



RECONSTRUCTION

A FIASCO PLAYSET BY TOM GURGANUS



TGO1 RECONSTRUCTION

CREDITS

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BOILERPLATE

This playset is an accessory for the Fiasco role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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"When you play, play hard." - Theodore Roosevelt

THE SCORE

WAR IS OVER, HURRAH

It is 1867. The American Civil War is over and the South is in ashes. She must be restored to the Union, and the process by which she will be rebuilt and embraced by the victors - well, it is not a smooth one.

In southern Virginia, amid the still-smoldering ruins of late-war battlefields, newly freed slaves mingle with former owners. Carpetbaggers and scallywags look for quick profits. Corruption is the coin of the realm, and the desperate, despicable and insane all look for an angle.

MOVIE NIGHT

Birth of a Nation, Gone With the Wind, The Outlaw Josey Wales

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FAMILY

- ◻ Father and son
- ◻ Brothers
- ◻ An “unspoken relationship” between former master and slave
- ◻ Betrothed couple
- ◻ Husband and wife
- ◻ Uncle and nephew or niece

2 WORK

- ◻ Former property owners
- ◻ Landowner and sharecropper
- ◻ Merchant and hired hand
- ◻ Former soldiers on opposite sides of during the war
- ◻ Carpetbagger and devastated landowner
- ◻ Doctor and patient

3 CRIME

- ◻ Ku Klux Klan member and target
- ◻ Blackmailer and victim
- ◻ Former overseer and slave
- ◻ Thieves
- ◻ Gamblers
- ◻ Snake oil salesman and sucker

4 FRIENDSHIP

- Neighbors
- ◻ Lifelong friends, long separated
- ◻ Hated rivals
- ◻ Political opponents
- ◻ Manipulator and victim
- ◻ Social adversaries

5 ROMANCE

- Secret lovers
- ◻ Unrequited love
- ◻ Jealous lovers
- ◻ Couple in an arranged marriage
- ◻ Dead romance
- ◻ A respectably courting couple

6 COMMUNITY

- Freedman's Bureau official and ex-slave
- ◻ Community organizer and prime example of injustice
- ◻ Wealthy gentleman and his wealthier wife
- ◻ Community patriarch and matriarch
- ◻ Radical Republican and Redeemer
- ◻ Notorious local ne'er-do-wells

...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

NEEDS...

1 TO GET OUT

- ...of the south, fast
- ◻◻ ...of the Army
- ◻◻◻ ...of this dangerous relationship
- ◻◻◻◻ ...of this new kind of slavery
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...of a heavy obligation and matter of honor
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...of a humiliating debt about to come due

2 TO GET EVEN

- ...with a talkative former lover
- ◻◻ ...with a sibling
- ◻◻◻ ...with a businessman
- ◻◻◻◻ ...with a military officer
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...with Benjamin Maynard, your former master
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...with the striped banner and all its prideful little men

3 TO GET RICH

- ...through outrageous theft
- ◻◻ ...through an advantageous marriage
- ◻◻◻ ...through blackmail
- ◻◻◻◻ ...through smuggling
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...through the murder of kin
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...through sound investments and hard work

4 RESPECT

- ◻ ...from kin
- ◻◦ ...from superiors and officers of justice and arbitration
- ◻◦◦ ...from your own battered and broken self
- ◻◻◦ ...from your old friends who have discounted you
- ◻◻◦◦ ...from your many feckless lovers
- ◻◻◻◦ ...from Ned Parson

5 THE TRUTH

- ◻ ...about your brother's actions at Chancellorsville
- ◻◦ ...about the mistake that haunts you
- ◻◦◦ ...about the money
- ◻◻◦ ...about the baby
- ◻◻◦◦ ...about the business deal and the papers you signed
- ◻◻◻◦ ...about that night in Atlanta and what came of it

6 SOME SEX

- ◻ ...from the one you admire from afar
- ◻◦ ...to seal the deal, fair and square
- ◻◦◦ ...because you don't want to be a virgin no more
- ◻◻◦ ...for revenge
- ◻◻◦◦ ...because it is all you have to offer
- ◻◻◻◦ ...that is wrong, all wrong

...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

LOCATIONS...

