

## **Chapter 4 – Dead of Night**

### **Travis**

The tracks from earlier lead from the camp eastward, deeper into the Dead Pines. The team followed Coal the madman, whose hands were now bound behind his back... After walking for some time, those at the front noticed movement up ahead, the glint of eyes and teeth reflected the dim torchlight... but as they drew closer the creatures gave a low growl and fled off the path.

### **Eypór (Sindri)**

Beasts of the wilds here, we need to be careful. These things hunt in packs and they can be quite dangerous if they decide to attack.

### **Peter (Soren)**

They seem to have left something in our path... Seems they were eating something.

### **Eypór (Sindri)**

Hmm.

### **Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Nope.*

### **Peter (Soren)**

Does anyone know if intellect devourers can be inside of wolves? Or is it a humanoid only thing?

### **Eypór (Sindri)**

I believe they only prey on intelligent creatures.

### **Peter (Soren)**

Sure thing.

### **Kessi (Flygia)**

I'm glaring at you so hard right now...

### **Eypór (Sindri)**

Not that wolves aren't intelligent.

### **David (laus)**

Hmm.

### **Kessi (Flygia)**

What did you want to do?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Hmmm.

**David (laus)**

I, I'll try and get a better look. I'd say I'd stick to the shadows, but at this point that sounds redundant... So I'll just creep up quietly.

**Peter (Soren) (cautiously)**

I'll join you.

**David (laus)**

And it's a 15 for perception... And we have a corpse. Dwarven.

**Travis**

Upon closer inspection, laus noted that the chest was a mere cavity, and that the sinewy innards of the figure's throat had been pulled outward in every direction. The man's tongue was also noticeably absent.

**David (laus)**

Good news: He's not moving.

**Peter (Soren) (cautiously)**

Looks like he's been dead for quite some time, but it's hard to tell... Wanna torture this guy?

**David (laus)**

As it's post-mortem, I think he's more in your domain than mine.

**Peter (Soren)**

... I mean wanna ask this guy any questions?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Whoa, whoa.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Let's not pull this poor soul back into his remnants. He's...

**Peter (Soren)**

Oh Father.

**David (laus)**

Let's see if there's anything on him... Beyond this hideous scarf.

**Travis**

laus began to step closer toward the dead man and pick through his gore-smeared pockets... He hesitated only for a brief moment before swallowing hard and pushing past the nausea.

**David (laus)**

(while smelling a stench of rot) That's ok, I've seen worse.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh please, come on, madman, madman!

**Travis**

laus discovered 8 gold in a small money pouch affixed to the dwarf's belt but nothing else of value or insight into the man's past.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Worth it.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Let's just keep moving. I don't think there's anything we can do here. But please, everybody be on the lookout for the wolves. They might still be hungry, we did disturb their dinner.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

If they return, I will speak to them.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

There's plenty of dead stuff around here for them to eat, but yeah.

**Travis - STOPPED HERE**

The team continued for some time and were able to hear the sound of running water of in the distance. Distracted, they lost the trail for a moment in their haste to discover the source of the sound, a river. As they turned to return to their trail Sister Cavernsfall could just barely make out the shape of a figure on the far side of the river, in the darkness and heavy fog. The figure stood tall on two legs, perhaps seven feet in height before slouching into a feral position and retreating into the fog... The team, led by Coal, loosely followed the river for two hours until their path broke away. An additional three hours passed without incident, marking the eighth hour of travel this evening. It was around this time that Sister Cavernsfall, who was holding Coal's rope, noticed a sudden change up ahead, a clearing where the trees no longer appear in the mist. Her keen dwarven vision, aided by the torch lights of her party, could not see any trees up ahead in the mist for at least 80 feet...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright, I'm gonna put up my hand and see if we can get everybody to kind of stop for a

second.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Is everything okay, Sister?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright, so, can we just double check with this guy that he's leading us in a good direction now that it's been quite a while. Cause, he could just be leavin... leading us off into some cavern or some crevasse or something.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*If you're, did anyone double check he was leading us the way of those footprints you found?*

**Peter (Soren)**

I did, initially.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Initially.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

It's been a while now.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Yeah I'm gonna look round to see if I can find these kids tracks. Oh correction *Maybe someone better look for those kids tracks, to make sure we're going the same way. Cause, you know, I don't wanna look and get it wrong: it's your kid.*

**David (Iaus)**

Ok, I'll do it then. So. Bollocks. 11. I think I might see a couple of footprints. None belonging to children, but a couple of adult ones belonging to humans or dwarves. The ground is a little more muddy here, soft... You know, a little bit further up, tracking might be more easy. I'll pick ahead a bit too, to look for traps 'cause I don't wanna walk straight into the mud and suddenly disappear. 13... Further ahead, this mud really does make tracking fairly easy work... No traps, however, I can now see some footprints visible in varying sizes in addition to drag marks. And... Some of these are children's sized!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Any trees up ahead?

**David (Iaus)**

Not, from, from my perspective, no. Oh, fuck... There's a thick red liquid mixing in with the mud in splotches, instead of, like, a fine mist of morning dew, or whatever you guys get up here on the surface. It's...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I, so, is the thick red liquid blood?

**David (Ilaus)**

Yeah. That can't be healthy. (or similar one-liner)

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

So you checked for traps.

**David (Ilaus)**

Yes. There's no traps, and there's a mix of footprints of children, adults, and drag marks... and blood, as if the ground is bleeding.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Do any of the footprints go through the puddles of mud.. er puddles of blood?

**David (Ilaus)**

The blood's everywhere.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Ok. So it's not like people fell into like quicksand holes of mud? I can't really see it back here.

**David (Ilaus)**

It's like instead of dew covering the ground, there's like a thin layer of disgusting blood in patches. Doesn't appear to affect you if you stand it: it's just everywhere. You'll see it when you get a bit closer to me.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Quick head count... 1-2-3-4-5-6... and 7 including Coal. Cool. I'm good.

**Peter (Soren)**

Coal, have you been here before?

**Coal**

(despondent, scared) "Not much further."

**Peter (Soren)**

What, what is this? Sort of gesturing to the ground.

**Coal**

"This, this is Si Kari Bolandri: The Gate Village." [See Car + E Bowl + land + dree]

**Eypór (Sindri)**

We have to go through....

**Coal**

"This is just..."

**Eypór (Sindri)**

... the gate village to get to the, the great gate?

**Coal**

"Yes. The, the old arch is up ahead."

**Eypór (Sindri)**

How much longer is this travel?

