

CAMPAIGN PACK 01

THE STUDIO
LOT

A Hollywood territory pack for L.A. Dick

Edition 01 · Set in 1947–1953

L.A. DICK // CAMPAIGN PACK // A5

Hollywood as fortified compound. A studio publicity office knows your name before you reach the gate. The Black Dahlia is a year old and the LAPD won't reopen her file.

Local pressure rule. Studio cover. D66 contacts. The Black Dahlia as the Long Investigation. The Last File seed. Everything you need to run a Hollywood campaign in the L.A. Dick engine.

Local pressure // Studio cover // The Long Investigation
For L.A. Dick: A Solo Investigation Engine

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START HERE

*Campaign procedures for L.A. Dick. The case is still L.A. Dick.
The lot is what changes.*

The Studio Lot is a campaign pack for L.A. Dick. It gives Hollywood enough local pressure, contacts, faction memory, and arc material to carry a solo investigator through a full campaign on the lot.

Use the core L.A. Dick rules for the case engine: Case Generator, Investigation Clock, the File, Heat, actions, anatomy, the Sit-Down, contacts, Familiarity, faction Suspicion and Leverage, Strain. This book tells you what those rules look like inside the studio gates.

WHAT YOU NEED AT THE DESK

- The L.A. Dick core rules.
- One investigator and their Code.
- One Case Index Card for the active case.
- One Campaign Record for everything that carries forward.
- This book open to whichever chapter has the table you need.

WHAT THIS BOOK ADDS

The Studio Lot adds local consequences to normal L.A. Dick play. It does not add a new action economy. You still take three actions per session. The Clock still ticks up. Heat still rises. The Sit-Down still resolves in three beats.

Use local rules when the case needs a face, a cost, a location, or a consequence:

- Roll local sources when you need someone to LEAN.
- Roll contact complications when a source should cost more than a single roll.
- Use local Heat variants when Heat crosses a threshold on the lot.
- Use faction clocks when a studio or rag starts remembering the investigator.
- Use the Long Investigation chapter when a case touches the Dahlia.

STARTING A STUDIO LOT CAMPAIGN

For a first case on the lot:

1. Build or choose an L.A. Dick investigator.
2. Write a Code that can be tested under studio pressure.
3. Set Territory to Hollywood / The Studio Lot instead of rolling Step 5.

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4. Roll the rest of the Case Generator normally.
 5. Start Familiarity at 0, unless the investigator has a reason to know the lot.
 6. Write three faction clocks on the Campaign Record: a studio (pick one of the majors), the press (Hearst's Examiner or Chandler's Times), and the LAPD. Add a fourth when the case touches Confidential, the Hays Office, or Cohen's Sunset operation.
 7. Set Long Investigation stage to None unless the case shows one of the signs listed under When to Use the Long Investigation.
 8. Add one starting contact from the Studio Lot Contacts Dossier only if the investigator has a prior tie here. Otherwise, leave contacts blank and add the first source who matters after the case.

For a campaign already in motion, add the Studio Lot as the next territory. Keep existing Heat reset, Strain, casualties, contacts, and Long Investigation state.

READING THE LOT

Hollywood is a fortified compound run by men who fear publicity more than they fear the law.

The Lot is the studio property itself: sound stages, writer bungalows, the commissary, the executive building. Sources here are paid, contracted, watched, or all three. Witnesses sign morals clauses.

The Boulevard is the public face: clubs, restaurants, the Garden of Allah, Schwab's, Musso & Frank, the Brown Derby. Sources here are performing for someone who isn't you.

The Hills are where the money lives: above Sunset, behind gates, in houses with circular drives. Sources here open the door because their lawyer told them to.

The Trades are the publications nobody admits they read but everyone reads: the Hollywood Reporter, Variety, the gossip columns, the rags. Sources here will tell you anything for a tip back.

When an action crosses between these zones, the case should feel more exposed. That is what Studio Cover is for.

WHEN TO USE THE LONG INVESTIGATION

Do not start every Studio Lot case with the Black Dahlia. Let ordinary cases exist: a missing starlet, a contract dispute, a screenwriter the Bureau is asking about, a cleanup before Confidential prints, a divorce that needs photographs.

Bring in the Black Dahlia when the case produces one of these signs:

- A bisected body, or a body cleaned and posed.
- A young woman from out of town with a Hollywood story that doesn't add up.
- A medical-school connection, a dentist, or a surgeon.
- A hotel room from January 1947.
- A name that appears in the original case file the LAPD will not unseal.
- A source who knows the phrase "the Dahlia file."

The Long Investigation should make the campaign feel deeper, not replace the case in front of the investigator.

FIRST CASE ADVICE

Let the first Studio Lot case be local unless the Case Generator clearly points at the Dahlia. A clean first case might be a contract player gone missing, a screenwriter being blackmailed, a contested estate, or a fixer trying to bury a bar fight before it reaches print. That is enough. The Long Investigation is stronger when it appears as a pattern the investigator notices, not as homework the player has to start with.

If a table result mentions a faction, contact, or rag you have not used yet, write it into the Campaign Record only if it affects the case. Do not fill every blank before play starts. The lot should accumulate on the sheet.

WHAT TO TRACK

At the end of every case, update the Campaign Record: close type, Heat reset, Strain, Code Crossed entries, faction clocks, contact status changes, Territory Familiarity, Dahlia Intel, and current Dahlia stage.

Then write one field note: an image, a phrase, or a consequence that follows the investigator.

If you only track one thing carefully, track casualties of attention — the sources whose lives changed because you LEANed on them. The lot remembers through people.

01/

THE STUDIO LOT

Hollywood is a city built to lie about itself. Walk in armed.

