

FALL 2023 - VOL. 2 ISSUE NO. 1

# INVOKING CURIOSITY



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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the world of Uniquely Morbid, where the macabre and the unusual intertwine to create a phenomenal tapestry of art, culture, and fascination. In this edition of our newsletter, we invite you to embark on a journey that delves deep into the heart of the extraordinary. From the enigmatic allure of The D.E.A.D. Society to our adventures at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, the meticulous craftsmanship behind our creations, and the magic of artistic collaboration, we unravel the mysteries of the unusual that bind us together. Join us as we explore, celebrate, and appreciate the profound depths of the macabre and the unusual.



# D.E.A.D. SOCIETY

Are you prepared to discover the intriguing and enigmatic? Welcome to The D.E.A.D. Society, an exclusive community tailored for those who have a taste for the mysterious and the beautifully dark.

Our journey into the unknown begins with the D.E.A.D. Society Membership, but this is just the first step in our exploration of the eerie and the unusual. Let's dig deeper into the heart of our newsletter to find out how this membership connects to the broader theme of Uniquely Morbid.

With The D.E.A.D. Society Membership, you're not just becoming a member but embarking on a distinctive journey. This membership caters to lovers of oddities, enthusiasts of craftsmanship, and anyone who appreciates the allure of the macabre.

So, what's included in this unique membership? Prepare to be captivated by a thoughtfully curated assortment of dark delights:

- An Exclusive Member Card: Proudly display your official membership badge, symbolizing your affiliation with The D.E.A.D. Society.
- The Dark Chronicles: Immerse yourself in a detailed fact sheet that unravels the captivating world of oddities, macabre art, and the allure of the morbid.
- Stickers and Tattoos: Decorate your belongings with stickers that reflect your affinity for the extraordinary. Express your spirit with temporary tattoos that embody the essence of The D.E.A.D. Society.
- Collectible Pin: Wear your membership with pride, signifying your commitment to embracing the morbid and unique.
- The Path Ahead: Beyond a subscription, this membership opens doors to a community of like-minded individuals where you can engage in discussions, share your creations, and connect with fellow enthusiasts.

Ready to be a part of something extraordinary? Embrace the allure of The D.E.A.D. Society and elevate your passion for the unusual. Join us now and explore the darker side of life: <https://www.uniquelymorbid.com/pages/dead-society>



### DEATH AS OLD AS TIME

Catacombs of Paris are a network of underground tunnels that were used as burial chambers for over 6 million people. They are now a popular tourist attraction.



### THE REAPER

The Grim Reaper is a popular symbol of death in Western culture. He is often depicted as a skeleton wearing a black cloak and holding a scythe.



### VECTOR DISEASE

Mosquitoes are responsible for more human deaths than any other animal, killing an estimated 750,000 people each year.



KEEP IT



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The average person will spend about one-third of their life asleep. This means that, on average, we will spend about 26 years of our lives unconscious.



**Membership Terms:** Please note that membership is subject to review and can be revoked at any time if you do not follow our community guidelines. We strive to maintain a respectful and inclusive environment. By joining D.E.A.D., you agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth by the community.

not be replaced.



# THE ART OF BONE CLEANING

Have you ever wondered about the remarkable journey behind the bones used in Uniquely Morbid's captivating art and jewelry creations? Our meticulous bone-cleaning process is an integral part of the art and jewelry creations that define Uniquely Morbid. By embracing this intricate journey, we ensure that every piece we craft possesses the essence of the macabre and the unusual. Here is a behind-the-scenes look that connects our craft to the very heart of our theme.



The smaller bones often come from owl pellets, where the vicious birds do all the hard work. All that's left for me to do is sift through the hairballs to retrieve these pristine bones.

For the larger bones, I let nature's tiniest helpers take the lead. Insects play a vital role as the ultimate cleaners, delicately consuming every trace of flesh in a natural cycle that guarantees each bone is impeccably clean.

Once the flesh is removed, the bones undergo a gentle cleansing bath in a simple mixture of water and mild Dawn dish soap. This soak, which can range from days to months, allows the dish soap to work its magic to eliminate lingering grease or oils.

