

Briar Hollow

A fairy-tale missing-heir case in an enchanted forest. Easy–Medium · about 50 minutes · 2 or more players. Everyone plays, including the host.

WHAT YOU NEED

- This PDF, printed single-sided on A4 or Letter (black and white works)
- 3 envelopes or folders, tape, pens, scratch paper
- Everyone's phones (no app or account needed)
- Recommended: a laptop on the TV for the story, soundtrack and live events

PREP (10 MINUTES, BEFORE GUESTS ARRIVE)

1. Page 2 has labels **A, B, C**. Cut them out and tape one to each envelope.
2. Every later page shows **Envelope A, B or C** in its top-left corner. File each page in the matching envelope **without reading it**.
3. Seal B and C. Leave A closed on the table.
4. Laptop on the TV: open the case link, tap **Host a new game**, then **Make this the Command Screen (TV)**, then **Enable sound**.
5. Players scan the QR code on the TV, type a name and pick a role. Don't tap Start yet.

SET THE MOOD (OPTIONAL)

Fairy lights or candles in jars. Let the TV soundtrack play (wind and harp). Scatter a few real flowers or leaves on the table. Give each Keeper a little paper lantern or a glow stick.

HOUSE RULES

Don't open an envelope until the app says so. Don't search the internet; everything you need is on paper. Everything in this case is fictional.

CASE APP



CASENIGHT.PAGES.DEV/BRIARHOLLOW/

This is a public link: anyone with the game code can join. Every phone and the TV stay in sync. No printer? Skip this pack: every document is also in each phone's Evidence tab.

RUNNING THE GAME

1. Tap **Start the case** on any phone. Lights down: a short story plays on the TV, then the clock starts. Open Envelope A.
2. Each role holds different evidence, so talk. Interrogate suspects in the app (each question costs a minute). Type answers into a phone; the app says when to open the next envelope.
3. **Live events**: the TV will throw pop challenges, team decisions and a blackout at you. Answer fast on a phone. Right answers add time; wrong or slow ones cost time.
4. Stuck 5+ minutes? Take a hint. Hint 3 gives the answer, so nobody stays stuck.
5. After Envelope C, file the final report. Then the true story plays on the TV.

A

ENVELOPE A · OPEN WHEN YOU TAP START

B

ENVELOPE B · DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE APP SAYS SO

C

ENVELOPE C · DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE APP SAYS SO

Lady Elowen is missing

BRIAR HOLLOW · MIDSUMMER EVE · THE SUN IS GOING DOWN

READ ALOUD IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE

ELDER ASHGROVE

Keepers of the Lantern,

Lady Elowen Thistledown went out with her flower basket after the noon bell, as she does every Midsummer. She has not come back. Her horse is in the stable. Her shawl is on its hook.

You know what tonight is. At moonrise the heir must be crowned with the Briar Crown in this square. If she is not, the charter keeps the village in the Regent's hands for seven more years.

Bramble the fox says he saw her on the old path. Foxes lie, but this one seemed frightened. Find her. Bring her home before the moon clears the hills.

VILLAGE CUSTOM

TAUGHT TO EVERY CHILD IN BRIAR HOLLOW

The flower path. If you are ever lost, followed, or afraid in the Whisperwood, drop flowers as you walk. Let the first letters of the flowers, in the order you drop them, spell where you are going. Any Keeper will know how to read them.

YOUR TASK

Work through the evidence together. The case app asks one question per envelope. Each correct answer opens the next envelope. At the end, give your judgement: **who**, **how**, and **why**.

In this envelope: A1 The summons · A2 Persons of interest · A3 Bramble's tale and the flower lexicon · A4 Map of the Whisperwood

PERSONS OF INTEREST

Lady Elowen Thistledown

HEIR OF BRIAR HOLLOW · 19

Clever and stubborn. Knows every path in the Whisperwood. Was nervous about the crowning, but told the Elders she was ready.

Regent Morwenna Thistledown

ELOWEN'S AUNT · REGENT FOR 19 YEARS

Tall and stately. Has ruled since Elowen's parents died. Always smells of lilac water, which she has sent from the city. Has said in public that Elowen is "too young".

Tobias Reed

THE MILLER'S SON · 20

Elowen's sweetheart. They argued yesterday in the square; he wanted her to delay the crowning so they could marry first.

Old Mab

HEDGE WITCH OF THE BRAMBLE EDGE

Sells charms, cures and curses from her cottage. Will sell to anyone who pays, and asks no questions.

Bramble

A TALKING FOX

Trickster, thief of pies, and the best-informed creature in the wood. Loves honey cake more than truth.

Elder Ashgrove

ELDEST OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Keeps the charter and will crown the heir at moonrise. Called the Keepers together.

BRAMBLE'S TALE

TOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR HALF A PIE

"Yes, yes, I saw the little lady on the old path this afternoon. She was walking fast, looking behind her. And she was dropping flowers, one at each marker stone, very odd. Let me think, I'm not good with order, I'm a fox.

