

Campaign Notes

Get the [pdf version](#)

Handouts

Images

- [Death House Front](#)
- [Rose and Thorne](#)

Items

- [Cloak of Protection](#)

Letters

- [Elisabeth Durst's Unsent Letter](#)
- [Gustav Durst's Suicide Note](#)
- [Kolyan Indirovich's v1 Letter](#)
- [Kolyan Indirovich's v2 Letter](#)
- [Letter from Strahd von Zarovich to Gustav Durst](#)

Maps

- [Village of Barovia](#)

Session Notes

Session 1

Session 1

[Anakir](#), [Elora](#), [Shalooti](#), [Pelanil](#), [Bardolf](#)

- We started in a bar just west of Phandalin
 - There we met Taako and Barry playing Taako's made up game Taakala
 - [Anakir](#) lost 2 sp to [Elora](#) and also mysteriously lost another 13 sp
 - [Pelanil](#) did a lot of glaring at folks, and then after finding out that Barry was lich, picked a fight which Taako tried to diffuse

- The Characters received a letter via the messenger [Arrigal](#) that was addressed to each of them individually and signed the [Kolyan Indirovich](#), Burgomaster of Barovia
- The group stayed the night at the tavern, then at first light made their way west per [Arrigal](#)'s directions
- As the fog closed in, [Pelanil](#) was struck by a vision of a woman beckoning him
- As the fog cleared, the party was surprised to find themselves in a forest
- Continuing on the road, [Carlos](#) the mule in tow, the group caught the stench of death
 - they followed the smell off the road where they found where they found a mauled body
 - on the body, they found another note in another script, also signed by [Kolyan Indirovich](#)
 - This one is much more foreboding than the first, claiming that the Burgomaster's daughter [Ireena Kolyana](#) has been bitten by a vampire
- Right after finding the note, the party is attacked by wolves, seemingly led by a red-eyed direwolf in the distance
 - The party was able to quickly charm, kill, and put to sleep the wolves as the direwolf looked on and make it back to the road
 - [Bardolf](#) ties the carcass of one of the wolves behind Carlos, and the party takes off right as they hear the sleeping wolves wake up
- After a full day of travelling, night set in as the adventurers arrived in a sleeping town
- Two children (whose names we don't know) begged for help from the party
 - saying their parents are missing, their baby brother Walter is stuck in the 3rd floor nursery, and there is a monster in the basement of their house
- The party obliges to help as the mists close in

Session 2

Session 2

[Anakir](#), [Elora](#), [Shalooti](#), [Pelanil](#), [Bardolf](#)

- The party shortly question the kids outside of the House
 - We learn that their names are [Rose](#) and [Thorn](#)
- As we enter the house, the party sees that the place is immaculate but shrouded in darkness
 - Floors well oiled and the furniture freshly dusted
 - Doors seem to be opening and closing on their own
 - The stuffed wolves seem to be watching them
 - The ornate carvings in the wood paneling is not always as it seems

- Shortly after entering, the party splits up
 - [Anakir](#) and [Pelanil](#) run upstairs, chasing the sound of a harpsicord
 - The rest of the group stays on the first floor as [Bardolf](#) searches for loot
 - [Bardolf](#), taken by the quality of the dining room drapes, accidentally tears them to shreds as he tries to cut them down. He pockets the silverware instead
 - [Shalooti](#) explores a room full of stuffed wolves, and finds herself a deck of playing cards, but runs, scared, out of the room before she can unlock the other cabinet containing the crossbows
- As [Pelanil](#) and [Anakir](#) reach the second floor, the sound of the harpsicord is soon replaced by that of a wailing child
 - [Anakir](#) attacks a completely ordinary suit of armor, unable to take its spear
 - They stop halfway to the third floor as they hear footsteps and a woman shushing the baby
 - [Anakir](#) sends a message to [Elora](#) telling her that they know where the baby is, but her response is cut off by maniacal laughing
 - Instead of his second message, [Elora](#) hears heavy breathing
 - and upon trying to contact the woman upstairs, [Anakir](#) senses his message has been redirected miles away where a man answers and says he looks forward to meeting him
- The party regroups on the second floor where they find their way to the library
 - Inside, [Elora](#) finds an iron key among other things at the desk
 - While pursuing the books, [Shalooti](#), finds a secret lever that opens a door to a secret room
- Inside the secret room, the party finds books that reference the occult
 - they also see a human skeleton, near a chest, with a poison dart in their side, holding a note
 - in the chest, they find the deed to the house, a deed to a windmill, and a will signed by [Elizabeth Durst](#) and [Gustav Durst](#) bequeathing the house and windmill to their two children [Thornboldt](#) and [Rosevalda](#)
 - The letter held by the skeleton is so terrifying that it sends [Shalooti](#) into a panic and she flees the room
 - As [Anakir](#) tries reading it, he becomes instantly paralyzed, but comes to as the group discusses how to save him
- From the note, we learn:
 - The people that lived in this house were part of a cult that attempted to worship [Strahd](#)
 - [Strahd](#) mocked them for this
 - They tortured and killed people in their dungeon and "on their hidden altar"

