

## Chapter 5 – First Watch

### Travis

As the combat concluded, the world-weary adventurers were forced to test their endurance and constitution against fatigue, at disadvantage... However, the team found themselves able to carry on uninhibited, all, that is, except for Father Westpike, who's old age and limp did not agree with the journey. Exhausted after the long night, he could feel his bones creaking even as he cast a healing spell on Rowena, helping the vile ailment pass over the next minute.

### Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

(waking up) Thanks for your help cuz, (cough cough) but you look tired... Am I stressing you out?

### Eypór (Sindri)

"Hmm. Alright, well I guess that you can all clearly see the passage of time on my face..." Father Westpike's body kind of stoops alot more now. And the limp that he has, that he usually really tries to hide is becoming very pronounced, now that the fatigue is setting in... "The bear trap probably didn't help."

### Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Please say it was on the other leg.

### Eypór (Sindri)

Then I'd have a double limp!

### Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

It's, it's not a limp if you like just have to take your steps further apart than normal. It's just a slower gate.

### Travis

Speaking of gates, Rowena...--

### Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

--Ok this is gonna be a good side, go on.

### Travis

As she came to her senses, Rowena looked down at her body as she put her shirt back on and noted that some of the veins on her arms were more pronounced than she previously remembered, a deeper blue arteries beneath paling skin. As she smiled at Father Westpike and took a step away to dust herself off and put her glimmering sword away, she thought that she could detect a faint whisper.

### Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Hell yeah!

**Travis**

Rowena detected that the whisper was not a sense coming from her ears but a sensation of resonation within her very mind.

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

Yeah, I'll, I'll give it a listen. What's the worst that could happen?

**Travis (*Speaking as BotN*)**

By centering herself, she began to more clearly detect the faint traces of thoughts becoming louder and louder, until finally she could hear a powerful voice:

(WCII Paladin style Accent) "Who dares disturb my slumber?"

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

*Me?*

**Travis (*Speaking as BotN*)**

"Thou art a dwarf."

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

*Yup, I'm a dwarf, strong and true. What the fuck are you?*

**Travis (*Speaking as BotN*)**

"The ages have been unkind, I am 'Shali os si Thysyrael'! Bane of the nameless."

(Shah-lee Os see Thigh-s-ray-eel)

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

*Oh, you're me sword?*

**Travis (*Speaking as BotN*)**

"I am that which you hold, but belong to no mortal."

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

I look down at the sword. *Are you the reason my arms are looking a bit weird?*

**Travis (*Speaking as BotN*)**

"That is not my doing... I suspect it to be the corrupting influence of the Silent One's relic."

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

Ah right, right yeah. Hmm.

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

"Do you seek my aid?"

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Yeah, I mean if it's a way to take evil down, why the hell not?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

As Rowena is now talking to herself in Elven... I am slowly creeping towards Rowena holding her, -I think she had a coat over the sword? And I'm gonna like, put it over the sword and try to take it out of her hands.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*No no no no no no look look, I think I'm onto something cool, just give me a moment. Yeah, we're looking to hurt the nameless god! Some cultists kidnapped children from our village and we're trying to rescue them before they're... Before something bad happens to them! (to the team) -I'm just talking to my sword, don't worry about it. It's no biggie.*

**David (laus)**

(loud whisper mocking Rowena) I liked her better when she just played music.

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

"Then you must seek the gate known as "Et-ya- ca-day-erae", just up ahead. Once the children pass beneath its shadow time shall pass differently and they shall be lost forever."

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm pulling on the sword a little bit harder now. Like come, come on.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

I, I put my hand against his forehead cause he's a little bit shorter than I am. *No no, wait a minute. I'm, I'm looking for a gate? You said that time moves differently beyond the gate, like slower or faster?*

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

*"It moves differently for all, but always faster for those who pass beyond."*

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Oh right, that's, that's good news for the little ones. What am I looking for in particular?*

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

"A light up ahead."

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Just got to follow a light?*

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

"Yes. Simply seal the old gate with blood so that the nameless evil cannot be released. This you must do for the sake of the world, no matter the cost."

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Is this light, gonna be there like right now? Or in a little bit? Because no offense to my cousin here, but he's kind of a little bit knackered and old.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Don't talk about...

