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Last Half of Darkness

SHADOWS OF THE SERVANTS

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Introduction

Years ago, Dr. Muretta, as a young scientist and scholar of witchcraft, made regular explorations to a remote section of the Brazilian rain-forest. Her studies in the "Dark Arts" fueled her search and exploration of ritual artifacts from native tribes. On one of her many visits to the region, she befriended a playful spider-monkey she soon called, Jaja. It wasn't long before Jaja become a permanent addition to Murreta's expedition crew and a faithful pet.

Jaja, notorious for her curiosity, occassionally strayed from the rest of the crew during expeditions, and on one day wondered a bit too far. The scent of a species unknown drew Jaja towards a deserted temple. Jaja was attacked in the shadows of the temple by a clan of unfamiliar primates. They were dark, hideous monkey-like creatures with eyes blacker than coal and fangs stained with blood from years of carnivorous feeding. Jaja sustained several bites on her neck before Muretta was able to rescued her pet and escape the dark creatures.

After returning home to Muretta's estate in New Orleans, the wounds in Jaja's neck healed though her pet grew more fierce each day. Jaja was changing from the docile pet Muretta came to love into something evil and dark. Unfortunately, after a few aggressive incidents, Muretta was forced to put her pet 'down'. A few weeks later Jaja came back from the grave and violently attacked Muretta. Leaving nothing to chance, Muretta completely destroyed the creature by burning its corpse in the furnace.

Once again, her pet came back! Perhaps to seek revenge, Jaja's spirit now haunts Muretta and her estate. Muretta tried to rid the ghost, but further studies in the art of magic and voodoo revealed she required Jaja's heart to lay the spirit to rest. In her haste, Muretta made a terrible mistake by burning the creature. Leaving no bones or tissue, she virtually sealed the spirit to an un-restful presence upon her estate.

Years went by and the evil continued to create madness in the minds of all who inhabit the estate. Mira, one of two daughters of Muretta, was only three when her mother encountered the dark primates in Brazil. Through the years Mira has grown darker and stranger within the estate walls, continually sketching dark paintings reminiscent of the creatures her mother witnessed years prior in the rain-forest. The spirits have twisted evil into Mira's talent and artwork, depicting bizzare and eerie images from her mind's eye.

Muretta spent the rest of her life and her fortune seeking a solution to rid the evil spirit from her estate. Using a few hairs, found on the furniture left from Jaja, Muretta even tried to extract DNA in an effort to clone her late pet. Muretta thought with a heart containing the genetic code from Jaja, perhaps it would be sufficient to perform the ritual. But she managed only to create more mutated forms of the evil that she was forced to destroy. This of-course unleashed another set of un-restful "Servants" to haunt Muretta and her daughters.

Before her death, Muretta made preparations for her laboratory to become un-accessible and her notes destroyed. She wanted no one else to make the same mistakes and possibly unleash anymore dark "Servants" upon this estate. Unfortunately, Mira has been forced to live with the evil. In an attempt to call for help, she has used the "craft" of New Orleans locals, summoning strangers to possibly continue in her mother's studies.

Can you continue Muretta's work and solve the secrets she took to her grave?

System Requirements

- Pentium III 500Mhz (or faster)
- 64MB RAM (128 Recommended)
- 32MB Video Memory
- 16x CD-ROM
- 1GB Harddrive Space for Installation
- DirectX 8.1 Compatible Sound Card
- Windows 95/98/2000/XP

Installing Game

Place the CD into your drive. It should start automatically. If your AUTORUN feature is turned off... then click on the MY COMPUTER icon, then click on CD-ROM drive, then LH_INSTALL.

NOTE: Some users may need to install DirectX 8.1 (or later) for this product to work correctly. Although most computers already come pre-installed with DirectX, if your system does not have it installed, Please visit Microsoft's website for more information.

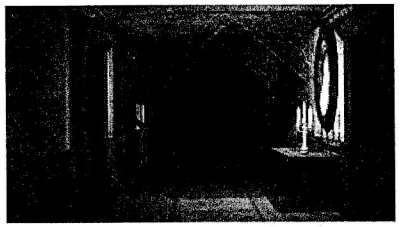
Starting Game

To start the game, simply place the CD into drive and click on the LASTHALF icon on your desktop. You may also start by clicking on START/PROGRAMS/LASTHALF

How to Play

To interact with the story you must explore the various scenes and click on interesting objects. If your cursor hi-lites RED then you may have found something interesting to interact with. If your cursor hi-lites PURPLE then you may have found something worth examining closer. Try clicking on all objects throughout your quest.

Move the cursor around and look for exits. If your cursor changes to a four-pointed arrow you may move to a new location. Some exits may not be as obvious as others. Look closely throughout your quest for secret places and objects.

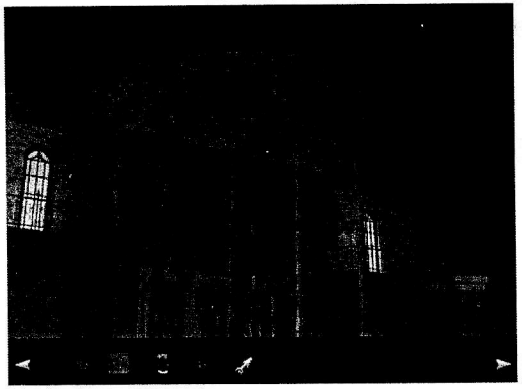


Sometimes when moving there will be animated transitions from one location to another. To bypass any animation, simply click again to skip animation sequence. To bypass a dialog sequence, simply press the SPACEBAR.

Inventory

Certain objects will need to be collected to solve some of the many puzzles throughout the quest. To access your inventory, simply move your cursor to the bottom of the screen. You will notice that your inventory items will appear.

If your inventory exceeds the width of the screen, you may need to scroll right or left. To scroll through all your inventory, simply click on the purple arrows on either side of the inventory bar



To examine an inventory object closer, simply RIGHT-click on the object. Note that not all objects can be closely examined

How to Speak..

There are several sections throughout the story where you may need to speak a magic word or two. To speak, simply TYPE the word slowly from your keyboard. There is NO need to press RETURN when finished. If you type the wrong word you may need to leave the current location and come back.

Troubleshooting

Some users may need to update their video card drivers. These drivers are usually included with your system or video card. Some users may need to download the newest drivers from the manufacturer's website.

Make sure you have a current version of DirectX installed on your system. You may check by clicking on START then RUN then typing DXDIAG at the prompt. Click on Display Tab and make sure DIRECT3D and DIRECTDRAW say ENABLED next to them.

You may also check our site at www.lasthalfofdarkness.com for updates or more information.

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