

Dungeon Module B3

The Palace of the Silver Princess

An introductory module for 4-5 characters, levels 1-3



Years ago the valley was green, and animals ran free through golden fields of grain. The princess Argenta ruled over this peaceful land and the people were secure and happy. Then one day a warrior riding a red dragon appeared in the skies over the princess' castle and almost overnight the tiny kingdom fell into ruin. Now only ruins and rumors remain, and what legends there are tell of a fabulous ruby still buried somewhere within the Palace of the Silver Princess.

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

A great many of the things found in the **Palace of the Silver Princess** are there to add color and to give the DM ideas upon which to expand. This module has been specially designed to give the beginning DM, as well as the more experienced DM, a framework on which to build a whole dungeon complex. This module can also be used as the basis for an ongoing campaign, as it provides rumors, legends and other information that give a campaign foundation and background. To expand the dungeon, the DM need but open up the blocked passageways and add new and challenging dungeon levels. This should be done only after most of the encounter areas have been explored.

Many of the rooms have spaces for monsters, treasure, and/or traps. Some examples have been given of how to stock these rooms in other areas of this module. By leaving some areas blank, the DM can use creativity to add challenge to the module and make it fit into his or her world and campaign. It also insures that even if some players read the module before playing in it, they will not know exactly what is going to happen in every room. Do not fill all of the rooms at once. Leave some empty to be filled at a later time. This will help add color and suspense to the adventure; a room visited earlier which proved to be empty and a possible resting place might be occupied now by a monster that doesn't wish to share its room with adventurers. Many monsters and treasures can be found in the DUNGEON & DRAGONS® Basic Set Booklet. These are the ones that should be used until the players have advanced past third level. The new monsters and treasures found in this module should not be used until the entire module has been explored, and the DM has drawn new maps to expand the palace. These new monsters and treasures have been placed in certain areas and play balance has been carefully considered in placing them. If these monsters and/or treasures are moved elsewhere in the module before the players discover them where they have originally been placed, the module will become unbalanced and perhaps too difficult, especially for first level adventurers. Once all the monsters and treasures have been discovered, the DM may wish to place new monsters and treasures elsewhere.

This module, like all DUNGEONS & DRAGONS products, is a guideline to use as a creative basis for your own campaign. It is designed to teach a new DM how to design and run a D&D adventure , while not being too difficult for low level adventurers and new players. Good luck and enjoy.

PART 2: DUNGEON MASTER'S INFORMATION

The information given below should be read carefully. Part of it can be given to players. It will be up to the DM to decide exactly what the players should know about the palace. This information can be altered if desired. The DM is encouraged to add whatever he or she wants to this information to give more color to the palace.

The dead soldiers found on the entrance level are from an unnamed army. It will be up to the DM to decide where they came from, why they are in the palace and any other information concerning the dead soldiers. They could be from a lost city; from a hidden fortress of highly skilled thieves and fighters; or from a forgotten race or tribe of people. The DM could even have these soldiers be a scouting party for a larger brigade who plan on taking the ruined palace and making it a fort or base station from which to work. The possibilities are as endless as the imagination of the DM.

The dungeon is constructed of marble. The doors are of iron-reinforced oak. The passageways are fairly clean due to the gelatinous cube that roams the hallways. All passageways are 10'x10'. Torch sconces are mounted every ten feet along all the passageways on alternating sides. None have torches. Arrases will frequently be seen throughout the palace as well as pots of dead plant life.

LEGEND

Ancient legends of the land speak of a beautiful young princess called Argenta who lived in a wonderful enchanted palace made of every type of marble known. Her palace was in the heart of a rich, fertile valley filled with gentle creatures that could do no harm. Exotic flowers and plant life grew everywhere, water ran sweet and clear and the skies were always clear and warm.

Mica flickered in all the rocks and was often found in the streams making them glisten like diamonds in the bright sunlight. Early morning dew drops clung gently to leaves of small trees and grass, appearing like fairy jewels scattered from wild dance the night before. Wild birds with long, colorful tails and bright faces filled the air with the sweet sounds of their love songs. Tiny animals freely darted in and out of the underbrush, fearing nothing, as there were no enemies anywhere to be found. The dwarves that lived in the valley loved Princess Argenta very much. They worked her silver and ruby mines so that the elves who shared the valley with them could make beautiful jewelry and weapons. Everything in the valley was peaceful.

One day, according to legend, a ruby the size of an apple was found. A perfect ruby. The dwarves cut the ruby carefully so that its size would not be diminished. The elves polished the ruby until it shone so that it was almost impossible to gaze upon. They presented it to the

princess and told her that it was as lovely as she, and they called it "My Lady's Heart". So pleased was the princess that she decided to honor her friends, the elves and dwarves, with a grand party; a masquerade ball. Everyone was invited to come.

One the eve of the grand ball, people poured into the valley from everywhere. How so many people had heard about the party no one knew, but the princess did not mind. She was proud of the ruby and wanted everyone to see "My Lady's Heart". She should not have been so eager to show the ruby, as one guest was interested in more than its beauty alone. He had come to steal it. His eyes also roamed freely to the princess, and he gazed upon her as much as he gazed upon the brilliant gem. Princess Argenta saw this, and in her innocence smiled back at him. Two dwarves and an elf saw this, and when they challenged him after the party, they were never seen or heard from again.

Many weeks after the party a red dragon was seen in the skies of the valley. The dragon burned the rich land with its breath and terrorized the gentle people of the valley. The land was left scorched and barren. Those valley people unfortunate to get close enough to the dragon (but fortunate enough to live) swore that they saw a man in silver and blue armor riding on its back. Some folks still say that they see a red dragon in the skies over the valley. Many say that they see a saddle on the dragon's back and loose reins near its head.

The valley is now dead, the palace is in ruins. No one knows exactly what happened to the princess. Some believe that the man on the dragon carried her away. Others think that he killed her and stole what treasure he could find. But all stories say that the ruby, "My Lady's Heart," is still hidden in the palace.

LANDS, CITIES, AND VILLAGES

The information given below describes the surrounding lands near the Palace of the Silver Princess in the land of the Princes of Glantri. A brief outline of each village is given, including its size and what the life is like there. There is one Barony, and this seat of rulership controls most of the area. Further information about the surrounding land may be added by the DM where and when desired.



As play continues and the characters advance beyond 3rd level, the DM may plan adventures into the neighboring wilderness, as a break from dungeon adventures or as part of a dungeon adventure. Remember, characters must travel through the mountains and wilderness before actually reaching the palace ruins. However, DMs are urged not to attempt wilderness adventures until players have reached expert level and are now using the D&D® Expert game rules.

GULLUVIA

This is a ruthless place filled with terror. The ruler of this chaotic nightmare is Lady D'hmis. She rules this barony with a firm and unforgiving hand. To gain supreme rulership of the tiny barony, she killed her husband. A prime example of the type of laws her ladyship favors is one forbidding males, except those in her service, from being on the streets after the sunset unless accompanied by a female who is age 15 or older. This law meets little resistance as everyone fears her baronial guards. Though D'hmis' warriors are primarily male, her commanders are all females; tough, chaotic women who instill fear by a mere gaze and who fear little save D'hmis and the elite male fighters who serve as her personal bodyguards and paramours.

DEAD MULE

This little shire was once a peaceful place, named by the group of miners who settled here after their pack mule died. The shire is now occupied by Gulluvian soldiers, and no one in the shire seems to know why. All they know is that soldiers camp outside the shire, and occasionally terrorize the surrounding countryside. If the mayor knows why the soldiers are here, he isn't saying.

N'SAU

This small farming village is still untouched by the cruel hand of D'hmis. The village is so small that there is no tavern or inn here. A small general store doubles as a tavern or meeting hall when needed. The main crop grown here is wheat.

THOROLD

This lovely little village prides itself on the fact that it raises the best thoroughbred horses in all of Glantri for the Barony of Gulluvia. Thorold, though it appears peaceful and perhaps even lawful, is just as chaotic as Gulluvia. The mayor of Thorold is a distant cousin of D'hmis, and follows her laws and orders to the letter. The village is rather large and has three taverns, a general store, and two smithies.

MERE

This tiny village is primarily inhabited by halflings, though human folk, elves and dwarves live here too. This village is also under the protection of Gulluvia, but because it is located so near the Misty Swamp, D'hmis has little to do with it except at tax time, which is every three months. Escaped slaves and prisoners come here to equip themselves before journeying north through the swamp. Mereians say nothing about the slaves or prisoners, fearing that D'hmis would send guards to their village to catch them (and they want as little to do with Gulluvia as possible). This village has two taverns, one general store, and an inn.

VELDERS

This canton is under the protection of Gulluvia, though this does Velders little good. The Gulluvian guards fear the Abaddon Woods and do not like to travel through it to reach Velders except in large groups. Orcs, kobolds and other vile creatures make periodic raids on the small farms on the outskirts of the canton. There is only a trading post in the center of town.