This chapter turns Hollywood into local procedures for L.A. Dick cases. Use it when the active case happens on the lot, on the Boulevard, in the Hills above Sunset, or inside the Trades.

Canon stance: the studios run their own security, their own publicity machine, their own lawyers, and an unwritten understanding with the LAPD's Hollywood Division. The Hays Office enforces what makes it to the screen. Confidential magazine is the threat the studios fear more than any court. Cohen's Sunset Strip operation runs through the same nightclubs the studios entertain in.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Use this chapter when Step 5 Territory is Hollywood. It replaces the single territory texture line with local Heat variants, sources, contacts, faction clocks, sit-down rooms, and aftermath. It does not change the case loop, the File, the Sit-Down sequence, or the token economy.

Keep the core loop clean. Roll local tables only when a result needs a face: a source, a contact complication, a posture manifestation, a Heat consequence, a sit-down room, a close-type aftermath.

TERRITORY PREMISE

Hollywood is a city that exists to lie about itself. Every street between Sunset and Melrose has a press photographer who's paid to look the other way. Every studio has a fixer with a phone list that reaches into the LAPD, the morgue, the DA's office, and the divorce court. Every starlet's biography was rewritten on the lot before the first audition.

The work here is reading the gap between the publicity sheet and the body. The investigator who walks in expecting people to lie does fine. The investigator who walks in expecting which people will lie about which things closes cases.

LOCAL PRESSURE RULE: STUDIO COVER

The first failed PULL or LEAN at any studio location each case marks +2 Heat instead of +1. The cover-up reaches you faster than the truth does.

This applies inside the studio gates, at any property the studio owns or leases, and at any establishment a studio publicity office uses for cover work (the Garden of Allah, the Beverly Hills Hotel's bungalows, the Brown Derby private rooms, Schwab's after midnight).

If the failed action also crosses zones — Lot to Boulevard, Boulevard to Hills, Hills to Trades — also choose one: lose 1 Lead, or mark +1 Suspicion with a studio of your choice.

TERRITORY FAMILIARITY

FAMILI- ARITY	EFFECT
1	Once per case, identify whether a source is Lot, Boulevard, Hills, or Trades before LEAN. If the source is Boulevard-based, LEAN is one tier easier.
3	You know one of the publicists by name and what they owe you. Once per case, ignore the Studio Cover Heat penalty on a single failed action.
5	City Memory. Heat 3 triggers at Heat 4 here. Once per case, turn a failed PULL or WALK in the Trades into a mixed result: no Hard Fact, but gain a Lead and mark +1 Heat.

LOCAL HEAT VARIANTS

HEAT VARIANT

- 3 **Soft press attention.** A Confidential stringer asks about your movements. Sources tied to a studio contract are +1 tier harder to LEAN.
- 5 **Active publicity file.** A studio knows you are working their lot. If you enter the Hills or the Trades, remove 1 Lead at session start.
- 7 **Direct pressure.** A fixer's office calls your client. Your retainer is at risk. The Clock ticks once now and worsens one contact's status. At later session starts, the route stays closed but the Clock does not tick again from this row.
- 9 **Studio veto.** A studio has issued an unsigned word that you are not to be cooperated with. All LEAN thresholds increase one tier; cross-zone actions also cost 1 Lead or mark +1 Suspicion.

D6 LOCAL SOURCE ARCHETYPES

D6 SOURCE

- 1 The contract player who got cut. Knows who got the part instead and what was traded for it. Wants the screen test the studio buried. Can be burned by any studio publicity office.
- 2 A unit publicist's secretary. Knows the calendar, the morals-clause file, the names that appear in two phone logs they shouldn't. Wants out without a black mark.
- 3 A second-unit grip with a drinking problem and a clean memory. Knows what the cleaners moved last Tuesday. Wants a job that doesn't require a union card.
- 4 The script girl who reads everything before it goes to mimeo. Knows every rewrite, every name change, every actor cut from the third draft. Wants protection from the writer she's seeing.
- 5 The doorman at the Garden of Allah. Knows who came in with whom at 2 a.m. last week. Wants a tip that beats the studio's monthly envelope.
- 6 The columnist's legman. Knows what the column will say tomorrow and who paid to keep it out of yesterday's edition. Wants a story they can break first.

D6 LOCAL CONTACT COMPLICATIONS

D6 COMPLICATION

- 1 The contact arrives with a publicist they "happened to run into." LEAN normally, but any failure marks +2 Heat.
 - 2 The contact will only talk while working: dressing a set, fixing a script, walking a starlet to her car. Lose one action or take the information at +1 tier harder.
 - 3 The contact has a studio sponsor. Accepting their help marks +1 Studio Leverage. Refusing makes the next studio source unavailable.
 - 4 The contact needs a gossip column item killed before the next session. If ignored, worsen their status after the case.
 - 5 The contact is testing whether you are studio, LAPD, or freelance. Spend 1 Lead to answer convincingly or LEAN at Hard minimum.
 - 6 The contact is right but compromised. Gain the clue; then mark +1 Suspicion with the studio that can burn them.
-

D6 POSTURE MANIFESTATIONS

How the standard subject postures look on the lot.

