



Yoknapatawpha

A FIASCO! Playset

inspired by the writing of William Faulkner

Yoknapatawpha

Credits

Written by Keith Schooley

Art by Marco Ricci, "Southern Landscape at Twilight."
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Boilerplate

The playset is an accessory for the Fiasco role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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For more information of about Fiasco or to download other playsets and materials, visit www.bullypulpitgames.com

The Score

Setting in brief

Yoknapatawpha county. William Faulkner's fictional "postage stamp of native soil." Where nothing is as it seems, and family ties may range wider or grow tighter than you might imagine.

Jefferson seems to be a sleepy county seat, but a lot of things are happening under the surface. Over at the Compson place, by the golf course, word is that Jason's niece Quentin has run off with a fellow from the traveling fair, and the Bundrens finally got Addie buried, although you can still smell... something... mostly near old Miz Grierson's house. Over in Frenchman's Bend, Flem Snopes seems to have swindled several folks by selling them some untameable wild spotted ponies. Hear tell, Old Ike McCaslin is out on another bear hunt, and something too sordid to mention is going on at the Old Frenchman place. There's a lot to investigate... if you're sure you want to know the truth.

It's the 1920s in the deep South. Or is it 1890? Or 1863, the afternoon just before Pickett's Charge? Because here in Yoknapatawpha county, the past is never dead. It's not even past.

Book Night

A Fiasco! Playset inspired by the novels and short stories of William Faulkner, especially *The Sound and the Fury*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Sanctuary*, *Light in August*, *Absalom, Absalom!*, *Go Down, Moses*, *The Hamlet*, "That Evening Sun," and "A Rose for Emily." For some of the game elements to make sense, it will be very helpful to have at least one or two players well acquainted with Faulkner's work.

Relationships

1 Kin

- ◻ Obsessive parent and unstable child
- ◻ Husband and wife, like it or not
- ◻ Siblings, or so it seems
- ◻ Cousins (possibly of the kissing variety)
- ◻ Uncle/Aunt and Nephew/Niece
- ◻ Distant Relations, probably

2 Kin-ish

- ◻ Parent and unacknowledged love child
- ◻ Too-close siblings
- ◻ Half-siblings, whether they know it or not
- ◻ Estranged husband and wife, one possibly dangerous
- ◻ Pregnant woman and runaway father of her child
- ◻ Resentful guardian and wild child

3 Cordial Enough

- ◻ College roommates
- ◻ Neighbors, one moralistic, one amoral
- ◻ Former minister and current friend
- ◻ Clergyman and parishioner
- ◻ Teacher and student
- ◻ Drinking buddies

4 **Black and White**

- ◻ Black caretaker and white child (or manchild)
- ◻ Master and slave, possibly with common ancestry
- ◻ Freedman and childhood white friend, maybe related
- ◻ Black prisoner and white lawyer
- ◻ Black servant and white employer
- ◻ Cousins of different races

5 **Stuck Together**

- ◻ Doctor and dying patient
- ◻ Work partners, each on the run
- ◻ Tenant farmer and landlord (or landlady)
- ◻ Employer and employee
- ◻ Members of a bootlegging crew
- ◻ Madam and brothel whore

6 **Birds and Bees**

- ◻ Wild child and carnival worker
- ◻ Young lovers
- ◻ Minister and ex-lover
- ◻ Pregnant woman and man who falls in love with her
- ◻ Suitor and object of his affections
- ◻ Brothel whore and patron

... in Yoknapatawpha County

NEEDS

1 To Escape...

- ... a ruthless parent or guardian
- ... the trauma of the war
- ◻ ... lynching (yourself or someone else)
- ◻ ... the responsibility of parenthood
- ◻ ... from sex slavery
- ⋮ ... the horrifying truth

2 To Deal With...

- ... a crazy sibling
- ... taking care of a pregnant woman you love
- ◻ ... the pain of bereavement
- ◻ ... an unjust accusation
- ◻ ... an immorally-built inheritance
- ⋮ ... the eccentric town spinster

3 To Prove Yourself...

- ... by accomplishing a grand design
- ... by covering for a surprise pregnancy
- ◻ ... by hunting a legendary animal
- ◻ ... by sending your son to Harvard
- ◻ ... by laying the blame on someone else
- ⋮ ... by atoning for slave-owning ancestors