MISTY SWAMP

No one knows exactly what lies behind the veil of ever present mist that hovers over the swamp. Some old

timers say that the dwarves who make Anterian Brandy live in the swamp near their secret ingredient, the swamp water. This is speculation, as no one really knows what the secret ingredient of Anterian Brandy is. Others whisper tales of an evil wizard living there in a massive tower of shiny black stone. Sometimes, in the dead of winter, fierce thunderstorms can be heard near the swamp, but no one ever sees any lightning. The only thing people who live near the swamp will agree on is that most magic users and elves had best stay clear of it or they will find that their spells will not function properly. One young magic user tried to catch a rabbit with a web spell near the swamp one day and ended up with dozens of rabbits, all neatly webbed, scattered about her feet. She didn't really mind having the extra rabbits, but the fact that she couldn't control her magic scared her (as it does many other spell casters). She was one of the fortunate ones; others have not been so lucky.

Once a band of daring adventurers ignored warnings not to venture into the swamp. Months later only the cleric returned. He told tales of their battle against creatures made of colored mist, and others that had no visible form at all. He said they constantly fought strange looking creatures with three heads, three arms, and three legs. He told of how their brave elf attempted to cast a magic missile at a beast who was attacking one of the fighters. Suddenly, however, the elf changed into a rhinoceros and wandered away into the swamp. Before any more information could be obtained from the cleric he died. No wounds could be found, and the folks who found him swear he must have been scared to death.

The DM can choose how any given spell cast in the swamp will be changed. The effects should be unexpected by the players, but instant-death results should textbf not be used. Suggested effects are:

1. Spell backfires on the caster of the party
2. Spell fails: nothing happens
3. Caster throws a different spell of the same level
4. Spell effect is tripled
5. Caster or a member of the party glows for 24 hours
6. Caster or a party member changed into a creature with hit dice equal to the character's level: lasts 24 hours

If the D&D® Expert rules are also being used, effects like 5 and 6 can be removed (once the party has left the swamp) by using a dispel magic spell.

ABADDON WOODS

This is a desolate place inhabited by evil beings, but was once believed to be filled with unicorns, elves, faeries and

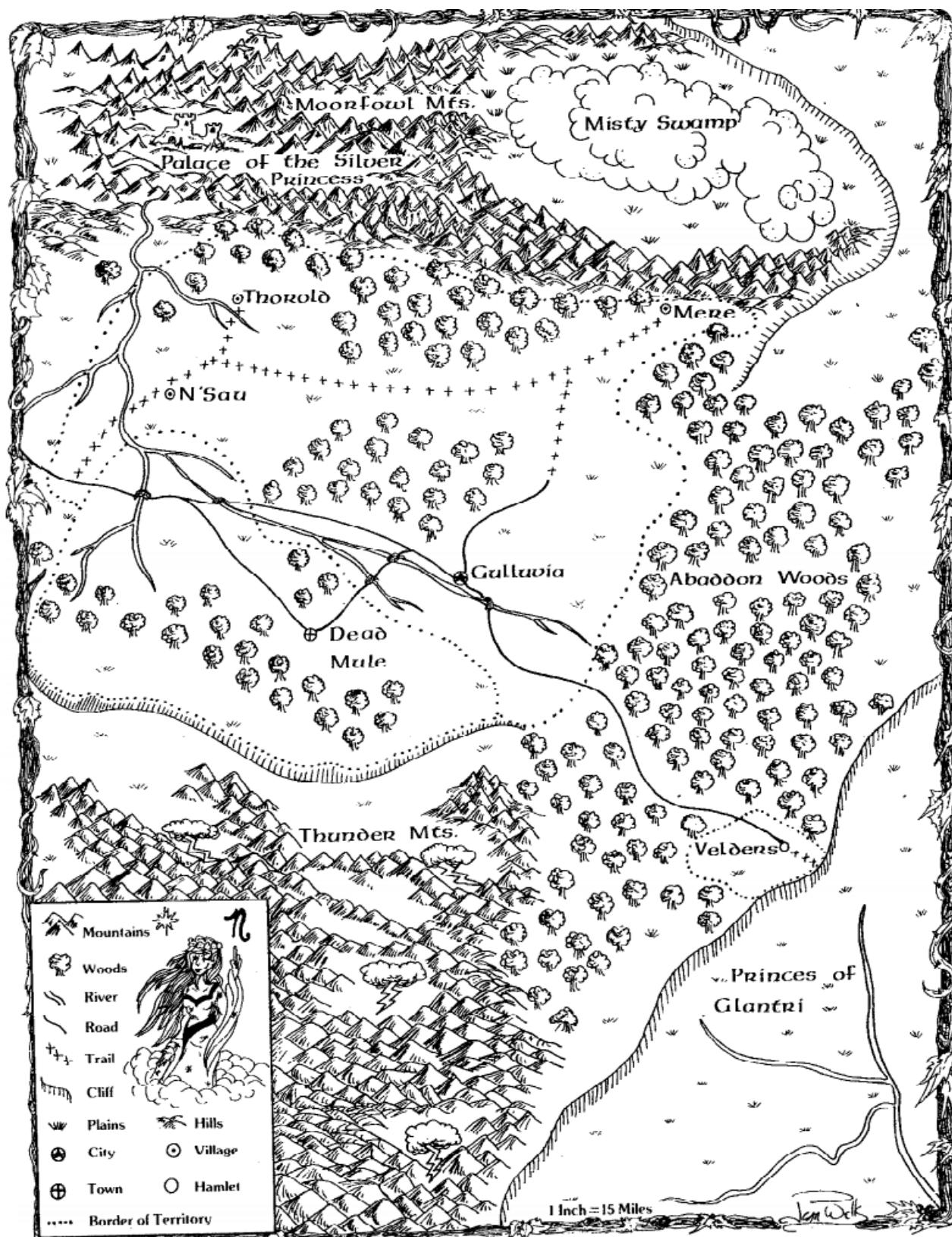
other fair creatures. Many expeditions attempting to destroy the evil lurking here have ventured into the woods, but have never returned.

MOORFOWL MOUNTAINS

This ugly, dead, tall range forms a protective shield that keeps the mist from Misty Swamp from spreading into the neighboring farmlands. Most folks don't venture into the mountains much any more except to hunt for certain types of moss used by local healers. Evil creatures now roam the mountains freely and inhabit the mines once worked by the dwarves who served the Silver Princess. These mines now are barren and not worth working.

THUNDER MOUNTAINS

These low pine-covered mountains see the sunlight infrequently. Most of the time thick storm clouds linger on the mountain tops — clouds that often erupt into violent thunder storms. An evil wizardess is rumored to live in the mountains in a giant hollow oak she uses as a lab. It is believed that it is she who keeps the thunder storms alive, partly because she fears the light and partly because it keeps away the curious. Local people don't recall anyone ever going into the mountains, and if anyone ever did, they never returned to tell about it.



THE TINKER AND HIS DAUGHTER

A small tinker's shop located in Gulluvia is run by an old man and his daughter. The tinker is a jovial fellow called Lamdomon, who, though aged, still retains his youthful thick white hair and clear steel blue eyes. His daughter, a shy girl, rather plain, but not unattractive, keeps house and runs most of his errands. She is called Zappora. Her fiery red hair falls just to her waist and her green eyes, says Lamdomon, shame even the brightest forest. Zappora is very superstitious and will never do anything that might bring bad luck or invite evil spirits. She always carries a pair of dice, a package of salt, a bud of garlic and a small fire agate (a stone found in Moorfowl Mountains that is supposed to ward off evil spirits). Both travel to the villages around Gulluvia (except for Velders) once a month to pick up pots and pans to repair and to exchange gossip with the housewives.

When Lamdomon and Zappora travel, they do so in a wagon designed and built by him. This wagon has a 15' square base supported by 4 sturdy spoked wheels. The front wheels are much smaller than the rear ones to provide easier turning ability. The top of the wagon is dome shaped, and covered in thick hides. A small opening in the top allows the smoke from the fire bowl to escape. In the rain, cold weather or when moving, this opening is usually closed. Entrance into the wagon is from the rear by way of a set of folding steps. These steps can be folded and tucked away under the wagon in order to save space and not hinder the movement of the wagon when not in use. The dome shape of the wagon allows complete freedom of movement without having to stoop except near the very edge of the wagon where the top connects with the wagon base. The entire structure is about three feet off the ground, is pulled by a team of oxen, and is capable of floating across rivers and lakes. dust before entering a village, bells are hung on the oxen and the wheels of the wagon to signal the arrival of the tinker.

The tinker and his daughter not only supply the villagers with needed repairs, but are a source of news from other villages. The DM may change any of the information given about the tinker. Only the most interesting facts about the tinker are given, as well as some hints as to who or what the tinker may actually be. Lamdomon, because he travels to all the villages near Gulluvia, and is not considered a threat to the villagers, knows some information that not everyone in a local bar or tavern may have. Building onto what is already given will provide the DM with a special NPC (non-player character) who is not actually one of the who may freely chat with the player characters (provided that they normal D&D classes, but can be used as an important information gatherer happen to meet him).

NPCs

NPCs are characters that the DM may play in the campaign. Generally, NPCs are used only when the party is not large enough to venture into a dungeon, or wilderness. However, they can be used as a method of helping players solve problems and provide information (though their information can and should from time to time be wrong or useless). The DM will have to monitor the input of the NPC carefully so that the fun and mystery, as well as challenge, is not spoiled for players. If done properly and used with care, NPCs can add an extra dimension to an ongoing campaign and provide fun for the DM. Not all DMs opt to use NPCs, so it will be up to the DM to decide if the NPCs found in this module are to have complete personalities. The personality and history need not be thought out all at once. It can be revealed slowly as the campaign continues, as facts about the NPC are discovered by the characters.

