The Depths

The Now in Göteborg after session 5

Powers reach into outer space and the inner self.

The greater evil and the greater good: which is which?

**Notions**

The ocean = space, water, the mind, the internet, the cosmos

* Information hidden in the quantum layers of reality
  + Past and future
  + Entities: The Great Dreamer, Greyface, possible female/lover archetype being
* Conscious exploration and unconscious intuition
  + Both have similar meditations/awareness + “lost in the haze” difficulties

The two “greaters” are not metaphysical at all

* The spook wars: KSI and UNDK, in the greater question of what Sweden is
  + Motivated, ruthless, the worst possible combination of idealistic & realistic
* Sweden, NATO, and the EU
  + The Luxembourg enforcers: Lovely Anna (Luxembourg), Stench (German), Hellbender (American, on loan), Slice (Serb) – prepared to strike at anti-neoliberal power points in Sweden; **direct response to events at Karlsborg**

The heroes’ partnership

* Meetings at Flygarns Haga
* Reputation and social identity
  + Popular recognition
  + Agency backstopping
* Loose alliance with widely-separated global heroes, all “depths” oriented as well
  + Tuvan Republic: **Static**, inexact shaman connection, cosmic microwave background noise
  + Magnetic Pole (north to south): **Molten**, genderfluid, abstract magnetics
  + Ghana: Rhôa possibly

Göteborg culture

* Complex internationalism –investigate foreign business presence
  + Sector who’s more committed to Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen, and London
  + Heightened connection/exchange with Shanghai in 2003, lapsed in 2020
* Communities and interactions within and across neighborhoods
  + 81-member Assembly with four-year elections; referendums and people’s initiatives
  + Controversy: West Link underground tunnel
  + 2018 elections: novel red-pink-green coalition
* Ecology and Industry
  + Environmentalism and greening the harbor – actual ecology vs. neoliberal greenwashing
* Immigration and nativism: 12% foreign citizens, 28% foreign-born, 46% one foreign parent
  + Suriname & Paramaibo – older immigration fleeing Desi Bourtése dictatorship following Cotonou Agreement (2003) + recent rightwing one of fleeing his 2019 conviction
  + Black Lives Matter activism

**Rules and Points**

216 Points total; they have 4 and 7

* Both are high ratio

Play and use

* Review combat math and maneuvers; note Assist and Coordinated Attack
* Put out Presence dice reference
* Focus for Kosmonaut’s Flight

**Kosmonaut,** Carl Henrik Lytke

Lives in Örgryte

* Overly large apartment, formerly two-person
* Mathematics teacher in Bergsjön, commutes
  + Department head, colleagues; students, obligations
  + Sandhir and his family from Suriname

Loner and loser

* Overly passive, history of missed opportunities – student and family pressure puts him forward for a new program about systemic racism [THE GREATER GOOD]
  + “Contributed to” awards, various junk from older projects
* Alienated, often disconnected or broken, irrational
  + But validated through direct, publicly-appreciated heroiccs
  + Sofie is married to Johan and pregnant – concluded arc

The space suit

* Its Soviet origin and earlier history
  + Developed in the 1970s via information about CIA hallucinogenics research, delivered to KGB by Swedish spies; then stolen from them once their program was initiated
  + IB assassinated most or all of the original kosmonauts
  + SVR is looking into its forgotten history, prompted by recent exposure
* He found or bonded with it in 2011
  + Göteborg Archipelago, deployment of Swedish military re: mysterious submerged craft or phenomenon – precise circumstances; flashback – the dead kosmonaut who barely escaped assassination, the suit’s response to ideals and empathy
  + Its purpose and ideals: tied to his own, more so than he realizes

The Quantum Detective

* Missing persons cases
  + Cutouts via internet to local police, state police, federal security, Schengen authorities, Interpol
* Internet fanbase, posted videos, seeking more
* Micke Byström, community admin –mistaken focus on 1950s kosmonauts (reinforced by KSI)
* Testimony: Tina, Sandhir– increasing demands for specific actions
* Swedish profiteers – killed by La Flecha Dorada – they were greedy & careless

KSI *(Kontoret för särskild inhämtning),*formerly SSI, GBU, IB (*Insamling Birger)*, T-Kontoret

