

Blood and Silk

A Starter Adventure for Fate's Edge

An Introduction to Exile, Redemption, and Second Chances

Adventure Type: Village Defense

Designed for 4-6 players, Rookie characters (0-40 XP)

Game Master's Guide Included

Featuring Pre-generated Characters
Simple Clock Management
Asset Building Through Heroism
Mutual Connections and Bonds

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Session 0: Personalizing Your Exile | 3 |
| 2 | Introduction | 3 |
| 2.1 | Welcome to Acasia | 3 |
| 2.2 | Adventure Overview | 3 |
| 3 | The Story So Far | 3 |
| 3.1 | The Exiles of Silkstrand | 3 |
| 3.2 | Millhaven: A Village in Peril | 4 |
| 4 | Pre-Generated Characters | 4 |
| 4.1 | Character Creation Philosophy | 4 |
| 5 | Session 1: Trouble in Millhaven | 7 |
| 5.1 | Opening Scene: The Wrong Place at the Wrong Time | 7 |
| 5.2 | Key Encounters | 8 |
| 5.3 | Campaign Clocks | 9 |
| 5.4 | Clock Advancement | 9 |
| 5.5 | Session 1 Resolution | 9 |
| 6 | Session 2: The Village Fights Back | 9 |
| 6.1 | Opening Scene: The Strategic Crossroads | 10 |
| 6.2 | Consequences of the Choice | 10 |
| 6.3 | Key Encounters | 11 |
| 6.4 | Asset Building | 11 |
| 6.5 | Session 2 Resolution | 11 |
| 7 | Session 3: The Final Stand | 12 |
| 7.1 | Opening Scene: The Ursillo Return | 12 |
| 7.2 | Key Encounters | 12 |
| 7.3 | Simplified Mass Combat | 12 |
| 7.4 | The Confrontation with Garrick | 13 |
| 7.5 | Session 3 Resolution | 13 |
| 8 | Core Mechanics Quick Reference | 13 |
| 8.1 | Making Rolls | 14 |
| 8.2 | Outcome Matrix | 14 |
| 8.3 | Story Beats (SB) | 14 |
| 9 | Resource Management | 14 |
| 9.1 | Boons | 14 |
| 9.2 | Assets | 15 |
| 9.3 | Assets in This Adventure | 15 |
| 9.4 | Spending Resources - Quick Guide | 15 |
| 10 | Character Advancement | 16 |
| 10.1 | Earning XP | 16 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 10.2 | Spending XP | 16 |
| 10.3 | Sample Advancement Choices | 17 |
| 11 | GM Tips and Advice | 18 |
| 11.1 | Running This Adventure | 18 |
| 11.2 | Using Complications | 18 |
| 11.3 | Awarding Assets | 18 |
| 12 | NPC Gallery | 19 |
| 12.1 | Key NPCs | 19 |
| 13 | Optional Complications | 20 |
| 13.1 | Adding Depth | 20 |
| 13.2 | Scaling the Challenge | 21 |
| 14 | Resolution and Continuation | 21 |
| 14.1 | Successful Defense | 21 |
| 14.2 | The Village Falls: A Road to Redemption | 22 |
| 15 | Quick Reference Cards | 23 |
| 15.1 | Character Sheet Summary | 23 |
| 15.2 | Clock Management | 23 |
| 15.3 | Resource Spending Guide | 23 |
| 15.4 | Sample Dice Pools | 24 |
| 15.5 | Complication Guidelines | 24 |
| 16 | Conclusion | 24 |

1 Session 0: Personalizing Your Exile

Before beginning play, take time to establish the connections between your characters and their shared past in Silkstrand. Discuss these questions with the group:

1. **The Final Straw:** What was the specific event in Silkstrand that forced you all to leave *together*?
2. **Defining Moment:** Look at your Mutual Bonds. Briefly describe the scene where that bond was formed. Was it during the event that exiled you, or on the road afterward?
3. **A Sliver of Hope:** Why is Millhaven different? What about this place makes you want to fight for it, instead of just moving on?

Example for Kestra and Marcus: Their bond is "We both made choices that cost us our place." Perhaps Marcus refused an order to arrest Kestra during the library incident, sacrificing his career to help her escape.

2 Introduction

2.1 Welcome to Acasia

Welcome to Fate's Edge, where every choice carries weight and every action has consequences. This starter adventure, "Blood and Silk," is designed to introduce new players to the core mechanics of the game while telling a story about redemption, community, and the power of second chances.

In the broken marches of Acasia, where law is a suggestion and coin speaks louder than crowns, a group of exiles finds themselves in a small farming village called Millhaven. What starts as a simple misunderstanding quickly escalates into a fight for survival as the village faces threats from all sides.

2.2 Adventure Overview

Adventure Hook: The PCs are exiles from Silkstrand - a cosmopolitan port city where they made choices that cost them their place in society. Now they wander the broken roads of Acasia, trying to survive and perhaps find a place where they belong.

Setting: Millhaven, a small farming village in the Acasian marches, threatened by bandits and political machinations.

Themes: Redemption, community, second chances, and the power of belonging.

Tone: Gritty but hopeful. Violence has consequences, but heroism can earn respect and a place to call home.

Recommended Character Tier: Rookie (0-40 XP) - perfect for new players.

