

MACHPELAH CEMETERY.

IT HAS BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE I LOST YOU, OLD FRIEND.

BUT NEVER HAS THE PAIN OF THAT LOSS BEEN MORE PROFOUND THAN IT IS NOW.

WHEN YOU BUILT THIS MONUMENT YOU KNEW IT WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

I AM SURE YOU ASSUMED THE *SOCIETY OF UNITED MAGICIANS*--A GROUP YOU HELPED TO FOUND--WOULD LAST AS WELL.

BUT THIS BUSINESS WITH THE *LAST ILLUSION*...

...WHAT THEY SEEK...

...AND WHAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DO...

...HAS PROVEN THAT THE MEN WHO WERE ONCE YOUR COLLEAGUES...

...ARE NOW *MONSTERS*.





THEY WOULD TEAR DOWN
ALL OF *CIVILIZATION* IF
IT SUITED THEIR DESIRES.

I TRACKED THE
MAN WHO STRUCK
THE *KILLING BLOW*.

BUT THERE WAS
NO *CRIME* THERE.

THERE WAS A *PAIN*
WITHIN THAT MAN
THAT TOLD ME ALL I
NEEDED TO KNOW.

HE MEANT YOU NO
MALICE AND HAS
LIVED WITH HIS *GUILT*
ALL THESE YEARS.



HE HAS LIVED WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT HE TOOK A
GREAT MAN FROM THE WORLD.



AND SO *JUSTICE*
MUST BE SERVED.



BUT WHERE WAS
JUSTICE WHEN YOU
WERE TAKEN?

THERE WAS
NONE TO BE HAD.



BESS IS SAFE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO
WAIT FOR HER A
LITTLE LONGER.



I HAVE MANY *AGENTS*,
AND THEY KEEP THE
VIGIL WHEN I CANNOT.

THE SOCIETY HAS
SCATTERED. THEY
HIDE LIKE THE
VERMIN THEY ARE.



BUT THE DARKNESS
WILL NOT PROTECT
THEM FROM *ME*.



AS LONG AS THIS
NEW SOCIETY EXISTS,
I WILL ALWAYS HAVE
EYES ON HER.

THEY SHALL TAINT YOUR
LEGACY NO LONGER.



THEIR DAYS
ARE NUMBERED.

THE CHARLATAN
MADAME
SETIENNE MUST
BE DEALT WITH.

HAD
THE SHADOW
NOT SHOWN
UP TO ROUST
US ALL...

...THERE'S NO TELLING
HOW LONG SHE
WOULD HAVE STRUNG
US ALONG WITH THAT
FAKE SEANCE.

SHE WILL BE
DEALT WITH, MIS
HERMANOS.

I FEEL *PERSONALLY*
RESPONSIBLE AS IT
WAS I WHO CONTRACTED
HER SERVICES.

THE NAME
MADAME SETIENNE
SHALL NEVER AGAIN
BE UTTERED AFTER
THIS WEEKEND.

NO ONE
BLAMES YOU,
MIGUEL.

THE SEARCH FOR
THE LAST ILLUSION IS
ALL-CONSUMING.

WE SHALL WALK
MANY PATHS
IN OUR QUEST...

...EVEN THOUGH
MANY OF THOSE
SHALL LEAD TO
DEAD-ENDS.

LET US
HOPE NOT.



ETHAN SANDS!

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION.

YOU SHALL CALL ME THE **SANDMAN**.

ETHAN SANDS IS THE NAME ONLY MY **FAMILY** USES.

AND WHILE WE MAY BE **BRETHREN** WITHIN THE SOCIETY, THAT DOES NOT MAKE US **FAMILY**.



TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

THIS **SHADOW** IS NOTHING MORE THAN A **NUISANCE** THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH LONG AGO.

LIKE PETER PAN'S **SHADOW**, HE WILL BE SNAPPED OFF AND HUNG OUT THE WINDOW.



PAH!

HE SPEAKS OF **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** AND **FAIRY TALES**.



H-HOW?

HOW IS IT THAT YOU PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF THE **SHADOW** WHEN **SO MANY** BEFORE YOU HAVE **FAILED**?