

CLIVE BARKER'S JERICHO™

AL-KHALI - A CITY SLICED THROUGH TIME.

Modern Day

At the US Army Chaplaincy Training School in South Carolina, a small collection of dilapidated barracks serves as the secret headquarters to the most powerful and clandestine special forces unit in the world: The Department of Occult Warfare. Founded during World War II, The DOW maintains a network of listening stations across the world and its agents have been involved in every major conflict and Cold War operation of the last sixty years.

Currently the most important of these listening stations is Outpost Vigil, sited on the outskirts of Al-Khali after extraordinary levels of paranormal activity were recorded there. The ancient city is also home to the 'Legend of the Firstborn'.

Legend has it that before Adam, before Eve, there was an abortive attempt at creating the soul of Man. The Firstborn was cast into the Abyss to make way for mankind, but its evil would not be contained. At the very place of its conception it has attempted to escape its ethereal prison and lay waste to humanity. It has made various previous attempts. With each appearance The Firstborn taints a larger piece of earth which must be sealed in with it lest the infection spread. Each time, brave warriors skilled in the arcane arts have sacrificed themselves to seal it off from the mortal world. To capture the beast, one must seal himself in with it.



This morning Agent Muriel Green, lead paranormal investigator at Outpost Vigil, filed a report detailing an attack by an armed group of the Brotherhood of Dark Rapture, a death sect led by Arnold Leach, a former DOW operative turned rogue. This was the DOW's last contact with Outpost Vigil.

Shortly after, at 04:00 AM GMT, U.S. Army satellites monitoring oil pipelines in the Rub Al-Khali desert detected a shockwave of immense thermo-kinetic energy. Two US Navy F-18 fighters scrambled from the Red Sea flew in into the resulting sand storm to recon the area. Neither plane has returned or made contact since. Since the shockwave, DOW psychic operatives across the world have been reporting an intense power that passed through their bodies. By 09:00 GMT, an urgent message was sent to U.S. Special Operations Command and the Department of Occult Warfare: Code Jericho.

Jericho is the combat arm of the Department of Occult Warfare. Each team is comprised of seven Special Forces operatives, each one an expert in parapsychology, psionics or the occult arts. No one on the team knows how many Jericho teams are in existence or how many have come before them. They know others exist yet none of them have ever met. Each team is designated by a number and nothing more.

Their role is to advise and provide intelligence to the US intelligence community through the use of psionics and other occult means, defend the

United States and its Allies from threats classified as paranormal, extraterrestrial or beyond the scope of perceived reality and remain on constant 24 hour alert in the event of OPERATION: GODSEAL: a top-secret, 'need-to-know' project.



The alert has been raised. Al-Khali is the eye of the storm. OPERATION: GODSEAL is in play. The fate of the world rests in Jericho 23's hands.