1 THE MAYNARD PLANTATION

- ◻ The main house
- ◻ The stables
- ◻ The old Smithwick place, gone to ruin
- ◻ The river fields
- ◻ The old slave's quarters
- ◻ The whipping tree

2 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

- ◻ The Kanawha Canal
- ◻ The former Confederate capitol building
- ◻ Libby Hill
- ◻ Freedman's Bureau office
- ◻ Hollywood Cemetery
- ◻ The ruins along Carey Street

3 NEAR MECHANICSVILLE

- ◻ The sharecroppers' shanty town
- ◻ Ned Parson's mill
- ◻ The tangled banks of the Chickahominy River
- ◻ The old Williams homestead, meeting place of the KKK
- ◻ The prosperous WynneFarm
- ◻ The ancient Chickahominy indian village and burial ground

4 THE WILDERNESS

- ◻ The Wilderness Tavern
- ◻ Woodville Mine
- ◻ The ruins of Higgeson Farm
- ◻ A scrub oak thicket with a skeleton in it
- ◻ The Wilderness Run
- ◻ The unfinished railroad

5 SPOTSYLVANIA

- ◻ The general store
- ◻ A circus tent whorehouse
- ◻ Mount Zion Baptist Church
- ◻ The old schoolhouse
- ◻ Dr. Jaldon's office
- ◻ The woodpile behind the smithy

6 THE JAMES RIVER

- ◻ Drewry's Bluff
- ◻ Wilson's Wharf
- ◻ Fort Powhatan
- ◻ Rockett's Shipyard, or what's left of it
- ◻ The Locks
- ◻ Tredegar Iron Works

...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

OBJECTS...

1 WEAPON

- An 1891 Springfield rifle, well used
- A 12-pounder Napoleon cannon
- A cast iron frying pan
- A cavalry saber with a missing tip
- A Le Mat revolver
- A fire-hardened pointed stick

2 SHAMEFUL

- A corpse in the altogether
- Naked photographs of women and men
- A brothel token with a name scratched on it
- An unlucky horseshoe
- A Ku Klux Klan hood and cloak
- A chastity belt

3 VALUABLE

- Deed to Lionel Thibodeaux's plantation on the James River
- Twenty two pounds of gold nuggets from a forgotten local mine
- Fifty thousand dollars in U.S. currency
- Four hundred bales of premium cotton
- A silver tea set made by Paul Revere
- Your grandmother's engagement ring

4 NOTEWORTHY

- • Enrollment list for the Richmond Klan
- • Documents concerning Mr. Lincoln's assassination
- • Miss Millie's little black book of customers and their desires
- • General Sherman's illegitimate child
- • A strangely accurate almanac
- • The true family history of your neighbor

5 TRANSPORTATION

- • The fastest horse in Chesterfield County
- • A fancy carriage beyond all station and means
- • A sharecropper's buckboard
- • A beautifully appointed train car
- • A flat-bottomed river barge
- • A busted old blockade-runner

6 SENTIMENTAL

- • Letter from a dead soldier
- • A lock of a child's hair tied with black ribbon
- • The flowers from a wedding long past
- • The family Bible
- • Old Shep, faithful companion and loyal friend
- • The rabbit's foot that saved your life

...DURING RECONSTRUCTION

A RECONSTRUCTED INSTA-SETUP

RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE WAR

For three players...

- * Family: "Unspoken relationship"; former master and slave
- * Romance: Secret lovers
- * Crime: Blackmailer and victim

For four players, add...

- * Friendship: Lifelong friends, long separated

For five players, add...

- * Work: Doctor and patient

NEEDS AFTER THE WAR

For three players...

- * To get even: With a rival

For four or five players, add...

- * To get out: Of this dangerous relationship

LOCATIONS AFTER THE WAR

For three, four or five players...

- * Richmond: The Kanawha Canal

OBJECTS AFTER THE WAR

For three or four players...

- * Valuable: Deed to Lionel Thibodeaux's plantation

For five players, add...

- * Weapon: A fire-hardened pointed stick