Lamdomon's home is his shop and work area. The front room is filled with all sorts of curiosities: old clocks, broken vases, several old sword blades with strange runes carved into them, a blue orb, a couple of red dragon teeth, many brooches and rings, worn kettles and pots, and a asked why he keeps these items, he replies, "Once they were important to many people, now they are only important to me." The other room on this floor is the small kitchen where Zappora makes herbal medicines to sell couple of old benches that seem likely to fall apart if sat on. When to village housewives. This room is neat and orderly. Two bedrooms are located upstairs. Lamdomon's room is filled with normal bedroom furnishings, as well as a suit of silver armor covered by a blanket, and a strange set of riding equipment that appears too large for a horse. Zappora's room is also filled with normal bedroom furnishings, and a few herbs hang from the ceiling drying. Under her pillow she keeps a dagger. The dagger is supposed to keep away evil spirits that cause nightmares.

RUMORS

In the beginning of this module a legend and several stories are given about the palace and the princess. These stories and the legend may be modified by the DM if desired and given to the characters in the form of rumors. If rumors are given out, the DM should read the legend and the stories several times, noting what the characters should know. Other rumors may be circulated. These can be false or true, and it will be up to the DM to decide what, how, and when these rumors are told. In the section before this, a short description of a tinker and his daughter is given. This tinker may be used by the DM to spread rumors to the characters.

Rumors add color, clues, and give the players a base



to work from. If this module is going to be used as a basis for a D&D campaign, the DM may want to add more rumors to the campaign as the knowledge of the game increases. One way to help spread rumors is a rumor sheet or monthly campaign newsletter. This type of extra feature adds to the characters' knowledge of the game and lets the DM spread tales of the city, world or campaign easily. It also helps stir interest in the campaign for players who cannot make every game session.

Below are a few rumors that the DM may wish to let players know. Some are false, as denoted by the F after the sentence, but can be made true if the DM wishes to incorporate them into the module. Others are both true and false in part and an explanation will appear after the rumor.

1. A fierce young female fighter called Aliegha has been seen in a few of the neighboring villages. Many folks say that she carries a sword of ruby and is accompanied by two dwarves and a cleric. Some believe that she might be a descendant of the Silver Princess.
2. The evil of Baroness of Gulluvia, Lady D'hmis, has offered a reward to anyone who can bring to her the ruby known as "My Lady's Heart". Lady D'hmis claims to be the heir to the treasure as she is the only

living descendant of the Silver Princess. F & T (False about the reward. True about her claim.)

3. Many strange beings have been seen near the northern woods. These creatures, say survivors, have three heads, three arms, and three legs. So far five people have been killed by the horrible beasts. Farmers complain that their cattle, chickens and other farm animals keep disappearing, and they are blaming the disappearances on these creatures.
4. The Misty Swamp changes magic-user spells in strange and unpredictable ways.
5. A rich treasure is hidden in the Palace of the Silver Princess. This treasure is said to be even more valuable than "My Lady's Heart". F
6. Lady Argenta is still alive and living with a band of elves that rescued her from the warrior in silver and blue armor. It is said that she is still as fair as she was nearly 500 years ago. F
7. A great cleric called Cathrandamus is roaming the country aiding the sick and defending the just. It is said that he cares not for riches, but only for spiritual gain. T & F (True as there is such a cleric by that name. False as he does care for wealth.)

- Half of the palace was destroyed by one of Argenta's magic users when he accidentally mixed the wrong magical components together.

HOW TO USE THE WANDERING MONSTER TABLES

Every other turn, the DM should make a check for a wandering monster. A roll of 1 on d6 indicates an encounter. The monster will be 20-120 feet away when encountered. Use the special tables given here to determine the type of monster encountered.

WANDERING MONSTER TABLES

ENTRANCE LEVEL

Die Roll	Monster	No. Appearing
1	Acolyte	1-8
2	Bandit	1-8
3	Kobold	4-16
4	Orc	2-8
5	Skeleton	3-12
6	Cave bear	1

UPPER LEVEL

Die Roll	Monster	No. Appearing
1	Goblin	2-8
2	Ubue	2-5
3	Bandit	1-8
4	Berserkers	1-6
5	Hobgoblin	1-6
6	Gelatinous Cube	1

HOW TO USE THE AREA DESCRIPTIONS

The information given for each numbered area is divided into two parts. The boxed information should be read to the players by the DM. This information represents what the characters see or what happens as soon as they enter the area. The unboxed information is for the DM. Some of it tells the DM how to run the encounter, but some of it, like the information about treasure, will be given to the players as their characters search the area.

Some area descriptions will have blank spaces for descriptions, treasures, monsters, or traps. These areas can be used as empty rooms, or can be stocked with whatever the DM wants. There will be examples given at the end of the module, but it's more fun for the DM to make up his or her own.

For example, in room **1F (Entrance Level)**, a DM might decide to place the following:

Description: The room is empty. However, there is a 5' wide section of the east wall that has been bricked up with slightly discolored stone blocks. There is an iron ring 5' off the floor in the center of this section.

Monster: In the secret niche behind the trapped wall section are: 3 Skeletons

Trap: If the iron ring is pulled, the wall section collapses outward, doing 1-3 points of damage to each character within 10'.

Treasure: In the back of the niche is a fragment of parchment with the name "Argenta." It crumbles to dust when touched. There is also a small sack with 200 cp in the corner.

Sometimes there will be room for several listings of the same type (**Entrance Level 29** has three traps, for example). The DM can use any or all of these as desired. They can all be placed in one area (like a triple-trapped box) or can be scattered about the room (a pit trap, a trapped bell cord, and so on).

Although the keys are a general guide, the DM must still make decisions about how much information to give the party. For example, in **Upper Level 10**, the key describes a tub with bath oil pearls in it. Instead of giving the party this information, a DM might describe these as "little colored balls."

The party would have to experiment to get more information (they are soft and contain a strange, sweet-smelling liquid when cut open). A clever party might find out that the "pearls" dissolve in water, and the brightest players may even recognize what they are!

PART 3: KEY TO THE ENTRANCE LEVEL

1

The entrance way seems to be impassable. A massive and foreboding double portcullis blocks the entryway of a 30' wide corridor. A breeze is gently blowing from the palace corridor and it carries with it the dust of decayed stone and the smell of decaying bodies. Occasionally sounds of pain, fright, and hunger can be heard, but they are far away and sometimes muffled, so that all that may be heard is a short piercing scream and then total silence.

Due to the width of the corridor and the natural lighting (be it sunlight or moonlight), vision is clear to the end of the corridor, at which point two openings, both leading south, and also blocked by bars, can be seen.

The party cannot see what is beyond the two openings. Sounds coming from deep in the palace can be heard every few minutes. Once inside the party will hear, just beyond the double portcullis, four enchanted voices. One emits a faraway piercing scream that is soon muffled, the second enchanted voice imitates someone in pain, the third one screams in fright and the last one wails in hunger.

There is no monster or treasure in this area.

1A

Two passageways can be seen here. Each is behind a double portcullis. The first one leads south, while the second extends west.

It will take a total of 20 strength points to raise either of these portcullises.

There is no monster or treasure in this area.

1B

There are two passageways here blocked by a double portcullis. One of the passages leads south, the other east. Beyond 15', down either passage, vision is impaired and nothing but blackness can be seen (this applies to the other passage as well). The south passage way seems to be drier than the east one. The eastern passageway has a hint of moisture in the air and dampness can be felt on the wall just inside the portcullis.

There is no monster or treasure in this area.

1C

The walls of this room are collapsing. Moisture clings to everything and purple moss grows everywhere throughout the room. Torches flicker and sputter as if they are not getting enough oxygen to burn. The air feels heavy and hard to breathe. A sweet smell fills the room and gets stronger as time passes.

The **purple moss** is a type of plant that thrives on moisture and flesh. The sweet smell the party has detected is a sleeping gas produced by the plant. Once the victim is asleep the moss will quickly cover the body and devour it in less than an hour. It then hides the bones of its dinner by covering them and soon they become indistinguishable from any other normal mound of moss. Each player will have to make a successful **DC 10 Constitution saving throw** in order to avoid being affected by the sleep gas. The purple moss cannot be harmed except by normal or magical fire.

There is no treasure in this area.

PURPLE MOSS

Medium plant, unaligned

Armor Class 5

Hit Points 18 (4d8)

Speed 5 ft

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
3 (-4)	1 (-5)	10 (+0)	1 (-5)	3 (-4)	1 (-5)

Damage Vulnerabilities fire

Senses —

Languages —

Challenge 1/4

Sleeping gas. A creature within 30 ft. of the moss must make a successful DC 10 Constitution saving throw or fall asleep.

1D

This huge cave area is filled with the sweet smell of fresh water. The source is obviously a rather large grey stone pool of water that almost covers the entire floor of the cavern. Occasionally bubbles rise to the surface of the water, but apart from that the water is quiet. A small

ledge circles one end of the pool. This ledge is wide enough for one fully armored person to inch around the pool to the other side where an opening can be seen.