**Coal**

"To the first arch? Not long now, maybe a dozen minutes if we hurry our pace."

**David (laus)**

Is he telling the truth? Insight. Oh, ok, yeah. Great, natural 1. He's probably lying.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I think we should make our way to the first arch and, I'm loathe to say this, Ice, -laus, but I think we need to camp. These old bones are not made for such long travels. And I fear that I may soon become a burden on the whole group if we keep marching at this pace.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I'm all in for sleeping. (said very quickly) First watch, second watch, third watch, not it!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

We've been awake since, what 2am? And some of us were awake before that. Most of us have probably been up for at least 16 hours.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

That's what...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

It hardly feels like it's been that long. I did take a pretty sweet power-nap earlier though.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

That's what...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

We've push ourselves pretty far. Plus I'm sure some rest will do well for Sindri's wounds.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Well why don't we get in sight of this gate? And then we can sort of determine what we want to do from there?*

**David (laus)**

Agreed.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Agreed.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Cause if we can get eyes on your kid and he's only like, 2 steps away, we'll grab him and run but... but if we have to reassess then we reassess then but we should... I mean you've got this, I mean you might be old, but, yeah, you're cool. You've got this. And I'll put my arm around my cousin.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I can make it.

**Peter (Soren)**

I don't mean to be... a bad host but as we get closer, does anyone have something to regag our friend Coal with here, just in case?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm assuming the...

**David (laus)**

Yup.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

... the old gag is still around his neck?

**David (laus)**

Yeah, he never, never put it away. We didn't take it off him.

**Coal**

You cannot be serious. (sigh) (spit sound and grunt as he's gagged)

**Peter (Soren)**

Sorry about this Coal. Replace it.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright. Good idea, we wouldn't want him signaling his friends.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

No.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright, so we're just going to have him lead us a little further and then we'll take a break?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I think that's necessary.

**David (laus)**

Ok. You continue on ahead?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I wanna, I'm gonna watch him very closer from now on because I'm not trusting this blood dew thing we're seeing everywhere.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Blood dew.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'm going to keep an eye on Soren.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Hold up, I'm sensing something... With a perception roll of a 9...

**Travis**

Father Westpike sensed the presence of a meta-physical foul and oppressive stench that suffocated his senses. As one so connected to the spiritual world, he's read, or perhaps experienced this feeling once before, never this powerfully.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Urgh. I have strong reason to believe that we are standing on unhallowed ground. These places are often infested with mal-aligned beasts, so be prepared.

*[Footsteps]*



**Travis**

The air was stagnant, stale, and warm and the team's senses were dulled slightly. The further they stepped into the mud the more faint whispers could almost be discerned. The ground itself even seemed more pale and grey than it was mere paces ago.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Urgh. I know of no way to consecrate the ground quite on this...scale. Maybe if Sister Cavernsfall and I worked together--

**Kessi (Flygia)**

--(cackle) You think you can dispel such powerful ancient curses? You place too much faith in your gods!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Well that's a bit rude.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

You could maybe consecrate a small area temporarily but do not waste your time otherwise.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Sorry, this is a gamey question, but would this like make resting more complicated or hard? This unhallowed ground.

**Travis**

No it, what it does is affect turning undead at a -4 penalty... among other things...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yeah yeah, ok.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I lightly touch on the pala... Sister Cavernsfall's shoulder and I say "Do you sense this?" This unholy presence we're enveloped in right now?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

This whole place kind of, -- Yeah... It's really foul...-but I can open my divine senses if we want to do that.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I, I feel we're wondering into either a trap or very close to whatever evil these people were talking about.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Pretty much.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Would you both...*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright yeah, so I'm gonna, I actually am going to go ahead and use Divine Sense. I'm pretty sure that this is just gonna be like "everything smells like evil here" but we'll find out.

**Travis**

Sister Tsaverite Cavernsfall opened her Divine Senses, and was immediately overwhelmed by the repressive stench and suffocation. However powerful however, her firm beliefs prevented the flood of horrors from affecting her psyche.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(in pain) Everything here is evil. There's the man standing in front of me, Coal, the two teiflings which have infernal blood, and beyond that, just a generally powerful evil all around us... Oh... Ok first of all, everybody get a little bit closer because that demon thing that keeps slicing and dicing us is about 90ft that way.

**Coal**

(gagged) (excited laughter) He is here! (gagged)

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I grab the, the rope that Sister Cavernsfall is holding and I like yank it down so he has to go down on his knees or fall flat on his face.

**Travis**

Coal turns just in time to land face-down in the mud.

**Coal**

(gagged) (ugh) -hitting the ground.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh, that was no my intention, but ok.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Otherwise Father this whole place stinks of evil.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

The, the, oh god, the creature is here?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yeah I mean the, it's pretty much been following this entire time. We knew that, that's why we have the buddy system?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes, true.

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall's senses adjust slowly as she stepped forward a few more paces, straining her eyes, and the hairs on her arms stood on end as a faint buzzing sound crept into audibility. She could feel that something was inherently wrong with this place, but that a new scent also hung in the air, a stronger, more pungent decay. Something had clearly died here.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright, so, this is not the best place to be and does anyone else hear that? It's like a buzz?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Do we...?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Is that from my divine sense or is that from just...?

**Kessi (Flygia)**

No, I hear it too.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Would you two feel better if we didn't rest on this ground?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Absolutely.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*You two are more affected by this, by this than we are.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

We do not want to stop here. Whatever unholy....

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I wouldn't stop here.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

... abominations are here, are much stronger on this ground.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

But retreating the other way is just going to bring us back to the black three eyed demon thing so...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

He called him the Silent One. I raise him up so he doesn't suffocate in the mud.

**Coal**

(gagged) (coughing/choking)

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*You're too soft cousin.*

**Travis**

The wet gag now covers Coal's mouth and nose, greatly inhibiting his breathing.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh. Is this...?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'll reach out and do prestidigitation. That should clean the mud off his gag. *I just don't want you to die.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I pull the, the, the mouth, mouth gag off him. Are we simply wandering into more unholy ground the further we go? Is this just going to get worse?

**Coal**

(breathing in a deep breath, catching his breath... then replying) "Of course. Much death has visited this beautiful place, and blood will precede our every passing."

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yo man, you gotta really messed up version of religion.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I don't think...

**David (Iaús)**

Isn't all religion all messed up?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

You be quiet back there!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Not where I'm from! My god is a good god!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

My god is literally the god of sunlight, he can't be evil!

**Peter (Soren)**

Coal, what can you tell us about the Silent One?