Estimated Play Time: 2-3 sessions

3 The Story So Far

3.1 The Exiles of Silkstrand

The PCs are not welcome in their former home of Silkstrand. Whether they were involved in a scandal, crossed the wrong person, or simply made choices that powerful people didn't like, they now find themselves on the outside looking in. With nothing but the clothes on their backs and a burning desire to prove

themselves, they've taken to the roads of Acasia.

3.2 Millhaven: A Village in Peril

Millhaven is a small farming community that has managed to stay neutral in the endless conflicts of Acasia. The village sits in a fertile valley surrounded by rolling hills, its thatched-roof cottages clustered around a central square where the weekly market is held. Smoke rises from chimneys in the morning mist, and the sound of children playing echoes through the narrow streets.

But peace is a luxury that's becoming increasingly expensive. The harvest has been poor this year, and bandit raids have left many families struggling. Now the Ursillo Gang has set their sights on the village, demanding "protection money" that would bankrupt the community.

The village is currently under threat from:

- **Bandits:** The Ursillo Gang, a particularly vicious group that demands "protection money"
- **Political Pressure:** Local nobles who want the village to choose sides in their conflicts
- **Economic Hardship:** Poor harvests and bandit raids have left the village struggling

4 Pre-Generated Characters

4.1 Character Creation Philosophy

These pre-generated characters are designed to be immediately playable while showcasing different approaches to character building in Fate's Edge. Each character has:

- Core Attributes and Skills appropriate for a rookie character (0-40 XP)
- A Background Hook that connects them to the setting
- Two Mutual Bonds with other characters (showing the bound->boon connection)
- Starting Assets and Boons to demonstrate resource management

Kestra "The Scholar" - Arcanist

Background: Once a promising student at Silkstrand's Academy of Arts, Kestra was expelled after an experimental ritual went wrong, destroying part of the library. Now she seeks to prove that her knowledge can be used for good.

Attributes: Wits 3, Spirit 2

Skills: Arcana 2, Lore 2, Insight 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Marcus: "We both made choices that cost us our place in Silkstrand"
- With Sariel: "She saved me from Ursillo bandits once, I owe her"

Starting Resources:

- 3 Boons
- Minor Asset: Scholar's Satchel (contains books, reagents, and a small telescope)

- Talent: Lorekeeper (Once per session, recall obscure history without rolling)

Marcus "The Blade" - Warrior

Background: A former city guard who was discharged after he refused to look the other way while corrupt officials shook down merchants. Now he makes his living as a sellsword, but his heart still yearns for justice.

Attributes: Body 3, Spirit 2

Skills: Melee 3, Athletics 2, Command 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Kestra: "We both made choices that cost us our place in Silkstrand"
- With Elena: "We fought side by side against Ursillo raiders"

Starting Resources:

- 2 Boons
- Minor Asset: Trusted Blade (a well-maintained sword that never fails)
- Talent: Battle Instincts (Once per scene, re-roll a failed defense roll)

Sariel "The Shadow" - Scout

Background: A former member of Silkstrand's Thieves' Guild who grew tired of the constant violence and backstabbing. She left the guild but still uses her skills to survive on the road.

Attributes: Wits 3, Body 2

Skills: Stealth 2, Survival 2, Skullduggery 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Kestra: "She saved me from Ursillo bandits once, I owe her"
- With Elena: "We both know what it's like to be an outcast"

Starting Resources:

- 4 Boons
- Minor Asset: Shadow's Cloak (grants advantage on stealth rolls in dim light)
- Talent: Silver Tongue (Gain +1 die when persuading or deceiving through speech)

Elena "The Healer" - Apothecary

Background: A former apothecary who was accused of practicing forbidden arts after she tried to save a patient with experimental treatments. Now she travels the roads, helping those who have nowhere else to turn.

Attributes: Spirit 3, Wits 2

Skills: Medicine 2, Survival 1, Insight 2

Mutual Bonds:

- With Marcus: "We fought side by side against Ursillo raiders"
- With Sariel: "We both know what it's like to be an outcast"

Starting Resources:

- 3 Boons
- Minor Asset: Healer's Kit (contains bandages, herbs, and basic medical supplies)
- Talent: Iron Stomach (Immune to mundane poisons and spoiled food)

Thane "The Artisan" - Craftsman

Background: A skilled blacksmith and engineer who was framed for sabotage by a rival guild in Silkstrand. His workshop was destroyed, and he was forced to flee with only his tools and his knowledge.

Attributes: Body 2, Wits 3

Skills: Craft 2, Engineering 2, Survival 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Kestra: "We both lost our places of learning in Silkstrand"
- With Marcus: "He helped me escape when the guild sent enforcers"

Starting Resources:

- 2 Boons
- Minor Asset: Artisan's Tools (hammer, tongs, and a small forge kit)
- Talent: Exceptional Coordination (One follower provides +4 assist dice)

Lyra "The Diplomat" - Courtier

Background: A former court scribe who discovered too much about her lord's dark dealings. She fled Silkstrand with secret documents that could bring down several noble houses, but she's too principled to use them for personal gain.

