

# Rippers

## Resurrected

## PLAYER'S GUIDE

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*To my little monsters, Dylan, Evelyn, and Angelina. And to Kirsty, for everything.*

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My fellow Rippers believe the Cabal defeated. Though they are scattered, evil lurks in the dark places where normal men and women fear to tread. These journals will help us organize and track these horrors down to whatever foul places they run. We must be relentless. We must chase them to the ends of the Earth—and beyond if necessary.

—M.H.





# RIPPERS

**W**elcome to *Rippers*, a game of supernatural horror, where Victorian-era monster hunters—the Rippers—fight the fearsome creatures of the night: werewolves, vampires, and other horrors that stalk the earth preying on humanity.

These foul monsters boast superhuman strength and supernatural powers and the Rippers must use everything at their disposal to resist them. Some invest in the latest technology—incredible devices of iron and steel powered either by steam or, more recently, by electricity. Others practice ancient magic or perform holy miracles. A rare few bravely (or foolishly) wield arcane biotechnology “ripped” from the very creatures they hunt.

Whatever the methods, all are united in their dedication to protect mankind from the monsters that stalk the night. The Rippers’ struggle against evil rages on largely unknown to the wider world.

**POLICE** in Carston-On-The-Wold have called an end to their three-day search for escaped convict Albert Fiddler after remains were discovered near a remote farmhouse. Constable Perryman informed this journalist that the body recovered was certainly that of the wanted man, and that he had been “most cruelly and horribly disfigured.”

Further details about the nature of Fiddler’s injuries and how he came to suffer them have not yet been released.

Lord Feldstaff of nearby Morton Manor stated that one of his tenant farmers discovered the body and raised the alarm. His Lordship graciously allowed the farmer and his family to remain at the manor until the police permit them to return home.

The manhunt came to an end after

## ORIGIN OF THE RIPPERS

While the organization itself is comparatively new, heroes who fight monsters the way Rippers do have saved mankind from the shadows for centuries. From the valiant Twilight Legion to the mysterious Sons of Solomon, countless secret orders have been dedicated to protecting humanity through the ages. Many of the legendary Rippers and the foes they still fight today have histories stretching back into that distant past, recorded by Ripper historians and preserved, so that new members might understand the dangers they face and the bravery of those who went before. This is their story.

### The Monastic Knights

The tale of the organization now called the Rippers begins with the monks of the Hospital of St. John. This order, also known as the “Hospitallers,” was founded during the Crusades for Benedictine monks, dedicated to providing shelter and healing for pilgrims to the Holy Land. One fateful day, they took in a “pilgrim” who turned out to be blighted by a foul curse. A learned member of the order called the thing “vampire.” After losing many brethren to the creature, they defeated it and re-dedicated themselves to the destruction of the undead.

Now an order of monastic knights, the Hospitallers took their battle to the monsters spawned by the horrors of the Crusades. Unfortunately, they were unprepared to face these creatures and losses were great. They were driven from one base after another including Jerusalem, Cyprus, and Rhodes, and were eventually reduced to renting the island of Malta from Emperor Charles V at the cost of one trained falcon per year (the so-called “Maltese Falcon”).

The Hospitallers of northeastern Europe, frustrated at the Order’s inability to battle the undead, formed their own order called the Teutonic Knights, and concerned themselves with



hunting witches and other less powerful creatures. After the horrors of the Inquisition, the Catholic faction abandoned its military mission, and the Lutheran faction died out everywhere except the Netherlands.

## John Dee

With the invention of the printing press, alchemists, Quabbalists, and other practitioners of magic were able to share their ideas without having to copy their notes by hand. Despite this, they still lacked any sort of central organization, and performed their experiments in secretive solitude, fearful of persecution should their activities be discovered.

All this changed in 1582 when Doctor John Dee, court astrologer to Queen Elizabeth of England, had a chance encounter with a werewolf, accidentally slaying it with his silver-tipped walking stick. Horrified to see the corpse return to human form, yet simultaneously intrigued, Dee brought the body back to his lab for study. Though Dee was content to do nothing more than dissect the werewolf, his research partner, Edward Kelley, went further. Kelley removed body parts from the werewolf and implanted them into other animals. These animals assumed many of the werewolf's characteristics, gaining strength, speed, and cannibalistic ferocity. Kelley christened his invention *rippen-transfere*, roughly meaning "tear and transfer."

Alarmed, Dee suggested they stop. But the charismatic Kelley convinced Dee this discovery could provide the money needed to fund their research into angelic magic, which was Dee's primary field of interest. Dee agreed and their grisly experiments continued.

Originally, they planned to sell their secrets to the Queen, giving England the ability to create "super soldiers" in exchange for vast sums of gold. Queen Elizabeth found the whole idea repulsive and dismissed it out of hand. Humiliated, Dee was banished from court.

## The Rosicrucians

Enraged by his monarch's rejection, Dee became obsessed with perfecting his ripping techniques, taking ever-greater risks to discover more about the monsters he found.