**Coal**

*Laughter* "What could I tell Soren that he doesn't already know?"

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Does he...

**Coal**

"Shall I show you how to pray to him? Would you unbind me for that long, I wonder?"

**David (Ilaus)**

Come on, we need to move forward.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

And we're going, let's go, alright.

**Peter (Soren)**

So, don't suppose it's of any worth to check out whatever's dead and producing that buzzing sound?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Hmm.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

It might just be another trap like all these other ones have been.

**Coal**

"We're very near a place of resting though, if you are tired. There is an inn just a few paces ahead. We're going to pass right by it."

**Eypór (Sindri)**

An inn?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I, I think we shouldn't stop there. Mainly because he suggested we should.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I feel the same.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I'd rather take our chances just outside the Inn. Then in a place he may have set up as a trap.*

**Coal**

"I, I swear to you, I would bring no harm toward--"

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Ah shut up.*

**Coal**

"...toward my lord."

**Eypór (Sindri)**

No I, I think he wants us to reach the end. I think he wants us to reach the resting place of his god.

**Coal**

"I do." he smiles. "I seek the nameless god."

**David (laus)**

Then let's go.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*But he doesn't need us alive to do it.*

**David (laus)**

I said let's go.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes, yes. I've...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

If we're not going to stop here we better get somewhere else and then stop. But we can't just stand here and keep talking.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Very true. As we march, I, Father Westpike makes one last point. I would rather be locked inside with evil people, than locked outside with the Silent One.

**Coal**

"It is true that he is feared by all, even those within the Silent Clan."

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Shut up Coal. We don't need your pessimism too.

**Travis**

The team began to sweat as they ventured further through the fog and within eighty paces all were able to spot the distinct worn outline of a two story structure matching the description of the Inn Coal had referenced. As the structure came closer into view, it was revealed to be made from stone: a sagging roof sat poorly like an ill-fitted wig, while cracked glass windows were boarded up and backed by dark stained cloth beneath, blocking all spaces that once let light into the building.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I am a trained mason, does it look like this was the original building that was built here by, I think you said, was the elves right?

**Travis**

That will require a Knowledge: History check, at advantage.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

That's actually, it's my, it's my whole background and my personality trait is that I tend to talk in length about stone masonry.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Oh no, not another one.*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I just haven't yet because there haven't been any stones!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*What about that shrieking rock? You could have gone for hours about that!*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Ok, that's a 19 plus something... if I were to hazard a guess Its seems like slaves constructed it,. I don't feel like this was the work of experienced elven masons. It wouldn't be too uncommon for elves to use forced labor on such a project. This is an older architectural style, pre-Darkland for sure, perhaps predating the Two-Kingdoms. Despite being a fairly older structure I'm amazed at the condition it's in, except for that partially collapsed corner... And...

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall noticed the empty void where the door once stood. The contents of the building laid bare to those who'd but venture through the darkness.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

That.

**Travis**

As the team ventured closer, the ruins of a larger single story building came into focus on the right, and to the left, a small crumpled hovel, a few meters ahead lie in shamble before a larger single story building. The tracks in the mud, plainly visible to all, formed a path between the buildings.

**David (laus)**

Some of these tracks still belong to children. They all lead in the same direction, through the buildings.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

They didn't stop here.

**Coal**

"If you're looking for a place to rest, this is the safest you'll find. One way in, one way out."

**Peter (Soren)**

Can I perceive anyone hiding in the buildings, or watching us, at all?

**Travis**

Besides the extremely eerie sensation associated with the muted silence, that would require a perception check.

**Peter (Soren)**

14... I don't see or hear anything, beyond the quiet buzzing off in the distance...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Maybe...*

**David (laus)**

Okay, 4 buildings: There's the Inn, there's the hovel, and then there's another building with a shack in front of it. Coal, what are the other buildings?

**Coal**

"The village."

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I'm curious if it looks like it was built by slave labor... But I'll need to get closer to investigate.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Is this the place of gates?

**Coal**

He smiles. "Yes, the gate village."



**Eypór (Sindri)**

I don't like saying this, but I think we should try out the inn. At least see what the feeling is on the inside.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

If it's abandoned, then we can just fortify it ourselves and get the rest we need.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Before we go get the kids.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I think that's a, a decent idea.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I think someone oughta take watch outside.*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I think we're still going to use the buddy system.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright, I will enter the, the inn with Lady Cavernfall, and if another party wants to join us inside... and I look pleadingly towards either one of the, any of the other of the groups. Not to send us in alone.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

No, I will come in, I will join you.

**Peter (Soren)**

I take Cole's rope from you and hold him outside for a little bit.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright. laus..

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Soren maybe you'll get a better look at seeing what's around if you boost yourself up to the roof?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Hmmm.

**Peter (Soren)**

Worth a try, who wants to hold Coal?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Ahh, ah, no, I'm, I'm, no, no not taking him.*

**David (laus)**

That'll be me then.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright laus...

**Peter (Soren)**

There you go sir.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

... you keep an eye on laus, Soren. And I start walking towards the inn.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

And I follow close behind.

**Travis**

As the team approached the entrance a wave of rot lingered on the edge of the doorway like a physical wall of heat, assaulting their nostrils.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Eurgh

**Travis**

Death had visited this place and left something large in its wake.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Disgusting.

**Travis**

Those who stepped toward the door had great difficulty maintaining high spirits as questions of the odor's origin clawed at their minds... Requiring a sanity check.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Fuck.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(bad smell) Ugh... Ugh... This is just... (awful)

**Travis**

Father Westpike overcame these doubts, and put order to his fear, aiding Sister Cavernsfall.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I stop in my tracks as soon as I smell the thing and I just hold up my hand like, “no, this, this is not, this is, I don't., -something died here. Something massive. Massive amount of death maybe.”

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright, so not a good place to sit down for a cup of tea.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

No, but perhaps our best chance of rest; being outside with the Silent One is maybe worse fate than the tave... the inn.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Well, why don't we go check the other buildings in the area?

**David (laus)**

Yeah, especially the better-looking ones up ahead.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes, yes. I like the sound of that a lot more. And we're gonna walk a nice big radius around the, the evil death building. Is it...

**Travis**

And the Dungeon Master skipped 5 pages of the adventure...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

You wanted us to go into a building and you're like “it stinks in here, you should probably go somewhere else.” Well we're like “you didn't make it very inviting.”