D6 MANIFESTATION

- 1 **Buried.** The subject's records are pulled into the locked archive at the studio legal office. Next PULL threshold +1 tier; the Studio Cover Heat penalty applies twice on this PULL.
- 2 **Lawyered.** Studio legal sends a young man with a polite voice. Mark +1 Studio Leverage. Your next sit-down location must be agreed in writing.
- 3 **Fled.** The subject is on a "publicity tour" of New York or Mexico City. The Person anatomy resets face-down. Track them through the Hills or the Trades to flip again.
- 4 **Threatened.** A studio fixer pays a visit to your most recent source. That source's next LEAN +2 tiers; if their status was Useful or below, drop one step.
- 5 **Watched.** A second car follows yours on Sunset. For two sessions, the Tail fails automatically. If you skip the Tail in either session, mark +1 Heat instead.
- 6 **Burned.** A studio fire conveniently consumes a records room. Remove 1 Hard Fact from the pool; for the rest of the case, Natural 6 generates only 1 Hard Fact (no Lead).

D6 LOCAL CODE TESTS

Roll when the Sit-Down approaches and the investigator considers Crossing the Code. If the result does not fit the room, keep the moral pressure but move it to the nearest fitting person, route, or system.

D6 TEST

- 1** The starlet whose contract is up for renewal will sign the affidavit if you sign first. Standard procedure says she signs alone. The studio will not let her unless you do.
 - 2** The fastest sit-down route runs through a publicist's office. Accepting the route gives +2 to one roll and marks Code Crossed. Refusing it costs the approach advantage.
 - 3** The widow of a prior victim is in the next room and would talk if asked. You did not ask. You could.
 - 4** A contract player is also a witness. Saving them from a morals-clause hit costs one Tactical equivalent (lose 1 Leverage at the sit-down). Letting the studio fire her keeps the file clean.
 - 5** The studio fixer offers a clean conviction on someone the studio wants gone in exchange for closing your file in their direction. +2 to one roll; burn the contact who actually did the thing the studio is selling you.
 - 6** Your client wants a Partial Close because the Open Record matters less to them than the leverage they already extracted. Closing tight against their wishes ends the retainer and reduces Strain by 1.
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D6 LOCAL SIT-DOWN ROOMS

D6 ROOM

- 1 The studio commissary at 4 p.m., empty except for a fixer eating cottage cheese.
- 2 A producer's bungalow on the lot. Soundproofed. The intercom to his secretary is on. He hasn't said so.
- 3 The Brown Derby's banquette behind the curtain at lunch hour. Six people who matter can hear.
- 4 A studio attorney's Beverly Hills office. The door has the firm's name. The desk has nothing.
- 5 The Garden of Allah, bungalow 7, after the writers have left for the bar.
- 6 A back booth at Musso & Frank where Aggie Underwood drinks alone three nights a week. She nods. The subject sits.

FACTION PRESENCE

Track Suspicion and Leverage normally. These clocks are local variants only.

THE STUDIOS (COMPOSITE)

Pick one major to clock per case (MGM, Warner, Paramount, RKO, Fox, Columbia). Track separately if more than one is involved.

Suspicion 3: The studio's publicity office has a file on you. First LEAN against any contracted player each case is +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: The studio opens a file with their security chief. Heat starts +1 in the next Studio Lot case.

Suspicion 6: The studio quietly tells your other clients you are unreliable. Burn one contact at this studio and reset Suspicion to 3.

Leverage 3: The studio offers an introduction; accepting makes one LEAN easier and marks one contact Afraid.

Leverage 5: The fixer asks for a name in exchange for the introduction. The name is real.

Leverage 6: The studio demands the case file. If refused, your next case in Hollywood starts at Heat +2.

THE PRESS (HEARST'S EXAMINER / CHANDLER'S TIMES / CONFIDENTIAL)

Suspicion 3: A columnist mentions you by initials. First LEAN at any nightclub each case is +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A reporter is assigned to your work. They are not your friend. Lose one Lead at session start until Suspicion drops.

Suspicion 6: A column runs a paragraph about your case. The Open Record now has a public counterversion. Clock advances toward Open File close type.

Leverage 3: A reporter offers you the print run before it hits the street. Mark +1 Press Leverage to accept.

Leverage 5: A columnist asks you to confirm a story they're sitting on. Confirming gives +1 to one roll; refusing burns the contact.

Leverage 6: Confidential wants the case in print. You can refuse. They will print anyway. Choose what they get to print.

THE LAPD HOLLYWOOD DIVISION

Suspicion 3: Hollywood Division has your name on a card. First WALK at a public scene each case is +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A detective takes an interest. Failed PULLs in city records mark +1 additional Heat.

Suspicion 6: Your license is reviewed. Mark +1 Strain. Reset Suspicion to 3.

Leverage 3: A friendly detective offers to share what's on the blotter. Mark +1 LAPD Leverage.

Leverage 5: A captain wants you to drop a case in exchange for a closed file you've been chasing.

Leverage 6: An officer who owes you calls in the favor. Mark Code Crossed if you collect.

THE HAYS OFFICE

Suspicion 3: The Production Code office knows your case is touching a film in production. PRESS at any studio script department +1 tier.

Suspicion 5: A morals-clause investigation is opened against the actor your case is centered on. The actor goes silent.

Suspicion 6: The Hays Office demands a copy of your file before the studio will release a film. The studio leans on you to comply.

Leverage 3: A Hays Office investigator offers parallel notes on your subject.

Leverage 5: A producer asks you to deliver a finding the Hays Office can use.

Leverage 6: The Hays Office requires the morals-clause termination of the actor whose name appears in your file. If you supply it, mark +1 Strain and burn the actor's contact.

COHEN'S SUNSET OPERATION

Suspicion 3: Cohen's people know you've been on the Strip. First LEAN at any Strip address +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A Cohen lieutenant asks where your loyalty sits. Failed answers mark +1 Heat.

Suspicion 6: Cohen's people decide you are working a Dragna case. Burn one Strip contact and reset Suspicion to 3.

