

A HAUNT MY BLOCK™ CASE NIGHT KIT · EVERY STREET KEEPS A FILE.

FICTION LABELED

CASE NIGHT

A printable listening kit from the Haunt My Block archive. Tonight, your table opens a file.

For 4–12 grown-ups at home · about 90 minutes · candles optional, snacks mandatory

For private, at-home listening.

Fiction, AI-assisted. Clippings in town kits are real public-domain newspaper items (pre-1930, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America*), with personal names redacted. Everything else is invented. Haunt My Block is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Library of Congress.

Before you start

What this kit is: a printable plan for an evening at home with friends: reading old evidence aloud, arguing about it, then listening to a ghost story that is entirely made up but set in a real place. It's your evening; Haunt My Block just supplies the paper and does not host, run or ticket any gathering.

Pick your listening segment

1. **Free:** read aloud a short fictional town story, or play a town episode of the free podcast *Haunted America, Town by Town*, from Haunt My Block, where available.
2. **The full story (\$14, optional):** order one Family-Friendly Edition story set at a public place your group shares (the library, Main Street, the town green) and play it at home with the lights low.

Edition for this kit: Family-Friendly Edition. Spooky, not scary. An adult does any ordering.

Two house rules

- Nobody's home address goes on the table or into a story unless that person offers it.
- The clippings are real; the ghosts are not.

18+ ONLY

After Dark Edition (18+), adults only. If, and only if, every person listening is 18 or older and has said yes, you may choose the After Dark Edition instead: intense, fictional adult horror, with age confirmation at checkout. Still fiction: real people and real tragedies are never the subject. No After Dark Edition material is printed in this kit.

The evening at a glance (90 min)

Time	Step	What happens
0:00	Settle in	Everyone draws a role card and a “Case Officer” nametag.
0:10	Evidence table	Lay out the exhibits. Read silently. No theories yet.
0:20	Exhibit reading	The Archivist reads aloud; the Skeptic gets one objection per exhibit.
0:35	Theory round	Each guest writes a one-sentence fictional explanation. Fold and collect.
0:45	Lights low	The listening segment.
1:00	Debrief	Discussion questions, then read the theories aloud and vote.
1:15	Your own street (optional)	Anyone curious can try the free preview at hauntmyblock.com for a street they love. No one has to share the result.
1:25	Close the file	The Archivist stamps the folder “FILED”.

Short form (30 min): one exhibit, one theory round, one story read aloud.

The evidence

EXHIBIT A · ILLUSTRATIVE SAMPLE

THE EVENING CHRONICLE

LAMP SEEN BURNING IN VACANT HOUSE ON CARROLL STREET

Neighbors Puzzled — Owner [REDACTED] Abroad Since Spring

Residents of the block were at a loss last evening to account for a steady light observed in an upper window of a dwelling known to have stood empty these four months. Patrolman [REDACTED] made inquiry but found the doors fast...

Illustrative sample written for the Haunt My Block site, not a real clipping. Town kits replace this page with real public-domain clippings (names redacted).

Archivist's notes

- *Note what the paper doesn't say. Who would have known more?*
- *Find the most ordinary word in this item. Now ask why it's there.*
- *If this were the first page of a novel, what happens on page two?*

Town kits contain three real clippings (Exhibits A–C) with personal names redacted. We exclude items about deaths, crimes against people and tragedies, so the file is odd, not grim.

Theory cards

THEORY CARD

My fictional explanation, in one sentence:

Officer: _____ ☐ OK to read aloud

THEORY CARD

My fictional explanation, in one sentence:

Officer: _____ ☐ OK to read aloud

THEORY CARD

My fictional explanation, in one sentence:

Officer: _____ ☐ OK to read aloud

THEORY CARD

My fictional explanation, in one sentence:

Officer: _____ ☐ OK to read aloud

THEORY CARD

My fictional explanation, in one sentence:

Officer: _____ ☐ OK to read aloud

THEORY CARD

My fictional explanation, in one sentence:

Officer: _____ ☐ OK to read aloud

Discussion questions (pick 4-5)

1. Which exhibit would a newspaper today not bother to print?
2. Which of the Skeptic's objections was strongest?
3. What did the story invent that you wished were true?
4. If you could read one more page of that newspaper, which would it be?
5. What would our street's "strange item" be this year?
6. Is a ghost story a kind of local history, or the opposite?
7. Which character would you trust with your spare key?
8. Who would love this kind of evening?

Role cards (cut out)

THE ARCHIVIST

Reads the exhibits aloud and keeps the stamp. Calm under pressure. Wry when required.

THE SKEPTIC

Must raise one sensible objection per exhibit. Gets the last cookie if proven right.

THE WITNESS

May add one clearly invented "I heard my great-aunt say..." detail per round.

THE CARTOGRAPHER

Finds the exhibits' street names on a map and reports how they look today (street names only).

THE KEEPER OF SNACKS

Responsible for morale.

CASE OFFICER

Everyone else. Theorize freely.

Case notes (snacks, optional)

- **Vacant House Cider:** warm cider, a cinnamon stick, an orange slice “left burning in the window”.
- **Lost Lantern Lemon Bars:** any lemon bar, served with a single tea light.
- **Fog Off the River:** a pot of Earl Grey with milk.
- **The Redacted Board:** a cheese board where every label is blacked out except one.
- **Late Edition:** anything you bought on the way over. Archivists don’t judge.

Close the file

Thank you for keeping a town's strange items alive for one more evening.

Want the full story for another street? A street you grew up on, a favorite block, or a friend's town as a gift: hauntmyblock.com. Free preview first; \$14 only if you want the story, charged only after it passes our quality checks.

For private, at-home listening.

Fiction, AI-assisted. Stories are written and narrated with the help of AI tools. Characters are invented. We never name real past residents and make no claim that any place is haunted. Clippings: Library of Congress, *Chronicling America* (public domain, published 1930 or earlier). Haunt My Block is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Library of Congress. Questions: hauntmyblock@agentmail.to
Every street keeps a file.