

Horla

Manifestations: Unusual illnesses with no symptoms other than general malaise and sleeplessness. Locations suffering from 'sick house syndrome'- where anyone living there suffers from miscellaneous health problems. Certain individuals under the influence of this force may begin to suffer delusions and develop a sense of paranoia.

Agents: The agents of the Horla are invisible and, most of the time, intangible. Whether they act as a vector for these manifestations of the UNNATURAL or are merely drawn to them is unclear, but their ethereal nature makes them almost impossible to detect. These agents prey on those with a fragile mental state, assuming temporary control over their bodies. Of course, these agents could merely be the victims' own madness taking hold.

Power: The main power of the Horla is to assume temporary control of a person's body. If the character has suffered no mental crises, this control is only partial (say one arm) and only for a fleeting second. If the victim has a single mental crisis, this control either extends to the whole body or lasts around a minute. With 2 mental crises, control can be maintained of the the entire body for a minute, or of an extremity for nearly an hour. If the victim has suffered **3** mental crises, the control is permanent. Assuming control involves a duel between this power and the Intellect attribute of the target.

Doom: An agent simply ceases to exist. A person wielding the power of the Horla is immediately taken possession of by an agent of them, forever a prisoner in his own body.

42

AH, I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO SEE ME.

YES, I HAVE BEEN FEELING RATHER OUT OF SORTS, OF LATE. I HOPE THOSE LETTERS DIDN'T DISTURB YOU.

I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER NOW, THANK YOU.

I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT, ACTUALLY. IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING THAT I WROTE SUCH NONSENSE. DEHYDRATION CAN LEAD TO THAT SORT OF THING, OR SO MY DOCTOR TELLS ME.

I WOULD INVITE YOU IN FOR TEA, BUT IT'S NOT TERRIBLY CONVENIENT. I'M HAVING ONE OF THE ROOMS REDECORATED. IT HAD REALLY FALLEN INTO TERRIBLE DISREPAIR.

I'M SORRY. I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED YOU- I'M VERY FLATTERED THAT YOU WERE CONCERNED ENOUGH TO COME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE, BUT I ASSURE I'M PERFECTLY FINE NOW.

IF YOU'RE FREE SOME TIME NEXT MONTH, I COULD COME TO VISIT YOU, IF YOU LIKE. THAT MIGHT HELP YOU PUT YOUR MIND AT REST.

NO? WELL, PERHAPS IN THE AUTUMN, THEN.

TAKE CARE. I'LL SEE YOU SOON!