Leverage 3: A Cohen man offers a name from the Strip in exchange for a name from your case. Mark +1 Cohen Leverage if you accept.

Leverage 5: Cohen wants you to identify a leak inside his organization. Refusing closes the Strip to your work for two cases.

Leverage 6: Cohen calls in a favor before the next Sit-Down. If accepted, gain 1 Leverage Token and +1 Strain.

THE LAST FILE SEED: WHEN THE BLACK DAHLIA CLOSSES

Use this when the Long Investigation reaches Stage 5 (Proof) and the player declares the campaign's last case.

Title: The Body in the Lot.

Case Type: Cold Case (Homicide originally; reopened by your file).

Crime: Premeditated, Single, Wrinkle 5 (a prior PI worked this and went dark).

Subject: Protected (Very Hard 5+) at minimum. May be Unreachable if the Long Investigation has shown the killer was protected by an institution.

Anatomy seeds: the Person is the killer (named in your prior files); the Place is the actual murder site, not Leimert Park; the Record is the original LAPD file the Department won't release.

Sit-Down room: a private dining room at the Biltmore where three institutional men sit at the table beside the subject.

Code test: Closing the Dahlia clean requires naming a man whose family the studio still pays. Refusing costs the case but reduces Strain by 1 and protects every Open File you ever filed.

Closed Tight: The killer is named in the Open Record. The studio that protected him collapses one Suspicion clock by 2.

Closed Clean: The killer is named, but the institution stands. Mark +1 Strain.

Open File: The case is on record but unfinished. The Dahlia tracker resets to Stage 3 and the next investigator inherits the work.

Blown / Blown Bad: The studio that owns the killer issues a statement. The Dahlia is officially declared closed by another suspect. The Open Record now contains a lie.

CLOSE-TYPE AFTERMATH

CLOSE	STUDIO LOT CHANGES
Closed Tight	One studio publicity office begins routing small jobs your way. Improve one Lot or Boulevard contact one status step.
Closed Clean	The studio handles your finding internally. Mark +1 Leverage with that studio.
Open File	The story leaks to a column. Next case starts at Heat 4 and one Trades contact becomes Useful.
Blown	A studio writes the official version. Heat resets to 6 next case; choose Hearst, Chandler, or Confidential to mark Suspicion +2.
Blown Bad	A fixer's office decides you're a problem. Burn one contact or drop Familiarity by 1. If a contracted player was part of your case, add +1 Strain.

NAMED CANON CONTACTS FOR IMMEDIATE USE

CONTACT	WHAT THEY KNOW	WHAT THEY FEAR	WHAT THEY WANT	WHO CAN BURN THEM
Eddie Mannix (MGM general manager)	Every problem MGM has buried since 1925.	L.B. Mayer's signature being attached to anything.	His name kept out of the Open Record.	L.B. Mayer or William Randolph Hearst.
Howard Strickling (MGM publicity)	What the press will print and what they won't.	A column he can't kill.	A favor banked, not paid.	Eddie Mannix or a competing studio's fixer.
Aggie Underwood (Herald-Express crime editor)	Every crime scene she walked between 1935 and now.	Being moved off the police beat.	The Dahlia file and the man who closed it.	Hearst himself.
Florabel Muir (New York Daily News West Coast)	Mickey Cohen's whereabouts on any given Tuesday.	Being mistaken for police.	A Cohen quote nobody else has.	Cohen or her own paper.

CONTACT	WHAT THEY KNOW	WHAT THEY FEAR	WHAT THEY WANT	WHO CAN BURN THEM
Bugsy Siegel (until June 20, 1947)	Where the Combination's money is going.	Cleveland and Meyer Lansky.	The Flamingo to open green.	The Combination itself.
Walter Winchell (gossip wire, by phone)	Who's sleeping with whom in three time zones.	His own irrelevance.	Five minutes of your case before it goes anywhere.	Hoover or Hearst.

02/

THE BLACK DAHLIA

The case the LAPD closed and the city won't let go.

This chapter gives the Studio Lot a five-stage Long Investigation tied to the killing of Elizabeth Short, found in Leimert Park on January 15, 1947. Use it when ordinary cases begin pointing at something the LAPD won't reopen: a woman with a Hollywood story that doesn't add up, a hotel room from January '47, a doctor with a private surgery suite, the phrase "the Dahlia file."

Canon stance: the killer is alive. The killer is connected to a studio or to a doctor with studio business. The original LAPD investigation produced a primary suspect whose name was buried by an institutional decision. The Open Record never held the truth.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Start the Long Investigation after any Hardened-or-higher case in Hollywood that involves a young woman, a body professionally cleaned, a missing-persons report from out of state, or a doctor with private rooms. The arc does not replace normal cases. It tags certain sources, clues, and aftermath results as Dahlia-facing.

THE ARC

Title: The Body in the Lot.

Core question: Who in Hollywood killed Elizabeth Short, and which institution is still paying to keep his name out of the file?

What the player first sees: a witness from a current case mentions a name they say they're "not supposed to remember." A morgue clerk, asked about another body, says "this isn't the cleanest one I've seen." A starlet's roommate from January 1947 turns up in your case, a year later, going by a different name.

STAGE 1: INCIDENT

Pressure. An unrelated case produces a thread that points at the Dahlia: a name on a doctor's appointment book, a hotel register from January '47, a phrase a witness uses ("the Dahlia file") without realizing what they're saying.

Source. A morgue attendant, a hotel clerk, a contract player who knew Beth from the time she was hanging around the Formosa, or a freelance reporter who covered the original case and never let it go.

Clue. The bisection was surgical. The body was cleaned and posed. The killer had access to a private suite with running water and a drain.