At the **Crooked Stone** there was a lily. At the **Owl Stone**, wisteria, the purple droopy kind. At the **Mossback Stone**, lavender, I sneezed. And at the **Twin Stones**, elderflower. I ate one of the elderflowers. Sorry.

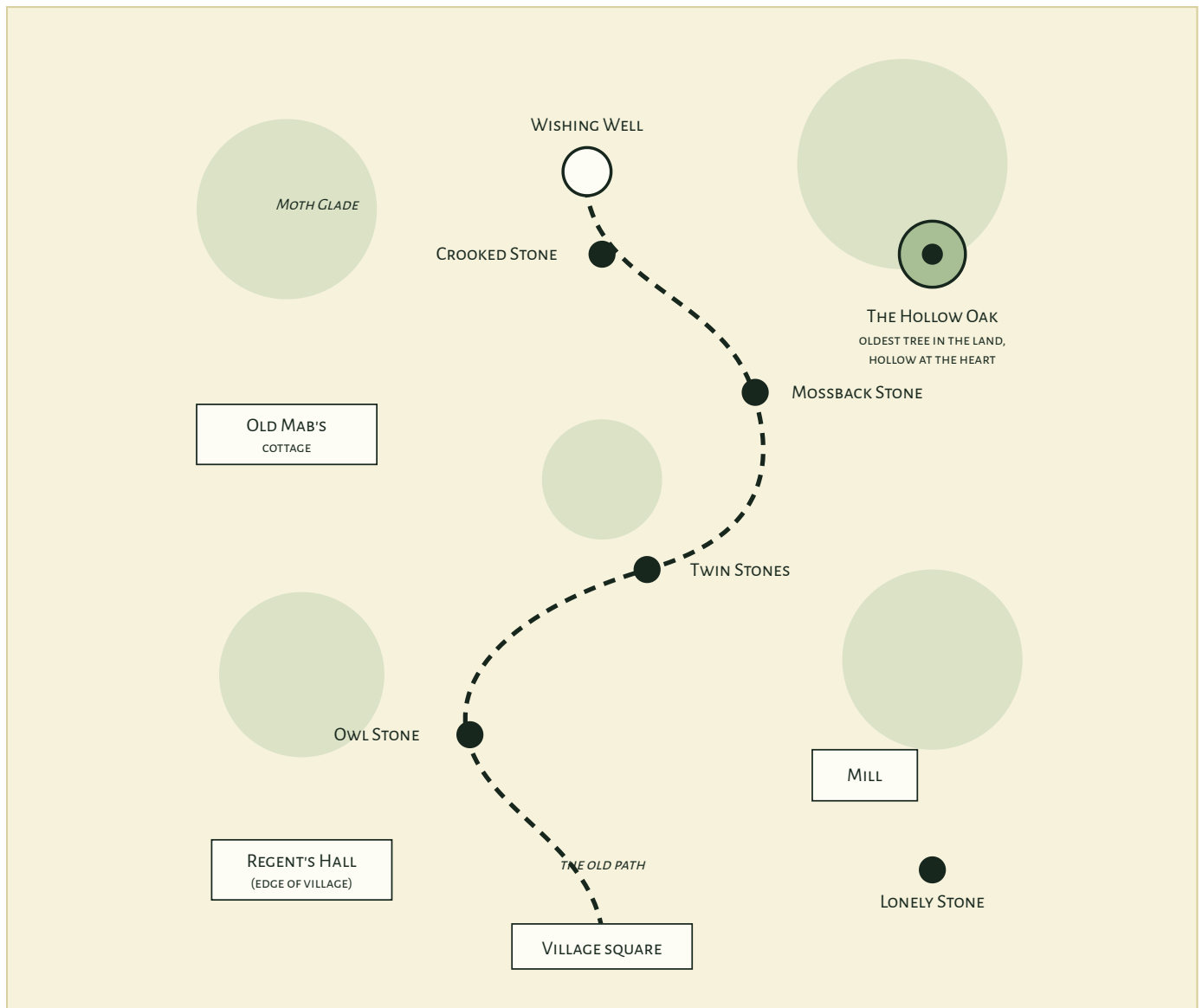
After that I lost her. I was busy. With a pie."

THE FLOWER LEXICON OF BRIAR HOLLOW

EVERY FLOWER HAS A MEANING

FLOWER	MEANING	NOTES
Daisy	Innocence	Grows by the mill
Elderflower	Compassion	White clusters, along the old path
Heather	Protection	Purple, on the hillside
Ivy	Faithfulness	Climbs the Regent's hall
Lavender	Distrust	Grows wild at the forest edge
Lily	Purity	By still water
Moonflower	Dreaming	The pale flower of night. Blooms only after dark.
Rose	Love	Briar roses, the village flower
Thistle	Defiance	Prickly. On the Thistledown crest.
Wisteria	Welcome	Hangs from the old path's trees

The Whisperwood



The dashed line is the old path, walked from the village square up to the Wishing Well. The Lonely Stone is on the mill road, not the old path.