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*He's kind of got a...*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

... me to the sword! Please don't.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Oh I'm sorry, I'm feeling really knackered and old and tired and I might need a sleep. And I just wink at my cousin like over the top. Do we have to go right now or...?*

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

"You may take time to lick your wounds, but tarry not for too long... Hours here could be mere seconds once you pass the shadow of the gate, but that time could be crucial toward--"

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*--Alright, cool. Would you stop talking to me if I let go of you?*

**Travis (Speaking as BotN)**

"It would—"

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

Awesome, I drop the sword.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Right.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

Then I turn to look back at everyone else.

**Travis**

The shining blade clattered harmlessly to the ground.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Father Westpike like kind, just scoots it a little bit away from her with his feet. Ok.

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

*Right, that's a sword called, Bane of the Nameless One. I don't know if I told you when I threw it up at you, you should have used the sword, it's really cool. Yeah, it's said it's, it's, if I'm looking for the bane of the nameless, the nameless one. Bane of the Nameless, looking for a gate a bit further on, should be marked by a bit of a light. Good news though, he said, it said, that time moves slowly, differently on the other side. So, we've got time.*

**David (Ilaus)**

Good.

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

*We need to rest up. Well you need to rest up. And I'll punch my cousin on the shoulder.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Hecks yeah we need to rest up! I want some sleep.

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

We all do.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I'm tired.

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

*I'm exhausted, I've got virtually no magic left.*

**David (Ilaus)**

I'll take first watch.

**Peter (Soren)**

We're still in the middle of a graveyard, and the crunching sounds coming from the grave a mere seven feet away from us won't make for a pleasant lullaby.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Let's go somewhere else, just rest...

**David (Ilaus)**

The ground is also still bleeding.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh god. There was a second house we hadn't yet excavated, how about we go check it out now? Away, away from the mimic.

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

*That's a really good idea. I'm gonna pick my shirt back up and kind of put it back under my armor and like, fiddle about a bit, and pick up my sword.*

**Travis**

Illuminated by flaming sword in the hands of Flygia the witch, Rowena picked up the sword carefully and affixed it to her hip.

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

*I have to say, Lady of Bunnies, that is the greatest sword I've ever seen.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Thank you.

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

*You're welcome.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Is it natural for...

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

*And really, really useful.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Is it natural for you to conjure up weapons?

**Kessi (Flygia)**

What?

**David (Ilaus)**

Does anyone think that we ought to kill this mimic, cause we know that actually came out of the grave before?

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

*Oh right yeah...*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yeah.

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

*Does anyone got any arrows, or oil?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I think we definitely should leave it alone.

**Travis**

As if on cue, the mimic, now in the form of a bloated and battered wooden chest with prehensile tendrils, carefully pulled itself up from the grave and began to slink away from the group.

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

*Get it!*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I think it ate enough for today.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I am assuming.

**Peter (Soren)**

A 15.

**David (laus)**

15 as well, with my crossbow.

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

Whoa, damn son.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Meanwhile Father Westpike is trying to usher those who do not have ranged weapons out of the graveyard, looking scornfully at laus and Soren.

**Travis**

The first arrow from Soren pierced one of the mimic's legs, crippling it as the bolt from laus' crossbow connected with a small glass vial hanging from the creature's teeth. In a remarkable display for fire and blood, the mimic spontaneously exploded, spewing goo everywhere, as well as the partially digested remains of the hairless creature, which spread across the ground in a gory soup.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

The look of scorn turns into a look of awe as the mimic explodes. Oh, well done. Mimics are not creatures that we want around. That was surprisingly effective. Well I hope to see this display of skills in combats in the future.

**Peter (Soren)**

Soren is wearing the much the same look, and just sort of subtly puts his bow away.

**Travis**

Father Sindri Westpike led the team to the other building which lie in shambled ruination. As he wiped a thick grime from the window he saw into the room beyond, a single chamber encrusted with a black and red gelatinous goo. Chunks of what looked like flesh and globulus paste or blood seemed to have exploded outward from a central point within the room among shards of broken glass that glittered the floor. Along the edges of the red walls were leathery bits, stuck to bundles of hairy strands, perhaps bloodied hair or bile-covered sinew. Something horrible clearly happened here.

**David (Ilaus)**

Right I'm going to sleep in the grave.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Father Westpike looks pleadingly at the group, then looks towards the inn.

**Peter (Soren)**

Was there anything wrong with the inn, other than the smell of it?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

You want to sleep in the place that smell like it was filled with death?