* Liaison with SOG (*Särskilda Operationsgruppen*; part of the Swedish Armed Forces, not part of KSI)
  + Karlsborg Fortress has a special office for them; in fact they precede SOG there
  + Vatten houses Bernsson’s original module, all the way back to T-Kontoret – forgotten!
* Kosmonaut/ethernaut history:superior control of “space/depths” medium
  + Reinforcing misperceptions in pop media including Byström’s community
  + Old CIA and KGB interactions; more recent equivalents firewalled from other agencies
  + He has ancient files regarding Bernsson
* Greyface**:** the Cold War hold-over who “went cosmic” back then, when it was IB
  + Vanished after events of 1973 – modern KSI is terrified of him and **turns to UNDK for help** [THE GREATER EVIL]
  + **Now running the KSI ops at Karlsborg and activating the thing beneath the water**
  + Aided by Maria Margareta Renström, from Skåne; aged ex-director’s wife who goes all the back to the beginning, cynical and dangerous as hell; **he secured her from a Covid-19 facility**
* Agency-to-agency ties to the CIA, “we know best” relative to their respective governments
  + Manny Marcos, liaison, not connected to kosmonaut history **– turns to UNDK too**
  + Tacit tolerance for CIA cover for the cocaine smuggling– “Joey” and “Johnny” are still around

**Havsmannen,** Johannes Bäck

Heritage and aquatic powers

* Havsmänn were almost exterminated during the witch hunts
  + Expectations of producing an heir
* Grandfather: Rune Larsson, raised him and taught him his heritage
  + Disappeared in the Archipelago events of 2011
* Difficulties – unreliability and uncertainty
  + The Call of the Sea
* The Great Dreamer –no such thing as“Cthulhu done right” – just a mystic thing, not a Greater Evil
  + Premonitions and inspirations – fleeting contact with Vásquez; she’s struggling vs. control
  + Roused and provoked by Greyface’s incursion, now settled

Fishing community out in the Göteborg archipelago

* Local lifestyle and traditions
  + Taxi boat driver, outer route including Vinga
  + Recognition from locals with some degree of fear; has status but little true sociality
* Provides sensitive, personal help, e.g., drug-related problems
* Lasse, local weed guy

Lonely and sad, dreaming of love

* Ulrike, semi-girlfriend: hard-luck city girl, bit of a cryptozoologist; loves him on-and-off
  + She’s smart enough to contact the Kosmonaut indirectly via fanbase
  + **She’s gone to Vatten; camping there, has acquired crucial photo and video**
* A hip shipside wedding out there in the lovely waters

Regular, active sea and island patrol

* Vs. corporate exploitation, military facilities, environmental hazards, drug trafficking
  + Appreciative Hammarkullen police officer
  + A new problem (always something) [THE GREATER GOOD]
* Natural storms and dangers
* Pollution, exploitation
  + Göteborg harbor issues, “below the waterline” problems unmet by cosmetic policy
  + The pilot whales at the Faroe Islands: poisoned and crazed by anti-green corporate interests

MUST (*Militära underrättelse- och säkerhetstjänsten*), specifically UNDK (*Underrättelsekontoret*): works with Ministry of Defense and deployments; not at all cooperative wth KSI

* Installation at Borhus-Björkö, specifically Boviksskären
* Lennart Hankvist, hardnosed career officer –regular, frequent communication checks
  + - Despises KSI and their CIA connections; determined to resolve the situation without the EU’s involvement
    - Nationalist: wants Sweden to be the new UK in the wake of Brexit and Covid-19, but subtler (not quite NATO, not quite EU)
    - Willing to replace Rune with Havsmannen, if necessary [THE GREATER GOOD]
    - **Just rescued from drowning, along with boat pilot, by the Kosmonaut and not Havsmannen**
* The recovery of the *Vasa* in 1961; fully restored in its modern museum in 1990
  + - Disturbed the Dreamer, “something came up with it” – which is what T-Kontoret used [THE GREATER EVIL]
* September 28, 1994: the wreck of the *Estonia* in the Baltic Sea
  + - The ship was transporting horrifying SSB tech derived from the 1980s resesarch on the Vasa, ultimately bound for Kosovo via Baltic cutouts
    - Markus and Linnea Bäck, his parents, were trying to stop it – opposing post-Cold War covert arms race and NATO build-up; killed by the agents of Luxembourg – specifically Stench
    - Initial attempt to entomb the wreck; International Estonia Agreement in 1995 vs. contacting it, no-contact is enforced by Finnish Navy
* September 15, 2011: Swedish military deployment in the Göteborg Archipelago
  + - Mysterious submerged craft + phenomenon, **with original kosmonaut’s body** – that’s how Kosmonaut was created
    - Rune was utilized and imprisoned by UNDK **– recovered, freed, but not very functional**