- [Gustav Durst](#) had a stillborn child with another woman
- The handwriting on this letter is the same as the letter that was brought to the party at the tavern by [Arrigal](#)
- Upon leaving the secret room, the house now seems disgusting
- After learning this information, the party climbs to the third floor, intent on finding this baby once and for all
 - but they're met at the top of the stairs by an animate suit of armor who proved to be a tough foe
 - The party nearly finished it off as they grouped up to push it over the railing, but the armor stumbled back up the stairs for one more strike on [Pelanil](#) before being dealt its final blow by [Elora](#)
- [Anakir](#) rushes into the room with the crying baby to find no woman, but only a bundle lying in the crib
 - After mixing random elements, hoping for a [Potion of Healing](#) but only getting salt water, [Anakir](#) unwraps the bundle to find no baby
- A woman stirs on the bed in the other room
 - She screams and attacks [Anakir](#), knocking him unconscious
- As the party prepares for yet another battle, [Shalooti](#) conjures up the image of a small baby boy and presents it to the specter...

Session 3

Session 3

Margaret the Nursemaid

The specter takes the illusion of the baby and seems appeased. She talks to the illusion as if it were, her baby son, [Walter](#).

We learn that:

- [Gustav Durst](#) wasn't there for the birth of [Walter](#) because his wife [Elizabeth Durst](#) kept him away
- After [Walter](#) was born, [Elizabeth Durst](#) became more involved in the cult and she was luring more innocent people into their basement where the screams would wake up [Walter](#)
- [Elizabeth Durst](#) and [Gustav Durst](#) would lock [Rose](#) and [Thorn](#) in their attic bedroom while they performed the rituals in the basement
- [Elizabeth Durst](#) took [Walter](#) from Margaret

After a minute, the illusion spell ends, the baby disappears, and so does Margaret.

The Stairs Behind the Mirror

After Margaret vanishes, the party is left to revive [Anakir](#). [Pelanil](#) uses some strong magic to bring [Anakir](#) nearly back to his full potential. Then, after his near death experience, as [Anakir](#) is reflecting on his life, he notices a crack in the mirror in Margaret's room. Now, terrified of the possibility of death, he quickly backs away.

[Bardolf](#) is able to make quick work of the secret door, which opens into a secret staircase leading to the attic.

Finding [Lancelot](#)

Once at the top of the secret staircase, [Shalooti](#) notices pawprints in the dust on the floor. Confident this wasn't yet another wolf, she follows them into a guest bedroom. Under the bed is a terrified [Lancelot](#). [Shalooti](#) uses her ability to communicate with animals to convince [Lancelot](#) that she and the party can be trusted. From that point forward, [Lancelot](#) cannot be separated from her.

[Rose](#) and [Thorn](#)'s Room

Presented with a padlocked door, [Pelanil](#) remembers that [Elora](#) earlier found an iron key. Once she unlocks the door, the party uncovers a heartbreaking reality: [Rose](#) and [Thorn](#)'s skeletons are lying in the middle of the bedroom floor, apparently starved to death after being unable to escape their locked room.

[Pelanil](#), feeling sorrowful for the children, packs up their bones, intent to give them a proper burial. After filling his pack, the ghosts of the two children appear. This time, they are see-through and spectral, obviously ghosts.

Seeing that [Pelanil](#) is at a loss for words given his grief, [Rose](#) speaks up to assure him that they know they're ghosts and they're actually ok with it. The party talks to the children's ghosts who explain that their parents usually locked them away when they went to the basement to deal with the monster, but that the last time, no one came back for them, no matter how much they cried.

They ask the party for help. The last time their mom went to the basement, she took their baby brother [Walter](#). They ask the players to help save [Walter](#) and help their parents defeat the monster once and for all.