**Peter (Soren)**

Because we do have that potion of clear air, or whatever it is.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

How long does it last?

**David (Ilaus)**

It lasts as long as we need it too.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

And there's more than enough for everyone!

**David (Ilaus)**

It lasts for about 7 hours, so as long as, as long as we don't mind getting up a little bit early, should be fine.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Ah that's the thing... You see I...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I, I don't know, but I will just follow everybody else because I will not camp by myself.

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



*So are we only worried about not staying in that place behind us because it looked like someone exploded?*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm assuming...

**Peter (Soren)**

That's why I'm worried about staying in it yes.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

The sticky goo covers everything in there, and I bet it's a nightmare to get off your clothing.

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

*Because any, any one who's like a novice magic user should be able to clean that, I mean I can,. It'll take a while, but I can do it.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

(joking) Is that disperse evil and good? Or perhaps repel stains?

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

*No it's a little spell called prestidigitation.*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Ok I don't know that.

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

*It's a spell that basically allows you to clean a foot of something at a time. I mean I could give it a good--*

**David (laus)**

Lemme me just get this straight, we got that shack which can have, which can house 2 of us.

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

*Yup.*

**David (laus)**

We got the other house that had something in a cart.

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

*Bunch of corpses, yup.*

**Peter (Soren)**

Bodies.

**David (laus)**

Have we checked....

**Eypór (Sindri)**

You remember the cart.

**David (laus)**

... that those thing weren't the thing that attacked us earlier?

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

*No. Now you say it like that, it seems like a really smart idea.*

**David (laus)**

Well....

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

*Well, if they're in a cart we could just push them out right?*

**David (laus)**

Yeah you would have thought.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I guess so.

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

*I mean, I'm not gonna, cause it's gross, but sure.*

**David (laus)**

Yeah. And we got an open grave with nothing in it! We can shove 'em in there.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

And we can push the cart over it so it has a lid!

**David (laus)**

So I say we go back to that building there. I'm not going in the inn, because it has like 5 pages of descriptions.

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

*Seems like a plan...*

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Yeah, let's do it.

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

*... I'd rather not go into that place because what's his name, Cave, cove, dave?*

**David (laus)**

Coal.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Coal.

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

*Coal, right. Said we should go in there and he sodded off so glad I'm not going anywhere he's telling us to go.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Maybe he's just at the inn, maybe he's waiting for us.

**David (laus)**

Yeah, he's got the honeymoon suite ready.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I don't believe what I just said, I'm just trying to be optimistic.

**David (laus)**

Right, let's go back to that building then.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright, if we need somebody to push a wheelbarrow full of dead bodies let's go do this.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Oh God.

**Travis**

laus lead the team to the structure with the corpse cart. The smell got worse as the team got closer, but having faced greater foes mere minutes prior Sister Cavernsfall, laus and Father... ah nope, westpike was actually a little bit tired...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Father Westpike would try to help, even if he's tired.

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

*No no, you're, you're tired, let them do it, you've done more than enough.*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

No...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

And not, not to be rude to the dead bodies, I am going to poke them before I start moving the thing they're laying. Cause I don't need them trying to get up and stop me from moving their cart.

**Peter (Soren)**

I'll assist. Let's do this. (sound of exertion as he pushes a heavy cart)

**David (laus)**

(sound of exertion as he pushes a heavy cart)

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(sound of exertion as she pushes a heavy cart)

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

*Like I said, just let them do it.*

**Travis**

Moving the cart proved to be more of an ordeal than anticipated, between the mud, a mal-aligned wheel, and various roots that seemed to hide just beneath the mud. As they neared the edge of the graveyard one of the wheels broke entirely, forcing the team to push and drag the cart the rest of the way through the mire. They eventually reached the edge of the intended grave and carefully deposited the corpses into the hole, practically filling it. The team had one final challenge in flipping the cart on top of the grave, but avoided fatiguing themselves in the process.

**David (laus)**

I am also thinking, that I've got 50ft of rope, so I am going to use that rope to tie around a nice ring, as big as I can, trip wire around said grave in case anything comes along.

**Travis**

With incredible care and skill, laus created a very intricate perimeter around the main grave, while using stones, shrubs, and scraps of cloth and mud to conceal it. The rope ended up around shin level, for a human... around hip level for a dwarf.