**Travis**

As I was saying... The team passed the building, no problem. But did they continue on to the structures on the left or the right?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Left.*

**Travis**

Ok.. Ahead the team saw the shack... The shack was fairly small, and as it came closer into view... I have to scroll ahead 5 pages. -I wasn't joking. Alright. Oh where'd it go? Nooo.

**David (laus)**

Basically we have just done that thing where in the, in the horror movie you'd be

shouting at the screen going “Don't walk in there, don't...” and we've just gone, “No. We've seen this before.”

**Eypór (Sindri)**

By the way, I'm calling it. The, the gimmick to save the story is in the stupid fucking inn.

**Travis**

No, nothing too important, maybe...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Only death.

**Travis**

Perhaps not... You'll have to wait until I release the 'Domain of the Nameless God' campaign module on DriveThruRPG and our Patreon... (wink wink) From the far side of the inn the team could make out the old worn stones of an expansive graveyard.

**David (laus)**

We can head toward the shack, we can head toward the graveyard, we can head toward the building behind the shack. What's our plan, old man?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I think the building is our best bet right now.

**David (laus)**

The shack or the building behind it? For clarification.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

The building right? I look pleading to sister Cavernsfall to not take me to the shack, or the Graveyard.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I'll just follow you.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yeah.

**Travis**

As the team approached the building they could see that it's cracked windows have been blown through, perhaps vandalized. Burned. And as they cautiously glanced through the window, they noticed that they could see clear through building, as the far wall had long since either eroded or been torn down. The interior now exposed to the elements, save for portions under the safety of the roof.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

(to self) So the graveyard extends from the back of the inn, to beyond visibility well past this structure... and the tracks seem to go through the graveyard.

**David (Ilaus)**

(unamused at this bad news) Huh.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Of course they do.

**Travis**

As Soren took a closer look, he noted a lone wooden coffin with a shovel leaning against it. The aged wood sat directly atop the earth next to a deep hole that looked only recently excavated.

**Peter (Soren)**

Some of the graves appear to have been disturbed recently. Perhaps made ready for new additions? I'm not sure if that's a good sign or...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh boy.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

This unholy ground, the open graves: this is not a good place.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Over there... That headstone near us has been defaced, stained with dark liquid. It might be some kind of writing, but I can't tell from this far away.

**Peter (Soren)**

Looks almost like Infernal from here.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Ilaus, you speak this language of infernals which we seemed to be running across, can you read whatever that stone says?

**David (Ilaus)**

I'd have to walk closer, but yeah, will anyone will come with me?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I was not going to let you go alone.

**David (Ilaus)**

Ok, so, Father Westpike and I will move closer... Yup... It *is* written in infernal. It's a

message, two lines of text.

*(Hy zikzyw hafr wyulz, mot siuzw oar haf. Da haf wyyc mah?)*

Hiy zick-zwee haff-ir why-oolz, Mawt see-ooze-w Oh-air haff. Da Haff Wick Mah?

He tastes your scent, he waits for you. Do you seek him?

(Sarcastic) Right, it's a recipe...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Somebody wrote a recipe on a headstone?

**David (laus)**

Well, as they say in the Darklands, a headstone is as good as a cook-book.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

What?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

What does that even mean?

**David (laus)**

It's a Darklands thing...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Sure.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Well, alright...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Well, nothing too evil I assume? Maybe this place won't bother us if we stay here as short as we can.

**David (laus)**

Well it says something about tasting scent and, whatever it was saying. I'm sure you all heard that when I was translating it.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh ok. Did you translate it out loud?

**David (laus)**

I did yes.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*You read aloud from something written on a stone... urgh,. There's a line in the sand, you don't read aloud from things like this!*

**David (Ilaus)**

Right, ok, well, lucky shot I guess.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

If it tastes your scent, it will come for you.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Wait, wait! What did we find?

**Kessi (Flygia)**

There was a message in blood on a defaced headstone that said, "He tastes your scent, he waits for you. Do you seek him?"

**Eypór (Sindri)**

You see the creature...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright then.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

... bit Soren, it has his scent, maybe?

**David (Ilaus)**

Could be.

**Peter (Soren)**

I'm pretty sure after it slashed me too I actually heard it whisper, "do you seek him?"

**Eypór (Sindri)**

"Do you seek him?" So the silent one and the old god is not the same thing. Alright.

**Peter (Soren)**

Hmmm.

**Coal**

(smiling) "No, he is just one of his chosen disciples."

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*One is the guardian for the other if I remember rightly.*

**Coal**

"Yes. As I said before, he is the guardian, the gatekeeper of the resting place of the nameless god!"

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

So is everybody ok if we knock him unconscious? And get our naps in and then go save these kids?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I have absolutely no problem with that.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I think it's unnecessary to resort to violence, a simple gag and an outlook, -a look out would suffice.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Let's do that then.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*We need to setup some decent watches. Someone should be watching him and Soren, and someone should be watching out.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

So we're staying inside the house?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yeah, the blown-out house. Follow me.

**Travis**

As the team reaches the open side of the structure they now have a full view of a cart inside, filled with stiff putrefying bodies. The cart is located directly underneath one the windows, which obscured it from the previous glance.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh great.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Nope, No.*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Do you think they were collecting the dead for burial or something more sinister? I



wonder...

**Travis**

As Sister Cavernsfall dared a glance she was simultaneously sicked and mesmerized by the multitude of writhing maggots, centipedes, and earwigs, gorging themselves on the sticky flesh. She broke her gaze only after confirming to herself that they appeared to have been dead for over a month.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright, I push, I turn Rowena around with one quick hand movement. And start pushing her towards the shack. Alright, let's check out the shack. That surely can't be full of corpses too, right?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I've got no problem with that, no problem with that. Let's have a look at this then. And we'll have a look at the shack.*

**Travis**

Rowena approached the shack and pulled open the door with some effort. With no windows it appeared to be a small shed, complete with gardening buckets and tools. She regretfully noted that it was only large enough to accommodate perhaps 2 dwarf-sized occupants.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Nope, this is definitely not large enough for us.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

You say there's some tools in here, what kind of tools?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Gardening tools for the most part, very rusted sadly. Damn...

**David (laus)**

What about the other building on the other side?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Only one way to find out.

**Travis**

As the team cut through the graveyard on their walk toward the far building, they passed the large wooden coffin and the deep hole adjacent to it.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I would very much like to grab the shovel, and then I want to look down the hole.

**David (laus)**

I'll also take a glance.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Just like, grabbing the shovel and then looking down the hole, so I'm very much holding the shovel, ready to hit, if anything is down there.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I'll just take your word for whatever's down the hole

**Peter (Soren)**

I'm going to watch the coffin very closely while this happens.