Attributes: Presence 3, Wits 2

Skills: Diplomacy 2, Sway 2, Lore 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Sariel: "We both know how to move through high society unnoticed"
- With Elena: "She helped me when I was injured fleeing Silkstrand"

Starting Resources:

- 3 Boons
- Minor Asset: Diplomatic Papers (official-looking documents that grant minor authority)

- Talent: Backlash Soothing (Reduce magical backlash by 1 SB)

Finn "The Beastmaster" - Ranger

Background: A former royal forester who was dismissed after he refused to help poachers kill a rare white stag that was sacred to the local spirits. He now travels with a loyal wolf companion and a deep respect for nature.

Attributes: Body 2, Spirit 3

Skills: Survival 2, Beastcraft 2, Archery 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Thane: "We both lost our livelihoods to corruption"
- With Marcus: "He respects my commitment to protecting the innocent"

Starting Resources:

- 2 Boons
- Minor Asset: Wolf Companion (Cap 2 follower with tracking and combat abilities)
- Talent: Beast-Tongue (Communicate with and influence animals)

Zara "The Merchant" - Trader

Background: A clever trader who was run out of Silkstrand after she exposed a smuggling ring that included several city officials. She escaped with her life but lost her business and most of her wealth.

Attributes: Presence 2, Wits 3

Skills: Commerce 2, Skullduggery 2, Insight 1

Mutual Bonds:

- With Lyra: "We both uncovered corruption in Silkstrand's elite"
- With Sariel: "We worked together to gather evidence against the smugglers"

Starting Resources:

- 4 Boons
- Minor Asset: Merchant's Network (contacts in various towns and cities)
- Talent: Resourceful (Once per session, find useful items or information without rolling)

5 Session 1: Trouble in Millhaven

5.1 Opening Scene: The Wrong Place at the Wrong Time

The PCs arrive in Millhaven just as the Ursillo Gang is demanding "protection money" from the village elder. The gang is led by a cruel man named Garrick, who has a reputation for violence and intimidation.

The village square is bustling with morning activity when the sound of hoofbeats echoes through the streets. A dozen rough-looking riders in leather and chain surround Elder Thorne, who stands with his

back straight despite the obvious threat. The villagers have gathered in small groups, whispering nervously and casting furtive glances at the armed strangers.

Key NPCs:

- **Elder Thorne:** The village elder, a wise but weary man who has tried to keep the peace. His silver hair catches the morning light, and his weathered hands grip his walking stick with the strength of long years of honest labor.
- **Garrick Ursillo:** Leader of the Ursillo Gang, cruel and calculating. His scarred face is framed by dark hair pulled back in a practical queue, and his eyes hold the cold calculation of a predator.
- **Villagers:** Simple folk caught between bandits and survival. Mira the Baker clutches her basket protectively, while Tom the Smith's massive frame blocks the doorway to his forge.

The Scene: The PCs witness Garrick threatening Elder Thorne and demanding an impossible amount of coin. When they intervene, a fight breaks out.

5.2 Key Encounters

Social Encounter: Negotiating with Garrick

- **Approach:** Presence + Sway or Command
- **Position:** Controlled
- **DV:** 4
- **Clean Success:** Garrick leaves temporarily, but vows revenge
- **Success & Cost:** Garrick reduces his demand but takes a hostage (GM spends SB)
- **Partial:** Compromise reached with ongoing tension
- **Miss:** Combat starts immediately with Garrick having initiative

Combat Encounter: Fighting Ursillo Bandits

- **Approach:** Body + Melee or Wits + Skullduggery
- **Position:** Controlled (Desperate if outnumbered)
- **DV:** 3-4 depending on bandit type
- **Clean Success:** Bandit is defeated or routed
- **Success & Cost:** Bandit is wounded but still dangerous (GM spends SB)
- **Partial:** Temporary setback, bandit regroups
- **Miss:** PC takes damage or is outmaneuvered

Investigation: Learning About Village Troubles

- **Approach:** Wits + Insight or Lore

- **Position:** Standard
- **DV:** 3
- **Clean Success:** Gain valuable information about Ursillo tactics
- **Success & Cost:** Learn something useful but with complications (GM spends SB)
- **Partial:** Learn something useful but incomplete
- **Miss:** Receive misleading information or waste time

5.3 Campaign Clocks

This adventure uses simplified campaign clocks to track the overall progress of the story:

| Village Safety Clock | How close the village is to being overrun |
|----------------------|---|
| Segments |0/6 |
| Ursillo Threat Clock | How much the Ursillo Gang is organizing against the village |
| Segments |0/8 |

5.4 Clock Advancement

Village Safety Clock:

- PCs fail to protect villagers: +2 segments
- Ursillo successfully intimidate villagers: +1 segment
- PCs successfully protect villagers: -1 segment (minimum 0)

Ursillo Threat Clock:

- Direct confrontation with Ursillo: +2 segments
- Ursillo casualties: +1 segment
- PCs gain information about Ursillo plans: -1 segment
- PCs successfully intimidate Ursillo: -2 segments

5.5 Session 1 Resolution

At the end of Session 1, the PCs should have:

- Fought the Ursillo Gang
- Learned about the village's troubles
- Made enemies of the Ursillo (Ursillo Threat Clock advances)
- Either protected or endangered the village (Village Safety Clock changes accordingly)

6 Session 2: The Village Fights Back

6.1 Opening Scene: The Strategic Crossroads

Garrick's retaliation has made it clear the village cannot simply wait to be attacked. Elder Thorne and the PCs must decide on a primary strategy. Present the players with a clear choice that will define the rest of the adventure:

The village elder's study is warm and filled with the scent of old books and wood smoke. Maps and ledgers cover his desk, and the weight of responsibility shows in his tired eyes. "We cannot wait for them to return," he says, his voice heavy with concern. "We must choose our path - do we fortify and hold, or do we take the fight to them?"