Complication. The clue points at three doctors at once. Two are studio-affiliated. The third is dead.

STAGE 2: PATTERN

Pressure. Other women appear in your file. A starlet who disappeared in November '46. A waitress from the Florentine Gardens whose name went off the police log without an entry. A woman from Massachusetts who came to Hollywood in '45 and was never reported missing.

Source. Aggie Underwood (if she trusts you), a former LAPD detective who left the department in '47, a doctor's nurse who saw the suite, or a fixer who handled cleanup that month.

Clue. The pattern is studio-adjacent. Each victim had recent contact with the same publicity office. Each had a screen test that didn't go anywhere.

Complication. The screen-test trail leads to a studio where you have an active LEAN bonus from a contact. PRESSing the trail burns the contact.

STAGE 3: ACTOR

Pressure. A name surfaces. A surgeon who worked studio contracts and held a private practice in the Hills. A man with no public scandal and three closed police inquiries.

Source. The surgeon's former receptionist, a competing doctor who hated him, his ex-wife, a starlet who survived the same suite.

Clue. His house had a garage with a drain. The garage was renovated in March 1947 and the renovation was paid for by a studio.

Complication. The studio that paid for the renovation is the studio your client is currently running interference for. Closing on the surgeon ends the retainer. Refusing to close on him tips you toward Strain.

STAGE 4: MOTIVE

Pressure. The doctor is a man who hurt women on purpose because the studios looked the other way. The institution behind him isn't a single studio. It's the unwritten understanding among studios, the LAPD Hollywood Division, and the morals-clause infrastructure: Beth Short was a problem before she was a body, and the institution decided in December 1946 that her death would close cleaner than her testimony would.

Source. An ex-publicist who quit in February 1947, a Hays Office investigator with a private notebook, a mortician who cleaned the body before the LAPD photograph.

Clue. The Open Record is a confession. The LAPD's case file contains a name on page 47, in pencil, struck through. The name is the surgeon's.

Complication. The page 47 file is in the LAPD Records Division basement. It is sealed. The seal is signed by a captain who is now a chief.

STAGE 5: PROOF

Pressure. You can document the surgeon's responsibility. You cannot document the institution's protection of him without a witness still inside the institution. The surgeon will not confess. The institution will not break.

Source. A retired studio attorney who remembers the December 1946 meeting. A former Hollywood Division detective who refuses to say anything on the record. A surviving victim who has spent five years preparing to testify if anyone ever asks.

Clue. The Final Operation must decide what closes: the man, or the institution that made him useful.

Complication. Closing the man without the institution leaves the institution intact. Closing the institution without the man requires evidence the institution will let you have only if you also burn the surviving victim's privacy.

D6 DAHLIA-TAGGED SOURCES

D6 SOURCE

- 1 The Hollywood Division detective who left in February 1947 and won't say why.
 - 2 A studio publicist who handled "the Beth situation" in early '47 and remembers the meeting.
 - 3 The mortician who cleaned the body before the official photograph. He knows what the original wounds looked like.
 - 4 A roommate of Beth's from the Chancellor Apartments. She has not spoken to police since 1947.
 - 5 A surviving victim, now living under a married name in Pasadena. Will testify only if you can guarantee her family doesn't read it.
 - 6 An LAPD records clerk who has seen page 47 and remembers the name struck through it.
-

D6 FALSE DAHLIA LEADS

D6 FALSE LEAD

- 1 The original confession the LAPD took from a man at the Aster Motel. It was real coercion, not a real killer.
- 2 The dentist who was named in the original press. He is not the killer. He treated Beth twice.
- 3 The Massachusetts boyfriend. He grieved poorly. He did not kill her.
- 4 A serial-killer theory imported from a Northern California case. Different surgeon. Different signature. Wrong man.
- 5 A lobbyist for the LAPD chief who suggests the case is politically untouchable. He is half right and using your work to bury it.
- 6 A surviving doctor who looks like the killer. His alibi for January 14–15, 1947 is real.

D6 DAHLIA ESCALATION

D6 ESCALATION

- 1 A column runs a paragraph on "renewed interest" in the case. Heat starts +1 next case. The studio knows you've reached Stage 2 or higher.
- 2 A surviving victim is approached by a man at a bus stop. She moves house. Mark +1 Strain.
- 3 A retired LAPD detective dies of "natural causes." His widow has his notes.
- 4 A studio offers your client a settlement on a different case in exchange for your withdrawal from this one.
- 5 A new body. Same signature. The institution didn't shut him down; it slowed him down.
- 6 A man you've never met leaves a sealed envelope at your office with a single name in it. The envelope is not a threat. The name is.

D6 DAHLIA AFTERMATH

D6 AFTERMATH

- 1 An LAPD source confirms what's on page 47 off-record. Gain +1 Dahlia Intel; cannot use the source as a witness.
- 2 A surviving victim contacts you directly. She wants to meet. She does not want her name on anything.
- 3 A studio fixer offers to pay for your retirement to Florida. Mark +1 Studio Leverage.
- 4 The morgue attendant from Stage 1 reaches out with a photograph nobody has ever seen.
- 5 A column publishes a story crediting an unnamed PI with "renewed interest" in the case. Heat resets +1 next case but a journalist becomes Useful.
- 6 The surgeon hires a young lawyer who specializes in defamation. The lawyer is preparing files on you.

THE LAST FILE: THE BODY IN THE LOT

Run as a Cold Case at the Final Operation step (see CH.01 Last File Seed for full statistics). Capability: Protected (Very Hard 5+) at minimum; Unreachable (Extreme 6+) if you have driven institutional Suspicion clocks past 5.