**Travis**

Within the hewn earth of the pit, a small coffin was gently nestled, fully visible as if it had been laid to rest but no service given, and no dirt dropped over it. A small glint of metal shone from the darkness, and those who looked into the hole could see a sword resting atop the coffin. Even from within this dark place the sword seemed to give off a faint glimmer, amplifying the dim torchlight in Soren's hand.

**Peter (Soren)**

Cole, do you know what the sword is?

**Coal**

"I've never seen it before."

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

If Soren and my cousin, and in fact if anyone's nearby, I'm going to chuck the, the shovel at whoever's nearby, hoping they'll catch it. And I'll go down and grab the sword. Fuck it.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Oh god. Ok.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'm going to jump down there, I'm going to have a look at it first. Make sure, you know, I have a good look over it, see what I can pick from just by looking at before I look at it with my hands.

**Travis**

Roweena jumped into the deep hole, the coffin absorbing most of her fall. As she leaned down she noted that the sword had Elven runes engraved on its side.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(sound of effort while jumping and landing into the hole)

Cool, I read elvish. Yeah, "shali os si thysrael" Bane of the nameless.

(Shah-lee Os see Thigh-s-ray-eel) Let me think... Does this name, does, bane of the nameless ring a bell with me at all? Is it from Myths and legends and Lore? 13. Well... It probably has something, possible, to do with the nameless god or his followers. Since this god is called 'the nameless god' and I don't remember hearing too much about it, perhaps this is tied in with that. And if it's Bane of the Nameless, either it means that it's a bane to him, or his bane, so. I'm gonna look up and like *It's either going to bite me or it's not, what do you reckon?*

**David (Ilaus)**

Bring it anyway.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Poke it with a stick first?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Well...*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm assuming at this point, Father Westpike is running and doing like a scratch stop thing above the grave and reaching his hand down like "Get out of there are you--."

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Just waving.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Are you joking?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*No, I mean, it says bane of the nameless and...*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

You, get out of the grave, get out... take my hand.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*... it's a sword that.*

**David (Ilaus)**

This grave lacked a headstone...

**Peter (Soren)**

(joking) It says Rowena on it now.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Ég trúi því ekki að þú hafir gert þetta, afhverju ertu að haga þér svona?  
(I can't believe you've done this, why are you behaving like this?)

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I, I'm gonna, I'm gonna like, like jig off my shirt, I have leather armor on, it's not weird. I'm gonna jig my shirt off and then pick it up with my shirt, and then hand it up, hilt first, to my cousin. It's like *You can pull me up with this bit.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Do.. just... give..

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Don't do that with a sword!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*What?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I try to reach, I don't know if I can, but I try to reach down. To. Her. Hand. And lift her by The. Hand. It's a little bit too deep, it's like an 8 foot.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*8 foot bloody hell!*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

laus, please.

**David (laus)**

I said it was deep! You can, you can probably climb out though, it's not like you're incapable. Dwarves climb things all the time, right? Or is that just my son?

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*See, take the sword and then I'll climb out.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes! Please, please. And I grab the sword.

**Travis**

Father Westpike grabbed the sword and examined it briefly, while holding it with Rowena's shirt.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

It's, it's...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

...you're still holding it by my shirt. It's all good, it's all good.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes, it's in the shirt.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

And now I will try and stubbornly climb out myself.

**Travis**

As Rowena tried to move her feet...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Ah shit.*

**Travis**

... she discovered that they were stuck to the coffin. Initiative.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Oh shit.* Yes! Natural 20, 24...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm too busy holding the sword and like, "what the hell are you doing?"

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Our blessing is gone, isn't it?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Unfortunately yes, hashtag no longer blessed.

**Travis**

Hashtag no longer blessed. As Rowena Granitepike tried to move her feet, they appear to be stuck to the surface of the coffin. While she initially thought herself stuck to a splinter or perhaps sap, her vexation quickly turned to terror as the coffin itself transformed into a giant maw...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Ahhh! (scream)

**Travis**

Rowena had heard stories of the shape-shifting creatures in the past called mimics, and as she realized that she had just jumped atop one her heart sank... which required a sanity check.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Oh no!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

But if I live, this is going to be the greatest story known to man.15

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Hell yeah.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

The ultimate caveat to good stories, if I live.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*If I live, this is going to be the greatest story to dwarves all over: the day I stood on a mimic and lived! But this story starts with me climbing out of the blood grave!*

**Travis**

The rabid, frothing maw bit at Rowena's shoulder, grazing her for 5 damage as she struggled to escape from the creature's adhesive surface.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Ow. And I'm gonna try, screw it...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

19.

**Travis**

Rowena had disadvantage, requiring her to roll a second time.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Well that was more, so 19.

**Travis**

Whoa. Ok... Rowena struggled and grasped handfuls of mud, throwing them on her feet, loosening the adhesive grip until she was able to grasp a root and pull herself free of the hole.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*(sound of pain, sound of struggling and climbing out)*

**Travis**

The creature let off a hideous shrieking from below, and those above began to notice shambling figures seemingly drawn to the sound. Stumbling, shuffling forward, the team could spot 5 of them...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*) – New inspiration song?**

I want to give my cousin my last bardic inspiration for the day. I might... *Alright, alright, ok fine, you can open the big bag of I told you so.* And then I'll give him the bardic inspiration.

### **Travis**

As the last notes played, a loud crunch burst forth from the coffin, the only warning before an explosion of splinters and rope shattered in all directions. From within emerged a hairless figure: tall, pale, starved, but clearly muscular. Any notion that this creature might be friendly was instantly dispelled at a mere glance at its hungrily glare, sharpened claws, and massive fangs. From the team's rough circle formation around the grave the distant figures shambled closer as the tallest among them, a creature is concealed in robes, stood near the edge of vision, as if content to simply watch the others move forward.

### **David (laus)**

Sorry, to clarify there were two coffins. There was a coffin inside the dirt, in the hole, and... there was a coffin above ground with a shovel next to it. Which she took the shovel... passed it to the person, she jumped into the hole where the coffin was intended to go... but there was already a coffin down there which wasn't really a coffin...Right.

### **Eypór (Sindri)**

Fuuck.

### **David (laus)**

Looks like I'm going to be do some rapier-ing... So... Let's start off with an 18, and 9 damage.

### **Travis**

laus Innskeep jumped from his hiding place among the graves and stabbed the snarling creature in the chest. The hit stopped the creature's advance but it didn't seem to pay heed to the dark river that trickled down its chest, nor the tiefling.