After this refreshing soak, the bones are left to air dry, embracing the elements. They then experience a transformative peroxide bath, lasting approximately a week. This step further brightens and cleanses the bones, resulting in a pristine canvas.

Finally, the bones are allowed to air dry again, allowing their unique characteristics to shine through. While this process can be repeated as necessary, I often leave a gentle patina that imparts character to each bone.

So, the next time you hold one of our exquisite creations, remember that it's not just art; it's a journey filled with care, patience, and profound respect for the materials that nature has provided.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

We are thrilled and honored to announce our participation as guest merchants at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire! Our love for the Faire knows no bounds, and we eagerly look forward to being part of the 2023 season.

Picture a world where knights, jesters, and fairies come alive, where the air is filled with the aroma of delightful treats. It's an enchanting experience that seamlessly weaves fantasy and reality. We are genuinely excited to share our intriguing oddities, meticulously crafted jewelry, and unique art pieces to enhance your Renaissance Faire adventure.

But here's the exciting part – for those who crave the extraordinary and the macabre, The D.E.A.D. Society Memberships will be available for purchase exclusively at the faire. Limited supply. As passionate enthusiasts of this magnificent event, we can't wait to be a part of the magic. Furthermore, we're already setting our sights on an exciting 2024, and your input is invaluable. If you have any suggestions for shows or events where you'd like to see us, please contact us via email or social media.

Mark your calendars and join us for a truly magical time at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. We look forward to exploring, discovering, and celebrating the wonder of the faire with you.





# COLLABORATION

At Uniquely Morbid, collaboration is at the core of our artistic evolution. These creative unions breathe life into our extraordinary offerings, blending unique styles and visions. Our collaborations, in essence, mirror the synergy between the macabre and the unusual, creating treasures that transcend imagination and reality.

This year, we're delighted to introduce two incredible partnerships that bring together diverse talents and unexpected delights, embodying the very essence of our philosophy.

## The Pin Lady: A Captivating Fusion

Emerging from the enchanting realm of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, The Pin Lady is a cherished artisan known for her intricately handcrafted and whimsically embroidered pins. This year, our creative paths converged to give birth to a special glow-in-the-dark punny pin – a tribute to both the macabre and the whimsical. This collaboration beautifully blends our unique styles, resulting in a treasure that's as enchanting as it is distinctive.