Option A: Fortify and Hold The village will focus on building defenses: palisades, traps, and a militia.

- **Primary Asset Gained:** *Village Militia*
- **Primary Challenge:** Resource scarcity and maintaining morale during the siege.
- **Session 2 Focus:** Defense-oriented encounters (building traps, training militia, withstanding probing attacks).

Option B: Strike First The village's best chance is to take the fight to the Ursillo, targeting their camp or a key lieutenant.

- **Primary Asset Gained:** *Scouting Reports* (grants a bonus to the final battle)
- **Primary Challenge:** The danger of the expedition and leaving the village lightly defended.
- **Session 2 Focus:** Offensive-oriented encounters (scouting, ambushing supply lines, a raid on a bandit outpost).

Mechanical Impact:

- The chosen strategy sets the **primary tone and encounters** for Session 2.
- The *other* strategy becomes a **secondary clock** that can still be advanced with good rolls, representing limited efforts on that front.
- This choice makes the players feel they are directing the narrative, not just reacting to it.

6.2 Consequences of the Choice

If Fortify and Hold:

- PCs work with villagers to build palisades and traps
- Ursillo make probing attacks to test defenses
- Elder Thorne provides tactical guidance
- Tom the Smith helps forge weapons for the militia

If Strike First:

- PCs lead a scouting mission into Ursillo territory
- Opportunity to eliminate key Ursillo lieutenants
- Risk of leaving village undefended during the operation
- Chance to gather intelligence for the final battle

6.3 Key Encounters

Fortify and Hold Path:

1. **Defense Planning:** Helping the villagers organize (Presence + Command or Wits + Tactics)
2. **Construction:** Building fortifications (Body + Athletics or Wits + Craft)
3. **Training:** Preparing the militia (Presence + Command or Body + Melee)
4. **Probing Attack:** Defending against Ursillo scouts (Combat encounter)

Strike First Path:

1. **Scouting Mission:** Learning about Ursillo movements (Wits + Stealth or Survival)
2. **Ambush:** Attacking Ursillo supply lines (Wits + Skullduggery or Body + Melee)
3. **Raid:** Infiltrating a Ursillo outpost (Wits + Stealth or Presence + Command)
4. **Escape:** Returning to the village with intelligence (Body + Athletics or Wits + Survival)

6.4 Asset Building

As the PCs help the village, they begin to earn the trust and respect of the villagers. This is represented by gaining Assets that reflect their growing connection to the community.

Asset Award Triggers:

- Successfully train 5+ villagers: Gain *Village Militia* asset
- Build 3+ defensive structures: Gain *Fortified Village* asset
- Secure outside aid: Gain *Allied Support* asset
- Complete a dangerous scouting mission: Gain *Scouting Reports* asset
- Win over skeptical villagers: Gain *Elder's Trust* asset

Possible Assets:

- **Village Militia:** A group of armed villagers who will follow the PCs into battle
- **Elder's Trust:** The village elder's confidence
- **Safe House:** A place in the village where the PCs can rest and recover
- **Local Knowledge:** Understanding of the area that grants advantages on Survival rolls

Gaining Assets: PCs can gain Assets by:

- Successfully completing important tasks for the village
- Making significant sacrifices for the community
- Building strong relationships with key NPCs

6.5 Session 2 Resolution

At the end of Session 2, the PCs should have:

- Helped organize the village defense or conducted a strike mission

- Gained at least one Asset representing their connection to the community
- Faced increased Ursillo pressure (clocks advance)
- Made meaningful choices about how to protect the village

7 Session 3: The Final Stand

7.1 Opening Scene: The Ursillo Return

Garrick Ursillo has had enough. He gathers all his forces for one final assault on Millhaven, determined to make an example of the village and anyone who dares to oppose him.

The morning mist hangs heavy over the valley as the sound of approaching horses echoes through the hills. Scouts return with grim news - Garrick has returned with twice the men, and this time they mean to burn the village to the ground. The final battle is upon them.

Elder Thorne stands in the village square, his face grim but resolute. "They come for our homes, our families, our very lives," he declares to the gathered villagers. "But we will not go quietly into the night. Today, we fight for Millhaven!"

The Final Threat:

- **Overwhelming Numbers:** 20+ Ursillo bandits led by Garrick and his lieutenants
- **Siege Tactics:** Ursillo attempt to cut off supplies and starve the village out
- **Personal Vendetta:** Garrick specifically targets the PCs
- **Destruction Intent:** They plan to burn the village regardless of resistance

7.2 Key Encounters

1. **Final Preparations:** Last-minute preparations for battle (Various skills)
2. **The Battle of Millhaven:** The climactic fight against the Ursillo (Mass combat simplified)
3. **Confronting Garrick:** The final showdown with the gang leader
4. **Aftermath:** Dealing with the consequences of victory (Social encounter)

7.3 Simplified Mass Combat

For the final battle, use this simplified system:

Village Defense Clock (6 segments):

- Represents how well the village holds out against the assault
- Advances when PCs fail rolls or make tactical errors
- Retreats when PCs succeed or make good choices