**David (laus)**

Excellent. Oh and I've got a bell as well, so I'll just put that on here just in case.

**Travis**

Well the bodies in the ground and a perimeter set up, the team again found themselves inside of the empty abode, the stench of decay partly abated by the missing sections of wall. Form inside they noted that they had cover from rain and that the ground underfoot was solid

and dry.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I'm assuming that Father Westpike is mumbling something along the don't treat me like a withered bag of bones, I can do this myself. As Rowena is helping him take off the chainmail.

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

Yeah, she's just, she's not taking any of this crap. *She's like No, no, don't worry about it! I mean yes you're getting old, and yes you're a miserable old bag right now, but don't worry about it! I mean you know, you've had your time, no ok I shouldn't say that. I mean, you've done more than enough time...*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

I can, I can, I can undress myself. Lady!

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*I'm sure, sure you can! But I'm just giving you, there's no, no point you know, there's no harm in accepting help from people who you know, care. So you know its... you know. I don't think any less of you just because, you know, you're struggling a little bit. And you know, your knees are crinking and old and you took a bear trap to the leg...*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Ah, the chainmail is getting caught in my beard! Please be careful!

**Hem (Speaking as Rowena)**

*Well if you stop wiggling!*

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Well if you stop pulling for a second please!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

So while that's going on, who's gonna be on watch with me?

**David (Ilaus)**

I will!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright.

**Travis**

Everyone else I'm assuming goes to sleep?

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Hecks yeah!

**Peter (Soren)**

Sure, I can take next watch.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

How will we be breaking up the watch?

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

*We should do it in pairs.*

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yeah in pairs, so who's after us? Soren and...?

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I will go if I must.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Alright.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

And then I'm assuming Father Westpike and Rowena take the last?

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

Yup.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Or how are we doing this?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

How long does everybody have to rest?

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

Oh.... yeah.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

8 hours. That's the rules, so it's 4 4 4?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yup.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

12 hours or more? Alright.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Half a day of sitting in a disgusting shed.

**Travis**

On first watch was Sister Cavernsfall and laus Innskeep. As the others prepared themselves for sleep they consumed 1 day of trail rations, drank water, and took off their armor.

**David (laus)**

By the way guys, if you hear the shrieking rock, then wake up.

**Travis**

Given the easiest task of taking first watch, both laus and Sister Cavernsfall had no difficulty remaining awake and focused...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

And then, at one point I'm going to take out the little mechanical bird that I have and start talking to him.

**Travis**

To clarify, was Sister Cavernsfall doing anything else on watch besides generally looking out and being quiet and maybe talking to her mechanical bird?... For your 4 hours.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I don't know, generally just keeping a watch is a good idea, so that we don't get snuck up on.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I'm gonna be specifically looking for 2 or 3 glowing eyes, because you said previously that the thing lost an eye, so maybe it only has 2 now.

**David (laus)**

Well it has sockets where it just puts the eyes, -the eyeballs themselves.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yeah, so it could have just stolen another animal eye, cause that's a total normal thing to do. So yeah I'm going to be looking out for that and I'm actually gonna use up all of my divine sense while I'm doing this because...

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Hmmm.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

... get a better perception of an evil approaching. And I'm going to be resting Surveillance. TRANSCRIPTION NOTE – I have no idea what is said here.

**Travis**

As this happened, what did laus Innskeep find himself doing?

**David (laus)**

I'm just going to be watching I've nothing else... I've got no magical wonders to do.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

You don't have books of like poetry to read or anything? I could lend you Islands of Passion perhaps.

**David (laus)**

Hard pass... Just listening for that distant tinkle.

**Peter (Soren)**

Just listening for that distant tinkle.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Oh, yeah I guess I'm gonna pray, cause that's what I do, I'm like a god person.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Like an afterthought.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

That's gonna give laus something to bitch about.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

You're asleep!

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Shut up, you're asleep!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yeah... So Divine Sense is a brief evil-detecting sonar I'll use from time to time until I run out...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

This is my evil sonar.

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

Bing.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Oh yeah, this place is evil.



**Kaitlin (Sister)**

But yeah, I'm going to pray to Ilmater, for, to relieve the suffering of all of those we just threw into the grave, and to forgive me for causing suffering to others. For all the stuff because I'm probably going to be murdering some more people in the future...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

It's a silent prayer, that's why I'm not actually saying anything out loud...