If the party disturbs the water, 12 **bubbles** will rise to the surface to defend their lair. The bubbles will attempt to surprise the party by rising to the surface all at once. The pool is 15' deep in its deepest point, and 4' deep at its shallowest point. If the victim cannot be saved, the bubble will expel the dead victim and rise to the surface to attack again. The body, unless armored, will float to the surface.

BUBBLE

Medium construct, unaligned

Armor Class 9

Hit Points 2

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
1 (-5)	5 (-3)	10 (+0)	1 (-5)	1 (-5)	1 (-5)

Senses —

Languages —

Challenge 1/4

ACTIONS

Paralyze. The target must succeed on a DC 13 Constitution saving throw or be paralyzed. If a bubble manages to successfully paralyze someone, it will engulf that victim and then sink back down to the bottom of the pool. The victim will suffocate in 2-5 (1d4 + 1) rounds unless someone manages to kill the enclosing bubble.

If the party manages to successfully kill all the bubbles, their treasure may be found at the deepest point of the pool. A **small bag of 133 gold pieces and one silver wolf-head ring (value: 33 gold pieces)** will be found if the pool is searched.

Stairs lead down the passageway from the pool to a dead end. This area may be opened up by the DM.

This small rectangular cave opens up at the base of long steep stairs. Red coarse sand surrounds a small grey pool of water. The ledge around the water is wide enough for one fully armored person to walk with ease.

The sand is colored red, and if the party rinses the sand they will discover that it is normal coarse sand but once dry becomes red again. The water does not contain any

monsters, but if the party examines the pool carefully, they will find that it is spring fed. The drain appears to be near the southern end of the pool. If this is plugged and the pool is allowed to flood, the adventurers will discover that the cave floor gently slopes to the south. After several hours, a steady stream will appear. After several days, the entire basin at the base of the southern stairs will be completely flooded. (If the party does block the drain, note it for future reference.)

1F

This is an empty room. The DM may wish to insert an encounter of his or her own choosing here or stock the room with valueless items designed to waste a party's time. This also applies to the other empty rooms provided throughout this module.

2

Reed pens, dried ink wells, and hundreds of scraps of paper litter this large room. There are several huge oak tables overturned near the southeast corner. This room appears to have been some kind of study, classroom or library. There are no books or intact scrolls anywhere to be seen.

Hidden behind the tables is a family of five kobolds. If the party decides to search the room, or they discover the kobolds, the kobolds will fight. Otherwise, they will remain hidden until the danger passes. Buried in the rubble of the kobolds' nest are **50 copper pieces**.

KOBOLD

Small humanoid (kobold), lawful evil

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 5 (2d6 - 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
7 (-2)	15 (+2)	9 (-1)	8 (-1)	7 (-2)	8 (-1)

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 8

Languages Common, Draconic

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Sunlight Sensitivity. While in sunlight, the kobold has disadvantage on attack rolls, as well as on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on sight.

Pack Tactics. The kobold has advantage on an attack roll against a creature if at least one of the kobold's allies is within 5 feet of the creature and the ally isn't incapacitated.

ACTIONS

Dagger. Melee Weapon Attack: +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 4 (1d4 + 2) piercing damage.

Sling. Ranged Weapon Attack: +4 to hit, range 30/120 ft., one target.

Hit: 4 (1d4 + 2) bludgeoning damage.

3

Rotten bags of grain, old brooms, and three decaying beer barrels full of vinegar are all that remain in this shelfed room. It appears to once have been a store room. It is not obvious as to whether the inhabitants left the grain and beer because they could not transport them or because they had no choice but to leave them.

If the players examine the barrels they will discover that one is full of pickled snakes. If they touch the sacks of grain, the material, due to its age, will come off in their hands in small patches. The grain itself has a horrible smell, as does the vinegar in the barrels.

There is no monster or treasure in the room.

4

This area was a kitchen. There are many wooden trenchers, spoons, and knives scattered about the tables and floors. Three large tubs full of water sit on stools near the fireplace. One is full of green fungus. A pile of grease soaked rags lies in one corner of the room near a keg of dried beans. Pots and other assorted dishes and cooking utensils are also lying strewn about the room and are beyond cleaning or repair.

Hidden in the rags is a **poisonous snake**. It will only attack if disturbed, otherwise it will remain quiet as it is sleeping.

The green fungus will leave a horrible, sickening, skunk-like smell on whatever comes in contact with it. The smell will linger for 3-18 days. A **small fungus encrusted gold ring** is at the bottom of the fungus. If the ring is cleaned, players will discover the initials A. E. S. carved into it.

POISONOUS SNAKE

Tiny beast, unaligned

Armor Class 13

Hit Points 2 (1d4)

Speed 30 ft., swim 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
2 (-4)	16 (+3)	11 (+0)	1 (-5)	10 (+0)	3 (-4)

Senses blindsight 10 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages —

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

ACTIONS

Bite. Melee Weapon Attack: +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 1 piercing damage, and the target must make a DC 10 Constitution saving throw, taking 5 (2d4) poison damage on a failed save, or half as much damage on a successful one.

5

At first it is hard to determine what this room was used for, but after careful observation it becomes apparent that it once was a dining hall, but now is a complete wreck. Tables, benches and stools have been smashed into hundreds of pieces, torch sconces have been ripped out of the walls, graffiti covers one wall and garbage is piled about the room in small, stinking heaps. The remains of several fires can be seen near the center of the room.

Lying in wait under a table top is a **carriion crawler**. It will wait until someone gets close enough for it to grab. It is not looking for a fight, as it is recovering from battle wounds recently sustained, but it will not flee either. (The carriion crawler was wounded by the dead soldiers that will be found in room EL 7).

If the players examine the fire remains carefully there is a 25 % chance per examiner that they will be able to discern from discarded tinder boxes and other tools of orcish make that the fires seem to have been set by orcs. In addition, the graffiti scrawled on the walls is full of cruel orcish boasts and threats recognizable to any character who can speak and read orcish.

One of the bits of wood lying on the floor is actually a **Wand of Secrets**, however the players will not know that until they have identified it. Each player has a 10% chance, per round of searching, to find the wand. In the process, a ring of what appears to be jailers' keys will be found. There are 6 keys on the ring, each exactly alike. These keys have no cash value but will open the cells located at EL 32.

WAND OF SECRETS

Wand, uncommon

The wand has 3 charges. While holding it. You can use an action to expend 1 of its charges, and if a secret door or trap is within 30 feet of you, the wand pulses and points at the one nearest to you. The wand regains 1d3 expended charges daily at dawn.

CARRION CRAWLER

Large monstrosity, unaligned

Armor Class 13

Hit Points 25

Speed 30 ft., climb 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
14 (+2)	13 (+1)	16 (+3)	1 (-5)	12 (+1)	5 (-3)

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 13

Languages —

Challenge 2 (450 XP)

Keen Smell. The carrion crawler has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell. **Spider Climb.** The carrion crawler can climb difficult surfaces, including upside down on ceilings, without needing to make an ability check.

ACTIONS

Multiattack. The carrion crawler makes two attacks: one with its tentacles and one with its bite.

Tentacles. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +8 to hit, reach 10ft., one creature.

Hit: 4 (1d4 + 2) poison damage, and the target must succeed on a DC 13 Constitution saving throw or be poisoned for 1 minute. Until this poison ends, the target is paralyzed. The target can repeat the saving throw at the end of each of its turns, ending the poison on itself on a success.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 7 (2d4 + 2) piercing damage.

6

Many dusty, musty, smelly bedrolls provide the furniture for this room that was once a barracks. Six 3' footlockers are leaning sideways against the west wall and are covered in several inches of dust. Outlines of weapons and shields can be seen on the wall indicating that at one time the walls sported the occupant's tools of the

trade as decorations for the otherwise barren room. The room is very large.

If the party decides to search this room, roll for a wandering monster only once using the **Wandering Monster Table**. No other monster may be found while in this area. During the search there is a 20% chance per party member searching that **three strange gold coin-like octagons** will be found. These octagons can be used to open a secret compartment in the base of a statue in area **EL 14**. If the octagons are sold, their value will be between 10 and 100 gold pieces each.

7

This room contains the remains of bunks, bedrolls, round oaken tables, stools, benches and dead soldiers which have been beheaded. Along the north wall is a line of 6 heads.

There are no intact weapons left in the room, and all the bodies have apparently been searched thoroughly, leaving nothing of value on them. Upon closer examination, the players will notice the insignia on the uniforms of the soldiers. It resembles a wolf's head with an battlement and ball between the ears, two slanted eyes, an arrow where the nose should be and a lightning bolt on the arrow. As the party searches the room, roll for a wandering monsters. If on the first roll none was indicated roll again. On the last roll if one was indicated the wandering monster will be two female thieves: **Candella and Dutchess**. Both women will have an above average appearance and will attempt to use it to their benefit. They will pretend to be young inexperienced fighters in search of adventure, fame and fortune, but mostly fortune. Candella is the spokesman of the two women.

These two thieves will be friendly towards the party, not acting hostile if they win the initiative. They will politely ask to join the party, saying that they are not quite as tough or prepared for adventuring as they had originally thought themselves to be. Dutchess will stress her desire to accompany them, saying she fears that she and her companion have made a grave error in attempting to venture into the palace ruins by themselves, especially after seeing the strange 3 headed monsters they have managed to flee from so far.

