

WAR OF SECRETS

The war goes on and on. A war of secrets and lies. Some are sworn to keep the truth hidden, others determined to expose it. But even if the truth is revealed, is it believed? Or is it misunderstood or cleverly warped into a myth, mocked and hidden in plain sight? Is it revealed and suppressed over and over again? Or is the truth so shocking that the seekers fear to share what they uncover, lest it change their world forever?

What's the secret?

- Monsters hide among us. (pick: aliens, vampires, mutants, etc.)
- We hate our enemies because they worship false gods, but they are the same as ours.
- Our royal/holy lineage is descended from our hated enemies.
- Our faith in reincarnation, the basis of our way of life, is a lie. Souls die, never to return.
- An apocalyptic disaster is coming and some know exactly when it will happen, even if it's centuries from now. (pick a disaster: floods, earthquakes, nova, gods returning, etc.)
- We created (or intentionally spread) the plague that killed the natives.
- Every act of wizardry steals the dreams of an innocent, somewhere.
- Every person is born with incredible potential, but our society is built to carefully suppress it. (pick a potential: psychic powers, empathy, free-thinking, etc.)
- A monstrous god sleeps beneath the capital.
- Our world circles the sun. We're not not the center of the cosmos.
- We evolved from monkeys!!!

Who protects the secret?

- A secret society. Few know they even exist.
- Those in power, the natural defenders of the status quo.
- No one protects the secret because few know the truth or would believe it. Ignorance is our enemy.

What's our setting? Pick one that fits your secret.

- A real world-ish setting, perhaps reaching far into the past.
- A fantasy world.
- The future, an advanced world or society that spans the stars.

Start Bookend: How does the history begin?

- Keepers of the secret vow to hide the truth.
- Schism among secret-keepers. Some try to reveal the truth but are hunted down.
- Someone stumbles upon the truth and reveals it. After some uproar no one believes it.

End Bookend: How does the history end?

- The truth is revealed but no one believes it.
- The truth was revealed earlier, and the world has already changed to embrace it.
- The impact of the secret unexpectedly changes the world, but we were not ready, because we did not learn the truth until too late.

The *War of Secrets* seed was created as part of the Microscope Explorer crowdfunding campaign, based on an idea provided by a secret backer. It is provided as a free download for all Microscope players.

Seeds are pre-made starting points for your history to help you agree on an idea and get playing more quickly. To use one, read the introduction aloud and then answer each question together to customize it. You could use the same seed over and over again and get a very different history every time.