**David (Ilaus)**

Yeah that's cool.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

And then I pull out my bird, little Siggy...

**Travis**

Ilaus watched in confusion as his companion pulled out a strange little creature, a canary of metal and bone inside of a gnomish style caged-lamp. As Sister Cavernsfall began to whisper to the small bird, Ilaus became increasingly concerned for her sanity and his own well-being, but overcame these concerns...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(singing whisper) Siggy, siggy, can you hear me?

**David (Ilaus)**

I thought I might be the one going insane here, but then I realized I'm not the one talking to an owl!

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

It's a canary! And his name is name is Ole Siggy.

**David (Ilaus)**

You know what, after all, after what I've seen so far today, it's really nothing.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

So, Siggy can give me information about evil things, so... "Do you think everything's going ok? And am I going on the right path."

**Travis (Speaking as Ole Siggy)**

"You do just work, justly. What is danger, but it is all around you. What is your question specific?"

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Ok, how much evil do you see in our path between us and the children?

**Travis (Speaking as Ole Siggy)**

"It cannot be seen for it is not of this plane. They are not on this plane, they are beyond, in the world beyond... They are not dead."

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

He's being all cryptic, so I'm just gonna be like "go back to sleep". Put a little towel on top of his cage like you do for all birds when you put them away.

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

That's adorable.

**Travis (*Speaking as Ole Sigg*)**

"Great dangers await!" It rasped as she put the hood over its cage. Unable to hear the whispering of Old Sigg, Ilaus found himself distracted by a different sound, the muted wet patter of feet running across the wet ground. As he stared off into the distance, he thought he could just barely make out a small dwarven child with thick dark hair running off in the distance. He couldn't be certain, but he briefly thought that it might be his missing son.

**David (Ilaus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Hey... Um, Sister Whats-her-face... Uh, Roweena.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

It's Cavernsfall!

**David (Ilaus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

That's the one yeah. Cavernsfall. I'm pretty sure I saw my son, or one of the other missing kids run from the graves back the way we came.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Towards the Inn?

**David (Ilaus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Yeah.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Alright, so, my, I know that you probably think that might be your kid, but it's probably more likely it's a trap.

**David (Ilaus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

You know, I, I, as much as I love my child, my Baron, aged 12 dwarf, who's really good natured, I can't help thinking it probably *is* a trap.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Alright, so we're just gonna to stay here and protect the sleeping people. Yeah?

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

...But then again, you get to believe in your strange silly things that probably aren't there, why can't I believe in mine?

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Because my strange things that probably weren't there, were there before all this craziness started, but that running dwarven-dark-shadow-child that just ran by: that's probably the shadow demon that keeps taking the forms of all these different bad guys to lure you and then stab you. Do you remember getting stabbed? Because you got stabbed. Maybe you're seeing things because you've lost so much blood.

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Yeah, and, and we know it likes picking us off one by one. That's true. Could I at least just stick my head around the corner and shout for him?

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Stand right here and shout for him, maybe?

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Yeah. It's probably a bad idea.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

You said that he was a good natured child...

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

He is a very good natured child.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

... so does he usually, does he usually go running at full speed across...

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Yeah he probably don't...

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

... a muddy, bloody field?

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

... he probably doesn't expect his father to be right there, though, hiding in some abandoned shack.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Well then you shouldn't expect him to be running through a bloody field.

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Fair.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

There you go,. Let's not get murdered, yet.

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

... So what sort of stones do you suppose make up this chimney?

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Oh, let me tell you...

**Travis**

A few hours passed...

**Kaitlin (Sister) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

And that's how we use levels of lead-poisoning to determine what generation the deceased inhabitants of the Apelloko Islands are.

**David (laus) (THIS SCENE IS MUTED WHISPERS)**

Hmm, that actually reminds me of a story about one of the constellations the first navigators used to find the Apelloko Islands but... Oh, maybe next watch because it's time for the next group... Psst, Flygia (Fill-gee-uh)?

**Kessi (Flygia) (waking up but still a badass witch)**

Yes?

**David (laus) (Moving toward normal room voice)**

Oh Bunny-lady of Zarketh, it's yours and Soren's watch.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Ah, thanks...

**David (laus) (moving toward normal room voice)**

Oh. By the way guys, there's some spooky shadow children that might or might not be running around.

