THE NIGHT SHIFT

MINIMUM WAGE, MAXIMUM WEIRD

TG TRADITIONAL GAMES

A small, run-down gas station in the middle of nowhere. Literally one of those places where you HAVE to stop at if you don't want to break down before the next town.

A place where there is nothing to do during the day other than watching flies fuck. The day shift (those assholes) don't have a damn thing to do, and it shows. It only gets worse for you in the night shift.

A place where you're trying to get on your feet, trying to make enough money to find something better for yourself. To get a job that you may ask for (a little).

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 SOMETHING TO PASS THE TIME

- Games, traditional and otherwise.
- Possibly illegal drugs and lots of alcohol.
- An oddly specific category of trivia.
- Questionable choices in music.
- Gadgets on the bleeding edge.
- Doing terrible things for no reason at all.

2 SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU COMPANY

- Been together for a while, and has to let everyone know it.
- Two members of a threesome. Or is it a foursome now?
- One wants the other bad, the other's too busy working.
- You know, if it weren't for the genital herpes...
- One is a pretty good lay, the other fakes it pretty convincingly.
- The sex is great, but damn it they can't stand each other.

3 SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU BUSY

- One is the Manager, the other is the lowly stock clerk.
- One used to be in day shift, the other can't stand day shift (those assholes).
- One is the cashier, the other is a simple customer.
- One pumps the gas, the other cleans after day shift (those assholes).
- Both of you are customers stopping by.
- One is a hobo, the other... is something even stranger.

4 SOMETHING TO BUILD UPON

- We only knew each other online before working here.
- One of us lied to the cops for the other.
- We both dated the same person at some point.
- We bullied the Manager back in high school.
- We could never stand each other in the first place.
- We know something that can get the other in big trouble.

5 SOMETHING TO SET YOU OFF

- The way you talk to each other.
- The way you look at each other.
- The way you smell to each other.
- The things you do to each other.
- The way you boss the other around.
- The things you say to others.

6 SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU TROUBLE

- One sells the dope, the other makes sure there is product.
- One is the blackmailer, the other is stuck paying it up.
- One steals from the register, the other plays it by the book.
- One keeps the victim distracted, the other clocks him silly.
- One did time in prison for manslaughter, the other is terrified.
- Both of you did something so horrible that you dare not talk about it.

...ON THE NIGHT SHIFT

NEEDS...

1 I REALLY WANT TO GET...

- ...That sweet Manager position. Heard it pays more than just peanuts.
- ...Out of this stinking hellhole. Seriously, it reeks of brimstone.
- ...Some customers in this place. The constant monsters are getting boring.
- ...A pay raise. Just a little one. I don't get paid enough for this.
- ...That noise out of my head. If I hear it telling me to kill, one more time...
- ...Over this stupid fear of mine. It's getting in the way of me doing my job.

2 I REALLY DON'T WANT...

- ...That damn student debt of mine. Only thing worse than a giant bee sting.
- ...The others to find out about me. Can't run a business when everyone's dead.
- ...To clean up day shift's mess (those assholes). It's all their fault.
- ...The lights to go out. Again. Light company's too afraid to come out here.
- ...To have any customers tonight. I want a quiet night, just this once.
- ...That weird thing to happen again. You know. THAT thing.

3 I REALLY WANT TO FUCK...

- ...That sexy beast that came in the other night. I don't mind the tentacles.
- ...My co-worker's girlfriend. Or is it a boyfriend? I don't care.
- ...The Manager. Not too proud of it, but it's the only way to get ahead.
- ...Something. Anything. There really isn't too much to do out here.
- ...For the first time. I hope I don't come off too strongly as a virgin.
- ...Someone who I can live my life with. Maybe it's time to settle down.

4 I REALLY HAVE TO DO...

- ...Something about the giant worm drinking all the slurpees.
- ...Something about the hobo that scares away the gremlins.
- ...Something about the extradimensional goop that complains about the food.
- ...Something about the sign lights that keep changing their message.
- ...Something about that noise. That goddamn annoying noise!
- ...Something about day shift. I'm really tired of cleaning up after them.

5 I REALLY NEED TO FIND OUT...

- ...Just how the Manager knows what we're going to do and when.
- ...Why this place attracts the strangest shit every night.
- ...How my co-worker can be in three places at once.
- ...If the stairs actually go down to the basement or not.
- ...Why the human meat jerky tastes better than it should.
- ...If the stuff coming out of the pumps is actually gasoline.

6 I REALLY NEED TO GET RID OF...

- ...That co-worker. I swear, he acts like he used to work day shift.
- ...The Manager. Seriously, I'm getting tired of his shit.
- ...The clock. This is the third time it ate my overtime this week.
- ...The hobo. He's entirely too calm with all this weird shit around.
- ...That customer. The one that stares at the crack in the wall all night.
- ...The camera. I can't do anything without the Manager knowing.

