Have You Seen the Yellow Sign?

“He mentioned the establishment of the Dynasty in Carcosa, the lakes which connected Hastur, Aldebaran, and the mystery of the Hyades. He spoke of Cassilda and Camilla, and sounded the cloudy depths of Demhe and the Lake of Hali.”

— Robert W. Chambers, “The Repairer of Reputations”

The Path to Carcosa is a campaign for Arkham Horror: The Card Game for 1–4 players. The Path to Carcosa deluxe expansion contains two scenarios: “Curtain Call” and “The Last King.” These scenarios can be played on their own or combined with the six Mythos Packs in The Path to Carcosa cycle to form a larger eight-part campaign.

Additional Rules and Clarifications

New Keyword: Hidden

Some encounter cards in The Path to Carcosa campaign have the “hidden” keyword. Hidden cards have Revelation abilities that secretly add them to your hand. This should be done without revealing that card or its text to the other investigators. While a hidden card is in your hand, treat it as if it were in your threat area. Its Constant abilities are active, and abilities on it can be triggered, but only by you. A hidden card counts toward your hand size, but it cannot be discarded from your hand by any means except those described on the card. When discarded, hidden cards are placed in the encounter discard pile. They do not remain a part of your deck like weaknesses do. For the best experience, players are encouraged to stay “in character” and not share information about hidden cards in their hand.

Lola and “Roles”

As a renowned actress, Lola Hayes can play many different roles. At the beginning of each scenario, after investigators draw opening hands, Lola Hayes must choose a role (Neutral, Guardian, Seeker, Rogue, Mystic, or Survivor). Lola can only play cards, commit cards to skill tests, or trigger ⧵, ⫶, or ⫷ abilities on Neutral cards or cards whose class matches her role. This restriction only applies to player cards, not to encounter cards or weaknesses. Note that Constant and Forced abilities remain active on cards whose class does not match Lola’s role.

Doubt and Conviction

Some story resolutions and interludes in The Path to Carcosa campaign instruct the players to “Mark one Doubt” or “Mark one Conviction” in their Campaign Log. This is done by filling in one of the boxes next to “Doubt” or “Conviction” at the bottom of the Campaign Log.

Later in the campaign, some scenarios may be changed or altered depending on whether the investigators “have more Doubt than Conviction” or “have more Conviction than Doubt.” The investigators have more Doubt than Conviction if the number of boxes filled in next to Doubt is greater than the number of boxes filled in next to Conviction (and vice versa). Doubt and Conviction are shared among all of the investigators, and they are not tied to any specific investigator. Doubt and Conviction have no game effect except when explicitly referenced by the Campaign Guide or by a card effect.
You turn over the folded program in your hand, reading it for what seems like the hundredth time. “Miskatonic Playhouse presents: The King in Yellow,” it reads. “A special one-night engagement at Arkham’s very own Ward Theatre. An irresistible drama in two acts. Production staged and directed by Nigel Engram.” The cast is a small ensemble, with one unattributed credit at the end: “The Stranger.”

To have such a highly anticipated play come to Arkham all the way from Paris is a noteworthy event, even if it is just for one night. For weeks leading up to the show, it was the talk of the town. It seemed so unassuming…and yet, you have evidence something sinister is at work. It started with the disappearance of one of the stagehands at the theatre—a boy of only seventeen who missed rehearsal one night and was never seen again. Then, less than two weeks before the performance, there was the musician whose corpse was found with a gun in its mouth. Perhaps most chilling was the crazed man the coppers had picked up in Independence Square who had been ranting and raving about the “King’s return.” He was brought to Arkham Asylum, and you were surprised to discover that he was not alone in his delusions.

Finding these events suspicious, you and your companions have delved deeper into the matter. Although no connection can be proven, these weren’t the only strange events surrounding the up-and-coming play. Instances of suicide and madness have followed in its wake, and you are determined to discover why.

The lights in the auditorium dim, and a spotlight shines on the stage. What unfolds is not quite what you expected. Slow-paced and monotonous, the first act of The King in Yellow is a tedious bore. The setting and characters are compelling, but the meandering and nonsensical story does little to entertain or inform. You begin to wonder whether the dreadful events surrounding The King in Yellow aren’t connected, after all. Perhaps it was just your overactive imagination; how could such a trivial and unassuming show cause such pandemonium? You are surprised when the first act closes without any rising action or revelation. The lights rise for the intermission, and you consider leaving early, stifling a yawn. Before you are able to decide, however, you find yourself drifting…drifting…to sleep.