Both thieves will have the following on them including normal dungeon supplies, weapons and thieves tools:

- 15 gp
- 7 sp
- 21 cp
- Wolfsbane (Dutchess)

- Poisoned daggers (poison effective for one attack)
- Stand of pearls (value 600 gp)

8

Wind whistles softly through this dark damp cave carrying with it a musky smell. In the entrance way of the cave can be seen two sets of animal chains. Straw is scattered about the floor, along with jagged bones.

If the party opts to enter the cave, they will soon find themselves face to face with a very hungry and very young **cave bear cub**. It appears to have been abandoned by its mother though there is a 1% chance per turn she will return. If the players offer it food (meat) it will eat it gladly, but warily watch and growl at the players while it devours the food.

CAPTURING THE CUB

If the party captures the cub they will be forced to sell it as they will find that it is too big, too wild, and too hungry for them to afford to keep. Its value on the open market is between 200 and 400 gold pieces. However, the DM may wish to have the cub auctioned off in a bazaar, or can allow the players to have it tamed and trained at a great cost. Training can be done only by a skilled animal trainer and will cost from 200-700 gp and take from 4-24 weeks. This will allow the DM to continue the game into the city.



CAVE BEAR CUB

Medium beast, unaligned

Armor Class 11

Hit Points 15

Speed 40 ft., swim 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	5 (-3)	8 (-1)	1 (-5)	6 (-2)	3 (-4)

Skills Perception +3

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 13

Languages —

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Keen Smell. The bear has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell.

ACTIONS

Multiattack. The bear makes two attacks: one with its bite and one with its claws.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 5 (1d8) piercing damage.

Claws. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 7 (1d6 + 4) slashing damage.

9

This elongated hexagonal room is littered with smelly, moldy, red towels. There is also a lot of dried up soft pink soap in broken blue ceramic containers, decorated with romantic scenes of mermaids swimming about proud ships and singing songs to the sailors. The beautiful marble floors are white, veined in black and gold. Each of the 6 walls is decorated with ornately carved wooden towel racks and copper torch scones which are now tarnished due to lack of care. A lovely bench of black marble with white and gold streaks occupies the center of the room. A faded red cushion, now ruined by dry rot, lies beside the bench.

Hidden in a towel under the bench is a **gold colored key on a thin golden chain**. There is only a 15% chance that the players will find the key unless they specifically state that they are looking under the bench, at which point they will discover the key. This key will open the secret door in room **EL 12**. If it is sold, the key and chain together will only bring 1 gold and 6 silver pieces.

10

In this room, which is shaped exactly like the last one, is a large pool. It appears to be filled with clear water. The walls of this room are lavishly decorated with murals of water nymphs, ponds with long reeds extending upwards to the sun, and brave hunters stalking water birds. Here, as in the last room, are more moldy rotten towels. There are also seven delicately carved vials of scented bath oils, and a rather large peacock feather fan, now rotted, which is propped up in one corner.

If the party examines the pool closely, they will discover what appears to be a rather large diamond embedded in the center of the pool. The gem is actually the eye of the diger an amoebic monster that seeks rock or stone areas in which to camouflage itself as a pool. It is incapable of attacking anyone or anything unless the victim enters the diger's 'pool'.

The vials of oils are worth a gold piece each, and the feather fan, due to its condition, only 5 copper pieces.

Note the false door and secret door.



DIGER

Medium ooze, unaligned

Armor Class 8

Hit Points 33 (6d6 + 12)

Speed 10 ft., climb 10 ft., swim 10 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
12 (+1)	6 (-2)	14 (+2)	1 (-5)	6 (-2)	2 (-4)

Skills Athletics +3

Damage Resistances acid

Damage Immunities poison

Senses blindsight 60 ft., passive Perception 8

Languages —

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Amorphous. The diger can move through a space as narrow as 1 inch wide without squeezing.

ACTIONS

Pseudopod. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 4 (1d6 + 1) bludgeoning damage plus 2 (1d4) acid damage and the target is grappled (escape DC 10). Until the grapple ends, the target is restrained and has disadvantage on Strength checks and Strength saving throws, and the target takes 2 (1d4) acid damage at the start of each of its turn, while it is grappled.

11

Upon entering this room, the first thing noticed is a small, pink marble pedestal about dwarf size in height. Any light entering the room will gleam off of a small object atop the pedestal. The object is silver in color.

Other than the pedestal the room seems to be empty.

When a character gets within one foot of the pedestal, the silver pendant on top of the pedestal will begin to radiate a silver glow that will illuminate the entire room. After one round, hysterical laughter will seem to come from the pendant, and anyone within a 10' radius of it must make a DC 15 Constitution saving throw or fall into a fit of uncontrollable laughter that will last 3 rounds or until the pendant is removed from the pedestal. Any character attempting to remove the pendant must also make a DC 15 Constitution saving throw or else be likewise stricken. The second character is allowed a + 2 on his or her save, as is anyone else who tries. However, the pendant can only affect three people at any given time. All others will be immune until there are no longer three people in its area of effect. Once the pendant has been successfully removed, the stricken character will no longer be affected by the pendant, and all laughter will cease. Characters who were affected by the pendant will lose 2 points of strength and 1 point from their constitution for 2-8 turns. The pendant has no sale value.

12

This hexagonal room, much like the other ones, is decorated with mosaic tiles. The mosaic covers the entire room, the walls, the floor and ceiling. The scenes are of a red dragon mounted by a man in silver and blue armor giving chase to a young maiden wearing a silver gown and a silver and ruby coronet. Another scene depicts elves playing in the woods while a red dragon watches them from his hiding place behind two tall pines. On one wall is a pool of bright blue water with a shimmering diamond floating on a lily pad, and several mermaids swimming and splashing each other near it. The design on the floor shows the maiden, man and dragon curled up asleep around a key hole.

Once the party has entered the room, if they examine the murals, the keyhole in the floor will emit a blue white glow and will last until a key is placed into it. If the players use one of the jailer's keys (providing they found them) or any key other than the gold one from EL 9, a 5'x5'x1' stone slab will fall from the ceiling over the spot where the keyhole is located. Characters within that area must make a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw to avoid being hit by the stone. Any character caught by the stone will suffer 2-12 points of damage. If the golden colored key is placed in the keyhole, another keyhole will appear on the east wall. The second keyhole is opened by the golden key also. Once placed in the lock and turned, the wall, keyhole, and key will vanish. A long silver sword — glowing with a bright blue-white light, suspended in

mid air — will appear in their place. If a character reaches out to touch the sword, a fully armored man (the one depicted in the murals), will appear beside it, take the sword and attack the person who was attempting to take the sword. The man is an illusion and will disappear after 4 rounds. However, characters hit by the illusion will believe that they have actually sustained damage and will feel "hurt," though no damage was actually taken. The illusion is considered to be AC 2. Once the illusion has disappeared, the sword will drop to the floor, still glowing as it was when the characters first saw it. All characters will immediately realize that they took no damage, and characters who may have been "killed" will discover that they are actually alive and were only asleep.

If all the party members are "killed", they will wake up a short time later. The illusion will be gone and the glowing sword will be lying on the floor. The illusion will not reappear if they take the sword before leaving the room.

If the characters decide to touch the sword again, nothing will happen to them and the sword will "feel good" in their hands. The sword will always glow when not sheathed. There is no sheath for it in the room, nor will it fit into a sheath not specifically designed for it. The magic properties of the sword are as follows:

GLOWING LONGSWORD, +1

Weapon (any), uncommon

This sword glows while unsheathed. You have a bonus to attack and damage rolls made with this magic weapon.

13

Description:

Monsters:

Traps:

Treasure:

14

This open area is a small worship alcove. On a raised platform along the western wall is a beautifully carved statue of a woman holding a small girl child in her lap. The woman is smiling down at the child, who plays with a small ball clutched in her hands. The inscription on the base of the statue reads "The secret treasure of one's

heart can be found in love."

17

A small opening beneath the inscription is the lock to open the compartment in the base of the statue. One of the gold coin-like octagons found in room **EL 6** will open it if inserted into the opening. Once opened, a scroll case will be found, and in it a fragment of a verse written in silver ink on vellum parchment:

I came, and what did my eyes behold?
A maiden fair with hair of gold.
Her face, aglow by which the sun is shamed.
My steed, a dragon, her innocence did tame.
Her heart, a gem with many facets.

15

In this small and once luxuriously decorated semi-circular room is a tiny 3'x3' alcove in which stands a statue of a young girl with arm outstretched. The area seems peaceful.

If the secret door is opened it will trigger a mechanism which will pour down 200 cn worth of golden glitter upon the first person to step through. This glitter will stick to all exposed skin, hair, leather and cloth. It cannot be removed except by oil or animal fat. If players attempt to wash it off with wine or water all they will succeed in doing is rearranging it a little. The only way to avoid, this trap is to place a weight of 600 cn on the pressure plate just inside the secret door. This will set off the trap, and the glitter will stick to the floor, instead. The glitter will glow in the dark, thus adding + 3 to the chance of being surprised by any opponent who is in the line of sight.

