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HOW TO WIN

The object of the game is to be the first to hold three complete suits.

Suits are the sets of cards grouped by theme (e.g. Monsters, Phobias, Demons).

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Horror is a strategy game where you use a variety of actions and terrifying cards to build suits while stealing and hindering others trying to do the same.

STARTING THE GAME

Shuffle the cards well and deal 5 cards to each player. Players keep their hands hidden. Place the remaining cards in the center of the playing area face down—these will be your draw pile. The player closest to death (usually the oldest) goes first.

Play proceeds to the left.

PLAYING YOUR TURN

Play up to 3 actions. Each card you reveal or use counts as one action.

You needn't perform all 3 actions if you don't want to—sometimes it's a better strategy to hold on to your cards.

At the end of your turn, draw 2 cards from the draw pile. Add these to your hand. You can hold up to 7 cards.

The 3 actions you can perform on your turn are:

Boost Your Inventory

Your inventory is your defense against terror. You must build it up to cope with being terrified by other players.

Placing an inventory card in front of you counts as one action.

All cards placed in front of you enter your "player reserve" area.

Use an Action

Action cards benefit you and hinder other players

Placing an action card in the center of play counts as one action.

Collect a Suit

in a suit.

Collecting cards in the same suit allows you to take more mettle from other players. The amount you terrify a player for corresponds to the number of cards you possess

Owning 3 complete suits wins the the game. Placing a card from one of the suits in front of you (in your player reserve area) counts as one action.

One Card = One Action (Usually)

There are a few instances where playing a card does not take up an action, but this is clearly stated on the card, "No action used".

ACTIONS

To play an action card, place it in the center of the playing area face up.

Players then carry out the instructions on the card.

Once the action is performed, place the action card into the discard pile.

Once all the cards are played from the draw pile, turn the discard pile over and draw from that.

If you prefer, you can add an action card to your player reserve and use it for its mettle value. These action cards cannot be returned to your hand.

PLAYER'S HANDS

A player's hand is like a defense, it cannot be affected by terrify.

Only cards played in front of a player in their reserve are affected.

Conversely, inventory and suit cards held in a player's hand cannot be used to prevent the cards in their reserve being taken.

If a player holds a card that counters an action against them, such as the humiliate or scream card, they can be played out of turn.

At the end of your turn, you cannot hold more than 7 cards in your hand.

If you have more than 7, you must choose which extra cards get discarded.

If you have run out of cards in your hand, pick up 5 more at the end of your turn.

BUILDING METTLE

You can build mettle by accruing inventory cards and placing them in front of you in your reserve area as one of your actions.

You can also play action cards for their mettle value.

Each has a mettle value in the top left and bottom right corners.

Once converted to mettle, they cannot be used as an action again—neither by you nor by a player that wins the card.

COMPLETING SUITS

Some suits are easier to complete than others—some consist of 2 cards, others have 3, 4, and 5 in a suit.

To build a suit, you must acquire and place the cards in front of you in your player reserve area. Placing a card counts as one of your three actions. Remember, three complete suits wins the game.

TERRIFYING PLAYERS

To terrify a player, you must play a terrify card. Terrifying a player reduces their mettle. If their mettle is insufficient to meet the terrify amount, they must forfeit their suit cards for the mettle value shown in the top left and bottom right corners.

Example: If you terrify a player for five mettle and they only have 3 mettle, they must forfeit a suit card(s) with a mettle value of 2 or greater. Ain't that a shame! If a player is terrified for 2 mettle and all they have is a suit card worth 5 mettle, they must give it up.

If a player has neither mettle nor suits in front of them, you collect nothing from them.

Choose to terrify strategically, as it's only effective when opponents have mettle or terror suits to take.

Remember, a player's hand is unaffected by play unless specifically stated on an action card.

LORE CARDS

Lore cards act as wild card for your suits, allowing you to complete one early and potentially win the game.

The Necronomicon is the only card that can be played with any suit.

Lore cards can be switched from one suit to another during a player's turn at the cost of one action (3 actions per turn).