### **Kessi (Flygia)**

(casting a spell) (Casting in Druidic: *Nature grant me power over the material*)

Fehlim vers svern tobor!

(Feh-lim [like limb] verse sver-en toe-board!)

### **Travis**

With a flash of green-blue light, Flygia spell transformed her gnarled staff into a formidable weapon, elongating the curved hook atop, hardening the edge, and adding inch-long spikes throughout its length. As she swung the still-moving weapon toward the hairless creature it side-stepped her attack, which was telegraphed by the display of magic, and swiped toward Sister Cavernsfall, who blocked the incoming strike with her shield.

### **Kessi (Flygia)**

(sound of exertion as she swings)

**Peter (Soren)**

I will just make an attack here and not do anything weird. Let me just try to pick off one of the small figures actually.

**Peter (Soren)**

It is a 19 to hit. And...

**Peter (Soren)**

7.

**Travis**

Soren hit the body of the closest figure through the chest for 7 damage, causing chunks of powered flesh to explode in a haze of choking nausea. Her flesh desiccated and shriveled, clung tightly to her bones. She continued to shamle forward as three others, sickly and disgusting followed suit. One was bloated and sickly, a constant stream of drool ran down his maw. Another's eyes had been sewn shut and more recently forced open; the resulting damage was sickening. The final creature's abdomen was clearly hollowed out and home to a large glass jar with an opaque liquid. As each step shook the liquid, the team can make out the form of something disgusting writhing the liquid moving, as if drowning.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I can see a lot of things disgusting.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(sound of exertion as she blocks two distinct attacks)

**Travis**

Behind the team, the mimic scrambled to pull itself up from the hole and lashed out at Rowena. However, thanks to the quick actions of Sister Cavernsfall, the attack was knocked back with a parry.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Bless you.*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Thank Ilmater.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright... I raise my hammer above my head. And I speak "the name of Pelor, the god of sunlight, banishes all of these creatures." And I'm casting casting... turn undead. Now you...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yay!



**Travis**

At minus 4.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

At minus 4. So they have to make a wisdom save at, bo-bo-bo-ba-da, ah at 10 because of the minus 4.

**Travis**

The light cast around Father Westpike seems muted, and only the shambling creature with the disturbing eye sockets seemed repelled by it. The monster gave a reproaching gasp and raised its hand over its face.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

(intense in combat) It seems like the hooded figure in the back is countering my prayers.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

(intense, in combat) Who has Coal?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

(intense, in combat) That was laus before.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(intense in combat) That's laus.

**David (laus)**

(intense, in combat) I was yeah.

**Travis**

laus Innskeep failed his Strength check with a roll of a 3, and Coal pulled away, running in the opposite direction of the attackers.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(in combat, an attack) Suffer as you have made others suffer, mimic! 15 to hit, 9 damage.

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall hit the mimic in its center mass, knocking a few teeth loose and bruising its purple skin.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Ok. Screw it. I'm, I'm just gonna look the mimic and just like, like, strum like a g minor 7 or something by accident, I'm gonna cast thunderwave!.. 8 damage. **[Hem, write a 1 sentence song. I'll make the Gm7 chord... Maybe "Thunder, thunder, deaf-en and repel!]**

**Travis**

With a deafening crack of sound the mimic was cast back down into the grave.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Nailed it!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(attacking) Stay back, fiend!.. That is a non-natural 20... 7 Damage.

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall, glanced to see the tentacles of the mimic creeping up the sides of the grave and struck it a series of blows with her warhammer. As she struck one of the larger tendrils it went limp, causing the creature to fall back into the grave, pulling dirt and rocks with it... But as the hairless creature's blood hit the ground near Sister Cavernsfall and laus Innskeep, they were both forced to resist the effects of the blood's putrid odor... Which laus did but Sister Cavernsfall could not.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

But I have advantage versus poison.

**Travis**

...Or could she?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I got an 11.

**Travis**

Channeling a silent prayer, Sister Cavernsfall was able to overcome the poisonous vapors.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Ha ha ha! I'm a dwarf guys! We're all dwarves up in here, it's all good.

**David (laus)**

17 to hit, 6 damage.

**Travis**

Invigorated by his previous successes, laus struck the hairless creature again with his rapier, this time opening up a wound across its abdomen, slowing the creature down. The creature, in turn, retaliated, slashing wildly at laus. As its massive talons set a path for his head, Sister Cavernsfall suddenly materialized between laus and the attack, taking the full brunt of the swing with her shoulder thanks to the legendary relic in her possession, the Helm of the Martyr.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(sound of being hit)

**David (laus)**

(surprised, in combat, flustered) Holy--

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(pained) That's my job.

**David (laus)**

(grateful, in combat, flustered) Thank you sister!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(pained) It's all good.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

(casting a spell) (Casting in Druidic: *Bring fourth the primal flames!*)

Tehrem Deys verrs Kal-obrahm!

(teh-rem day-iss verz Kal, Oh-braam!)

**ALSO: (sound of exertion as she attacks and hits) (also sound of brief coughing as she inhales poisonous vapors)**

**Travis**

In an instant the hooked staff in Flygia's hands transformed to a blade of fire, and as laus pulled back from his attacks she swung in a wide arc, dropping the beast down to its knees and inflicting 9 damage. Breathing in from the exertion of the swing, she found herself under the influence of the creature's poisonous blood, and had difficulty recovering her breath.

**Peter (Soren)**

The shambler, with the jar of liquid inside of him...

**Peter (Soren)**

Let's try targeting it.

**Peter (Soren)**

That's a 16 to hit.

**Peter (Soren)**

And 8.

**Travis**

Soren Arkwright let loose an arrow that cracked the glass, passing through the spine of the creature. The creature still managed to maintain its forward momentum, but stumbled as it eagerly tried to bite and swipe at Soren, landing near his feet. The decaying woman, arrow still firmly lodged in her chest had better luck, digging the edges of her fingernails into the skin on his shoulders. As Soren pushed her away, breaking off her fingernails in the process, he took 4

damage.

As the bloated man raked his teeth ineffectively across father Westpike's chainmail, teeth ripped out of the gums and a thick black liquid began to fall faster from his jaws.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Gross.