16

The first thing seen upon entering this room is a plaque that reads "All that glitters is not gold." There is also a small fountain of water in one corner and both the north and south walls are covered by arrases. One arras has a scene of a young maiden with golden hair sitting on a silver throne. Upon her head rests a coronet of silver and rubies, and in her hand a scepter of silver topped by a very large blood red ruby. The arras show a warrior in blue and silver armor resting casually in a wooden arm chair decorated with carvings. His feet are propped up on a stool.

Four statues dominate the room, one in each corner. Each one is of a young girl in a different pose. Between the two statues on the east wall is a kneeling bench, and on it rests an open book. Plush rugs that are still in fair condition cover the floor.

The book is the diary of Lady Argenta. It simply tells of the fighter in silver and blue armor coming to her home, winning her love and then marrying her. It stops after the fourth day of their marriage. It does mention "My Lady's Heart" being somewhere in the living quarters of the palace hidden in a teak wood jewel case.

Monster:

18

This area seems to have been in some kind of explosion or earthquake. Rubble covers the floor. Occasionally whimpering like those from a puppy can be heard. They frequently start only to stop a few seconds later.

The whimpering is only the wind blowing through the rubble.

Monster:

19

Description:

Monsters:

Treasure:



20

This very small chamber is more of a passageway than a room. It is very cramped and there are several sets of empty shelves on the walls.

The pit trap in the floor of this storage passage will be activated by the first person to step onto it, and triggered by the second one who steps onto it. Once triggered, the floor will swing open and drop whatever is on it into a 10' deep pit. The cover then will swing back up and lock shut. Anyone falling into the pit will take 1d6 points of damage (DC 10 Dexterity saving throw for half damage).

If the first person who walks across the trap door is at the other side before the second one tries, only the second one will fall in, otherwise both will fall in.

After one round, small openings will appear in the walls, and oil will pour out into the pit. The oil will continue to spill forth until it lies 1" deep over the entire surface area of the floor. As soon as this occurs, another wall opening will appear and an unlit torch will fall onto the oil. (When the palace was occupied, the torch would have been lit.)

Characters who are not trapped in the pit will be unable to open it by any means other than using the release mechanisms hidden inside secret compartments on the inside of either doorway. (Note that any character covered in glitter from the secret door at room EL 15, who has fallen into this pit, will discover that the glitter is coming off due to the oil.)

21

Description:

Monsters:

Treasure:

22

This room is cluttered with many objects large and small.

If any light source is brought into the room, eerie shadows begin to dance wildly about. One shadow, lurking in the corner, appears to be human or humanlike.

The humanlike form in the corner is actually a dressmakers' dummy. The room is filled with old bolts of cloth so rotten that merely brushing up against them causes them to disintegrate into thousands of little pieces. Also hidden in the room in a pin cushion ball is a small delicate platinum needle (value 15 gp) brought to the Lady Argenta from a far-away land. Metal needles are very rare, and platinum ones are even rarer.

Monsters:

Treasure:

23

Sand covers almost the entire floor of this once lavishly decorated room. Glints of silver may be seen in the sand near the center of the room.

If the party searches the sand, the silvery glint will prove to be strands of dancing bells on small delicate chains. There is a 10' deep pit near the center of the room, and players who go near it will have a 25% (DC 10 Dexterity saving throw) chance of falling into the pit. Since the trap door is sand covered there is only 1 chance in 8 (DC 15 Perception check) of being able to detect it before. Anyone falling in will take 1d6 points of damage.

Also trapped in the pit is a **giant rat** who fell into it and is now nearly dead from starvation. Due to the fact that it is half starved, it will attack at a -2 on all "to hit" rolls.

Hidden in the sand in the north-western corner of the room is a small sack of mixed coins (10 gp, 8 sp and 9 cp) and a jade ring with dragons carved into it (value 250 gp). The ring is not magical.

GIANT RAT

Small beast, unaligned

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
7 (-2)	15 (+2)	11 (+0)	2 (-4)	10 (+0)	4 (-3)

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages —

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Keen Smell. The rat has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell.

Pack Tactics. The rat has advantage on an attack roll against a creature if at least one of the rat's allies is within 5 feet of the creature and the ally isn't incapacitated.

ACTIONS

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 4 (1d4 + 2) piercing damage.

24

Upon entering this rectangular room, the first thing that will be noticed are the arrases hanging on all four walls and the many couches circled around a 5' wide decorative wheel that is painted on the floor. Various pillows of many sizes (now musty and falling apart) are scattered randomly about the room. Crushed and punctured wine goblets are piled into one corner of the room. In another corner of this room stands a small lap harp that has no strings. Candle holders, a few of which are very decorative, sit on small tables, almost the size of stools, near each couch.

The arrases are as rotten as most other materials so far encountered. The couches are made of marble and have been cemented to the floor. The seven decorative candle holders are made of silver (value 50 gp each). The harp in the corner is an Ice Harp. If the players examine it closely, they will discover that it is made of crystal, and though no strings can be seen, when touched, sweet clear music will be heard. The harp's magical properties are such that any skilled harpist (a skill the player characters may lack) playing it can calm and relax any beast listening to it. The musical effects will begin 1 round after play has begun. Saves vs. Spell are applicable. Its value is 600 gp.

Monster:

25

A statue of a small dragon readying for flight is leaning against the northeastern corner of this partly carved out room. A set of stairs going up is in the north wall. The whole room appears to have been cut from the living rock, instead of built from rocks brought in from mountain quarries. This area does not appear to be made from marble.

There is a false doorway in the west wall placed there to trap intruders. If the iron ring is grasped a poisoned needle will spring out and pierce the hand of the grasper. A DC 10 Dexterity saving throw due to the age of the venom must be made by the stricken character to avoid death.

Monster:

Treasure:



26

An overturned oaken table and three benches are all that remain in this small guard room. The floor is thickly covered in dust, and nothing seems to have disturbed it in a long time. There is a large sack in the southeast corner. Large blood stains are smeared on the floor beside it.

Within the sack are three human skulls, a dagger, a dagger blade, and 11 sp. There are many vile-looking but harmless spiders living in the skulls. Under the sack is a bloody finger joint. It appears to be fresh.

Monster:

27

This large rectangular room contains many implements of torture. An iron maiden hangs in one corner. Rusted, long-neglected branding irons lie scattered among the filthy, blood-stained straw. Assorted sizes and lengths of chain encircle several skeletons hanging limply against the walls. Small wooden cages hang from the ceiling. Caught in the door of one is a bit of what appears to be a tattered nightgown. Several mice peer out of holes and cracks in the grey stone walls.

The room is empty when the party enters. After one round, a crazed old man, **Travis** with a meat cleaver will come up the stairs from the south and appear in the doorway. He will laugh insanely and then attack the closest person to him. Travis, an old crazed warrior, will scream at the players saying that he knew they could not resist his treasure. No one could, he laughs, not even his companions. He knows they have come to steal his great treasure, and so they all must die just as others before them. He will attack until either he or the characters are dead. He will neither surrender nor allow himself to be captured.

No treasure can be found on him or in the room.

TRAVIS

Medium humanoid (human), chaotic evil

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
11 (+0)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages Common

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

ACTIONS

Meat Cleaver. Melee Weapon Attack: +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 4 (1d6 + 1) slashing damage.

28

A horrible smell like rotting carcasses can be detected beyond the door of this room.

Once opened, mounds of rotten, decayed bodies of

unlucky adventurers can be seen covering almost every inch of the floor. The sight is gruesome to behold, and characters with constitutions of less than 7 will not be able to enter the room without becoming ill for 2-7 rounds (1d6 + 1) from the smell and gory sight. The bodies have all been thoroughly searched prior to the party finding them and there is nothing of value to be found.

29

A small pallet of fresh straw lies near the northwestern corner of this room. A wooden trencher, a pair of eating knives and a pewter wine goblet rest neatly on a table in the center of the room. Several old tapestries have been carelessly hung on the walls, and bits of fur and other types of floor covering form a makeshift rug. A burning lantern hangs over the table.

This is the room where Travis lives. On the east wall, behind the tapestry is the peephole he uses to spy out into the hallway. Hidden underneath the pallet, protected by a loose stone in the floor, is a small wooden case. This case contains Travis' personal treasure; 2 rubies (300 gp each), 1 large emerald (2000 gp), a gold wedding ring with the initials D and B carved in the shape of a heart on the inside (10 gp), and a gem-studded throwing dagger +2 (the plus only applies if the dagger is thrown at an opponent; its value is 400 gp). The valuables he has removed from his victims are hidden in room EL 32D.

THROWING KNIFE, +2

Weapon (any), uncommon

You have a bonus to attack and damage rolls made with this knife when it is thrown.

30

Directly across from the northern door is a huge wooden table still in good condition. Behind it is a huge ornately carved wooden chair. On the table is a candle sconce, a feathered quill, a blank scroll, and a string of colored wooden beads.

Travis kept this room in good shape. He used it to hold 'court' if he decided to impress some of his victims. The paper scroll, pen, and candle sconce are still in good condition and were obviously used by Travis when he passed judgment on the accused. However, the beads will be a mystery to the adventurers. These beads are message beads used by the dead soldiers found in EL 7. The message depicted on the beads must be determined by the DM.

31

This rather large room has been swept clean. No dirt or dust can be found. The room is empty of all furnishings.

Travis, it appears was a very clean man. All the rooms he claimed as his territory were used for a specific reason or kept completely clean.