Ursillo Morale Clock (8 segments):

- Represents how close the Ursillo are to breaking and running
- Advances when PCs deal damage or intimidate enemies
- Retreats when Ursillo succeed in their attacks

Combat Resolution:

- PCs make rolls to lead the defense (Presence + Command)
- PCs make rolls to fight individual enemies (Body + Melee)
- PCs make rolls to protect villagers (Various skills)
- Success advances Ursillo Morale Clock, failure advances Village Defense Clock

7.4 The Confrontation with Garrick

When the PCs finally face Garrick in single combat, the encounter should feel personal and climactic:

Garrick Ursillo - Final Boss

Threat Level: Major

Harm: »

SB: 3-4 SB per round

Description: Garrick is a veteran fighter with scars that tell stories of countless battles. His sword is well-maintained and deadly, and his eyes burn with the fury of a man who has lost everything and has nothing left to lose.

Motivations: Revenge, proving his dominance, eliminating threats

Abilities:

- Master Swordsman: +2 dice to melee attacks
- Intimidating Presence: Opponents start Desperate (generates 1 SB)
- Tactical Awareness: Can redirect attacks to minions
- Berserker Rage: When wounded, gains +1 die but loses defensive options

Weaknesses:

- Overconfident in his abilities
- Vulnerable to coordinated attacks
- Becomes reckless when losing

Combat Stats: Body 4, Melee 4, Spirit 3

7.5 Session 3 Resolution

If the PCs successfully defend the village:

- Ursillo Morale Clock fills - the gang breaks and flees
- Village Safety Clock resets to 0
- PCs gain permanent Assets reflecting their heroism
- PCs may be offered a permanent place in the village

8 Core Mechanics Quick Reference

8.1 Making Rolls

In Fate's Edge, you resolve important actions by rolling dice:

1. **Determine the Approach:** Choose an Attribute + Skill combination
2. **Set Position:** GM sets Position (Dominant/Dominant/Desperate)
3. **Roll Dice:** Roll a number of d10s equal to Attribute + Skill
4. **Count Results:**
 - Each 6+ = 1 Success
 - Each 1 = 1 Story Beat (SB)
5. **Apply Outcome:** Compare successes to DV (2-5+)

8.2 Outcome Matrix

| Result | Successes vs DV | Effect |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Clean Success | $S \geq DV$, 0 SB | Intent achieved crisply |
| Success & Cost | $S \geq DV$, 1+ SB | Intent achieved, GM spends SB |
| Partial | $0 < S < DV$ | Progress with fork |
| Miss | $S = 0$ | No progress, GM spends SB |

8.3 Story Beats (SB)

SB are narrative fuel that the GM spends to add complications:

- **1 SB:** Minor pressure (noise, trace, +1 Supply segment)
- **2 SB:** Moderate setback (alarm, lose position, lesser foe)
- **3 SB:** Serious trouble (reinforcements, gear breaks, rail tick)
- **4+ SB:** Major turn (trap springs, authority arrives, scene shifts)

9 Resource Management

9.1 Boons

Boons are narrative tokens earned primarily by failing rolls with meaningful consequences:

- **Earning Boons:**
 - **Primary:** When you MISS an action with stated stakes and real consequence you gain two, when you PARTIALLY succeed (don't meet the DV but have at least 1 success) you gain one
 - **Secondary:** Through bond-driven resource generation when aiding allies
 - **GM Discretion:** For exceptional roleplay that advances the story
- **Using Boons:**
 - Re-roll one die after seeing the pool
 - Activate an Off-Screen Asset (1 Boon)
 - Convert 2 Boons → 1 XP (once per session)

- **Limits:**

- Maximum 5 Boons at once
- Maximum 2 Boons from failures per character per scene
- End of scene: Reduce held Boons to maximum 2

Significant Action Requirements for Boon Awards:

1. **Procedure followed:** Intent and approach declared; DV set; roll resolved
2. **Stakes stated:** What changes on success; what bites on failure
3. **Consequence lands now:** GM spends or banks SB, applies condition, or advances thread

Design Note: Boons reward leaning into failure. When you fail and the story becomes more interesting, you earn resources to succeed later. This creates a natural cycle of risk and reward.

9.2 Assets

Assets are off-screen resources that extend your influence:

- **Minor (4 XP):** Safehouse, small shop, petty title
- **Standard (8 XP):** Noble title, guild section, spy ring
- **Major (12 XP):** City license, regional network, fortress lease
- **Using Assets:**
 - Free effect once per session
 - Spend 1 Boon to reshape current scene
 - Spend 2 XP to activate outside normal session allowance

9.3 Assets in This Adventure

As you help Millhaven, you can gain these Assets:

| Asset | Cost | Effect |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Village Militia | Minor (4 XP) | Cap 3 follower - villagers who fight alongside you |
| Elder's Trust | Minor (4 XP) | +1 die to social rolls in Millhaven |
| Safe House | Minor (4 XP) | Secure place to rest and recover in village |
| Local Knowledge | Minor (4 XP) | +1 die to Survival rolls in the area |
| Village Charter | Standard (8 XP) | Legal protection and village resources |

9.4 Spending Resources - Quick Guide

When to Spend Boons:

- ★ Re-roll dice when you really need to succeed
- ★ Activate Assets for crucial advantages
- ★ Convert to XP when you want to improve your character