4 To Get...

- ◻ ... a loved one decently buried
- ◻ ... away when your girlfriend gets pregnant
- ◻ ... established in a small town
- ◻ ... an heir, when your wife has died
- ◻ ... an abortion, without anyone knowing
- ◻ ... rid of a mysterious smell

5 To Find...

- ◻ ... the father of your child
- ◻ ... a quarter to go to the fair
- ◻ ... money to escape
- ◻ ... a nest egg, no matter how
- ◻ ... a long-lost relative
- ◻ ... some liquor, out in the boonies at night

6 To Find Out...

- ◻ ... the truth of your bloodline
- ◻ ... if your wife's child is yours
- ◻ ... what the grownups are upset about
- ◻ ... the truth of what happened in the past
- ◻ ... the solution to the mystery
- ◻ ... how to end the madness

... in Yoknapatawpha County

Location

1 Home, Sweet Home

- Old plantation house
- Dilapidated farm house in the hills
- ◻ Sharecroppers' cabin
- ◻ The children's bedroom
- ◻ The servants' quarters
- ⋮ A house with a peculiar odor

2 Out the Door and On the Road

- A ditch outside the house
- Down by the branch
- ◻ Former pasture, now a golf course
- ◻ The dusty road into town
- ◻ A barn to stay the night
- ⋮ Civil War battlefield

3 In Town

- Town pharmacy
- A general store
- ◻ The sheriff's jail cell
- ◻ County courthouse
- ◻ Local cemetery
- ⋮ Civil War monument

4 Out of Town

- ◻ Insane asylum in Jackson
- ◻ Doane's Mill, Alabama
- ◻ Down in New Orleans
- ◻ Up in Memphis
- ◻ Away at Harvard
- ◻ A plantation in the French West Indies

5 In the Wilderness

- ◻ The outskirts of the disappearing wilderness
- ◻ A hunting camp
- ◻ The forest
- ◻ A 100-square-mile plot of land
- ◻ Flooded river with a washed-out bridge
- ◻ On the trail of the big bear

6 Unsavory Places

- ◻ Whorehouse in the big city
- ◻ Out by the still
- ◻ A gamblers' den
- ◻ A cell on death row
- ◻ A spouse's hand-dug grave
- ◻ The Old Frenchman homestead

... in Yoknapatawpha County

OBJECT

1 Weapon

- A rifle
- A pistol
- ▣ A hunting knife
- ▣ A Civil War sword
- ▣ A bear trap
- ▣ A corncob

2 Accoutrement

- A little girl's muddy drawers
- A red tie
- ▣ A concrete cast
- ▣ A bow tie
- ▣ New teeth
- ▣ A pillow with the indentation of a head

3 Animal

- One or more wild, spotted ponies
- A big buck deer
- ▣ A huge hunting dog
- ▣ A team of cattle
- ▣ A doe
- ▣ Old Ben, a monstrous, legendary bear

4 Things of sentimental value

- A drooping flower
- An expensive French carpet
- ▣ A deck of cards
- ▣ A gold coin
- ▣ A metal detector
- ▣ A magazine photograph

5 Drinking and Driving

- A jug of moonshine
- A horse and carriage
- ▣ A hot toddy
- ▣ A creaky old wagon
- ▣ A bottle of McCallum's whiskey
- ▣ A Ford

6 Something to get rid of

- A coffin
- A still
- ▣ A long-since decomposed corpse
- ▣ An envelope full of cash
- ▣ An unwanted pregnancy
- ▣ A disturbing odor

... in Yoknapatawpha County

A Yoknapatawpha Insta-Setup

Relationships in Yoknapatawpha

For three players...

- ✂ Half-siblings, whether they know it or not
- ✂ Work partners, each on the run
- ✂ Young lovers

For four players, add...

- ✂ Freedman and childhood white friend, maybe related

For five players, add...

- ✂ Drinking buddies

Needs in Yoknapatawpha

For three players...

- ✂ To get a loved one decently buried

For four and five players, add...

- ✂ To find out the truth of your bloodline

Objects in Yoknapatawpha

For three or four players...

- ✂ A Coffin

For five players, add...

- ✂ A Civil War sword

Locations in Yoknapatawpha

For three, four, or five players...

- ✂ The Old Frenchman homestead