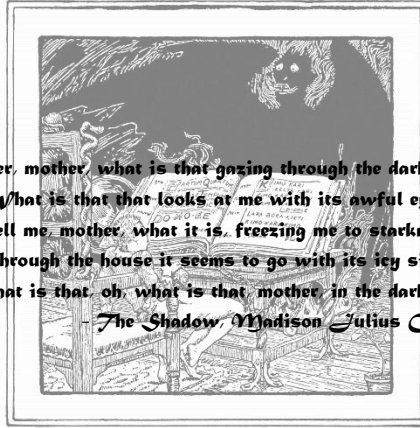


Mother, mother, what is that gazing through the darkness?
 What is that that looks at me with its awful eyes?
 Tell me, mother, what it is, freezing me to starkness?
 Through the house it seems to go with its icy sighs,
 What is that, oh, what is that, mother, in the darkness?
 — *The Shadow*, Madison Julius Cawein



Vampire

"In all the darkest pages of the malign supernatural there is no more terrible tradition than that of the vampire, a pariah even among demons. Even today, in certain quarters of the world, in remoter districts of Europe itself, Transylvania, Slavonia, the isles and mountains of Greece, the peasant will...utterly destroy the carrion who, as it is yet firmly believed, at night will issue from his unhallowed grave to spread the infection of vampirism throughout the countryside.

Assyria knew the vampire long ago, and he lurked amid the primaevae forests of Mexico before Cortes came. He is feared by the Chinese, by the Indian, and the Malay alike, whilst Arabian story tells us again and again of the ghouls who haunt ill-omened sepulchers and lonely cross-ways to attack and devour the unhappy traveler."

— Montague Summers, *The Vampire His Kith & Kin*

"In establishing these laws and rules for House Rubri Solis, I, Sir Gunther, have sought to remove the independent renegades from their haunts in Germany, and bring them into the fold for our common good against not only peasants and the church, but against the traitor houses in France and Italy."

— Sir Gunther Gottenheim, 1586
(formerly Roman general Flavius Bestia)

"I don't recognize 'ya, young one, I thought I was the only one with this curse in the whole city..."

— Hans, a "Night Crawler" in Berlin

Vampire

A parasite who feeds off of the energy and power of other beings. Your character's recommended highest characteristics are:

Endurance, Intelligence, Dexterity
(*End, Int, Dex*)

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Step 1: Qualifications or Draft

Make the Qualifications check by rolling 2D6 and adding (or subtracting) the modifier for your character's Endurance. You must roll the indicated number or higher:

Qualifications 6+ (End)

If you succeed, go to **Step 2: Begin at Rank-0** for Vampire, next column.

If you fail, roll on the Draft table:

Draft

Roll	Career / School
1	Soldier
2	Chaos Mage
3	Drifter
4	Technician
5	Neo-Pagan
6	Rogue

and then go to **Step 2: Begin at Rank-0** of the playbook for the career or school you were drafted into.



Step 2: Begin at Rank-0

At starting Rank-0 you have the following skills:

- Wheeled Vehicle-0
- Linguistics-1 (English, Latin, and two others)
- Carousing-0
- Magic: Darkness-1

Note these on your character sheet under "Skills."

Step 3: School Term

Proceed through a) Survival, b) Advancement, c) Risky Castings, and d) Aging to complete one school term.

a) Survival

Make the Survival check by rolling 2D6 and adding (or subtracting) the modifier for your character's Intelligence. You must roll the indicated number or higher:

Survival 8+ (Int)

If you succeed the Survival check, choose one of the Skills Tables on the next page. You may only choose the Advanced Skills table if your character's Education is 8+. Then, roll 1D6 to gain one skill from the table you chose. Note your new skill on your character sheet.

Gaining Skills
 Unless the skill indicates [Skill Name]-0 you receive a new skill at level 1: [Skill Name]-1. If your character already possesses a skill and you roll that skill again, increment that skill higher by one. For example, if you character has Recon-1 and you roll Recon again, your skill is now Recon-2. Gun Combat-0 becomes Gun Combat-1, etc.

If you fail the Survival check, you do not gain a skill, and you may not go to b) Advancement. Instead, proceed directly to c) Risky Castings.

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b) Advancement

Make the Advancement check by rolling 2D6 and adding (or subtracting) the modifier for your character's Dexterity. You must roll the indicated number or higher:

Advancement 7+ (Dex)

If you succeed the Advancement check, choose one of the Skills Tables (Advanced Skills requires Edu 8+). Then, you may choose the new skill rather than rolling for it. Note your new skill. You also proceed one rank higher on the Rank & Skills table, below. Also note any new skill you receive if you reach Rank-3.