If Lola Hayes was chosen as an investigator for this campaign:
That investigator reads Lola Prologue (out loud).

Otherwise: Proceed to Scenario I: Curtain Call.
Lola Prologue: Act I came and went without a hitch, as it often did in rehearsal. You couldn’t help but note the blank, dismissive expressions on many of the audience members’ faces, and you wonder how the audience will react to the play’s disturbing second half. The role of Cassilda is tiresomely boring for the first half of the play, although you enjoy portraying her regal charm. You find yourself missing your previous co-star, Miriam Twain, and suddenly the dread and regret you had felt in Paris comes flooding back. With a sigh, you retreat to a dark corner backstage to escape the sounds of stagehands preparing for the next scene. You try to quell your emotions and replace your thoughts with those of Cassilda’s—her hopes, her fears, her fate.

Just then, you catch the Stranger staring at you from afar, and you find yourself shaking at the mere sight of him. Even though they continue to replace the actor who plays the Stranger before each show (and indeed many times during rehearsals), you know that this last-minute replacement is the most horrid of them all. Realizing you never caught his name, a shiver of terror courses through your spine. Have you found your way back to the wolves, like a lost lamb? You cannot look away—his gaze is inescapable. Everything goes black.

You awaken with a start, as though shaken by an unseen force. You must have slept for quite some time, for there are only a few other patrons in the audience, and no performers on stage. The lights are dimmed, and the stage curtains are tattered and ripped, though you do not remember that being the case during the first act. You wait a moment before you are sure this isn’t part of the performance. As you wait, a foul but unrecognizable smell permeates the air. How long have you been asleep? Shaking off your drowsiness, you walk toward one of the seated patrons and ask for the time, but he does not respond. It is then that you realize you are speaking to a corpse.

Setup

- Gather all cards from the following encounter sets: Curtain Call, Evil Portents, Delusions, Hauntings, Cult of the Yellow Sign, Striking Fear, Rats. These sets are indicated by the following icons:

- Set the following cards aside, out of play: The Man in the Pallid Mask, Royal Emissary, each copy of Lobby Doorway, and each copy of Backstage Doorway.

- Put the Theatre, Lobby, Balcony, and Backstage locations into play. Each investigator begins play at the Theatre.

  - If Lola Hayes was chosen as an investigator for this campaign, she begins play at Backstage, instead.

- Shuffle the remainder of the encounter cards to build the encounter deck.

Scenario I: Curtain Call

You awaken with a start, as though shaken by an unseen force. You must have slept for quite some time, for there are only a few other patrons in the audience, and no performers on stage. The lights are dimmed, and the stage curtains are tattered and ripped, though you do not remember that being the case during the first act. You wait a moment before you are sure this isn’t part of the performance. As you wait, a foul but unrecognizable smell permeates the air. How long have you been asleep? Shaking off your drowsiness, you walk toward one of the seated patrons and ask for the time, but he does not respond. It is then that you realize you are speaking to a corpse.

Suggested Location Placement

[Images of the Theatre, Lobby, Balcony, and Backstage locations]
If no resolution was reached (each investigator was defeated): Once again you are startled awake, this time by the cold, clammy fingers of a hand on your shoulder. “Are you alright?” an elderly man asks, helping you to your feet. Your mind is a flurry of memories. Last you remember, the Ward Theatre had become a place of nightmares, filled with dangerous fanatics and strange terrors. Worried, you glance at your surroundings, only to find yourself on the rain-slicked curb outside the theatre. Despite the events from earlier, the city seems normal to your eyes—or at least, what passes as normal for Arkham. The bright glare of headlights drills into your eyes as cars pass on the street, splashing dirty rainwater onto the sidewalk beside you. The old man wears an expression of concern, noting the terror in your eyes. “Were you mugged? Damn those trouble boys!” he exclaims. “Dry-gulching folk on a night out to the the-a-tre! Not a single street those hooligans haven’t staked a claim on, I tell you.”

You stand and walk over to the front window of the Ward Theatre to tentatively peer through, but it is too dark to see anything inside. The elderly man eyes you curiously for a moment, then shrugs and continues walking. “Well, I’d best be on my way. I would do the same, if I were you,” he says, rounding the street corner. You quickly follow, hoping to warn him to stay away from the theatre. But when you turn the corner, it is not the elderly man you see, but the familiar sight of the Stranger in his featureless, pallid mask. His unwavering gaze bears down upon you. “Who are you?” you call out. The Stranger does not respond, but instead turns and disappears into the alleyway behind the theatre. You give chase, hoping for answers, but by the time you reach the alleyway, it is empty—save for a notice on the wall near the theatre’s employee entrance. “Don’t be a wet blanket! Come to The King in Yellow cast party. 8pm, at the home of Constance Dumaine, 1452 Atlantic Avenue. Formal dress only.” You tear the notice from the wall and take it with you, frustrated and lost.

