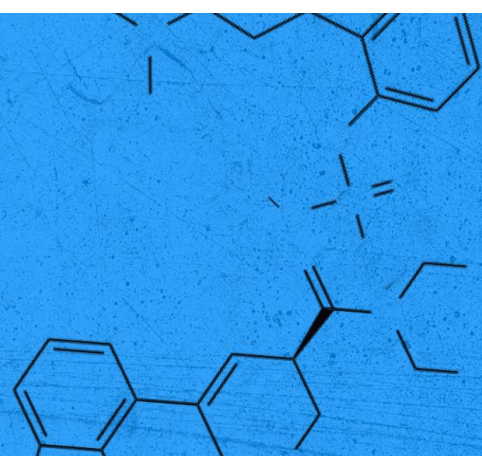


CHEMICAL EXILE

A PSYCHOGEOGRAPHIES PROJECT

CHAPTER 6
OLD TOWN,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



YOUR DESTINATION: **Old Town Alexandria** starting at 1020 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA. If you're up for a longer adventure you can start by paying your respects at the Grave of The Female Stranger (in our Other Things To Explore section) before making your way to 1020 Cameron St.

GETTING THERE: Street parking is available but it may require patience to find. 1020 Cameron Street is a 10 minute walk from the King Street Metro Station on the metro's Blue/Yellow Lines. If you're feeling old timey, you can ride the the free King Street Trolley from the metro!

HOURS: Old Town Alexandria can be explored anytime, but it's probably best to see the sights in the daylight.

➔ **WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** Your brown envelope, a good pair of walking shoes and maybe a pen to take notes. And don't forget your Reality Rejects Cat pin, just in case you run into any fellow rejects.

★ **WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE:** When you arrive at 1020 Cameron Street, take a peek through the left window. Observe the scene inside and listen to the associated audio. Open your brown envelope and read the red pamphlet. Using the map and instructions on the back of the pamphlet. Make your way to the Wilkes Street Tunnel by any path you like. It is an approximately 17 minute walk. Mark your favorite spots with the star stickers and make a note about what you saw. If walking isn't your thing, make the 5-minute drive to Wilkes Street and South Royal Street. Enter the Wilkes Street Tunnel on foot or by bike from South Royal Street. As you exit the tunnel, make your way straight ahead to the waterfront. Find a spot on the benches, grass, or any other spot that tickles your fancy and read the note titled "A Message From Our Founder". When you're done, enjoy the beauty of the Alexandria waterfront or hop on a water taxi to try your luck at the MGM across the river. You can take the Trolley back to King Street Metro from King Street & North/South Royal!

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.

Please share your maps and stars with us at info@rorschachtheatre.com or tag us on social media (Instagram: [@rorschachdc](#), [facebook/rorschachtheatre](#), [#chemicalexile](#) [#psychogeographies](#) [#oldtownalexandria](#) [#rorschachdc](#))

IF YOU'VE BROUGHT A YOUNG (OR YOUNG AT HEART) RORSCHACHER ALONG: Check out Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum tours are available from \$3-\$8. The Mad Science and Harry Potter tours for kids can be scheduled ahead of time. For art lovers, check out the Torpedo Factory! Visitors can wander through three floors of artist studios, chatting with artists and watching them work! On Saturdays in April and May, you can join artists at the Waterfront Entrance for free workshops.

ACCESSIBILITY: Most Old Town sidewalks are paved with bricks that are at times uneven. Minimal inclines and declines can be found throughout the area. Dogs are welcome to tag along on this month's adventure but should remain under their owner's control at all times.

OTHER THINGS TO EXPLORE:

*These diversions **may or may not** pertain to our story, but you may enjoy them nonetheless.*

- **The Grave of the Female Stranger is at St. Paul's Cemetery:** An unnamed individual who died in 1816 and is only known by a mysterious headstone and a romanticized tale of arriving with no story and being buried by an unknown man. One rumor is that this woman was Theodosia Burr (yes her!) who was lost at sea! To visit her grave, turn down Hamilton Ave at Wilkes Street. Continue down Hamilton for maybe 1/4 mile and turn left at the sign for St. Paul's Cemetery. In approximately 100 feet, make the first right turn. The Female Stranger is the third grave on the right, adjacent to the road. It is marked by a white marble table and is located just left of a grave bearing the name of "Ballenger". (*Typing into google maps "grave of the female stranger" can also help guide you*)
- **Old Town Festival of Speed and Style** This Festival highlights the unique offerings of the Old Town community's history, style and energy. View dozens of rare and exotic cars up close and enjoy live music! **May 22, 2022 from 10:00am - 3:00pm**
- **Water Taxi to DC/National Harbor** Departing from 0 Cameron Street (behind the Torpedo Factory), enjoy a sunny day on the water and add a trip to DC, Georgetown and National Harbor to your day! One way and round trip experiences available with prices ranging from \$25 - \$50.
- **Old Town Farmers' Market** Are you an early bird? Check out the Old Town Farmers' Market at Market Square! This market has been operating since 1753. It is not only the oldest farmers' market in the DC area, but it is one of the oldest continually operating farmers' market in the nation! Check it out on Saturday mornings from 7:00am - 12:00pm at 301 King Street.
- **Did you know?**
 - Have you noticed the small "H" shaped iron structures around the entrances of residential homes in the neighborhood? They are classic antique boot scrapers meant to keep the mud and filth from getting inside people's homes! Made popular in 18th century France, these handy implements were called "decrottoir," or literally translated to "excrement remover."
 - In 2019, Forbes' online magazine named the city the "Ice Cream Cone Capital of the US." Pop's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Company, 109 King Street, was mentioned as a must-try!
 - Feeling spiteful? Visit the Spite House at 523 Queen Street! This original tiny house is 7 feet wide and 325 feet total! Built in 1830, John Hollensbury built it to prevent unwanted horses and wagons from using the alley between the existing homes.



AT HOME EXPERIENCE: If you choose not to leave home right now, or you live far away, plan a walk for yourself that ends at the water's edge. Before you set on your walk, you may want to view the beginning of the video for context. Afterwards, break the seal inside the brown envelope. Begin by exploring the items in the order described in the "**WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE**". Walk your path towards the water at the appropriate time and continue with the instructions. Watch the video here rorschachtheatre.com/ce-home.



DON'T MOVE THE REFRIGERATOR* NOTES: Wear your mask if you encounter other visitors in close proximity. As you maneuver through the streets of Old Town Alexandria, leave six feet of distance between yourself and others you may encounter as you are able. If you are not fully vaccinated against covid 19, please defer to our "At Home Experience" above.

* "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."