

## Elmwood Record: The First Halloween

Before the Dispersion, Elmwood House still held roses and lanterns. The DeLaRosa masquerade filled its halls with bone masks and music. At midnight, a fog rolled from the cellar. The fiddler's bow refused to stop, playing a tune no one taught him. Guests pulled their masks away — only to find porcelain faces staring back. Some shattered into shards across the ballroom floor. Others lingered, unblinking, eyes painted black by unseen brushes. Survivors carried splinters in their skin. The fiddler? They say his bow still scratches faint notes through the Elmwood corridors when October wanes.