Code test: Closing tight requires naming a man whose family the studio still pays. Refusing costs the case but reduces Strain by 1.

Closed Tight: The killer is named in the Open Record. The studio that protected him collapses one Suspicion clock by 2. The surviving victim's testimony stays sealed under your retainer.

Closed Clean: The killer is named, but the institution stands. Mark +1 Strain. The next investigator to work Hollywood inherits a Hostile press faction.

Open File: The case is on record but unfinished. The Dahlia tracker resets to Stage 3 and the next investigator inherits the work, the surviving victim, and one institutional Suspicion clock at 5.

Blown / Blown Bad: The studio that owns the killer issues a press statement. The Dahlia is officially declared closed by another suspect. The Open Record now contains a lie. Mark +2 Strain. End the campaign.

CONTINUING WITH A NEW INVESTIGATOR

A replacement investigator inherits the open Dahlia stage, one burned or missing contact, one institutional Suspicion clock at 3, and one physical artifact: a sealed envelope, an LAPD records clerk's name written on a matchbook, a photograph the morgue attendant gave you. They do not inherit the prior investigator's Familiarity. If a surviving Studio Lot contact briefs them, start Familiarity 1 and mark that contact Afraid.

03/

STUDIO LOT CONTACTS

Sixty-six names. Some real. Some still talking. Some not.

Reusable contact material for Hollywood. Roll D66 when you need a named contact, a contact replacement, or a source with local obligations. Each contact has a faction or power that can burn them.

Use the standard contact statuses: Loyal, Useful, Afraid, Compromised, Missing, Burned.

D66 CONTACTS

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
11	Eddie Mannix, MGM general manager	Every problem MGM has buried.	L.B. Mayer's signature.	His name kept off paper.	Mayer or Hearst.
12	Howard Strickling, MGM publicity	What the press will and will not print.	A column he can't kill.	A favor banked.	Mannix.
13	Whitey Hendry, MGM head of police	Lot security routines, who comes in late, who never leaves.	An on-lot death he didn't authorize.	A retired pension.	Mannix.
14	Aggie Underwood, Herald-Express crime editor	Every crime scene since 1935.	Being moved off the police beat.	The Dahlia file.	Hearst.
15	Florabel Muir, syndicated crime columnist	Cohen's Tuesdays.	Being mistaken for police.	A Cohen quote first.	Cohen or her syndicate.
16	Walter Winchell, gossip wire (by phone)	Who's sleeping with whom in three time zones.	Irrelevance.	Five minutes of your case.	Hoover or Hearst.
21	Hedda Hopper, columnist (Times)	Studio politics at the producer level.	Louella Parsons getting it first.	A name to drop in tomorrow's column.	Mayer or Hearst.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
22	Louella Parsons, columnist (Examiner)	Marriage rumors before the marriages happen.	Hedda Hopper.	The Hearst exclusive.	Hearst himself.
23	Robert Harrison, Confidential magazine (NY)	What every studio is paying not to print.	A libel suit that lands.	Pictures.	The Department of Justice.
24	Joseph Breen, Hays Office director	The Production Code's enforcement edges.	An immoral picture surviving the Code.	A scalp the studios can't refuse.	The Studio Council.
25	Bugsy Siegel, Combination (until 6/20/47)	Where the Combination's money is going.	Cleveland and Lansky.	The Flamingo green.	The Combination.
26	Mickey Cohen, Sunset Strip	Strip operations and the LAPD captains on the take.	An indictment that reaches the federal level.	A press headline naming Dragna instead.	Dragna or the FBI.
31	Jack Dragna, San Pedro	Dock operations, hijack rings, the cocaine corridor.	Cohen surviving.	The Strip back.	The Combination.
32	Johnny Stompanato, Cohen's gunman	Cohen's evening calendar.	Lana Turner's mother.	A studio contract he won't get.	Cohen.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
33	Hank Sanicola, Sinatra's manager	Who Sinatra knows that Sinatra shouldn't.	A column that pairs Sinatra with Cohen.	His client's career.	Sinatra himself.
34	Sergeant Jack O'Mara, LAPD Gangster Squad	What the Squad has on Cohen this week.	An internal investigation reaching his desk.	Cohen out of LA.	Chief Parker.
35	Sergeant Jerry Wooters, LAPD Gangster Squad	The Squad's wires on Cohen's house.	His partner getting hit.	One more year before he's resigned.	O'Mara.
36	Captain James Hamilton, LAPD Intelligence	Files on every working figure in LA.	The press finding the files.	The chief's chair.	Chief Parker.
41	Harry Hansen, Hat Squad (Robbery-Homicide)	The Dahlia case as it actually happened.	Retiring without closing it.	Page 47 of the file.	Captain Hamilton.
42	Finis Brown, Robbery-Homicide	What the Hat Squad knows and writes down separately.	His brother in the press.	His partner Hansen to retire happy.	Hansen.
43	Sergeant Stoker, LAPD Vice (former)	The Brenda Allen call-girl ring and which captains were on it.	Being murdered by his own department.	Testifying.	The Department.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
44	Brenda Allen, Sunset madam (1949)	A client list that runs through the Hall of Justice.	The chief's lawyers.	Immunity.	The chief.
45	Dr. Frederic Newbarr, LA County Coroner	Every body that came through 1947.	A press leak from his office.	A quiet retirement.	The DA.
46	A morgue attendant who handled Beth Short	The original wounds before the LAPD photograph.	Hansen's questions.	The case to close.	Newbarr.
51	The Garden of Allah doorman	Who came in with whom at 2 a.m. last week.	Losing the job.	A tip that beats the studio's monthly envelope.	The Garden's owner.
52	The Brown Derby maître d'	Which booth holds which conversation.	A scene at the door.	A regular who tips well.	Any studio publicity office.
53	Schwab's pharmacist (graveyard shift)	Who's buying what after midnight.	A DEA agent at the counter.	His pharmacy license intact.	The DA.
54	Musso & Frank's bartender	What screenwriters tell each other when they're drunk.	A column that names him.	A bigger station inside the bar.	The owner.
55	The Trocadero hatchcheck	Whose hat is in whose coat pocket.	A boyfriend who's a Cohen man.	A weekend off.	The boyfriend.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
56	The Coconut Grove cigarette girl	Who tipped well after which dance.	A producer's wife.	A speaking role.	The producer.
61	A unit publicist's secretary at Warner	The morals-clause file, the calendar, the names that appear in two phone logs.	Being moved off the lot.	Out without a black mark.	The publicist.
62	A second-unit grip at Paramount	What the cleaners moved last Tuesday night.	His union card.	A nonunion job that doesn't ask.	The local.
63	A script girl at RKO	Every rewrite, every name change, every cut actor.	The writer she's seeing.	His name off her paperwork.	The writer.
64	A contract player at Fox who got cut	Who got the role and what was traded.	The studio refusing to release her contract.	The screen test the studio buried.	Her studio.
65	A columnist's legman	Tomorrow's column, and what was killed from yesterday's.	His byline never appearing.	A story he can break first.	The columnist.
66	The kid who runs the Western Union desk on Sunset	Who's wiring money and where.	A holdup at the desk.	A regular customer who tips.	Western Union.