**Peter (Soren)**

OK.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Spooky shadow children, that doesn't sound good.

**David (laus)**

And there's some binny here that likes to talk to a, an owl. Canary thing.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

It's a canary.

**David (Ilaus)**

Yeah well...

**Peter (Soren)**

You're going to have to be more specific, that could be any of us.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I like talking to animals. I understand that.

**David (Ilaus)**

Yeah but it's not real though. It's-

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Well what does it matter if it's real or not? If she likes talking to animals...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

She talked to a sword earlier and everyone was like yeah that's totally normal.

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

As Rowena rolls over she pulls the sword a little closer to herself.

**Peter (Soren)**

Well when Ilaus and Cavernsfall came to get Soren, he appeared to be sleeping upright against one of the walls with one of his eyes completely open. And he was spinning a dagger in his hand which appear to have created a small pool of blood from no discernable source on the floor.

But all that's over now.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Yeah, me talking to my bird, not the weirdest thing going on.

**Travis**

With that, Sister Cavernsfall and Ilaus Innskeep unfurled their sleeping bags and set off to slumber while Soren and Flygia moved to take watch...

**Peter (Soren)**

I'd like to see first if it's structurally stable enough for me to get on the roof and just have a look around for any figures in the distance.

**Travis**

Soren was able to confirm this with a mere cursory glance. The building appeared to be sturdy, despite the damage done to it over the last few decades.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I've already pulled out m journal because I'm going to write everything that we experienced today, cause I like doing that. And I try to listen if I hear anything since my eyes are occupied. I keep my ears open.

**Travis**

As Flygia wrote the date into the margin, she glanced up to notice Soren walk toward the exterior wall and make a gesture to show his intent to climb the wall.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Do your thing dude.

**Travis**

Soren's climb required an athletics check.

**Peter (Soren)**

Absolutely, 20 looks like.

**Travis**

Despite the rain soaking his footholds, Soren, the ever-experienced climber was able to located easy footholds thanks to the uneven nature of the building's construction. He was able to reach the roof without difficulty. However, with the stress of the day weighing on his conscience, he had to make a sanity check to see what his next actions might be.

**Peter (Soren)**

Absolutely. So 8.

**Travis**

As Soren, completely in control of himself, reached the roof, Flygia, who's character flaw was that she was always prone to falling asleep and hated taking watch, required a constitution check.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Natural 20.

**Travis**

Despite her natural disposition toward slumber, she found journaling to be surprisingly exciting, given the events of the past few days. She did this with the ability to be aware of her surroundings while Soren looked off into the mist below. The fog had gotten more heavy and he thought he could see swirling shapes visible just beyond vision. Visibility below was reduced to 40ft and dropping but beyond the swirling shadows that kept their distance from the building he

could not discern anything with a perception check.

**Peter (Soren)**

Hmmm.

**Peter (Soren)**

Yeah, let me see if I can peer any deeper into the mist here. A 16 plus 5.

**Travis**

Soren is able to discern three glowing eye sockets coming from the shifting shape within the fog.

**Peter (Soren)**

I'm debating calling out to Flygia (Fill-Gee-uh) or perhaps trying to shoot a fire-arrow at the creature... I'm just gonna stare at it so I don't lose track while slowly notching an arrow.

**Travis**

As he stared into the face of the Silent One it stared back... And he needed to make a Charisma saving throw.

**Peter (Soren)**

Sure thing. Like an 11.

**Travis**

Soren's focus wavered as he started hearing chanting whispers. Soft at first, but growing in intensity with each passing moment. He began to notice a stench of decaying rot accompanied by these whispers and the sound of buzzing. Then, suddenly he found himself down on the ground level, standing next to Flygia who was facing away, reading her book, only, he found that his hand was gripping her scalp and his knife was at her throat. Before she could react, a growing sea of crimson began to pool down her throat. Soren noticed the knife, the sticky red, dripping in his hand, small flecks of warm flesh clinging to his arms all the way down past the elbow. It was at that moment that he noticed it, the cruel smile on his face visible in the reflection of the knife. The spatter of blood present on his face, in his hair. The laughter grew from within Soren but he recognized the voice not to be his own...

Then, he woke up and found the laughter was coming not from him but from somewhere far off. Soren was no longer on the roof, but was now next to the graves deep within the mist. Unsure of his relation to the rest of the team, he found himself utterly alone... That is until he saw a swift motion to his left...

