--AND, BOO!

AH!

THE BOOGEYMAN STOLE AWAY THE LITTLE GIRL... NEVER TO SEE HER PARENTS AGAIN!

GARY, QUIT IT!

AND WATCH THAT THING, YOU'RE GONNA POKÉ SOMEBODY'S EYE OUT!

OH, SHE'S ALRIGHT.

Yeah!

DAD TOLD ME THAT STORY ON MY FIRST NIGHT IN THE WOODS, AND I'M FINE!

Well, you've gone and spooked her.

I can barely feel my arm, she's gripping it so tight!

Relax, Mary, it's all in good fun.

Why else tell a scary story...

...If not to hold your child tight, and help her face those fears?

Right, honey?

The woods aren't so scary after all, huh?
HEY!

RRRRRRGGHH

...we weren't finished with you yet, Oscuratype.

And I'll take my daggers back, thanks.

Jace, you handle the monster...

And I'll take care of the child.
“FIFTEEN YEARS EARLIER

“A HOUSE CRUMBLES WITHOUT ITS LAWS, JESSICA...

“IT IS OUR CUSTOMS THAT HOLD THE FOUNDATION. OUR DISCIPLINE THAT PILLARS THE ROOF...

“AND OUR VIGILANCE THAT STANDS SENTRY AT THE GATES.

“This is what has allowed the Order of St. George to operate unnoticed, unbothered for centuries.

“Disobedience, disloyalty, disappointment are a rot that must be cut out.

“Do you understand?”

“All I’m asking is to push the Summer’s first hunt until my kids are ready.”

“WELL, ERICA’S BEEN ON COURSE SINCE THE DAY SHE NEAR-SLAYED AN OCULAR TYPE WITH A KITCHEN KNIFE.

“Just give me the Summer, Old Dragon.

“HE’S NEARLY THERE.”
THE WHITE MASKS SUPPORT THE BLACK MASK MOTION TO POSTPONE THE SUMMER’S FIRST HUNT...

WHAT? CECILIA, REALLY?

IF ONLY TO MAKE WAY FOR MY NOVICES’ RITUAL HUNT, WE DO NOT NEED SOME BATTLE ROYALE TO PROVE OURSELVES...

WITH THE ADDITION OF JACE SLAUGHTER, MY NOVICES ARE READY.

THE KID JUST MOVED HERE, CEE...

...AND HE’S EAGER TO EARN HIS TEETH.

...“NEARLY THERE,” SHE SAYS...

READY OR NOT, A CHILD MUST FIGHT.

QUITE SO, SILVER.

BUT THE BOOKS LIST NOTHING AGAINST FORGOING FIRST HUNT...

...AND I’M POSITIVE GIDDY TO SEE THE BUTCHER LAD PERFORM FREE OF FUMBLING NOVICES FAILING TO SLAY A MONSTER!

SO BE IT. READY THE FARM FOR RITUAL HUNT, BIG GARY.

I’M ALSO EAGER TO SEE THE BOY EARN HIS TEETH, IF ONLY TO BEAR FURTHER WITNESS TO HIS DEVOTION.

LET US NOT FORGET IT’S NEARLY TEN YEARS SINCE THE BUTCHER SHOP FELL.

I WILL NOT HAVE THE SAME ROT WHICH BRED CIVIL WAR SPREAD HERE...

AS FOR YOU, JESSICA, CECILIA HAS BOUGHT YOU TIME...

BUT LET THIS BE A REMINDER THAT THE ORDER DOES NOT FAVOR DISAPPOINTMENTS.
Aaron Slaughter will earn his teeth, or else.
Now, tell me...

"...where is the Butcher Boy now?"

W-well, sir, you see...

Jace Slaughter is...

"He's with his roommate, sir."

"But, don't worry..."

"...I have my eyes on them."