

THE WOODS.

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200 YEARS AGO.
NEW LONDON.



TO THINK I
USED TO FIND
THESE DAMNED
THINGS
BEAUTIFUL.

THE STRANGE GREEN LIGHT
THAT CRACKED THROUGH THE
SURFACE FROM TIME TO TIME...
A WHISPER OF ARCANES
LIFE...

THE WAY LYDIA
COULD MAKE THEM
SPARK... THE
SECRETS SHE
STARTED TO
TELL ME...



NO,
THAT TIME
IS OVER.



HOW MANY
HAVE WE
GATHERED?

SEVEN, MY
LORD. FROM EACH
OF THE SITES WE'VE
INCORPORATED
INTO OUR TERRITORY.
WE HAD THE LOCALS
DRAG THEM HERE, TO
THE CITY CENTER.
THEY'LL GO INTO
THE CAVERNS
BELOW.

AND THE
SMITH... HAS HE
COMPLETED THE
DESIGN?





IT'S POSITIVELY MEDIEVAL, IF YOU ASK ME.

I DIDN'T.



LOCK THEM ALL AWAY. EACH ONE SHE TOUCHES MAKES HER STRONGER...IF SHE GETS HER HANDS ON THESE, OUR ARMY WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HER.

GET THE MASONS HERE IMMEDIATELY. WE'LL BUILD THE TOWER HERE, UP AROUND THIS SUBSTRUCTURE. IT WILL NEVER GO UNGUARDED.



WHAT HAPPENED TO LYDIA MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.



I SEE.



SIRE...
YOU MUST
COME TO THE
CITY WALLS
AT ONCE...



THE FOREST...
IT'S LIGHTING UP
ALL AROUND
US...

LIGHTING
UP... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...



EYES, MY
LORD.

THERE
ARE GREEN EYES
EVERYWHERE.



"MY GOD...SHE'S
COME FOR THEM..."

"GET EVERYONE
AWAKE. GIVE
EVERYONE A
WEAPON..."

"WE MUST
GO TO
WAR."



NOW.

CASSIUS... YOU NEED TO TELL US... WHAT ARE THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION?

☹SIGH

IT STARTED WITH THE FIRST SIEGE... THAT'S WHEN WE KNEW WE WEREN'T ALONE IN THIS WORLD. THAT THERE WERE OTHER MEN LIKE US, AND THEY WERE NOT HERE TO MAKE PEACE.

WE HAD CENTURIES OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AT OUR BACK, AND WITH SOME GUNPOWDER AND A FEW TRICKS WE MANAGED TO SCARE THEM OFF THAT FIRST NIGHT.



"BUT THE FIRST DUKE, A MAN WHO HAD LIVED IN THE MANOR ON THE EDGE OF OUR VILLAGE. THE MAN WHO EMPLOYED MANY OF OUR ANCESTORS...

"HE TOLD US WE NEEDED TO FIGHT BACK. WE NEEDED TO FIND OTHERS LIKE OURSELVES IN THESE STRANGE WOODS, AND DRAW THEM IN.



"IT STARTED WILLINGLY. A BRIEF MILITARY SERVICE UNDER HIS GUARD, AND THEY'D GET CITIZENSHIP, AND THE CHANCE TO HELP US BUILD A SOCIETY THAT COULD FIGHT BACK.



"THE LAWS WERE WRITTEN STRICTER THAN THEIR INTENT. THE LINE OF DUKES BEGAN TO TAKE THEM MORE AND MORE LITERALLY.

"OVER TIME... THE CITY FILLED, AND THE PROCESS BECAME LESS... VOLUNTARY.



"AND NOW THEY PLAN ON INCORPORATING YOUR SCHOOL... BAY POINT.



"THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE INCORPORATION IN DECADES."