**Peter (Soren)**

Oh boy. Can I do a feel position check, is that...?

**Travis**

Soren took 20 stress damage from failing the earlier check. Unsure if he murdered the

team, Soren began to search his hands for blood and found none.

**Peter (Soren)**

My hands are sort of shaking, and I'm gonna try and just shake it off and get them to stop. And immediately turn to my left and try and identify the figure that I feel, or see.

**Travis**

Soren's shaking ceased all at once... And as he turned he found himself staring up into the featureless face... Beyond the three gaping holes were severed eyes, glowing a dull magical crimson reminiscent of Flygia's blood.

**Peter (Soren)**

I'd like to wave at it.

**Travis**

It raised its hand mimicry, waving back at Soren.

**Peter (Soren)**

I'd like to say "do you seek him" but not as a question, just as a statement.

**Travis**

Soren could hear the words repeated back in his head in Infernal, though the creature lacked a mouth. Da Haff Wick Mah.

**Peter (Soren)**

I nod.

**Travis**

The creature nodded with him.

**Peter (Soren)**

Hmmm.

**Peter (Soren)**

Man I'm, I'm not sure what to do exactly.

**Travis**

...As Soren stared deeper into the sockets they appeared to glow brighter, forcing Soren to make a Wisdom Saving throw.

**Peter (Soren)**

Sure thing. It's a 14.

**Travis**



His vision began to swim.... As, somewhere far off into the mist Flygia finished her journal entry for the night.

**Kessi (Flygia) (Reading slowly what she's writing)**

And then we threw bodies in a grave... And put a lid on top of it!

**Travis**

Soren descended the wall and walked back into the camp.

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

Uh oh.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Ok. I nod at him as he passed by.

**Travis**

Soren nodded and silently sat down in the corner, and gazed outside, playing with his dagger, spinning it.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Did you see anything, Soren?

**Peter (Soren) – distant, as if under mind control**

He shakes his head. "The mist is growing thicker, it's difficult to see."

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Ok.

**Peter (Soren) – distant, as if under mind control**

Everything's fine though, we can continue our watch.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Yes. I'm going to read Island of Passion. Keep an eye out there for me.

**David (laus) – Joking, snoring and asleep**

A good choice. I hear that one's popular.

**Travis**

Ok. I really was not expecting this many to fail at once, I'm sorry for what's about to happen, guys...

**Peter (Soren)**

That's another 5 pages of script gone.

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Added!

**Travis**

Mid way through the chapter about the Chief's Son, Soren stood up and walked past Flygia's view...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Perception. Hold on. Yeah ok, I have 22.

**Travis**

Flygia was able to casually follow his motions with her eyes while she briefly feigned reading. Soren approached the sleeping form of Sister Cavernsfall and for what seemed like a minute he stared at her, standing right over her unconscious form. His face inched closer and closer, until they were only a breath apart. He continued to study her for a minute, perhaps two, before moving to Father Westpike and doing the same thing, then Rowena, then laus. Finally, satisfied with whatever he was doing, Soren nodded to himself with a smile and gave a casual wave to Flygia.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

At me? Weird. I act like I'm still reading my book and don't notice him.

**Travis**

Satisfied that Flygia couldn't see him, Soren turned back toward Sister Cavernsfall... and started stabbing her in the chest.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

What?! I instantly get up.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(Muffled cry as she's stabbed)

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Oh fantastic.

**Travis**

Roll for initiative.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

Wait, wait, wait, initiative. What? Where? How?

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Shit, Shit.

**Travis**

20 sided dice. Sister Cavernsfall was stabbed in the chest multiple times with a knife for 11 damage.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I have 16...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I just, I got a nat 20 on initiative. It doesn't matter because...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

You just got awake instantly.

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

Being stabbed in the chest will do that to you.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I'm awake!

**Travis**

Sister Tsavorite Cavernsfall was enjoying a dream where she finished the church of Ilmater's hope. Mayor Delvin Brighthope and citizens of the Hope were all in attendance for its first ceremony, commemorating the one year return of the children. As a surprise, the villagers had gotten together and were naming the church the Cavernsfall church, in honor of their hero. The children were dancing the streets and-

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I have weird dreams.