STATUS CHANGES

Loyal. LEAN is one tier easier once per case; if burned, gain +1 Strain.

Useful. Standard contact state; can provide one clue, route, or modifier.

Afraid. Will help only if the investigator first lowers Heat, spends a Lead, or accepts Leverage with a faction.

Compromised. Information is accurate, but using it marks +1 Heat or +1 Suspicion.

Missing. Unavailable until a case action finds them; finding them grants a clue or reveals who took them.

Burned. Using them anyway triggers a Burned Contact consequence and worsens one faction clock.

D6 FAVORS CONTACTS ASK

D6 FAVOR

- 1 Kill an item in tomorrow's column.
 - 2 Move a starlet through the Hollywood Division desk without a booking photo.
 - 3 Recover a lost reel from a closed soundstage.
 - 4 Delay a studio raid long enough for a contract to be signed.
 - 5 Prove a publicist was the source of a leak the publicist now denies.
 - 6 Carry a message that cannot touch a studio switchboard.
-

D6 WAYS CONTACTS BETRAY THE INVESTIGATOR

D6 BETRAYAL

- 1 They sell the meeting location to the studio's publicity office. Mark +1 Heat.
- 2 They give true intel with one missing zone-crossing detail. The next zone-cross is Hard minimum.
- 3 They route you through a studio gate they owe a favor to. Mark Studio Leverage +1.
- 4 They identify your client as the real prize. The retainer is at risk at Heat 7.
- 5 They warn the subject to preserve their own contract. Posture activates one stage early.
- 6 They hand over your source network after the case. Worsen two contacts one step.

D6 WAYS CONTACTS SAVE THE CASE

D6 SAVE

- 1 They name the right zone of the sit-down room. Gain 1 Leverage Token.
- 2 They hide you during a publicity sweep. Reduce Heat by 1, minimum 0.
- 3 They confirm a false anatomy target before you spend an action on it. Gain 1 Lead.
- 4 They open a route between the Lot and the Hills. Ignore one Studio Cover trigger.
- 5 They produce a witness who knows the timing. Generate 1 Hard Fact.
- 6 They arrive at the sit-down room with a name, a code, or a car. Add +1 to Beat 1.

D6 MISSING CONTACT RETURNS

D6 RETURN

- 1 With a studio publicist and a rehearsed story. Treat as Compromised.
- 2 Injured, carrying one true clue and no explanation. Gain a clue; mark +1 Strain.
- 3 Upwardly mobile now, with a contract and a debt.
- 4 Changed by exposure to Confidential's files; repeating a phrase that is also a Dahlia clue.
- 5 Afraid of you, not the studio. LEAN starts Hard minimum.
- 6 With another missing contact. Choose which one can still be saved this case.

D6 BURNED CONTACT CONSEQUENCES

D6 CONSEQUENCE

- 1 The contact disappears permanently; mark +1 Strain.
- 2 Their studio uses the relationship to identify your route. Heat +2.
- 3 Their family asks for help during the next session. Refusal marks Code Crossed.
- 4 They provide one last clue, then become evidence against you. Suspicion +2.
- 5 The Dahlia preserved their data. Gain +1 Dahlia Intel and worsen one contact.
- 6 They survive hostile. Next time they appear, they are tied to the subject's anatomy.

GLOSSARY

Fast language for returning investigators.

Use this glossary when a term appears in the campaign pack and you want the table-facing meaning without reopening the core book.

