

Branching Path Story Example

CHARACTER PROFILE:

Douglas

A stoic and cautious man. He is looking for a new purpose in his life after a tragedy hit close to home. He is lanky but walks as though he has the weight of the world on his shoulders.

Sarah

An aspiring young journalist. She is headstrong, honest to a fault, and isn't afraid to search for the truth. She ends up involving herself in the story she's chasing.

Gabrielle

A woman with a complicated past. She is trying to turn over a new leaf but finds that life has other plans for her. She tries to avoid others, but always ends up connecting with them.

SCENE TITLE: 'Out of the Frying Pan'

SETTING: Dimly lit attic; smells sour and stale.

Gabrielle

(POINTING AT DOUGLAS)

You need to get out of here as soon as possible, so you can get that thing looked at.

Douglas

(WINCING)

I'll be alright for now, but we do need to leave. Sarah, you got a look at the blueprints. What's our way out?

Sarah

Well, we definitely can't go through the window, again. The door would get us into the

main part of the mansion near the entrance. We could make a run for it, but...

Gabrielle

What is it?

Sarah

There's a trap door with stairs under those blankets. If we went through it, we would be able to get to the chapel, grab the book, and sneak through the backdoor.

Douglas

So, we can either make a run for the front door, or try to sneak out the back?

CHOICE: "Make a run for it"

Gabrielle

Our best bet to get out of here is through there. I'm not comfortable with Ichabod Crane here with a beat-up wing right now.

Douglas

I'll be ok.

Gabrielle

Yeah, after we get you out of here. Douglas. Sarah. Stay behind me, we're going to make a run for it.

Douglas

Fine, but remember the last place? We don't know what's out there.

Sarah

(WORRIED)

What if they're here?

Gabrielle

That's why we're running. Ready? Let's go.

To Next Scene

CHOICE: "Sneak out the back"

Gabrielle

Our best bet to get out of here is through there. I'm not comfortable with Ichabod Crane " here with a beat-up wing right now.

Douglas

(WINCING)

I'll be ok.

Gabrielle

Yeah, once we sneak out of here.

Sarah

Do you think we can, with all three of us?

Douglas

We're prepared now, and no one knows we're here.

(TO HIMSELF)

I hope.

Gabrielle

(LIFTING THE BLANKET)

You guys...

Sarah

What do you see?

Douglas

What is it?

Gabrielle

(STERNLY)

A body.

To Next Scene

World Building Mechanics

Found in-game; scrolls

Human Magic

"Magic existed in us as naturally as blood. Some were more gifted in its ways than others. Unlike the magic of the gods and the elves, the magic of the humans was raw and unwieldy. It took time and practice to hone one's ability to successfully use magic.

Over time, humans became less enthused with magic. They couldn't wield it themselves the same way their ancestors once had. If you looked at magic as water, humans would be grease or oil. When you put them in a container, they can't mix together and end up separating.

This doesn't mean humans no longer have access to magic, though. They can still "guide" it, which allows them to imbue objects and items with it. Doing so still takes much talent and practice, which takes time, so magic-infused items are still rare.

There are beliefs that magic still naturally flows through humans. You may see it as a mother controlling all her children, or a farmer having a bountiful harvest year after year. Of course, this may just be a blessing of the gods, but what if it's something more?

It may also be said that the Shieldmaidens know how to wield magic for their own purposes. Not much is said about this, however, as trying to ask them about their ways is as easy as taking blood from a rock.

However, there was a time when humans were gifted the ability to cast magic that was on par with the gods themselves, if not better. There are rumors that some humans with that ability still remain, mixing their life force with the magic saved for the gods.

If these rumors prove true, then where does that leave the gods themselves? Just like the ocean, magic is vast. If you have a cup and take water from the ocean, the ocean won't notice, but there is still less water than before. If everyone

were to take a cup of water every minute of every day, how much water would be left for the ocean?

The same can be said about the magic from the gods. "

"Elf Magic"

"In a word, elf magic is beautiful. If you were to look at it, it would appear like a cloak made of light and shadow covering them. The more they use it, the more it covers them entirely.

For the elvish folk, magic is just a way of life; just as a fish lives in water, so too do the elves. Their longevity can be attributed to this fact.

It's been said that elves have had children with humans. Reports of these elvish humans are numerous, and it seems as though there is always someone in a village who claims to know of them in one way or another. It's unclear how magic would affect these humans, but it's my belief that their power would be immeasurable."

"Magic of the Gods"

"To call what the gods do magic would be a disservice, however, there is no other clear way to describe their abilities

It's been known that the gods are able to provide blessings to humans. For some, they become devout to a single god; for others, the entire pantheon.

There's a growing belief, however, that the gods merely play with the lives of the humans, choosing what to do depending on their mood.

There's another belief, albeit small that is dangerous to speak aloud. Even writing it seems risky, but to truly understand magic, one should know this belief, for it seems to be true.

The gods themselves are mortal and can be killed. The story of Baldur (although prophecy may be a better term) may seem to

confirm this. There is no true way of testing this theory,
though."