**Travis**

-Dancing in the streets, and throwing flowers into the air when suddenly Sister Cavernsfall felt a shooting pain in her chest. As her eyes tore open and her breathing became difficult, her mouth opened in shock as she saw Soren Arkwright standing over her with a dagger, continuing his onslaught.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(gasping while being stabbed) Gods!

**Travis**

Without armor to dull the attack, the only thing keeping her from death was the bone that the blade caught with each wild cut.

**Kaitlin (Sister) (hurried, in combat, stabbed)**

Ilmater give me the strength to Divine smite...

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

You're going to smite him?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

If he has an evil thing in him, yes I'm going to smite him!

**Eypór (Sindri)**

Please smite him, he's stabbing!

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

It's not his fault!

**David (laus)**

We're still asleep.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I just woke up from a fantastic dream and I'm being stabbed by some human guy...

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

For the love of god, can someone scream...

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

... anyone?

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

And that was a nat 20 on my smite!

**Travis**

What?! And smote he was...

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

Sorry, but also not because you're stabbing me. 17 Damage.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

(weak scream of attack)

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall picked up her warhammer and swung upward in a blinding arc. (scream) With one of her lungs punctured, Sister Cavernsfall found it difficult to breathe, much less scream, but the flash of light knocked Soren back. Vision still swimming, adjusting to the blinding flash, Sister Cavernsfall thought that she could see a faint ripple under his skin as it briefly turned black before re-adjusting itself back to its normal pale color. Dagger, poised, ready to strike again...

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I tackle him! (sound of exertion as Flygia tackles Soren) (sound of exterior as Flygia is slashed across the arm with a knife)

**Peter (Soren)**

(Sound of exertion as he's hit with a warhammer in the chest... Then another sound as he's tackled by Flygia) Ugh... Gah!

**Travis**

Before he could recover and attack again, Flygia tackled Soren from behind, knocking him to the ground with a loud thud that woke up the remaining party... Soren struggled, slashed out with the dagger, biting into Flygia's forearm. AS their eyes locked, Flygia needed to make a Wisdom Saving Throw.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

22.

**Travis**

Soren's fierce gaze broke, and just as quickly as he attacked, he fled off into the darkness and rain, pursued by Flygia... Now back to the top of the round, Sister Cavernsfall's lungs burned fiercely.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

I could heal myself or... man, how long does it take to don armor, how many rounds?

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

10 minutes.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

More rounds than this thing will take to escape.

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

100 rounds, yeah.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

... I have many wounds in my chest and a compressed lung, I'm gonna heal myself. I'm clearly in shock and my priorities are out of sorts.

**Travis**

Sister Cavernsfall began to silently pray and lay hands upon herself, the red cord from her holy symbol, spreading out across her chest like a network, sewing and mending her skin back together. As the cord finished sealing the last of her wounds, it slowly moved to wind itself back the holy symbol of Ilmater in her hands.

**Kaitlin (Sister)**

And I take a huge gasping breath. (coughs up blood and recovers)

**Travis**

Her lungs healed, Sister Cavernsfall could breathe again, after expelling a few breaths of congealing dark liquids. Meanwhile Flygia was pursued her quarry deeper into the mist.

**Kessi (Flygia)**

I try to stop him, maybe grab his arm or something, whatever to keep him from escaping.

**Travis**

Flygia was able to slam into Soren, knocking him into the mud. As she began to move on top of him and began a flurry of punches, a flash of metal cut her arm again, forcing her to relent. With a final hate filled glare, Soren fled further into the fog. Ilaus, however, appeared next to Flygia, crossbow in hand and watched as from his perspective Soren seemed to chase after something in the distance...

**David (Ilaus)**

Can I see the something he's after?

**Travis**

Ilaus could not discern what Soren might be chasing.

**David (Ilaus) (hollering to Soren)**

"Soren, stop!"

**Travis**

Soren continues to run.

**Kessi (Flygia) (flustered)**

That is not the Soren we know! Shoot him!

**David (Ilaus)**

And I pull out my crossbow.

**Kessi (Flygia) (flustered)**

... He tried to kill Cavernsfall!

**Peter (Soren)**

Soren Yelled back: "That's not Flygia! She's a doppler!"

**Kessi (Flygia) (flustered)**

He's the Doppler!

**Travis**

At the last possible moment, laus took the shot, which found its home in the back of Soren's leg... He could not see how much damage it inflicted as Soren vanished into the mist.