**GLOWS IN THE  
DARK!**



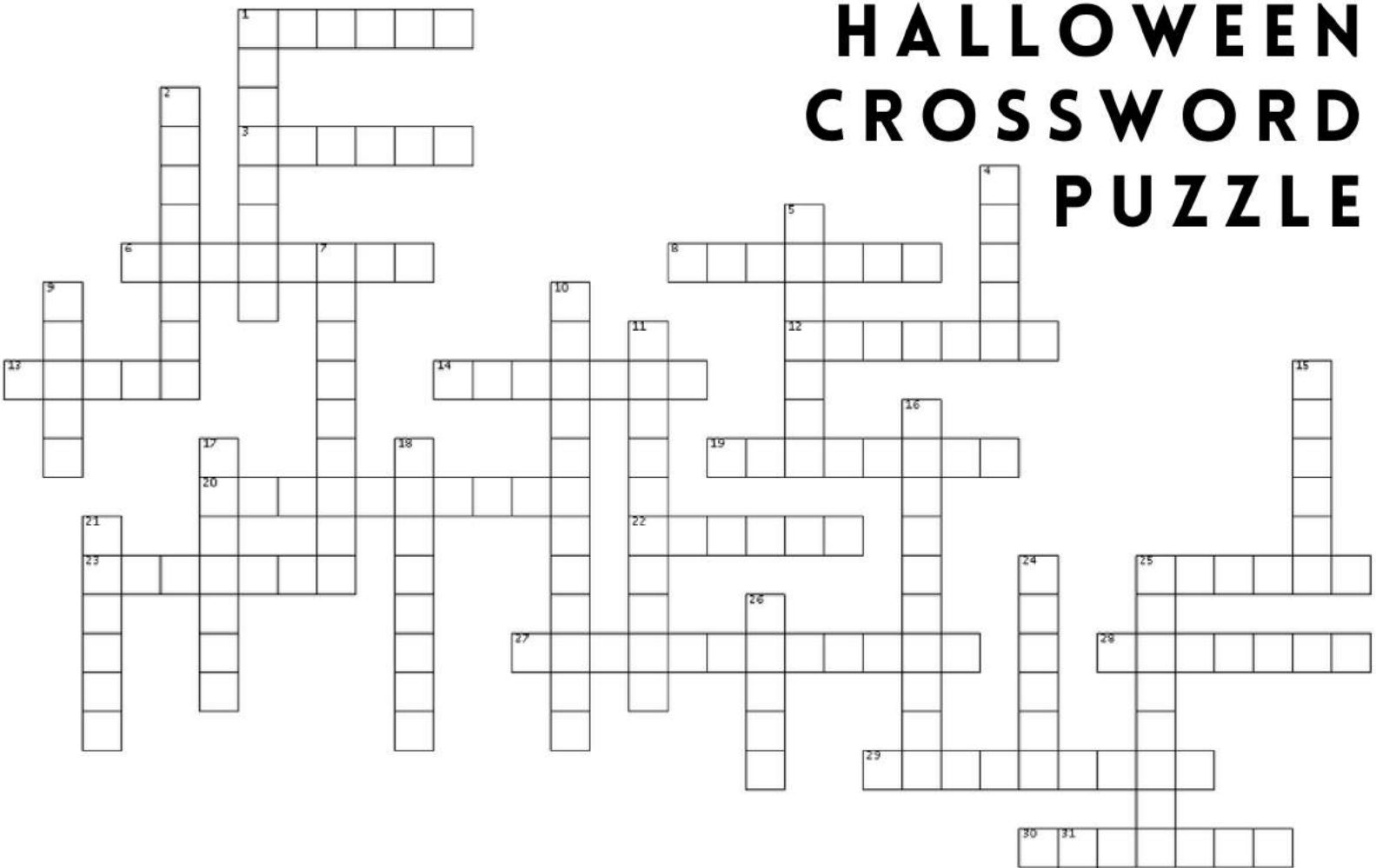
## The ClipClocks Lady: A Marriage of Elegance and Utility

In a world where history intersects with modernity, The ClipClocks Lady stands as a visionary. Her innovative wearable hidden clock invention allows individuals to stay in character while discreetly keeping track of contemporary time. Our partnership celebrates this ingenious creation by seamlessly integrating her ClipClocks with our intricate jewelry designs. The outcome is an exquisite fusion of form and function, perfectly aligned with our passion for the morbidly fashionable.

These collaborations testify to the enchantment that unfolds when artists with distinct visions unite. The resulting synergies elevate our creative expressions and enable us to present you with treasures that effortlessly traverse the realms of imagination and reality.



# HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

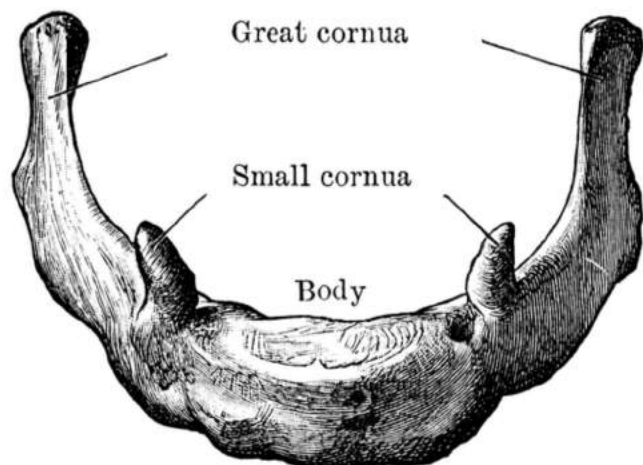


## ACROSS

1. Synonymous with eerie and unsettling.
3. A box for the deceased.
6. A place where the deceased are buried.
8. Focusing on dark and disturbing themes.
12. A visible disembodied spirit that brings terror.
13. A gathering of witches.
14. A legendary creature that feeds on blood.
19. Of or relating to ghosts or spirits.
20. A ghostly manifestation.
22. A session to communicate with spirits.
23. A ghostly apparition.
25. A spider's intricate creation.
27. The customary Halloween activity.
28. An iconic Halloween symbol, often carved.
29. A plot of land for burials.
30. Illuminated by the moon's glow.
32. A tool for casting spells.