At the Wishing Well

REPORT · KEEPER WIL HADDON

WRITTEN BY LANTERN LIGHT

Elowen's flower basket lies tipped over beside the well. Inside: a few crushed daisies, her silver hairpin, and a folded note (see B2). The grass is flattened in a long trail leading **away from the path**, as if something heavy was dragged or carried. The trail fades into the trees after a few steps.

There is a carving on the well's top stones that I had never noticed before. It looks freshly brushed clean. The letters are all backwards. I copied it exactly:

Find me, and you find the sleeper.
the oldest thing in all the land.
my heart is hollow, yet I stand,
I keep my rings, though never wed;
I wear a crown, but have no head;

Tip from the Keepers: hold this page up to a mirror, or use your phone's front camera.

THE NOTE IN THE BASKET

NEAT, CAREFUL HAND

Elowen,

Meet me at the Wishing Well before moonrise.
Come alone and tell no one. I have something to
give you before the crowning.

T.

A REAL LETTER FROM TOBIAS

KEPT IN ELOWEN'S ROOM

Ellie,

sorry about the square. i was stupid. i just want us
to have a bit more time before you get all crowned
and busy. meet me by the mill tomorow before
moonrize?

your Toby x

MILL LEDGER · REED & SON

MIDSUMMER EVE

TIME	ENTRY	SIGNED
NOON	12 sacks barley ground	T. Reed
2 PM	Flour delivered to the baker	T. Reed
4 PM	Millstone dressed (took all afternoon, the boy sneezed the whole time)	J. Reed
6 PM	Closed up. Toby went to look for Ellie.	J. Reed

STATEMENT · A GREY MOTH FROM MOTH GLADE

TRANSLATED BY OLD MAB'S CAT

"Before dusk, I rested on the well's stones. A tall one came, wrapped in a grey hood. Then the girl came, holding a note. The tall one stepped from behind the well. The girl cried out, just once, like a pin had pricked her. Then she was asleep.

The tall one carried her into the trees, away from the path. The air smelled of lilac. There is no lilac in the Whisperwood in Midsummer."

PAGE FROM ELOWEN'S DIARY

TWO DAYS AGO

Aunt Morwenna came to my room again tonight. She said seven more years of her rule "would do the village good", and that I should "think about stepping aside". I said no. She went very quiet, the way she does. I told Toby. He thinks I'm imagining things.

Old Mab's sales ledger

CHARMS, CURES & CURSES			MIDSUMMER WEEK
DAY	SOLD	TO	PAID
Monday	Wart cure	The baker's boy	3 eggs
Tuesday	Luck knot for the crowning	Tobias Reed	A sack of flour
Wednesday	Sleeping thorn. One prick and the pricked one sleeps until the counter-charm is laid.	A tall lady in a grey hood. Would not give her name. Smelled of lilac.	One silver penny, stamped with the Regent's seal
Thursday	Moth repellent	Elder Ashgrove	2 copper
Mab's note in the margin: "Silver from a hooded lady. Never a good sign."			

HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS · THE REGENT'S HALL		KEPT BY THE STEWARD
DAY	ITEM	AMOUNT
Monday	Lilac water from the city, 2 bottles	4 silver
Wednesday	"Alms" (the Regent took it herself)	1 silver penny
Wednesday	New grey wool cloak, hooded	6 silver

Old Mab's counter-charm

TORN FROM MAB'S SPELLBOOK

"TO WAKE A THORN-SLEEPER"

Lay four petals on the sleeper's brow, one after another: **Moonflower, Ivy, Rose and Thistle**. Lay them in the wrong order and the sleep only deepens. Remember the rules:

- 1. The pale flower of night is laid first.
- 2. The thistle is never laid first, and never last.
- 3. The rose follows the thistle at once, with nothing between them.
- 4. The ivy must never touch the moonflower: they may not lie side by side.

Say the first letters of the petals, in order, as you lay them.

WORK IT OUT HERE

POSITION ON THE BROW

1 [] 2 [] 3 [] 4 []

The Charter of Briar Hollow

ARTICLE THE NINTH

COPIED BY ELDER ASHGROVE

The heir of the House of Thistledown shall be crowned with the Briar Crown in the village square at moonrise on Midsummer Eve in their nineteenth year.

Should the heir not stand in the square at moonrise, for any cause whatsoever, the Regent shall continue to rule **for seven years more**, and the heir shall wait.

STATEMENT · ELDER ASHGROVE

GIVEN IN THE SQUARE

"Morwenna asked me only last week to read Article the Ninth to her, twice. Said she wanted to be sure of the wording. I thought nothing of it."