CORE L.A. DICK TERMS

TERM	MEANING
Action	One of three things the investigator does per session: WALK, LEAN, PULL, or STAKE.
Anatomy	Three hidden case targets: the Person, the Place, the Record. Hitting them generates Leverage.
Case	One complete L.A. Dick investigation, generator to Sit-Down to aftermath.
Code	One sentence the war taught the investigator not to do. Crossing it gives a bonus and marks the file.
Code Cross	Choosing to violate the Code for +2 to one Sit-Down roll.
Contact	A named source who matters after a case. Statuses: Loyal, Useful, Afraid, Compromised, Missing, Burned.
Familiarity	0–5 score showing how well the investigator knows a territory. Higher Familiarity gives local advantages.
The File	The five-stage investigation track: Incident, Pattern, Actor, Motive, Proof.
Hard Fact	Case progress. Two Hard Facts advance the file one stage.
Heat	Exposure. Failed actions and Natural 1s raise Heat. Thresholds at 3, 5, 7, 9.
Lead	+1 to one investigation roll. No cap. Carries between sessions within a case.
Leverage Token	Sit-Down currency from anatomy hits. Cap 4. Determines close quality.
Sit-Down	The case climax. Three beats: Leverage Roll, Pressure Roll, Resolution Roll.
Strain	Campaign pressure on the investigator. Separate from wounds.
Suspicion / Leverage	Faction clocks (0–6 each). Suspicion tracks how clearly a faction reads you. Leverage tracks what they can make you do.

TERM	MEANING
The Tail	A passive surveillance beat available at Stage 2 onward. Generates Leads.
Vice	The investigator's standing weakness. Triggers under specific conditions.
War Detail	What the war did to the investigator. Gives an advantage and a Heat liability tied to the same biography.

ACTION VERBS

VERB	MEANING
WALK	Work a scene, an institutional site, on-site evidence. LEGS or EYE.
LEAN	Question, pressure, negotiate, or test a source. NERVE.
PULL	Records work: archives, ledgers, registries, files retrieved off-site. EYE.

STUDIO LOT TERMS

TERM	MEANING
The Lot	Studio property: sound stages, writer bungalows, commissary, executive building.
The Boulevard	Hollywood's public face: clubs, restaurants, the Garden of Allah, Schwab's, Musso & Frank.
The Hills	Above Sunset, behind gates: producer homes, contract-player rentals, surgeons' suites.
The Trades	Variety, the Hollywood Reporter, the columns, the rags. Where reputations are made and unmade in print.
Studio Cover	Local pressure rule. First failed PULL or LEAN at any studio location each case marks +2 Heat.
The Dahlia	Elizabeth Short, killed January 1947. The Long Investigation underneath the Studio Lot campaign.
Page 47	The struck-through name in the original LAPD case file. The Dahlia's Stage 4 evidence.
Confidential	The scandal magazine the studios fear most. Treat as a Press faction with no editorial brakes.
Hays Office	The Production Code authority. Enforces what makes the screen and what doesn't. Uses morals clauses as evidence.
The Combination	The national mob wire. Cohen and Dragna are its LA arms. Cross-references Gang Squad's faction list.

CAMPAIGN RECORD

What survives the case goes here.

Use one Campaign Record per investigator's career. Keep the active Case Index Card separate; this sheet tracks what follows the investigator between cases.

INVESTIGATOR HEADER

Name: _____

Office address: _____

License number: _____

Specialization: _____

War Detail: _____

Vice: _____

Code: _____ "I _____ don't
" _____

Reputation tier: Walk-In Referred By Name

Current Heat: ____ Current Strain: ____ Active wounds: _____

Cases closed: ____ Closed Tight: ____ Closed Clean: ____ Open File: ____
Blown: ____ Blown Bad: ____

Code Crossed entries: ____

LONG INVESTIGATION TRACKER (THE BLACK DAHLIA)

Current Stage: None Incident Pattern Actor Motive Proof

Dahlia Intel: ____

Last File available: Yes No

Last File outcome: _____

Surviving victim contact (if any): _____

Inherited from prior investigator: _____

FACTION CLOCKS

FACTION	ROLE	SUSPICION 0-6	LEVERAGE 0-6	CURRENT DEMAND OR THREAT	KEY CONTACT OR ROUTE
_____	Dominant local studio	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	Press / column	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	LAPD Hollywood Division	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	Optional fourth (Hays / Confidential / Cohen)	_____	_____	_____	_____

REPUTATION AND EVOLUTIONS

Current reputation: _____

Next reputation requirement: _____

Pending advancement check:

Evolutions earned: _____

Evolutions close to earning: _____

TERRITORY FAMILIARITY

TERRITORY	FAMILI- ARITY 0-5	RELIABLE ROUTE	KNOWN SOURCE	LOCAL H NOTES
The Studio Lot	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----

CONTACTS

CONTACT	TERRITORY / FAC- TION	STATUS	KNOWS	WANTS
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M/B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M/B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M/B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M/B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M/B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M/B	-----	-----

CASE LOG

CASE	TER- RITORY	CASE TYPE	SUB- JECT PRO- TEC- TION	CLOSE TYPE	ANA- TOMY HITS	HEAT RESET	STRAIN Δ	CODE CROSSED	DAH- LIA INTEL
1	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
2	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
3	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
4	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
5	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
6	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
7	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
8	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
10	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
11	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
12	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

CURRENT CASE CARRY-IN

Heat starts at: ____

Leads carried: ____

Tactical carry-in (Loyal contact bonus, requisition, etc.):

Contacts unavailable: _____

Active wounds / penalties: _____

Faction clock effects active: _____

Territory effects active: _____

Dahlia stage pressures active: _____

Requisition chosen: _____

Client notes: _____

AFTER-CASE CHECKLIST

1. Record close type and casualties of attention.
2. Reset Heat by close type.
3. Add Code Crossed entries and Strain.
4. Update reputation progress and evolutions.
5. Update faction Suspicion and Leverage.
6. Update contact statuses.
7. Update Territory Familiarity.
8. Apply Strain changes and relief.
9. Add Dahlia Intel and check Dahlia stage.
10. Choose requisition or note why it is unavailable.
11. Write one field note. Not a summary.