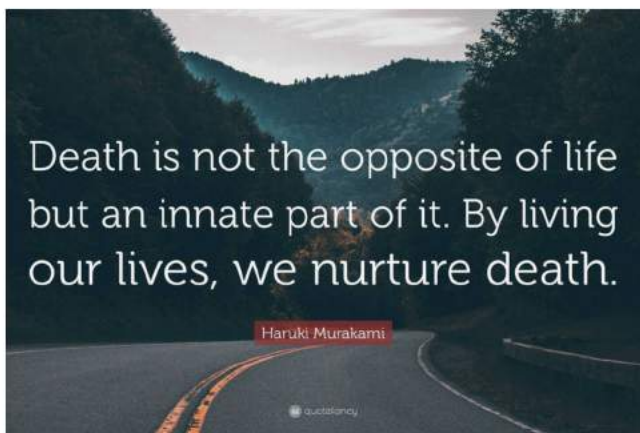
## DOWN

1. A practitioner of magical arts.
2. A framework of bones.
4. Creating an atmosphere of oddness or fear.
5. A wailing, female spirit in folklore.
7. A substance emanating from ghosts.
9. An undead creature that feeds on the dead.
10. Beyond the natural world.
11. Essential for a witch's transportation.
15. Provides light during seances.
16. The personification of death.
17. A place believed to be inhabited by spirits.
18. The time associated with magical occurrences.
21. The essence of a deceased being.
24. A reanimated corpse.
25. A large pot used for magical concoctions.
26. An underground chamber used for burial.
31. A device to communicate with spirits.



## FUN FACT

Here's a delightful diversion: Did you know? The hyoid bone plays a vital role in speech and swallowing! It is also the only bone in the human body that isn't connected to any other bone. Its isolation parallels the uniqueness and allure we find in the macabre and unusual.



## INSPIRATIONAL

Author Haruki Murakami is known for his thought-provoking storytelling. This quote is from his novel "Norwegian Wood," reflecting his ability to explore life's profound questions. With a global readership, Murakami's work resonates across cultures and continues to inspire.



## YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

We value your input and would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or ideas for our next newsletter release, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your feedback helps us tailor our content to better match your interests and curiosities. Feel free to drop us a line via email or connect with us on social media. We're excited to hear your thoughts and look forward to creating more captivating content for you in the future. Thank you for being part of our Uniquely Morbid community!



# CREATING SKELETON LEAVES

Creating and preserving skeleton leaves is a beautiful way to add an elegant touch of nature to your crafts and decorations. As we celebrate the beauty of nature in our D.I.Y. project, remember that these skeleton leaves can be incorporated into your macabre-themed art projects. They offer an elegant touch of the unusual, allowing you to infuse your creations with the beauty of the natural world.

## **Baking Soda Method:**

1. **Gather Your Materials:** You'll need baking soda, water, leaves, a pot, a spoon, and a toothbrush.
2. **Mix the Solution:** Combine 1 tablespoon of baking soda with 1 cup of water in a pot.
3. **Simmer the Mixture:** Bring it to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 30 minutes.
4. **Add the Leaves:** Place your leaves in the pot and simmer for 1 hour or until they're entirely bleached.
5. **Rinse and Scrub:** Remove the leaves from the pot, rinse them with cold water, and gently scrub away any remaining pulp with a toothbrush.
6. **Air Dry:** Allow the leaves to air dry completely before storing them.

## **Vinegar Method:**

1. **Gather Your Materials:** You'll need vinegar, water, leaves, a jar, and a lid.
2. **Create the Solution:** Mix equal parts vinegar and water in a jar.
3. **Submerge the Leaves:** Place the leaves in the jar, seal them tightly, and let them sit in the vinegar solution for 2-3 weeks or until they're fully bleached.
4. **Rinse and Scrub:** Remove the leaves from the vinegar solution, rinse them with cold water, and gently scrub away any remaining pulp with a toothbrush.
5. **Air Dry:** Allow the leaves to air dry completely before storing them in a cool, dry place.