The party agrees to help. When they ask where the basement is, [Rose](#) points to a dollhouse in the corner of the room. From this dollhouse, the party learns all the secrets to the house,

including a secret doorway in the storage room. Before heading to the basement, the party levels up, takes a long rest, and scours the rest of the house for missed loot (they can see where it is from the replica dollhouse). Notably, [Pelanil](#) finds a very expensive-looking platinum necklace with a topaz pendant.

Rested up, the party makes their way to the storage room, the kids choosing to stay behind. [Elora](#) finds a chest with the bones of who [Shalooti](#) realizes is Margaret, the nanny. She seems to have been stabbed to death. [Pelanil](#) also scoops up these bones to take with him.

Into the Dungeon

The party opens the secret door and descends deep into the basement. They're greeted at the bottom of the stairs by a dark, earthen corridor and an incessant chanting, that they can't seem to pinpoint.

The party discovers some empty tombs, one with [Walter](#)'s name on the door, and the other contains little coffins with their names on them.

Cultist Quarters

The party makes their way into what seems to be a living space with a wooden table and multiple straw beds. In one of the bed alcoves, they hear something snarling. [Pelanil](#) rushes in to find out what's making the noise, and it turns out to be a ghoul which the party quickly dispatches.

Continuing to search the cultist quarters, the party each finds some treasure packed away in footlockers:

- [Shalooti](#): 11gp, 60sp in a pouch of human skin
- [Elora](#): 3 moss agates (10gp each)
- [Bardolf](#): leather eyepatch with a carnelian (50gp)
- [Pelanil](#): an ivory hairbrush with silver bristles (25gp)
- [Anakir](#): a silvered shortsword (110gp)
 - Drawing on his experience with martial weapons, [Bardolf](#) remembers the silvered weapons have the special property of causing damage to enemies with immunity to regular weapons (e.g. werewolves)

The party hears more snarling coming from a well. Indignant, [Bardolf](#) decides to spit down the well. The ghoul at the bottom tries to shield itself as the party annihilates it.

The Spiked Pit and the Split Party

As they ventured further into the dungeon, [Pelaniil](#) observes that there is a strange place in the floor. After throwing something onto the spot, the party realizes that they've found a trap door that falls to a spiked pit. Each of the party members easily jumps the pit, except for [Bardolf](#) who is certain he can find another way around.

Separated, the main group sneaks past more snarling. Worried that [Bardolf](#) would walk directly into the beasts, [Shalooti](#) uses the new [Sending Stones](#) that [Bardolf](#) gifted her to let him know of his danger.

Still incensed at these ghouls' snarling, [Bardolf](#) first throws a rock at them in the dark, then runs headlong toward them. He finds these beasts tucked into the earthen walls, and calls for [Pelaniil](#) for backup. [Pelaniil](#) strikes them with his mace which causes them to retreat into the dirt.

The Durst's Bedroom

Back together again, the party makes their way into an underground bedroom. The first inside, [Elora](#) sees [Gustav Durst](#) hanging from the ceiling, and discovers his [suicide note](#) on the bed next to him. The note tells us that:

- [Elizabeth Durst](#) was the one who started the cult
- [Gustav Durst](#) only played along because he saw no way out

Inside the room, [Elora](#) opened a footlocker where the group found the following:

- a [Cloak of Protection](#)
- 4 [Potions of Healing](#)
- chain shirt
- mess kit
- flask of alchemist's fire
- bullseye lantern
- thieves tools

Just as [Elora](#) was pocketing the treasure, another ghoul burst from the walls. The party recognized this to be an undead [Elizabeth Durst](#), the woman from the portraits in the entryway. [Elizabeth Durst](#) curses the party, her husband, her own children, and especially Margaret and her bastard child, [Walter](#). [Elizabeth Durst](#) invites the party to venture lower into the dungeon before [Pelaniil](#), completely disgusted, strikes at the monster. The rest of the party flees, leaving [Anakir](#) and [Pelaniil](#) to fight.

The two make quick work of the monster, [Pelaniil](#) getting knocked unconscious just before [Anakir](#) destroys her.

The Shrine

After healing [Pelanil](#) with one of the [Potions of Healing](#), the party leave the Durst's bedroom and finds their way to what seems to be a shrine for a gaunt-looking man. [Bardolf](#) finds a secret set of stairs that leads upwards (presumably to the first level of the house).

[Anakir](#) takes the [Orb of the Warmage](#) from the statue, and replaces it with an equal weight, Indiana Jones style. Just as he removes the orb, multiple spirits appear and begin chanting, "Return the Orb. Begone from this place!"...