scale:

Pint: 1d2

Quart: 1d6

1/2 Gallon: 1d8

Gallon: 1d10

Additionally multiple colonies can merge and devide, each additional colony that joins adds the folowing:

Str:+2 (Up to 35)

Con: +1 (Up to 25)

HP:+5 (Up to 60)

Add +1 to damage of each attack up to +15

Add +1% to chance of infection from attacks (Up to 40%)

Add +1 to the Potency of the bacteria in the con. vs. pow. infection roll.

The colonies can form into vaguely humanoid forms or amorphous masses. While the mass itsself can't move quickly, individual appendages can move with a whipcord like speed. It can ooze through small openings and possibly drop on the unwary.

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The gist of the scenario is that before Majestic-12 learned some harsh lessons in discretion, they had experimented a lot with The Cookbook provided by the Greys. Many of those experiments proved fatal to MJ-12 team members and others.

One of those experiments was the cration of a bacteria that claimed three lives before it was contained and buried in a steel container in a forested lot (and thus forgotten about). But what happens when urban sprawl pushes out too far? In Delta Green, it means things best left forgotten are unearthed.

Sadly, this scenario was not completed, but I'll try to give some detail on what happened during our one and only session with it.

- Chris Talbot

Session log #1

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June 15th, 2001

Some time had passed since Operation SPRING CLEANING, and now the agents were receiving an invitation to a night at the opera in Raymondville, a town about a two-hour drive north of Phoenix. For this operation, Ophilia and O'Grady were called (Ozward was unavailable), and Jack Stevens was called in as a friendly.

The team met up in Raymondville with FBI badges provided by A Cell. With a rental car, they checked out the local hospital where a surveyor had been taken after being exposed to some kind of bacteria that seemed to be devouring his skin (he also had several lacerations on his skin, apparently from an animal). The CDC had already been notified, which is how Delta Green found out about the issue, and the hospital staff had no idea what the surveyor had come into contact with.

When they arrived shortly after 10:50 in the morning, they discovered the surveyor's body had vanished. The air ventilation system in his room had been severely damaged. After talking with the nurses and doctors, O Cell started a sweep of the hospital. They asked to be kept informed.

At 11:30, O'Grady received a call on his cell. The nurse told him a man had been lurking in ICU. When confronted, the man fled and couldn't be found. Another broken air vent was found near where the nurse saw the unidentified man.

Ophilia was sent up into the ventilation system, but she found nothing.

By 1:30, the team decided they weren't getting anywhere in the hospital and headed out to the construction site in the north end of Raymondville. At the site, they talked to the foreman and the worker who found the infected surveyor. Eventually Ophilia and Jack found an uncovered barrel that had been broken open not far from where the surveyor had been found.

Leading away from the barrel were footprints that continued to change size with each step. The trail led into the forest, where an amorphous tentacle shot up out of the soil to attack the agents. While Ophilia and Jack made their SAN checks, O'Grady failed and suffered a 4 SAN loss.

The battle ended with a dead creature and no injured agents.

Unfortunately, that's where the session ended. It was the last session of the campaign, so we never finished the Contagion scenario.

The scenario has a strict timeline of events that happen over a four-day period. If the agents haven't solved the problem by then, the contagion has spread throughout the city, which has to be quarantined. The villain, as described in the scenario, is a "semi-sentient, extremely voracious bacteria. It is an engineered organism, similar in some ways to the oil-eating microbe."

As people are infected by the bacteria, they die and then rise as a smaller bacterial colony. The colonies spread and devour, creating more colonies.

Even though we never finished the scenario, I had a sneaking suspicion that it would end poorly for O Cell. The timeline's pacing is not kind, and unless the agents find a way to quickly find and deal with the bacterial colonies that continue to pop up throughout the scenario, things would end poorly and Raymondville would be wiped out.

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Sources:

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This document has been compiled for almostlost.webs by Dave Syrinx on 2011-05-28