## **Here are some additional tips for preserving skeleton leaves:**

- Opt for fresh, healthy leaves, avoiding wilted or damaged ones.
- Choose leaves from deciduous trees like maple, oak, or ash for optimal skeletonization.
- Avoid leaves from evergreen trees, as they won't skeletonize well.
- Avoid overcooking the leaves in baking soda or vinegar solution.
- If you're using baking soda, make sure to rinse really well with cold water after bleaching.
- With proper care, skeleton leaves can be stored in a cool, dry place for several years.

Creating your own skeleton leaves is a rewarding and creative process that allows you to incorporate the beauty of nature into your artistic endeavors. Enjoy experimenting with different leaves and using your preserved creations in various projects!

# EXPLORING THE MÜTTER MUSEUM CONTROVERSY

*Today, we embark on a thrilling exploration of the Mütter Museum Controversy and how it affects the oddity community. This topic invites us to delve deep into the fascinating world of human preservation and display.*

## **Introduction: Museum Controversy**

Imagine yourself in the heart of Philadelphia, surrounded by the rich history of medical marvels and the wonders of human anatomy. Established in 1863, it stands as a treasure trove of medical specimens and historical artifacts, beckoning medical professionals, students, and the morbidly curious into its hallowed halls.

In the spring of 2023, the Mütter Museum set the stage for thought-provoking discussions by choosing to remove online exhibits featuring human remains. This decision ignited a myriad of reactions, with some emphasizing sensitivity while others raise important concerns about the boundaries of expression.

## **From Niche to Mainstream**

The realm of oddity collecting has evolved from a niche subculture into a mainstream phenomenon, but with greater visibility comes new challenges. The actions of one entity casts a shadow over the entire community as seen by the scrutiny faced by revered institutions like the Mütter Museum spotlighting legitimate concerns within the oddities collecting community. It prompts us to question how to navigate these challenges while ensuring our community's growth and preservation.



The history of using human remains in museum collections is far from straightforward. Throughout the ages, archaeologists and medical institutions obtained these remains via means that are currently considered ethically questionable. Additionally, many marginalized individuals, including criminals, sex workers, and the unclaimed dead, found themselves in medical schools and oddity collections without giving their consent.

## **Exploring Ethical Frontiers**

Every so often, collectors of oddities acquire human remains from historical medical collections, a practice that raises intricate ethical questions. Does the consent of the original donors still hold when these remains are purchased for personal collections or profit?



Museums are also grappling with tough questions about the acquisition and display of remains they may not have previously considered. Is it ethically justifiable to publicly exhibit the deceased without their explicit consent, even if it's ostensibly for educational purposes?

Undoubtedly, these questions are complex and deserving of thorough consideration and introspection. While the world of oddities collecting may seem distinct from traditional museums, both realms involve collecting and handling items that challenge societal norms. It is our shared responsibility to engage these issues and shape our viewpoints accordingly.

### **Museums, Society, and Ethical Choices**

The Mütter Museum's ongoing controversy emphasizes the intricate interplay between museums, evolving societal values, and ethical dilemmas. Given the diversity of passionate opinions, a formidable challenge presents itself with the balancing of the preservation of history, dissemination of knowledge, and the promotion of inclusivity. The resolution of this controversy will shape the future of the Mütter Museum and contribute to broader discussions about preserving and displaying human remains.

As we strive to address the ethical concerns surrounding the collection and exhibition of human remains, each of us can play a vital role in fostering informed and ethically conscious approaches. Advocate for transparent museum practices, support clear documentation of the origins of exhibited remains, and ensure ethical and consent-driven acquisition of artifacts are all things that can be done towards raising awareness.

Another step is to engage in open dialogues and discussions within our communities, online platforms, and daily lives to promote ethical considerations. Additionally, seeking educational resources that delve into the complexities of this topic empowers us to generate well-informed opinions. As active participants in an ongoing conversation, we will be working together to foster a more enlightened and mindful stance regarding the collection and exhibition of human remains.