**Travis**

The hooded figure, moving with inhuman speed, stumbled closer, rapidly closing the distance between itself and the team. In the grave behind them, the Mimic regrouped and made another attempt to pull itself back up.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

...I think I'm gonna cast a Bless. I think that's the best plan now. We are in quite the pickle. So, yup. I'm gonna cast bless and I'm gonna hit... Raise your hand if you want a bless.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I will always take a bless but you can't see my hand.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Well Travis wants one, laus wants one, and Flygia. Alright, the three of you get a bless.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

May the light of Pelor guide our actions!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

You said Travis gets a bless, did you mean me?

**Travis**

Yes that's what he meant.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Ok.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Sorry, Lady Travis.

**David (laus)**

Marriage makes you into one person...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Lady Travis!

**David (laus)**

...don't worry, don't forget.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Lady Travis.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Well yeah, Kaitlin. Sorry.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

That's some truth there.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Well then Travis I hope you know you're Mr Kaitlin.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Umm hmm.

**Travis (Mr. Kaitlin)**

That's fine. We knew this. Is that your turn?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yes.

**Travis**

Coal flees beyond Father Westpike's vision, into the mist beyond.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh fuck, oh right. I'll, I'll...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Cuz, I want to give that sword there a play. Here, hand that over if you're doing bugger all with it. I'll take...*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yeah I basically...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

... the sword out of his hand.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yeah, I, yeah.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'm proficient in most of these stupid ass weapons, partly because of what I am, my

background and being a dwarf, I'm proficient in pretty much most weapon. Oh, a short sword! Even better, I'm totally proficient at that crap. Yeah...

**Travis**

Rowena could feel the distinct magical power within the Shortsword... of plus 2.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Holy crap. Yeah...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'm gonna, I'm gonna go slash this thing in half man.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

26. 7 Damage.

**Travis**

As Rowena struck the shambling creature near Soren, she shattered the canister in its stomach, sending its liquid contents spilling to the ground. With the rush of liquid, a small fetus fell too, twitching and moving toward Rowena.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'm gonna punt you!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(Sound of exertion as she kicks the fetus.)

**Travis**

Rowena launched the fetus into the mouth of the Mimic with a kick and looked back at her cousin with a wicked grin.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Excellent, yeah. *See, this isn't so bad. I don't seem to be infected, yet.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yet.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I'm ever the optimist.*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(in combat, intense) Push them into the pit with the mimic!

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall struck toward the hairless monster but her attack was poorly timed, and the beast batted the blow aside, leaving an opening for laus. Moving quickly, laus cut open

the creature's cheek with his rapier, dealing 10 damage and knocking one of its large fangs onto the ground.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(in combat, intense attack sound, miss)

**David (laus)**

(sound of exertion as he cuts the Monster) Ha!

**David (laus)**

I'll kick the tooth into the grave with the mimic! Dexterity, rolled a 16. Get in!

**Travis**

laus kicked the tooth into the open maw of the mimic, temporarily choking it.

**Travis**

With an impressive series of rolls, Flygia jumped over hairless creature, turned and landed a powerful kick, sending the creature forward toward the hungry jaws of the mimic. As her teammates dodged out of the way, the mimic bit deep into the pale monster and pulled it into the grave.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

(sound of exertion as she jumps, then as she kicks) Ha!

**David (laus)**

(congratulatory) Alright!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Thank you.

**Peter (Soren)**

Soren silently found what just happened incredibly badass. As for myself, I am going to stop targeting fetuses here. I think I've had my fill. Time to target the hooded guy and make him both my hunter's mark and slayer's pray. 17 to hit. 17 Damage total. Woot!

**Travis**

A hideous shriek erupted as an arrow passed into the front of the dark hood, impacting with a solid crunch where the figure's face would have been... However, as the impact from the arrow knocked back the hood and robe, it revealed a bloated grey body, not breathing but rather pulsing, a form comprised of wriggling feasting maggots, pulsing atop the thin flesh. As Centipedes and flies burst forth from the wound in its face, crawling from the hole in its forehead back inside the skull through its ear and eye sockets, the sagging skin seemed to form a loose grin. All who looked up to see this hideous visage had their sanity tested...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Thank Pelor.

**Travis**

Soren and Father Westpike steeled themselves against the creature, however...  
Rowena...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Natural 1.

**Travis**

Took 15 sanity damage and became frightened, the corpse feeding her fears reminding her of her father.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(stock scream from 'hem is awesome' – then terrified) Keep it away from me!

**Travis**

As fast as the maggot-ridden creature's hood fell it was upon Soren, slashing wildly at his arms, and spewing forth a stream of maggots, cockroaches, spiders, and vile black ichor, damaging him for 7 necrotic damage and 4 slashing damage. As the living stream of putrid life fell onto his beard and clothes, Soren was able to scrape them away before they could dig in further. His motions allowed him to dodge the reaching hands of the decaying woman, and the abomination with the empty glass stomach, while the bloated man's hands raked their bleeding fingernails uselessly across Father Westpikes darkening armor, sharpening the now-protruding bones.

**Peter (Soren)**

(sound of impact while being scratched) (disgusted grunt/scream as the maggot-ichor spews on him) Ahh! Ugh! Back fiend!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

(sound of Sindri dodging the bloated man's attack) Ahh!

**Travis**

From behind them, the sounds of a sickeningly raw meal being consumed could be heard from within the grave. Taking a moment to center himself, Father Westpike centered his mind, drew himself back and struck the abomination with his hammer, closing the gap where its stomach should be. A dull crack set free the upper half from its legs, as both segments fell to the ground...

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Brutal.

**Travis**

However the upper half is still alive, and begins clawing frantically at Sindri.



**Eypór (Sindri)**

(panicked) No, stop it!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(in combat, energetic/scared) Kick her down the hole!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

(panicked, in a fight) I think that... -I'm busy!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(in combat, to self) So I still have big shambling horror in my face. There's something bloody awful to my left, also on my right next to Soren. And lady cut in half by my cous.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Yeah.

**David (laus)**

This is not your best day!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*I disagree, I'm doing alright.* So I'm going to cast shatter approximately 10 ft in front of me, which should hit the shambling horror, and it should hit the big maggoty horrible mess that's in front of Soren as well without hitting either one of us. DC 15. 20 Damage on the fail.

**[HEM MAKE UP A BRIEF One-Line SONG FOR SHATTER. Make up a random tune and I'll put music to it. Make it sound epic!]**

**Travis**

The upper half of the abomination on the ground was shredded in a deafening explosion of sound and force and ceased twitching for good moments later. That same blast badly damaged many of the creatures on the maggot-ridden horror, and caused the desiccated woman to explode entirely. As her skin became a cloud of powder, Soren and Father Westpike's constitution was tested.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Sorry!*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Alright.

