

THE BLOOD-IRON RING

The blood-iron ring was forged by a sorcerer obsessed with the power of vampires and attendant immortality. In an effort to harness those powers, they created the blood-iron ring. It is said that the iron was magically drawn from the blood of a single sacrificed human, who the stories say was the sorcerer's adult son. By washing the ring in living blood, it grants the wearer a vampire's Arcane Sight for a few minutes, allowing the wearer to hear thoughts or emotions, see in total darkness, locate hidden or lost items, etc. However, it is said that continued use of the ring eventually causes severe mental damage, which manifests as a belief in one's invulnerability and, eventually, a craving for the blood that the ring consumes. Several past owners of the ring have been found practicing cannibalism.

APPEARANCE

It is a plain, hammered iron ring, pitted with pockmarks on the entire surface. When exposed to blood, the ring seems to soak it up, becoming solid and smooth for the duration of the effect.

MAGNITUDE

Area: 4 (a small building)

Duration: 1 (a few minutes)

Quality: 4 (Superior)

Cost: 6 stress and tick a four-segment clock, "Craving for Life Essence." Once the clock fills in, the wearer develops a craving for life essence, despite not being a ghost. How this craving manifests varies, but this ring has *definitely* turned people into cannibals before. It can be resisted with Resolve, but the stress cost to resist starts at 6 and increases by one every day after, until finally the individual either gives in or takes too much trauma to continue functioning.

RITUAL

In order to drain life essence, the ring must be washed in "living blood," i.e. blood that is actively flowing out of a person. (It causes the person being drained Harm 2 - Life Drained, in addition to whatever harm the injury does them.) Once activated, the wearer has access to the vampiric ability Arcane Sight, with the magnitude limits as described above. The wearer pays the cost every time it is used. If they fill up the clock, they can continue to use it, paying the stress cost, but they also have an overpowering need for life essence. Use of the ritual also instills in the wearer a belief in their own invulnerability, so long as they continue to wear the ring.