You know what you saw earlier that night. Frustrated, you head back to the Ward Theatre to find some kind of proof you
can take to the police. You are surprised to find that the front door of the theatre is locked. You are about to decide whether or not to break down the door when you see a notice on the wall near the entrance. “Don’t be a wet blanket! Come to The King in Yellow cast party. 8pm, at the home of Constance Dumaine, 1452 Atlantic Avenue. Formal dress only.” You tear the notice from the wall and fold it into your coat pocket, hoping it will lead you to the answers you seek.

Æ Did you really think the police would help you?
Æ In your Campaign Log, record that you tried to warn the police. Mark one Conviction in your Campaign Log.
Æ If you “stole from the box office,” record in your Campaign Log that the police are suspicious of you.
Æ In your Campaign Log, record that the Stranger is on to you. Add The Man in the Pallid Mask weakness to the lead investigator’s deck (does not count towards deck size). For the remainder of this campaign, any time the bearer of The Man in the Pallid Mask leaves the campaign for any reason, choose a new investigator to become the bearer of The Man in the Pallid Mask weakness, and add it to that investigator’s deck.
Æ In your Campaign Log, under “Chasing the Stranger,” place two tally marks. For the remainder of the campaign, keep a running tally of the number of times The Man in the Pallid Mask is defeated during a game. Each tally will bring you one step closer to the truth.
Æ Each investigator earns experience equal to the Victory X value of each card in the victory display.

Resolution 2: You think about going to the police, but considering the horrors in the theatre, they’re more likely to think you’re mad than to believe your story. A small part of you wonders if this is still some kind of prank, but that can’t be the case—it was all too real, too terrifying to forget. Wondering what course of action to take, you find yourself backtracking over your escape route, returning to the theatre with cautious steps. The bright glare of headlights drills into your eyes as cars pass on the street, splashing dirty rainwater onto the sidewalk beside you. Soon the Ward Theatre comes into sight, its bright lights dominating the streets of Downtown. You expected the theatre to be in ruins, but its exterior looks the same as it did when you arrived to see The King in Yellow earlier that night. You walk to the front window of the Ward Theatre and tentatively peer through, but it is too dark to see anything inside.

Just then, a chill brushes the nape of your neck, and you feel that you are being watched. You turn, and spot a shadow fleeing around the corner. A swarm of roaches skitters across the sidewalk, following in the shadow’s wake. Your muscles tense with uncertainty, and you round the corner in pursuit. Standing unconcerned on the sidewalk is a familiar-looking man in a featureless pallid mask.

His unwavering gaze bears down upon you. “Who are you?” you call out. The Stranger does not respond, and instead turns and disappears into the alleyway behind the theatre. You give chase, hoping for answers, but by the time you reach the alleyway, it is empty—save for a notice on the wall near the theatre’s employee entrance. “Don’t be a wet blanket! Come to The King in Yellow cast party. 8pm, at the home of Constance Dumaine, 1452 Atlantic Avenue. Formal dress only.” You tear the notice from the wall and take it with you, hoping it will lead you to the answers you seek.

Æ Do you think it was wise not to warn anyone?
Æ In your Campaign Log, record that you chose not to go to the police. Mark one Doubt in your Campaign Log.
Æ In your Campaign Log, record that the Stranger is on to you. Add The Man in the Pallid Mask weakness to the lead investigator’s deck (does not count towards deck size). For the remainder of this campaign, any time the bearer of The Man in the Pallid Mask leaves the campaign for any reason, choose a new investigator to become the bearer of The Man in the Pallid Mask weakness, and add it to that investigator’s deck.
Æ In your Campaign Log, under “Chasing the Stranger,” place two tally marks. For the remainder of the campaign, keep a running tally of the number of times The Man in the Pallid Mask is defeated during a game. Each tally will bring you one step closer to the truth.
Æ Each investigator earns experience equal to the Victory X value of each card in the victory display.
Scenario II: The Last King

If anyone has the answers to the questions that burn in your mind, it’s the cast and crew of The King in Yellow. With no other leads to pursue, you put on your best clothes and head to 1452 Atlantic Avenue, where a woman named Constance Dumaine is hosting an event in celebration of the play’s one-night engagement in Arkham.