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LOCATIONS...

1 INSIDE THE GAS STATION

- The grocery, where high-fructose corn syrup placates the horrors.
- The cooler, where caffeine and alcohol are the best of friends.
- The counter, where the drawer has more than just regular money in it.
- The deli, where at least a few of the kosher rules are bent regularly.
- The basement, where everything is stored, even the things you didn't order.
- The restroom, where the mirror mocks you every time you're in there.

2 OUTSIDE THE GAS STATION

- The pumps, which have more than just gasoline, diesel, and ethanol.
- The front, where it's normal for the hobo to talk to a mass of tentacles.
- The dumpster, which hides worse secrets than the recalled batch of pizza rolls.
- The back, where the lingering stench of day shift keeps the critters at bay.
- The roof, where the path to the neon sign is never the same between nights.
- The parking lot, where two peculiar phone boxes have reserved spaces.

3 ON THE CLOCK

- Restocking, always finding the newest oddities in carbohydrate cuisine.
- Mopping, because someone has to clean up the mess that the bats left.
- Truck duty, though the meaning of "truck" wavers when it comes in an UFO.
- Paperwork, because the only thing worse than damnation is bureaucracy.
- Maintenance, since the soda fountain won't stop spewing blood by itself.
- Management, because the Manager can't be arsed to do it himself.

4 OFF THE CLOCK

- The break room, because only day shift can get fast food when they're open.
- Smoking, and adding new cigarette butts to the mountain piled in the back.
- Using the restroom, because you can tune out the mirror after a while.
- Using the phone, though your call may be transferred to the Nightmare Zone.
- Staring into space, but be careful as it stares back at you. And judges you.
- Meeting your dealer, who totally isn't a praying mantis in a trench coat.

5 THAT WASN'T HERE BEFORE

- The old elevator that appears on different walls, at different nights.
- The subway that rolls in on the track in the basement, between the boxes.
- The penthouse that you can see through the "O" of the neon sign.
- The bulge in the ceiling in the shape of hands trying to break through.
- The staircase behind the counter that goes upstairs. No, not to the roof.
- The mouse hole that you can somehow fit in, but can never get out of.

6 IT WAS HERE ALL ALONG

- The front doors which lead to the restroom. And the basement. And the roof...
- The door in the back that says "Manager." You get chills thinking about it.
- The broom closet, which is actually larger than the rest of the station itself.
- The freezer, where Jimmy Hoffa was the whole time, waiting for you.
- The boiler room, at the far end of the basement, past the subway tracks.
- The highway that never has cars on it when you can actually see it.

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OBJECTS...

1 MYSTERY!

- An overexposed photo of you and... something else.
- A rusted key that almost fits the door to the Manager's office.
- A bottle of cola that has been in the cooler since the station opened.
- An old plastic trinket that hums with the moonlight.
- A video tape which shows the murder of former employees, but not the killer.
- An illegible note sent to you by the AC Prime Corporation.

2 SUSPENSE!

- An ambient howling that creeps from beneath the store at all times.
- The white board which writes various comments on itself.
- A fluorescent light that always flickers, no matter when it is installed.
- The ice machine outside, which is always rattling and moaning.
- A grotesque mask belonging to one of the customers from last night.
- A pen that chills your soul every time you use it to write.

3 HORROR!

- A perfectly spherical rock that crashes through the glass on the front door.
- A splash of blood that spells out "Ted" on the wall.
- A blood-curdling scream that comes from the Mountain Dew spigot.
- The noose you use to open the access door in the ceiling, to the roof.
- A wrinkled hand found stuck in the oil trap from last night.
- The wreckage of the "F" from the neon sign, which fell onto someone's car.

4 ACTION!

- A baseball bat signed by Mick Kokawlski, whoever that is.
- The silent alarm button, which likely isn't an alarm at all.
- The old mop, which has been handed down from Manager to Manager.
- A big red button, located in the basement behind the sauerkraut.
- A pocketknife which is so dull that it may as well be a pocketspoon.
- A revolver with six fruit-flavored bullets loaded in it.

5 ROMANCE!

- A tube of lipstick left in one of the aprons hanging behind the deli counter.
- The scent of perfume or cologne lingering around the cash register.
- A pair of underwear hanging off of the restroom's doorknob.
- Explicit text messages from a stanger left on your phone.
- Screams of ecstasy and a rhythmic rattling from the direction of the dumpster.
- A questionable toy fashioned after a deviant's draconine dream.

6 REALLY!?

- The television that shows the previous night's shift in real time.
- A used condom that always appears on one of the gas pumps.
- A pair of eyes in your shadow that always roll when you swear.
- One of the gas pumps, which dispenses sparkles and starlight.
- The mirror in the restroom, which mocks you every time you look at it.
- A book titled "Zorgror's Guide to the Galaxy."

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