32

This area is a group of jail cells. A few of them contain skeletons or corpses chained to the walls.

All the cells are locked. The set of jailer's keys mentioned earlier (EL 5) will open all the cells. Note that this whole area would be an excellent place to hide monsters and treasure.

Cell D: In this cell are 2 large marmoset monkeys who will attack anyone who enters the room (except Travis). The marmosets stand 8' high when erect; and have 12' long tails that they use not only for balance, but for attacking. The tails are tipped by sharp furry spikes. They are protecting the treasure that Travis has collected from his victims. All these items are locked in three large metal chests. The first chest contains a large mixture of coins of several different realms totaling 1000 cp, 400 sp, and 200 gp. The second chest holds a variety of jewelry, mostly artificial or costume, worth 500 gp. The last one is filled with swords, daggers, and helms. Only one of the swords is magical, at a bonus of + 1. It is indistinguishable from the rest of the swords unless a detect magic is cast on them.

SHORTSWORD, +1

Weapon (any), uncommon

You have a bonus to attack and damage rolls made with this magic weapon.

33

This small cave is filled with ornate and delicately carved life-size statues of different men and women. Many candles and other burnt offerings lie before each of the statues. Marble benches form a circle in the center of the room.

The statues represent unknown gods and goddesses. Hidden in one of the statue's arms is a **wand of light**. Players will have to successfully search or detect for secret doors on the statues in order to find the wand. The wand has only 3 charges left, and looks the same as any other wand.

WAND OF LIGHT, +1

Wand, rare

This wand can glow bright enough to light up a 100 sq. ft. for 1 hour per charge.

34

A single statue of embracing lovers dominates this cave. Dead vines and other plant life hang loosely to the rough walls. They were originally grown in clay pots, but have not received care for a long time. The floor is worn smooth.

Nothing of value can be found in this area. The smoothness of the floor is due to the hundreds of feet that have trekked in and out of this cave over the previous centuries.

35

This huge cave is filled with stalactites and stalagmites covered in a shimmering pink glow. The stalactites and stalagmites in many places have formed into one single column. It is very difficult to move through this area as the stalactites and stalagmites are very close together. In some places they almost form walls.

If the players decide to investigate this area, they will discover that the northern section of the cave is fairly free of stalagmites and stalactites. In this empty space stands a statue of a beautiful woman beckoning to any who approach. Anyone who manages to make their way through the maze of stalactites and stalagmites may fall into a pit trap (DC 15 Dexterity saving throw) that is placed at the base of the statue. This 50' deep pit is filled with stagnant water.

36

Behind the bars of the entrance to this cave pitch black water can be seen, as well as a glint of gold from time to time. Hot winds seem to come from this barred area. The dampness on the walls is apparent from the droplets that fall to the floor. Moisture fills the air and clings to clothes, skin, and hair. The floor is slick from the warm water.

All characters must succeed on a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw or fall due to the slipperiness of the floor during the first round in the room. Thereafter they are safe, as they will grow accustomed to the wetness, though not to the heat. Once they have managed to lift the portcullis (35 strength points are needed due to its rusted condition), it will stay up.

PART 4: KEY TO THE UPPER LEVEL

1

This watch tower room has 6 windows overlooking the surrounding lands. A trap door is in the center of the floor. A rope ladder lies to one side of it. Several arrows are embedded into the door, and a broken bow and a sword lay beside it. There is a door in the east wall.

After a round the players will hear scuffling and fighting noises from the other side of the east wall door. Phrases like "Come on Briardoor, I got her," "no Joshua, not him" and "take that you filthy worm," will be heard intermixed with the other noises. If the players open the door to investigate, bright light will fill the hallway, and all that will be seen are three swords fighting each other as if by themselves. It is an illusion placed there by the palace magic user to frighten intruders who may decide to enter through the tower. The illusion will not be dispelled by touch. The trap doors leads down to room EL 38.

2

This partly intact ancient laboratory holds the remains of several experiments, small scraps of paper, beakers, and a variety of other equipment spilled across onto two large oaken tables. A beautiful life-size green crystal statue of a gargoyle in the northeast corner. A polishing cloth is draped over its shield. An empty bookcase is leaning against the north wall, and a destroyed bookcase lies on the floor near the south wall.

The crystal gargoyle is actually a living statue and was placed here long ago. It still serves its purpose: to defend the lab from anyone who enters. Three scraps of paper from the pile on the tables contain spells for a 1st level magic user (spells to be determined by the DM).

GARGOYLE

Medium elemental, chaotic evil

Armor Class 15

Hit Points 52 (7d8 + 21)

Speed 30 ft., fly 60 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
15 (+2)	11 (+0)	16 (+3)	6 (-2)	11 (+0)	7 (-2)

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, and slash-

ing from nonmagical weapons that aren't adamantine

Damage Immunities poison

Condition Immunities exhaustion, petrified, poisoned

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11

Languages Terran

Challenge 2 (450 XP)

False Appearance. While the gargoyle remains motionless, it is indistinguishable from an inanimate statue.

ACTIONS

Multiattack. The gargoyle makes two attacks: one with its bite and one with its claws.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Claws. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 5 (1d6 + 2) slashing damage.

3

This is a deserted room. It is now empty.

This room once held stores of various sorts but has long since been cleaned out.

Monster:

Treasure:

4

A plain, single bed and a huge wooden and metal desk dominate this sparsely furnished bedchamber. A broom lies in one corner near a pile of dirt. A tattered pair of silk bedroom slippers lie at the foot of the plain bed. A small chest of drawers with attached mirror has been turned over.

Hiding under the bed is a small black cat. It will appear as a harmless domesticated creature, but is actually

an enchanted great cat and can become a panther once every other hour for 10 rounds. When in small cat form it is harmless. It will be up to the DM to keep track of the elapsed time and determine at what times the cat will transform itself.

Sewn into the mattress of the bed are **50 gold coins** and **3 oval shaped rubies** worth 70 gp each.

CAT

Tiny beast, unaligned

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 2 (1d4)

Speed 40 ft., climb 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
3 (-4)	15 (+2)	10 (+0)	3 (-4)	12 (+1)	7 (-2)

Skills Perception +3, Stealth +4

Senses passive Perception 13

Languages —

Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Keen Smell. The cat has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell.

ACTIONS

Claws. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +0 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 1 slashing damage.

PANTHER

Medium beast, unaligned

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 13 (3d8)

Speed 50 ft., climb 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
14 (+2)	15 (+2)	10 (+0)	3 (-4)	14 (+2)	7 (-2)

Skills Perception +3, Stealth +6

Senses passive Perception 14

Languages —

Challenge 1/4 (50 XP)

Keen Smell. The panther has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell.

Pounce. If the panther moves at least 20 feet straight toward a creature and then hits it with a claw attack on the same turn, that target must succeed on a DC 12 Strength saving throw or be knocked prone. If the target is prone, the panther can make one bite attack against it

as a bonus action.

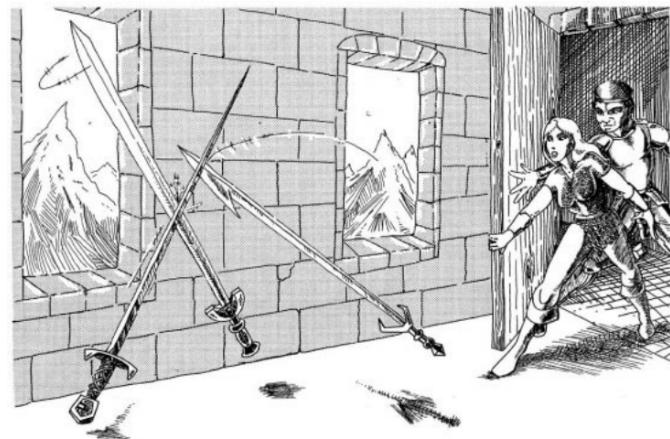
ACTIONS

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.

Hit: 4 (1d4 + 2) slashing damage.



5

This is a deserted room. It is empty.

This room once held supplies and stores of various sorts but has long since been emptied.

Monster:

Treasure:

6

A huge, ornate, once lavishly decorated double canopy bed is directly across from the set of double doors. The bed posts resemble vines, nymphs, and birds all intertwined. The bed is covered in dusty, dull red velvet. Arrases line three of the walls with lovely and peaceful scenes of maidens riding on unicorns, playing in still pools that abound with plant life, and singing under starry skies lighted by a full moon. To either side of the door is a large hand carved chest of drawers, both with mirrors that are veined in silver. A small cushioned chair and matching footstool are at the end of the bed. On

the footstool is a small makeup pallette and pestle.

This was Lady Argenta's room. It has remained untouched by man or monster since the day she left it. The furniture and cloth here as well as in the rest of the palace is rotten and of no value. All the drawers have been emptied; and no clues or other information can be gained. The makeup pallette is enameled in gold and was used for crushing colored powders for eye makeup (1000 gp).

The view from the windows is into an overgrown garden.



7

Several chairs and tables circle the fireplace in this room. A worn rug lies rolled up in one corner, and 3 knitting baskets sit beside it. On a small table near the fireplace is a small tea cup and saucer. Hanging over the fireplace is a portrait of Lady Argenta. She is holding a beautiful blood red ruby the size of an apple. Her smile betrays a hint of mischievousness.