Dedicated to the betterment of mankind, Dee went out and recruited like-minded individuals, organizing them into a secret fellowship of

Doctor, I have never seen anything like it. We found the monster in the annex room, where the farmer's son had been allowed to stay, but of the son there was no sign. After the hideous howls we had heard we entered the room armed, but nothing prepared us for what we saw. It tore into us with inhuman force, seemingly impervious to our gunfire. I know I hit the thing with several shots, yet it didn't even flinch. I cannot explain it. We were lucky to escape with our lives.

wizards, alchemists, and astrologers. He named the organization "The Brotherhood of the Rose Cross" to remind its members of their dedication to both peace (represented by the rose) and faith (represented by the cross).

Despite his best intentions, though, Dee's fanatical zeal to prove himself right frightened those around him. Alarmed by Dee's fervor, Kelley tried to leave the order. Cursing him a coward, Dee struck him dead with the same silver-tipped cane he had used to slay that first monster.

Horrified at what he had done but refusing to abandon his work, Dee faked his own death, leaving behind forever the Rosicrucians, who dedicated themselves to angelic magic. Under the assumed name of Dr. Jack, Dee continued his research with a fearful determination.

## A New Direction

Over the century that followed, Dr. Jack brought a number of young scientists and wizards under his wing including Victor Frankenstein, Dr. Henry Jekyll, the infamous Dr. Moreau, and the mysterious Griffin.

This group of young, idealistic scientists and adventurers was dedicated to learning from Dr. Jack and discovering how to defeat the monsters they hunted. Together they perfected methods of prolonging their lifespan unnaturally and were able to achieve near-immortality, ripping the essence of life itself from their prey.

The last convert to this core group was a brilliant scientist, Dr. Abraham Van Helsing. He and Dr. Jack, along with the others, formed a new organization less learned and esoteric than the Rosicrucians. This new group was dedicated instead to the defense of mankind and the eradication of the creatures of darkness, aided by their newest "Ripping Technologie" discoveries.

They called themselves the Rippers.



You would not believe me if I told you, it defies all logic and as I write I can scarce believe it myself. In the half-light of that dim room, from out of the shadows came a great shape.

My sweet sister, I shudder when I think of it again, but it was a bestial creature: it bore the shape of a man, hairy and strong, but its neck and head resembled nothing so much as that of a great wolf. As it lunged, the men in our party opened fire. I confess I fainted dead away at the sight of the hideous beast.

## The Order of St. George

In 1798, the Hospitallers lost the island of Malta to Napoleon and were left with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and a handful of relics. The order relocated to St. Petersburg and would have dwindled to nothing more than a social club, but for Victor Frankenstein, the first of the early Rippers to lose his way. He chose that same year to begin his experiments into the reanimation of dead tissue, and his many attempts at creating the "perfect" creature sent hordes of "failed" experiments rampaging across Northern and Eastern Europe.

Frankenstein's experiments continued. The doctor vanished to carry on his research in secret and more and more of his monsters surfaced across Europe. Under pressure, the Rippers approached both the Hospitallers and the Teutonic Knights for assistance in fighting these terrible creatures. The two ancient orders combined, calling themselves "The Order of St. George," and joined the Rippers to combat the monstrous threat. Since then the Order has expanded, taking in monks, nuns, hermits, and holy folk of many different denominations and faiths. Regardless of their personal beliefs, all members of the Order share a deep devotion to the protection of mankind from the horrors of the night.

The Rippers' most dangerous challenge came in 1876 when Van Helsing and a team of amateur vampire slayers attempted to defeat the notorious Count Dracula. Dr. Van Helsing destroyed Dracula's concubines, while Dracula himself was nearly undone by Jonathan Harker and the American Quincy Morris. It was Morris who termed Dr. Jack's supernatural enhancements "rippertech." The more modern-sounding name has stuck among the younger Rippers, though it made Van Helsing wince. Despite their best efforts, though, Dracula managed to escape.

*Thomas, we must talk, Dr. W*

## Things Fall Apart

Realizing the dangers they faced, Dr. Jack urged the group to make increased use of rippertech to give them an edge against their foes. He assured them that Frankenstein had been weak, and that his failures were not the result of the use of rippertech. To prove his point, he had numerous experimental implants installed, none of which seemed to harm him in the least.

In truth, these implants weakened an already unstable mind and sent him over the edge. Worse yet, Jack started suffering from organ failure as the implants conflicted with each other and threatened to shut down his entire body. Somehow, he managed to keep all of this hidden from the Rippers for years, searching for fresh body parts to replace his own all the while.

Though Frankenstein was the first, long exposure to the effects of their monstrous experiments took its toll on all the founding Rippers. In time, each of these individuals, except for Dr. Van Helsing, used ripping technology for evil or terrible ends.

Victor Frankenstein created an artificial life from a combination of dead bodies and animal parts and the creature ended up a serial killer. Dr. Henry Jekyll attempted to purge the evil from his body but succeeded only in transforming himself into the sinister Mr. Hyde. Dr. Moreau became intrigued by the possibilities of transformative surgery and mutilated normal animals into half-human hybrids who worshipped him as a god. Griffin discovered a method of achieving true invisibility but used it for nothing more than common crime. Only Dr. Van Helsing seemed more interested in the theoretical underpinnings of the technology rather than its practical applications and managed to retain his ethical compass.

## Ripping Psychosis

Van Helsing became convinced that rippertech led toward inevitable corruption. Since science was a morally neutral pursuit, he argued, mixing it with