**Peter (Soren)**

No problem. 16 do?

**Travis**

However, thanks to the magic of Rowena's bardic inspiration, the fine mist didn't seem to affect either of them unfortunately. I mean fortunately... They were very, very fortunate.

**Travis**

As the ringing from the explosion faded from their ears, Sister Tsaveright Cavernsfall and Rowena Granitepike looked up from the carnage at the bloated corpse and the maggot-ridden fiend.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Wait, it's not dead? Fuck.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

The creature of maggots, great.

**David (laus)**

(disgusted) Now it's just spewing maggots everywhere, and worms, and earwigs, and silverfish. (disgusted sound) egh, I hate those.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

That's disgusting.

**Travis**

The creature still in shock from the shattering explosion, Sister Cavernsfall and laus Innskeep pressed their advantage and struck the creature in the head with a warhammer, breaking its neck, and stabbing it through the heart with the rapier. Its head still attached by skin, and the wound from the rapier producing little in the way of blood, the creature seemed hardly worse for wear.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(Sound of exertion during an attack)

**David (laus)**

(Sound of exertion during an attack)

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

6 damage. I don't do a lot of damage.

**David (laus)**

I did about the same... Plus an extra 9 for being a rugged rogue.

**Travis**

Flygia swung her flaming blade at the sickly bloated creature, but was forced to pull her attack to avoid a stream of vomit as grainy coagulated blood and phlegm left its nose and mouth. The creature lumbered forward recklessly toward Flygia, who was able to dodge out of the way.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

(sound of exertion while swinging sword and dodging an attack) Hmph! Whoh!

**Peter (Soren)**

I will go for maggots man, with my slayer's prey still active I think.

**Peter (Soren)**

A 16 to hit,

**Peter (Soren)**

And a 9 plus 6. So 15.

**Travis**

The keen eyes of Soren Arkwright saw a particularly large mass of insects wriggling within the flesh of the creature's shoulder and let loose a precise shot that devastated the creature, but failed to kill it. Enraged, the shambling mass pushed Father Westpike out of the way and swung toward what it perceived as the source of its damage... Rowena. Her mind swam with visions of her father as it flailed wildly toward her. The creature's bony claws and biting fingers brought her back to reality as they tore through her arm for 7 slashing and 7 necrotic damage, snapping her back to reality. She dodged the second swipe but was caught off-guard by a surprise wave of spewing maggots and worms.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Eww! (sound of being slashed on the arm)*

**Travis**

She's able to use her cloak to brush aside the insects with haste as the

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*(semi-comical loud freakout. Fast-paced though) Eww. Eww, eww this, er no, no eww, eww I don't like this. Gross.*

**David (Ilaus)**

*(talking loudly over combat) Relax, you're fine! Keep attacking!*

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*(talking loudly over the fighting taking place) No I'm not, I'm covered in maggots! This is gross, how is this fine?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Father Westpike is gonna bring down his holy hammer, no wait he's going to cure his cousin!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

**[Please make up a short 1-2 line prayer in Icelandic involving Light or Pelor, and make this intense battle-prayer as you're in a fight.]** 13 healing!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*Ah, you're my hero!*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

(to the maggot fiend) Why don't you pick on someone your own size, Maggot-fiend!

**Travis**

As the light left Sindri's hands and mended Rowena's wounds, he pushed himself between Rowena and the monster.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*(Sing something, this or something else. I'll put notes behind it, but it has to be sung) Something about you's tell me's beware, but it doesn't mean I don't care!*

**Travis**

Extending a hand toward Soren, Rowena's magic began to heal the worst of his wounds.

**Peter (Soren)**

Oh I appreciate that.

**Peter (Soren)**

Thanks.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

*You're welcome, you're still a bit weird, and a bit off but you're welcome.*

**Peter (Soren)**

I understand.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

So... Rowena is going to activate her shroud, so the cloak on her shoulders is literally going to just come alive, fly off her back, and start wailing down on the maggot creature.

**Travis**

The color drained from Rowena's face as she permanently lost three hit points, and the leathery shroud moved with a life of its own toward the maggot-fiend.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(during lose 3 hp) WHAT?!

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

I'm still at disadvantage right?

**Travis**

Actually, this doesn't have disadvantage, this is not you technically.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Cool! Yeah but I know what this is, this is terrifying.

**Travis**

It gives 0 f's.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Well it was a natural 20, so.

**Travis**

The creature was immediately crushed as the cloak folded itself around the largest mass of the swarm and crushed it into a pulp before returning back to Rowena's shoulders, none the worse for wear. The remaining insects at the feet of the team chitter and scatter as they're crushed underfoot by a vengeful Sister Cavernsfall and laus Innskeep, who aided in the crushing of everything except the silverfish, because he secretly feared those the worst.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

So do I lose that off my maximum hit points?

**Travis**

Yes.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

Oh dear, maybe I can't do this 29 more times. I, I kind of look about hoping that nobody nearby noticed that.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm staring at you with glaring eyes. We'll have a talk about this once we're done with whatever that thing is!

**Travis**

Remembering the remaining threat, Sister Cavernsfall came to the aid of Flygia and struck at the bulk of the remaining bloated shambler for 4 damage. Following suit, laus cut a bloody swath across the back of the creature, putrefying black liquids bubbling from the wound and causing 13 damage.

**David (laus)**

(sound of exertion as they attack and hit)

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(sound of exertion as they attack and hit)

**David (laus)**

That's kind of gross.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Only kinda?

**David (laus)**

Okay... It's extremely disgusting... but I've seen worse.

**Travis**

The monster distracted by its new attackers, Flygia used the opportunity to pierce it through the middle with her flaming blade and pulled up along its torso, slicing it very nearly in half.

**David (laus)**

Does, does all the black liquid become...

**Peter (Soren)**

(lightly disgusted and joking at the same time) Yeah I was.. ...was just thinking that. Gross...

**David (laus)**

...going up like a massive christmas tree.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

A fiery christmas tree.

**David (laus)**

A fiery christmas tree... For Wiccans...

**Travis**

As the putrid bubbling flesh caught on fire and sent a choking smoke around them, the entire party's constitution was tested as the burning black liquid made its way toward their lungs.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Oops.

**Travis**

All but Rowena seemed unaffected by the smoke.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(*Intense Coughing*) *That's, -fuck mine.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

What have I done?

**Travis**

The black smoke burned Rowena's tongue, burned her cheeks, burned her lungs... And all at once she began to feel very dizzy, and the world began to fade from view.

**Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)**

(intense coughing) Ugh...