

# DMI Strange Happenings

*These vignettes are meant to increase player paranoia and present unsettling glimpses into what may be happening on Deathmatch Island.*

## Island One

### The Beacon

A single competitor stumbles upon a clearing with a glistening chrome post in the center. The post is about seven feet tall with another three feet of antenna. It is anchored with steel wires. Along the length of the post are small points of light, LEDs. They seem to react to the movements of the competitor. The lights have a hypnotic effect if stared at. They begin producing wave-like patterns that oscillate up and down the post. DMI logo on the post.

In the clearing insects are conspicuously absent. The ground is cleared to bare dirt.

### The Rook

A single competitor finds the body of a DMI competitor liaison team member. The corpse is lying face down on an overlook, such as a rocky outcropping. A broken pair of binoculars is nearby. The body was bludgeoned repeatedly from behind. All weapons and gear are stripped. In a pocket the competitor finds a T1 REDACTED item, "Keycard, Rook Access."

### Slug Tree

A single competitor finds a dead competitor laying under a banyan tree crawling with fluorescent red slugs. The competitor clutches a torn note which seems to describe a reiterating experiment where, "each generation corrects the flaws of the previous."

### Group Music Melt

The entire team sees a video monitor that shows the Host. The host is on a sound stage that resembles the Ed Sullivan show. The Host introduces, "a very exciting new act to our program." The camera cuts to a group of individuals wearing crude rubber masks resembling the competitors. They begin playing an instrumental version of "She Loves You" by the Beatles. The camera cuts back to the host who makes an exaggerated "wow" face. The camera cuts back to the group. A member steps forward to a mic like they are about to sing. The camera makes an obvious cut to a group of plastic dolls arranged like the competitors melting. Cut back to the host who enthuses, "what a performance!"

## Memento

A single competitor finds a polaroid photo, bent and weathered. The photo shows four competitors in goldenrod tracksuits standing on a tropical beach. They're holding DMI branded beers and smiling. One of the competitors in the photo looks exactly like the competitor who found the polaroid. They can even make out the competitor number on their uniform; it's the same. The other three competitors in the photo are unfamiliar. There is a bloody thumbprint on the bottom of the polaroid. It's a match.

## Birdcam

A pelican follows a single competitor. It makes short flights, landing out of reach of the competitor—on a roof, up a tree, etc. The pelican has an orange ankle tag, DMI branded. At one point it lands and leans forward, stretching its wings for balance. It looks like it's about to swoop. Its beak opens and inside the competitor sees light glint of a lens as a camera adjusts its focus. The bird flies away.

## Switchblade

A single competitor finds a dead competitor with a switchblade protruding from their back. The dead competitor seems vaguely familiar, but memory is fuzzy. A TV commentator? A political spokesperson? The blade is an advantage so long as they never tell anyone about it. A nearby video screen lights up and the Host appears. The Host addresses the competitor by name. "That's a nasty little surprise for anyone who doesn't see it coming. Just remember..." The host mimes shushing by pressing a finger to their lips.