Rank & Skills

Rank	Rank & Skills
0	<i>Parasite</i> Wheeled Vehicle-0 Linguistics-1 Carousing-0 Magic: Darkness-1
1	<i>Creature</i>
2	<i>Night Crawler</i>
3	<i>Vampire</i> Magic: Spirit-1
4	<i>Night Stalker</i>
5	<i>Ghoul Master</i>
6	<i>Lord of Night</i>

Regardless of whether you succeed the Advancement check, proceed to c) Risky Castings.

c) Risky Castings

Make the Risky Castings check by rolling 2D6. You must roll the indicated number or higher:

Risky Castings 4+

If you succeed, choose one of the Skills Tables (Advanced Skills requires Edu 8+). Then, roll 1D6 to gain one skill from the table you chose. Note your new skill.

Skills Tables*Personal Skills*

Roll	Skill / Characteristic
1	+1 Int
2	+1 Edu
3	+1 End
4	+1 Dex
5	+1 Str
6	Melee Combat

Service Skills

Roll	Skill
1	Magic: Darkness
2	Magic: Fire
3	Carousing
4	Athletics
5	Melee: Martial Arts
6	Wheeled Vehicle

Specialist Skills

Roll	Skill
1	Streetwise
2	Outdoors: Survival
3	Magic: Ritual
4	Broker
5	Magic: Darkness
6	Magic: Spirit

Advanced Skills (requires Edu 8+)

Roll	Skill
1	Sciences: Esoteric Lore
2	Linguistics
3	Investigation
4	Performance: Acting
5	Computer
6	Magic: Mind

Cascade skills are shown in **bold**. Cascade skills are made up of two or more component skills. When your character receives a cascade skill, you must select one component skill of the cascade skill from the "Skills List."

d) Aging

Note your character's age. The character begins at age 18, but each school term lasts 4 years, so upon first completing this step your character is age 22.

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You may either go to Step 4: Graduate or enter a new school term by repeating a) Survival, b) Advancement, c) Risky Castings, and d) Aging.

The maximum number of school terms you may attend without penalty is four. For the fifth term you may subtract your Strength score by 1 or lose 1 level in a skill. For the sixth term you may subtract your Dexterity score by 1 or lose 1 level in a skill. For the seventh term you may subtract your Strength and Dexterity scores each by 1 or lose 2 levels in any two skills. The absolute maximum number of school terms is seven.

Step 4: Graduate

For each term attended, you receive one roll of 1D6 on the Cash Benefits table. If your character is rank 4 or higher, add +1 to the roll. These credits may then be spent to purchase equipment for your character.

Cash Benefits

Roll	Credits
1	500
2	1,000
3	2,000
4	5,000
5	10,000
6	20,000
7	50,000

Also, for each term attended, you may choose one benefit from the Material Benefits table. It helps to choose something for which your character has the correct skill. For instance, a Calligraphy Kit may only be used if the character has the Magic: Calligraphy skill. Choosing a weapon makes the most sense if the character possesses a skill in Melee or Gun Combat.

Material Benefits

Kiwi Junior Model-0 Laptop
Esoteric Lore Database-1
Dark Web Database-2
Melee Weapon
Amulet (1 spell inscribed)
Ritual Trappings-1
Thrown Weapon

Material benefits shown in **bold** are a category in "Equipment." Choose one item from that category in the "Equipment" chapter.

Step 5: Equipment & Encumbrance

Purchase any items you think your character might need for the adventure from "Equipment."

Calculate your character's Encumbrance Limit. This is 10+ your character's Strength DM. For instance, a character with a Strength of 9 has a Str DM of +1, for an Encumbrance Limit of 11. A character with a Strength of 5 has a Str DM of -1, for an Encumbrance Limit of 9. Note the Encumbrance Limit on the character sheet.

On the character sheet jot down the equipment's name, its encumbrance, and any notes about its use. If you have an Encumbrance Limit of 10, and your equipment totals up to an Encumbrance of 11 or higher, your character must take a -2 DM to all skill rolls.

Step 6: Combat Power

Calculate your character's Combat Power. Combat Power is an indication of how lethal your character is in combat. To calculate it, add up the following values:

- Characteristic DM's for: Str + Dex + End + Int
- +
- Skill Level/DM's for: Athletics + Melee Combat + all Magic Domains
- +
- # of dice of the single weapon possessed by the character which does the most damage + armor

Note your character's Combat Power on the character sheet.

Step 7: Magic

Go to "Magic" and learn how to create some preliminary magic spells.

Multiple Careers & Schools

After you Graduate, you may make a Qualifications check for another career or school. But, there is a -2 DM to the roll. Also, aging effects and term limit rules as stated above apply to the new terms gained in the new career or school.

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