Setup

- Gather all cards from the following encounter sets: The Last King, Hastur’s Gift, Decay & Filth, The Stranger, Ancient Evils. These sets are indicated by the following icons:

- Put all 6 locations into play (Foyer, Courtyard, Living Room, Ballroom, Dining Room, and Gallery). See below for suggested placement. Each investigator begins play in the Foyer.

- Shuffle the 5 Bystander assets depicted here (Constance Dumaine, Jordan Perry, Ishimaru Haruko, Sebastien Moreau, and Ashleigh Clarke) and randomly place one in each location except for the Foyer. Place 1 clue on each of these assets, plus 1 additional clue per investigator.

  - Note: These cards are double-sided and have story cards on their other side. For the best experience, do not look at the other side unless an effect instructs you to do so.

- Set the Dianne Devine enemy aside, out of play.

- Place the 5 “Sickening Reality” story cards underneath the scenario reference card.

  - Note: These cards are double-sided and have encounter cards on their other side. For the best experience, do not look at the other side unless an effect instructs you to do so.

- Shuffle the remainder of the encounter cards to build the encounter deck.

Standalone Mode

If you are playing in Standalone Mode and do not wish to refer to any other setup/resolutions, you may use the information below when setting up and playing this scenario:

- Assemble the chaos bag using the following tokens: +1, 0, 0, −1, −1, −2, −2, −3, −4, ♦, ♦, ♦, ♦, ♦.

- Randomly choose one of the following tokens: ♦, ♦, or ♦. Add 2 of the chosen token to the chaos bag.
Resolution 2: “Excuse me, but it’s very late,” you hear a server say as he gently taps you on your shoulder. You realize that you are sitting on a couch in the manor’s living room, and that you have been asleep for some time. The party appears to be winding down. No music fills the halls, the food is all but gone, and only a few guests remain. “Perhaps you would like for me to get your coat?” the server asks with a trained smile. You wobble as you rise to your feet, leaning against the couch’s armrest. Your head pounds with a dizzying intensity, and your vision is spotted. You insist that you are fine, and begin walking toward the foyer.

You no longer see any of the guests you were searching for earlier, not even the hostess, Mrs. Dumaine. All traces of the madness and horror you’ve experienced are gone. Even the oddities you witnessed upon entering the manor have vanished—the signs of struggle, the broken windows, the blood trail on the porch… Every piece of evidence has been erased. But you still remember the night’s events, and in your memory you will find your answers.

Æ In your Campaign Log, under “VIPs Interviewed,” record the name of each character you “interviewed.”

Æ In your Campaign Log, under “VIPs Slain,” record the name of each unique Lunatic enemy in the victory display.

Æ Each investigator earns experience equal to the Victory X value of each card in the victory display.

Æ For every 2 clues that were on the act deck when the game ended, choose an investigator to earn 1 additional experience point. Experience from this reward must be divided as evenly among the investigators as possible.

Æ Proceed to Interlude I: Lunacy’s Reward.
Resolution 3: Several days later, you find yourself reminiscing about the party you attended at 1452 Atlantic Avenue. What a roaring good time you had! And yet, your memory is hazy. You can’t help but feel you are forgetting something important. Something about the play you’d watched earlier that night—The King in Yellow. That nagging sensation pursues you in every waking moment. Try as you might to recall the night’s events in full, there remains a gaping hole in your memory. As you strain to remember, your concern grows, almost to the point of obsession. Deciding that you absolutely must know what occurred that night, you head toward the manor of the Historical Society in Southside. Perhaps there you can learn more about The King in Yellow play...

In your Campaign Log, under “VIPs Interviewed,” record the name of each character you “interviewed.” Then, cross off each of those names, since you forgot everything that happened that night.

In your Campaign Log, under “VIPs Slain,” record the name of each unique Lunatic enemy in the victory display.

Each investigator earns experience equal to the Victory X value of each card in the victory display.

For every 2 clues that were on the act deck when the game ended, choose an investigator to earn 1 additional experience point. Experience from this reward must be divided as evenly among the investigators as possible.

Remove all 󲅼, 󲆀, and 󲅾 tokens from the chaos bag. Then, add 1 󲅼 token, 1 󲆀 token, and 1 󲅾 token to the chaos bag.

Skip Interlude I: Lunacy’s Reward, and proceed directly to Scenario III: Echoes of the Past.