When to Use Assets:

- Get free help with problems between sessions
- Gain advantage in specific locations
- Solve logistical problems without rolling

Resource Management Tips:

- Don't hoard Boons - use them when they matter most
- Invest in Assets that match your character's strengths
- Remember that Assets require maintenance (roleplay attention)
- Scene limit: 2 Boons from failures per character per scene

10 Character Advancement

10.1 Earning XP

At the end of each session, players earn XP based on their actions:

- **Attendance:** +2 XP (just showing up)
- **Objectives Reached:** +2-4 XP (completing major goals)
- **Discoveries:** +1-2 XP (learning new things)
- **Hard Choices:** +1-2 XP (making difficult moral decisions)
- **Complication Spotlight:** +1-3 XP (embracing narrative twists)
- **Bond/Flag Driven Play:** +1-2 XP (engaging personal storylines)
- **GM Curveball Award:** +0-3 XP (creative problem solving)

10.2 Spending XP

XP can be spent in three ways:

1. **Enhance Self:** Improve Attributes and Skills
 - Attributes: New rating \times 3 XP
 - Skills: New level \times 2 XP
 - Downtime: New rating in days for Attributes, new level in days for Skills
2. **Acquire Assets:** Gain worldly influence
 - Minor: 4 XP, Standard: 8 XP, Major: 12 XP
 - Downtime: 1-3 days for Minor, 1 week for Standard, 1 month for Major
3. **Learn Talents:** Unlock unique abilities
 - Minor Talents: 2-4 XP
 - Major Talents: 5-8 XP
 - Prestige Abilities: 9+ XP (requires Seasoned tier)

Rush Rule: Players may skip downtime by accepting a Haste clock (4 segments). If the clock fills, the

new ability or asset carries flaws or narrative complications.

10.3 Sample Advancement Choices

Kestra (The Scholar):

- Raise Arcana from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Ritual Master Talent (8 XP)
- Acquire a Library Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

Marcus (The Blade):

- Raise Melee from 3 to 4 (8 XP, 4 days downtime)
- Gain the Silver Tongue Talent (4 XP)
- Acquire a Trusted Mount Asset (4 XP, 3 days downtime)

Sariel (The Shadow):

- Raise Stealth from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Beast-Tongue Talent (8 XP)
- Acquire a Spy Network Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

Elena (The Healer):

- Raise Medicine from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Healing Light Talent (8 XP)
- Acquire a Healing Sanctuary Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

Thane (The Artisan):

- Raise Craft from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Masterwork Creation Talent (10 XP)
- Acquire a Workshop Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

Lyra (The Diplomat):

- Raise Diplomacy from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Negotiator's Edge Talent (6 XP)
- Acquire a Noble Contact Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

Finn (The Beastmaster):

- Raise Beastcraft from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Pack Leader Talent (8 XP)
- Acquire a Hunting Grounds Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

Zara (The Merchant):

- Raise Commerce from 2 to 3 (6 XP, 3 days downtime)
- Gain the Merchant's Eye Talent (6 XP)

- Acquire a Trading Post Asset (8 XP, 1 week downtime)

11 GM Tips and Advice

11.1 Running This Adventure

Keep It Simple:

- Use the pre-prepared NPCs and scenarios
- Don't overcomplicate the clock mechanics
- Focus on the story and character development

Encourage Player Agency:

- Let players make meaningful choices
- Show how their decisions affect the village
- Reward creative problem-solving

Manage the Pacing:

- Each session should have a clear goal
- Advance clocks based on player actions, not arbitrary timing
- Build to climactic moments gradually

11.2 Using Complications

Complications should enhance the story, not punish players:

- **Good Complications:** Add tension, introduce new elements, create interesting choices
- **Bad Complications:** Are arbitrary, repetitive, or make players feel helpless
- **Best Practice:** Tie complications to the fiction and character choices

SB Spending Guidelines:

- 1 SB: Minor environmental or social pressure
- 2 SB: Moderate tactical disadvantage or setback
- 3 SB: Serious mechanical or narrative consequence
- 4+ SB: Major plot shift or scene change

11.3 Awarding Assets

Assets should feel earned, not given:

- Require meaningful sacrifice or effort
- Tie to specific actions or relationships
- Match the character's concept and the story's needs

12 NPC Gallery

12.1 Key NPCs

Elder Thorne - Village Leader

Role: The wise but weary leader of Millhaven

Motivation: Protect his people at all costs

Personality: Cautious, diplomatic, but capable of great courage when necessary

Relationship to PCs: Initially suspicious, becomes grateful for their help

Key Scene: The first meeting where he explains the village's troubles

Stats: Presence 2, Spirit 3, Command 2, Lore 1

Villain Motivations: Garrick Ursillo

Primary Motivations:

- **The Abandoned Soldier:** Garrick was once a decorated Vhasian soldier, discharged without pension after losing an arm in service. He turned to banditry to survive and now targets villages under the protection of the nobles who betrayed him.
- **The Debt Slave:** Garrick is being coerced by a Silkstrand crime lord (perhaps connected to a PC's backstory) to extract a massive debt from Millhaven. His cruelty is born of desperation.
- **The Ideologue:** Garrick genuinely believes the strong should rule the weak. He sees his "protection" as a natural order and views the villagers' defiance as a violation of the rightful way of things.