### **Personal Reflection and a Path Forward**

As individuals who share a profound interest in the Mütter Museum, we feel a sense of connection to and appreciation for its offerings. The removal of online exhibits may give rise to disappointment or anger, but it is crucial to recognize the importance of the evaluation and to remember that transparency remains our guiding principle.

This controversy inspires us to reflect deeply on displaying human remains in our constantly evolving world. Let us continue these heartfelt discussions working towards a more informed approach to human remains, whether within educational institutions or our beloved oddities collecting community. The resolution of this controversy will shape the Mütter Museum's future and contribute to broader conversations about the preservation and display of human remains. Together we explore, learn, and grow, strengthening our unique bond in the process. As we do so, let us now bow our heads, tip our hats, and pour a shot in respect to those who have donated their bodies, whether consent was given or not, for they have given extensively to us.

# RECENT BLOG POSTS

Explore our latest blog posts for a deeper dive into the macabre and the unusual. Visit [www.uniquelymorbid.com/blogs/staymorbid](http://www.uniquelymorbid.com/blogs/staymorbid) to read more!



**Is It True That Insects Were Killed To Make Certain Color Dyes?**



**The History of Vampires: From Folklore to Pop Culture**



**The Fascinating History of Tarot Cards**

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

- ACROSS
- 1. Spooky
  - 3. Coffin
  - 6. Cemetery
  - 8. Macabre
  - 12. Specter
  - 13. Coven
  - 14. Vampire
  - 19. Spectral
  - 20. Apparition
  - 22. Séance
  - 23. Phantom
  - 25. Cobweb
  - 27. Trickortreat
  - 28. Pumpkin
  - 29. Graveyard
  - 30. Moonlit
  - 32. Wand

- DOWN
- 1. Sorcerer
  - 2. Skeleton
  - 4. Eerie
  - 5. Banshee
  - 7. Ectoplasm
  - 9. Ghoul
  - 10. Supernatural
  - 11. Broomstick
  - 15. Candle
  - 16. GrimReaper
  - 17. Haunted
  - 18. Witching
  - 21. Spirit
  - 24. Zombie
  - 25. Cauldron
  - 26. Crypt
  - 31. Ouija



# CREDITS

## WRITER

The content in this edition of *Invoking Curiosity* was authored by Gabrielle Ferrara. Gabrielle Ferrara is an artist and entrepreneur who creates Victorian-inspired art and jewelry with ethically sourced animal remains. She has a master's degree in Museum Studies and undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and Art History. Gabrielle enjoys spending her free time with family, venturing down the rabbit hole of obscurity, and talking about dinosaurs.

## EDITOR

The content in this edition of *Invoking Curiosity* was edited by Flying Squirrels Editing Services. Owned and operated by Kieran Ferrara, Flying Squirrels Editing Services is the result of a lifelong passion for storytelling. Kieran's love for creating imaginative worlds, inspired by Batman comics and authors like Clive Barker and H.P. Lovecraft, led to the formation of the service after a chance Facebook encounter. Flying Squirrels specializes in editing fiction, including short stories, novels, novellas, and picture books, with a preference for the mysterious, the horrific, the fantastical, and the semi-scientific, while remaining open to other genres that meet specific criteria.

## PUBLISHER

*Invoking Curiosity* is published by Uniquely Morbid®, known for its unconventional and thought-provoking content that explores the unusual, mysterious, and macabre.



## FINAL REMARKS

By weaving these threads together, we create a tapestry that celebrates the macabre and the unusual, inviting you to explore, question, and appreciate the depth of this unique world. As we journey through the enigmatic corridors of The D.E.A.D. Society, share in the magic of the Renaissance Faire, glimpse behind the scenes of our creative process, and revel in the power of collaboration, we recognize that our passion is a reflection of your own. Together, we continue to unravel the mysteries and complexities of the extraordinary, forging a bond that transcends the ordinary. Thank you for being part of our Uniquely Morbid family, and may your fascination with the macabre and the unusual lead you to ever more captivating discoveries.



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