

# CHEMICAL EXILE

A PSYCHOGEOGRAPHIES PROJECT

## CHAPTER 1 MT. ZION CEMETERY

*Welcome to Chemical Exile.*

*You are at the precipice of an excellent adventure.*

*Who knows where you'll end up?*

*Who knows WHO you'll end up?*

➔ **YOUR DESTINATION:** The Mt. Zion/Female Union Band Cemetery in Georgetown, 2501 Mill Road, NW, Washington, DC

**GETTING THERE:** There is street parking available in the neighborhood. The Dupont Circle Metro Station on the red line is a 15 minute walk away.

**HOURS:** The cemetery is not gated, but we recommend going during daylight hours.

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** Just your box. Maybe a sweater. It's getting to be that time of year.

★ **WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE:** (*Note: this is the order of events we recommend for maximum enjoyment, but if you're moved to do it in a different order, go for it.*) Enter the cemetery near the white Mt. Zion Cemetery sign. Before you explore the place, find a seat on one of the benches. The picnic table has seen better days, so stick to the benches, or even a red chair if you see one. Take a look at the contents of your box. **Stop after you've read the October 15th entry and the first October 16th journal entry.** (There are two October 16th entries. Save the second one, with the folded corner, for after you've explored the cemetery.)

Now's the time to explore the cemetery. You might even take the walking tour here: [www.mtzion-fubs.org/tour](http://www.mtzion-fubs.org/tour) or use the QR codes around the cemetery. Follow your instincts for what interests you, but don't miss the "Cemetery Vault", it's marked by a small brown sign and follows a short path down stairs on the hill. Feel free to open the door and look in when you get there. When you've taken it all in, have a seat where you like and take in the second October 16th journal entry before heading back out into the city.

**A GREAT PSYCHOGEOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION** includes: **Wandering** as you explore your physical world in a leisurely way, **Subverting** your everyday relationship with the city through a fresh perspective, **Discovering** the present through the prism of the past...and maybe a dash of the occult. As you explore the present, past and fictional world of *CHEMICAL EXILE*, think about where these ideas converge. If you're moved to snap a photo, sketch a vision or jot down a moment in time--Do it.

And as always you can share your unique perspective with us at [info@rorschachtheatre.com](mailto:info@rorschachtheatre.com) or tag us on social media (Instagram: @rorschachdc, facebook/rorschachtheatre, #chemicalexile #psychogeographies)

**IF YOU'VE BROUGHT A YOUNG (OR YOUNG AT HEART) RORSCHACHER ALONG:** As you investigate the Cemetery Vault, take moment to talk about why it's there and what it was used for. If it's not already open, you can use both hands to pull the door open wide. Today it houses garden supplies. It was built to store the deceased as they awaited burial. Most notably though, it's long believed to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad in which enslaved people hid on their journeys north. Georgetown neighbors were known to leave food, water and other supplies outside the door.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** The cemetery is best accessed from 27th Street just north of Q Street. The paths through the cemetery are dirt, gravel and grass. There are a few benches and sometimes some chairs on which to pause. There's a small staircase down to see the cemetery vault mentioned above. Leashed dogs are welcome, but must be cleaned up after.

### **OTHER THINGS TO EXPLORE:**

*These diversions (probably) don't pertain to our story, but you may enjoy them nonetheless.*

- Allow time to follow the Mt. Zion Cemetery Walking Tour if you haven't yet. Access it at [www.mtzion-fubs.org/tour](http://www.mtzion-fubs.org/tour) or any of the QR codes around the cemetery. It's a wealth of fascinating history.
- As you explore the cemetery look for the many things visitors have left behind to honor the dead: shells, coins, little presents and more. Follow @blackgeorgetown on social media to learn more about the cemetery, its restoration and upcoming events.
- Visit Oak Hill Cemetery, just to the west of Mt. Zion. The entrance is at 30th and R. Those interred there are primarily white, just one of the stark differences you may notice as you compare the two final resting places. (Drivers: consider parking in the neighborhood and visiting on foot. Driving in is only permitted on weekdays)
- Hungry? Check out **Stachowski's Market**, a butcher shop, deli and grocery store, 1425 28th Street NW, or try **George's King of Falafel**, it's all in the name! 1205 28th Street NW



**AT HOME EXPERIENCE:** If you choose not to leave home right now, or you live far away, find an outdoor space that's quiet. Even better if it's a spot where nature has overtaken the man made structures. Bring along a device with which you can access the internet. Break the seal inside the box. Begin by exploring the items in the order described in the "**WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE**". When you get to the end of the first October 16th entry, pause and watch the video here: [rorschachtheatre.com/ce-home](http://rorschachtheatre.com/ce-home). Afterward read that second October 16th entry.



**DON'T MOVE THE REFRIGERATOR\* NOTES:** Wear your mask if you encounter other visitors in close proximity. Leave six feet of distance between yourself and others you may encounter. Please be respectful of those interred in the cemetery as well as their living neighbors. If you are not fully vaccinated against covid 19, please defer to our "At Home Experience" above. Also...don't forget your flu shot!

\* "Don't move the refrigerator" is a shorthand phrase invented in the early days of Rorschach to mean-- "This should be so obvious we don't think we have to say it...but we're saying it anyway."