Secondary Traits:

- **Code of Honor:** He never harms children and always keeps his word.
- **Sentimental:** He carries a tattered locket with a portrait of a lost loved one.
- **Intellectually Curious:** He has a surprising respect for learning and might spare Kestra if she impresses him with her knowledge.

GM Application: Weave the chosen motivation into the story. For example, if using "The Abandoned Soldier," the PCs might find an old Acasian military insignia on a bandit, leading to a revelation that reframes the conflict.

Garrick Ursillo - Bandit Leader

Role: Cruel leader of the Ursillo Gang

Motivation: Power, control, and revenge

Personality: Ruthless, cunning, with a personal code of honor

Relationship to PCs: Immediate enemy who becomes obsessed with destroying them

Key Scene: The confrontation where he threatens the village

Stats: Body 4, Melee 4, Spirit 3, Command 2

Mira the Baker - Village Representative

Role: Spokesperson for the villagers

Motivation: Feed her family and keep the community together

Personality: Practical, caring, with hidden strength

Relationship to PCs: First villager to trust them, becomes a key ally

Key Scene: The scene where she offers the PCs a place to stay

Stats: Presence 2, Spirit 2, Sway 2, Survival 1

Tom the Smith - Village Defender

Role: Local blacksmith who helps with defense

Motivation: Protect his forge and the tools that feed his family

Personality: Gruff exterior, kind heart, practical fighter

Relationship to PCs: Respectful once they prove themselves

Key Scene: Training the villagers to fight

Stats: Body 3, Melee 2, Craft 2, Command 1

13 Optional Complications

13.1 Adding Depth

If your group wants more complexity, you can add these elements:

Political Intrigue: The Baron's Gambit

For a more complex game, introduce **Baroness Valerius**, a local noble whose lands border Millhaven's.

Her Motive: She wants to annex Millhaven for its fertile land but cannot do so openly. She has been secretly undermining the village, including *sabotaging their requests for aid* and *encouraging the Ursillo* (via intermediaries) to soften them up.

How it Unfolds:

- **Clue:** In Session 1, a bandit carries a coin from the Baroness's mint.
- **Development:** In Session 2, a "helpful" envoy from the Baroness arrives, offering protection in exchange for swearing fealty—a blatant power grab.
- **Confrontation:** In Session 3, if the PCs are winning, the Baroness might send her own troops under the pretext of "restoring order," aiming to claim the victory and the village.

New Mechanics:

- **The Baroness's Scheme Clock (6):** Tracks her progress toward annexing the village. It advances if the PCs trust her envoy or are weakened by the Ursillo.
- **New Asset:** *Evidence of Conspiracy (Minor):* If the PCs uncover proof of her dealings with the Ursillo, they can use it to discredit her.

Supernatural Elements:

- The Ursillo are using cursed weapons that drain the life force of those they wound
- Ancient spirits awakened by the violence demand tribute from both sides
- One of the PCs discovers they have a mystical connection to the sacred grove near Millhaven
- Strange dreams plague the villagers, showing glimpses of possible futures

Personal Stakes:

- A PC's family member is revealed to be living in Millhaven
- The Ursillo leader knows one of the PCs personally from their Silkstrand days
- Villagers remind PCs of people from their past, creating emotional connections
- A child in the village shares a name with someone important to a PC

13.2 Scaling the Challenge

For Experienced Players:

- Increase clock sizes by 2 segments each
- Add more Ursillo bandits to encounters (Cap 3-4 enemies)
- Introduce additional factions with competing interests
- Garrick gains elite lieutenant followers (Cap 2-3 each)

For New Players:

- Decrease clock sizes by 2 segments each
- Provide more obvious clues and hints
- Reduce the number of Ursillo in combat encounters
- Garrick starts with fewer hit points and capabilities
- Offer more opportunities for assistance from villagers

For Larger Groups (5-6 players):

- Add 2-3 additional villagers as Cap 1 followers
- Introduce a second Ursillo lieutenant as a recurring threat
- Expand the scope to include neighboring villages needing aid
- Add a subplot involving refugees fleeing Ursillo violence

14 Resolution and Continuation

14.1 Successful Defense

If the PCs successfully defend Millhaven:

- **Immediate Rewards:**
 - Permanent Assets reflecting their heroism

- 10-12 XP for each player
- Respect and gratitude from the villagers
- Choice of honorary titles or positions in the community
- **Long-term Benefits:**
 - Millhaven becomes a safe base of operations
 - Villagers provide information and resources
 - Other communities seek their help
 - Regional reputation begins to grow
- **Story Hooks:**
 - Other villages face similar threats
 - Ursillo remnants seek revenge
 - Political forces take notice of the PCs
 - Baroness Valerius plots from the shadows
 - Ancient spirits demand continued service

14.2 The Village Falls: A Road to Redemption

If the Ursillo Threat Clock fills or the Village Safety Clock reaches its end, Millhaven is overrun. But this is not the end—it's a turning point.

Immediate Aftermath:

- The PCs escape with a small group of survivors (including key NPCs like Mira the Baker and Tom the Smith).
- Each player gains a new **Bond of Shared Trauma** with another PC: "We failed together, and we will atone together."
- The **Refugee Caravan (Minor Asset)** is automatically gained, representing the survivors and their scant resources.

