

HORROR PROSE

A page from Hunt: Showdown's 'Book of Weapons' - a collection of accounts from the game's alternate history in 1895 New Orleans, where a corrupting plague spreads:

The Journal of Harold Black

Undated

Black leather bound, handwritten, 6" x 8.25"

I do not recall any premonition upon seeing the house, but casting my mind back inserts a memory of deep foreboding.

It was not quiet. A dull, rhythmic thump echoed every few seconds, followed instantly by a metallic rattle. The ground was scorched with fire and, on closer inspection, blackened by copious amounts of blood. Its trail wove through the ash like a snake, beckoning me through the charred front door.

As I approached the rear entrance, I was overpowered by a rancid smell, a cavalcade of rot and infection and death. I readied my weapon as the thumps grew louder, but what I beheld made me lower the rifle. A newborn babe in a cot, dead for what must have been weeks.

Its umbilical cord spilled out of the cot and trailed under the dining table—where two husks that were once human lay—and then to what was once a mother. Stuck into the wall with a bayonet, it was banging its head backwards, shaking the pots and pans strewn on the floor.

Here it was, gifted to me by an impossible, incomprehensible happenstance. The perfect sample for study.

WEAPON DESCRIPTIONS

Excerpts from the Hunt: Showdown encyclopedia entry giving an insight into weapons' history:



DRILLING (See also, RIFLES, SHOTGUNS) A combination gun such as this is delicate to manufacture and rare as a result. Triple-barreled rifles never justified their cost enough to enter mass production, but rather were crafted with the primary purpose of hunting and gamekeeping. They remained a specialty tool that indicates an increasing wealth amongst the Hunters of the bayou.



BASEBALL BAT (See also, BLUNT FORCE, TOOLS) Prior to the standardization of their dimensions, baseball bats were handmade for their wielder. It is rudimentary as a weapon, but effective enough that records of using them to bludgeon a human skull pre-date the word "baseball."



VETTERLI 71 KARABINER CYCLONE (See also, VETTERLI 71 KARABINER) The invention of smokeless powder enabled the creation of self-loading rifles by keen inventors. Though the haphazard conversion was attributed to an untraced "Howell," the gun resembles the work of Hiram Maxim. Yet another creation that he would be uncredited for.