

# Sample Plot #1

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## Introduction

With an understanding already built of "What's Really Going On", the next task was to reference the group template and player-character write-ups to find an obvious way to draw them into the adventure. The players had designed a group of teenagers aspiring to be guns-for-hire, all of which had ties to a family on a particular farm. I chose a plot that would put them in contact with both Kane (a major figure in the Nationalist movement) and the Mayor (his primary opposition figure) so they would likely be present when larger events started unfolding. This would also help me feel out their group dynamic, approach to problem-solving, and political sympathies.

Since the campaign is just starting off and there's some need to set the tone and break the ice, the plot begins in a fairly scripted manner. However, you'll notice that at the end it simply drops off, as this is the point where I expect the players to start taking real initiative. I had to improvise the events that followed, but that was easy to do since I already had general outlines for world events and NPC personalities I could use to judge how the players' actions would be received.

1. *The game starts in Cape Girardeau. November 2137.*
  - a. *Pat's family owns Junction Farm, a moderate farm just south of a railroad junction, west of the Mississippi river.*
    - i. *It's a mixed crop and livestock farm, as most farms here are.*
    - ii. *They frequently go to the river landing to drop off supplies that are hauled north to St. Louis.*
    - iii. *It's late fall. The last of the fall crops are being brought in. It's a tense time of year as everything is counted to see if there's enough to survive the winter.*
    - iv. *The caravans from St. Louis will soon be here to collect their share and drop off miscellaneous non-food rations.*
    - v. *Winter is a difficult time to travel, so this will likely be the last anyone sees of major caravans until the spring.*
  - b. *It's just past sundown.*
    - i. *Pat's parents are distracted with their farm hands, doing last minute crop counting.*
    - ii. *It's just as well, because they wouldn't approve of Pat's new career choice, so this is when grandpa told them to meet him inside the livestock barn.*
  - c. *The old man shuffles in.*
    - i. *Referring to Chad: "What's this bum doing here?"*
    - ii. *"So you want to find your fortune off the farm? Wheat and carrots not enough to hold you? You want to get shot at?"*
    - iii. *He'll really push them on whether it's what they want or not, often in very condescending ways.*
    - iv. *If they stay strong, he'll be genuinely proud of them at the end.*
    - v. *He'll tell them to go see Frederick Kane at Mt. Tabor. "He's made it known he's looking for people like you."*
2. *On the road to Mt. Tabor.*
  - a. *They'll run into Betty, who will be utterly incoherent.*
    - i. *She'll be sitting along the road, almost as if waiting for someone to waylay.*
    - ii. *She'll offer them a pull of hooch.*
    - iii. *She'll offer to show them a magic trick and ask to see some small trinket. Whatever they give her, she'll simply put it in her pocket and continue the conversation as if it never occurred.*
    - iv. *She'll tell them that Kane is trying to evict her for squatting, but she lived her before he did.*
    - v. *"Claims he bought the land, but I don't know from whom. I didn't sell it."*
    - vi. *She'll ask if they could talk to him. She's tried, but Kane's men won't let her near.*
    - vii. *If they refuse, she'll ask what they're seeing him for. She'll then ask to go along with them. On the off chance the party accepts, this will not be well received by Kane.*
3. *Mt. Tabor is the name of an old park a mile west of Junction Farm. It's completely flat.*
  - a. *Frederick Kane is a wealthy man that owns the park and much of the surrounding land, leasing it out to tenants and foremen.*
    - i. *He lives in a well-appointed two-story house, still standing from pre-war. His house alone is a moderate money-maker for residents, since he is constantly renovating it and pays quite well for luxury items scavenged from the nearby area.*
    - ii. *He even has a pool, kept clean by an unremarkable automaton.*
  - b. *The farm is relatively quiet at night.*
    - i. *A few guards are milling about.*
    - ii. *The pool is obscured beneath a stitched-together solar blanket.*
    - iii. *The tending automaton is shutdown and locked inside of a shack.*

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- c. *They will be taken in to see Mr. Kane.*
  - i. *He will spend some time chatting with them.*
  - ii. *He'll be looking through a book of figures as they talk.*
  - iii. *He'll ask if they're patriots, loyal to the local community.*
  - iv. *If he sees Dave's gun, he'll ask if it still works and if it's for sale.*
  - v. *He'll seem infatuated with every political, cultural, or religious idea they have, particularly radical ones.*
- d. *Kane will eventually get down to the matter at hand.*
  - i. *The tax collectors from St. Louis will be in town shortly.*
  - ii. *His staff is stretched thin, so even menial tasks are rather hard to deal with.*
  - iii. *There's an old fairground about five miles to the north, called Arena Park.*
    - 1. *A bunch of hooligans have taken up residence there.*
    - 2. *They were pushing around people on the north side of town, which was fine. But Mayor Sandoval never felt the need to deal with them very harshly, since they don't do much beyond hoodlumism up there. One of the boys is also the Mayor's nephew.*
    - 3. *Apparently deciding they're safe up there, they've started doing far worse crimes around the outskirts of town, including into Mt. Tabor.*
    - 4. *They've stolen quite a bit from Kane's businesses, and even raped the wife of one of his most profitable tenants (Joe and Cynthia McMillan).*
    - 5. *He wants them stopped.*
    - 6. *But be forewarned – they're sheltered by the Mayor. You won't want to arouse his anger.*
    - 7. *He doesn't care how the problem is dealt with, but he doesn't want his name associated with the "resolution". Failing to keep his anonymity is failure of the contract.*
    - 8. *He offers 100 silver coins for success. With good negotiation, they might talk him up a little.*