The Redemption Arc - Choose Your Path: The survivors look to the PCs for leadership. Present the group with a clear choice for their next goal:

1. **Seek Sanctuary in Vhasia:** A duchy in Vhasia to the east might offer protection, but gaining entry will require proving their worth and navigating strict bureaucracy. (Shifts the campaign to a political/intrigue theme).
2. **Appeal to the Acasian "Nobility":** Confront the local rulers whose inaction allowed the Ursillo to thrive. This is dangerous and could see the PCs framed as scapegoats. (Shifts the campaign to a social/judicial theme).
3. **Become Guerrillas:** Stay in the region, harassing Ursillo supply lines and freeing other villages from the shadows. The Ursillo become a persistent **Hunt Clock** pursuing them. (Shifts the campaign to a military/insurgency theme).

New Campaign Clocks for the Arc:

- **Refugee Morale (6):** Tracks the hope and cohesion of the survivors. Filling it grants a boon; emptying it causes desertions.
- **Ursillo Hunt (8):** Tracks how close the main Ursillo force is to finding the caravan.
- **Political Pressure (6):** (If choosing paths 1 or 2) Represents external forces trying to manipulate or eliminate the group.

15 Quick Reference Cards

15.1 Character Sheet Summary

| Character | Primary Attr/Skill | Key Talent | Starting Asset |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Kestra (Scholar) | Wits 3 + Arcana 2 | Lorekeeper | Scholar's Satchel |
| Marcus (Blade) | Body 3 + Melee 3 | Battle Instincts | Trusted Blade |
| Sariel (Shadow) | Wits 3 + Stealth 2 | Silver Tongue | Shadow's Cloak |
| Elena (Healer) | Spirit 3 + Medicine 2 | Iron Stomach | Healer's Kit |
| Thane (Artisan) | Body 2 + Wits 3 | Exceptional Coordination | Artisan's Tools |
| Lyra (Diplomat) | Presence 3 + Diplomacy 2 | Backlash Soothing | Diplomatic Papers |
| Finn (Beastmaster) | Body 2 + Spirit 3 | Beast-Tongue | Wolf Companion |
| Zara (Merchant) | Presence 2 + Wits 3 | Resourceful | Merchant's Network |

15.2 Clock Management

Village Safety Clock (6 segments):

- ✓Protect villagers: -1 segment
- ✓Fail to protect: +2 segments
- ✓Intimidate Ursillo: -1 segment
- When filled: Village falls to bandits

Ursillo Threat Clock (8 segments):

- ✓Defeat Ursillo: +1 segment
- ✓Gain information: -1 segment
- ✓Intimidate enemies: -2 segments
- When filled: Ursillo retreat or seek reinforcements

15.3 Resource Spending Guide

| Resource | Cost | When to Use |
|----------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Re-roll die | 1 Boon | When success is critical |
| Activate Asset | 1 Boon | To gain advantage in scene |
| Convert to XP | 2 Boons | When you want to improve |
| Minor Asset | 4 XP | For basic off-screen help |
| Standard Asset | 8 XP | For significant influence |
| Major Asset | 12 XP | For major world impact |

15.4 Sample Dice Pools

Common Actions:

- Negotiate with villagers: Presence 2 + Sway 2 = 4d10
- Fight Ursillo bandit: Body 3 + Melee 3 = 6d10
- Sneak past guards: Wits 3 + Stealth 2 = 5d10
- Heal wounded villager: Spirit 3 + Medicine 2 = 5d10
- Research ancient texts: Wits 3 + Lore 2 = 5d10
- Craft weapons: Body 2 + Craft 2 = 4d10
- Diplomacy with nobles: Presence 3 + Diplomacy 2 = 5d10
- Track enemies: Spirit 3 + Survival 2 = 5d10

15.5 Complication Guidelines

When to Spend SB:

- Add tension to successful rolls
- Escalate failed rolls into interesting failures
- Introduce new story elements
- Create meaningful choices for players

Good SB Spends:

- 1 SB: Add a minor obstacle or complication
- 2 SB: Introduce a new threat or NPC
- 3 SB: Change the tactical situation significantly
- 4+ SB: Alter the story direction entirely

16 Conclusion

"Blood and Silk" is designed to be your first step into the world of Fate's Edge. It introduces the core mechanics through a straightforward story of redemption and community while giving players meaningful choices that affect the outcome.

The adventure emphasizes:

- **Character Growth:** From exiles to heroes through player choices
- **Resource Management:** Boons, Assets, and XP as meaningful currencies
- **Narrative Consequences:** Every action affects the story's direction
- **Collaborative Storytelling:** Players and GM work together to create the tale

Key Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the core dice mechanic and outcome matrix

- Managing Boons and converting them to XP
- Building and using Assets to extend character influence
- Working with campaign clocks to track story progression
- Making meaningful choices that shape the narrative
- Collaborating with other players through mutual bonds

Remember that Fate's Edge is about the story, not just the dice rolls. Encourage players to describe their actions vividly, embrace the complications that arise, and let the world react to their choices in meaningful ways.

Whether the PCs become beloved protectors of Millhaven or tragic figures who couldn't save the day, their story will be one worth telling. The dice will guide you, but it's your choices that write the legend.

What are you willing to risk to reshape the world around you?

In Millhaven, that question might just have a simple answer: everything.



The choice is yours. Will you stand and fight, or will you fall back and regroup?