Interlude I: Lunacy’s Reward

The investigators must decide (choose one):

❖ Things seem to have calmed down. Perhaps we should go back inside and investigate further.
Proceed to Lunacy’s Reward 1.

❖ I don’t trust this place one bit. Let’s block the door and get the hell out of here!
Proceed to Lunacy’s Reward 2.

❖ If these people are allowed to live, these horrors will only repeat themselves. We have to put an end to this. We have to kill them.
Proceed to Lunacy’s Reward 3.

Interlude I: Lunacy’s Reward 1: The change in the atmosphere has you curious. What if it was all a trick of your mind? What if the hauntings that follow The King in Yellow are but transitory? The answers to all of your questions might lie inside. Cautiously, you open the front door to the manor once again. Reassuring jazz and the clamor of casual conversation grow louder as you step inside. The enticing smell of roasted pork wafts through the air. As you suspected, the signs of struggle and oddities you noticed before have vanished without explanation. Then, as you turn the corner into the dining room, you find the Stranger speaking with another man—tall, mustached, wearing a fine black suit, and holding a silver-handled cane. The Stranger turns to you, his gaze drills through your mind, and your vision swims with agony. Before you realize it, you are running as fast as you can, toppling through the front doorway in a haze of pain and disorientation. Without time to catch your breath, you race to your vehicle and speed away, hands trembling upon the steering wheel.

Why would you go back inside?

In your Campaign Log, record that you intruded on a secret meeting. Mark one Doubt in your Campaign Log.

Remove all 󲅼, 󲆀, and 󲅾 tokens from the chaos bag. Then, add 2 󲅾 tokens to the chaos bag.

The story continues in Scenario III: Echoes of the Past.
What’s Next?

While each of the scenarios in The Path to Carcosa cycle can be played in Standalone Mode, they can be combined to form a full eight-part campaign. The next scenario in The Path to Carcosa campaign can be found in the Echoes of the Past Mythos Pack, and the story will continue through the six packs of this cycle.

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Lunacy’s Reward 2: You can’t trust your senses. This is all a trick, an attempt to lure you back inside. You’re no safer now than you were before. Swallowing your fear, you set to work barricading the front door of the manor using several of the heavy stone benches lining the cobblestone path in the front yard. You hope it’s enough, but you aren’t willing to stick around to find out. As soon as you’re done, you head back to your vehicle and drive toward Southside, where you hope to find answers.

That door isn’t going to stop them.

In your Campaign Log, record that you fled the dinner party.

Remove all A, P, and G tokens from the chaos bag. Then, add 2 P tokens to the chaos bag.

The story continues in Scenario III: Echoes of the Past.

Lunacy’s Reward 3: You dare not risk stepping back inside that madhouse. But you can’t let the monstrosities run amok, either. You root through the open garage for a few supplies, finding an old hose, an empty gasoline canister, and some matches. Knowing what you must do, you first siphon some gas from Mrs. Dumaine’s Oakland 6-54A. You spread the gasoline across the front porch, inside the garage, and around the manor’s outer walls. From there, all it takes is several matches to start the blaze. You watch from the front yard as the manor is eventually consumed by the flames. The sounds of crackling fire and snapping wood and the screeching of dying horrors fills the street. Satisfied, you head back to your vehicle and tear off toward Southside, full of grim determination.

You did what had to be done... Right?

In your Campaign Log, record that you slewed the monsters at the dinner party. Mark one Conviction in your Campaign Log.

In your Campaign Log, under “VIPs Slain,” record the names of all five “VIPs,” if not already recorded there: Constance Dumaine, Jordan Perry, Ishimaru Haruko, Sebastien Moreau, and Ashleigh Clarke.

Remove all A, P, and G tokens from the chaos bag. Then, add 2 A tokens to the chaos bag.

The story continues in Scenario III: Echoes of the Past.
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### Campaign Notes

- **Doubt**: 
- **Conviction**: 

- **Chasing the Stranger**
- **VIPs Interviewed**
- **VIPs Slain**

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Campaign Log also available for download at www.fantasyflightgames.com
The King in Yellow

Prologue

Curtain Call

The Last King

Lunacy’s Reward

Echoes of the Past

The Unspeakable Oath

Lost Soul

A Phantom of Truth

The Pallid Mask

Black Stars Rise

Dim Carcosa

Epilogue
MANSIONS OF MADNESS
SECOND EDITION

A FULLY COOPERATIVE BOARD GAME OF MYSTERIES & MADNESS

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