The only thing of value in the room is the tea cup. It is a magical singing tea cup. When lifted off the saucer, the cup will begin to randomly sing one of the 100 songs it knows.

Monster:

8

Shelves line this room. They are all empty now. A broken bedwarmer lays next to a small table and chair in the center of the room.

Monster:

Treasure:

Trap:

9

This small room is lined with hangers and hooks. A chest of drawers is against the east wall.

This was Lady Argenta's closet. It is now empty of clothes or other valuables.

Monster:

10

The walls of this lovely bathing room are painted with peaceful scenes of spring and summer. The ceiling and floor are mirrored and the floor retains some of its original polish. An ornate marble and silver enameled oval bathtub is against the eastern wall. A silver enameled towel rack standing next to the tub holds the remains of a thick towel and wash cloth. Many small and lovely soft soap containers are scattered randomly about the room. Bath oil pearls litter the now empty tub. At the head of the tub is a delicately sculpted tray centered with a small vase. It is decorated by three sets of three small gems. Each set of three is a different color — red, blue, and yellow.

After one round, an ubue will enter from room UL 11 to investigate the noise in the bathing room. If there are more than 3 opponents, he will summon help from the remaining two ubues in room UL 11. If the party is too strong, the monsters will retreat into room UL 11.

The tray at the head of the tub is used to create water for bathing. The magic works like this: Two red stones placed on the tray create hot water, two yellow stones bring cold, and two blue ones remove it. Mix a yellow and a red and the result is luke warm water. The blue ones only work with each other. The tub will fill to capacity in 3 rounds. It will empty in 1 round.

UBUE

Medium humanoid, true neutral

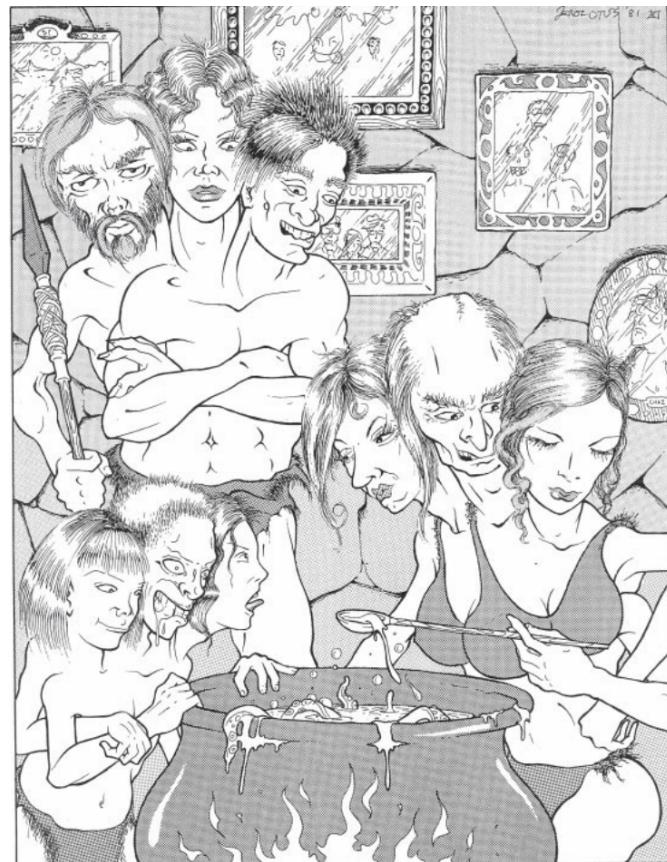
Armor Class 10
Hit Points 4 (1d8)
Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 10
Languages Common
Challenge 0 (10 XP)

ACTIONS

Club. Melee Weapon Attack: +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target.
Hit: 2 (1d4) bludgeoning damage.



11

Three makeshift beds are lined against the south wall. A table with three chairs, and a huge stew pot sit near the fireplace. A tub filled with water and dishes is also near the fireplace. The walls are covered in portraits and other scenic paintings. Most of the portraits are of the Lady Argenta or of the Silver Warrior. One is of the red dragon, but it has been slashed in several places.

This is the lair of three ubues. They have collected all the paintings they could find to decorate the walls. The ubues are a family unit; one of the ubues is female, and one is slightly smaller than the others.

The only thing of value in this room is the small chest of 40 gp hidden under a loose brick in the fireplace.

12

This small room has only one stool and a table shoved out of the way against the north wall. There is a wheel on the south wall.

This was a guard station. The wheel is used to lift the portcullis in the hallway which is presently lowered. (A total of 20 strength points will be needed to lift the portcullis if the wheel is not used. Otherwise, one character with normal strength will be able to lift it.)

Monster:

Treasure:

Trap:

13

This garden is overgrown with weeds. The paths have disappeared into the underbrush, and the only statue is

now completely grown over with thick purplish vines.
Water can be heard, but not seen.

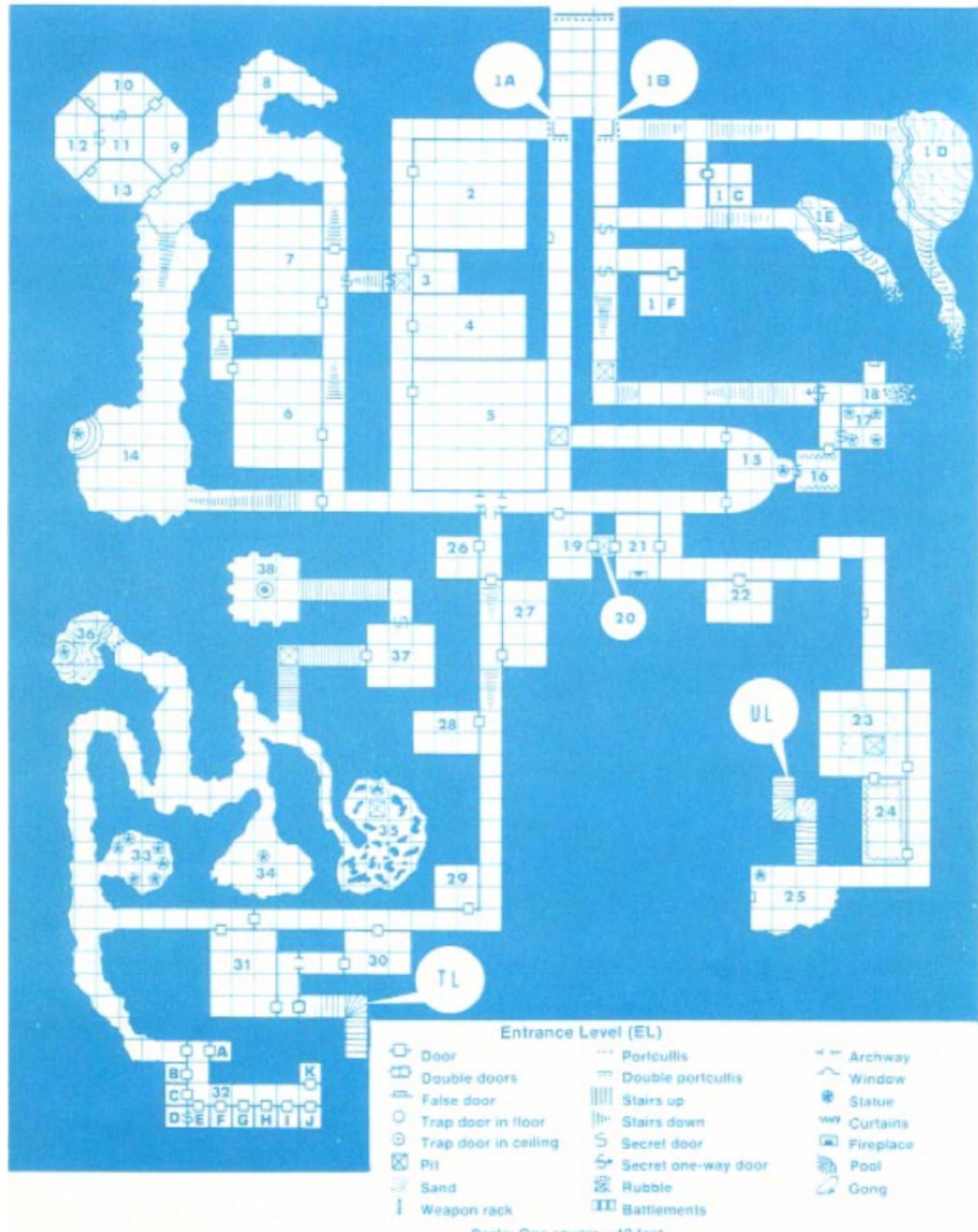
Two deadly plants now inhabit this plush garden, a Jupiter blood sucker with 6 vines, one of which is wrapped around the statue, and 8 archer bushes. The archer bushes will attack only if disturbed. The Jupiter blood sucker will move towards its intended victim, wrap itself around him or her and place one of its giant leaves over the victim's face, thus smothering the victim while inserting its needle sharp thorns to drain the victim's blood.

A fountain can be found by carefully searching near the southeast corner of the garden. The fountain has healing powers that will cure each person once and replace all lost hit points. Any attempts to use the water again will not be successful, nor will the healing power of the water remain if taken out of the fountain. The water must be drunk or lapped up straight from the fountain.

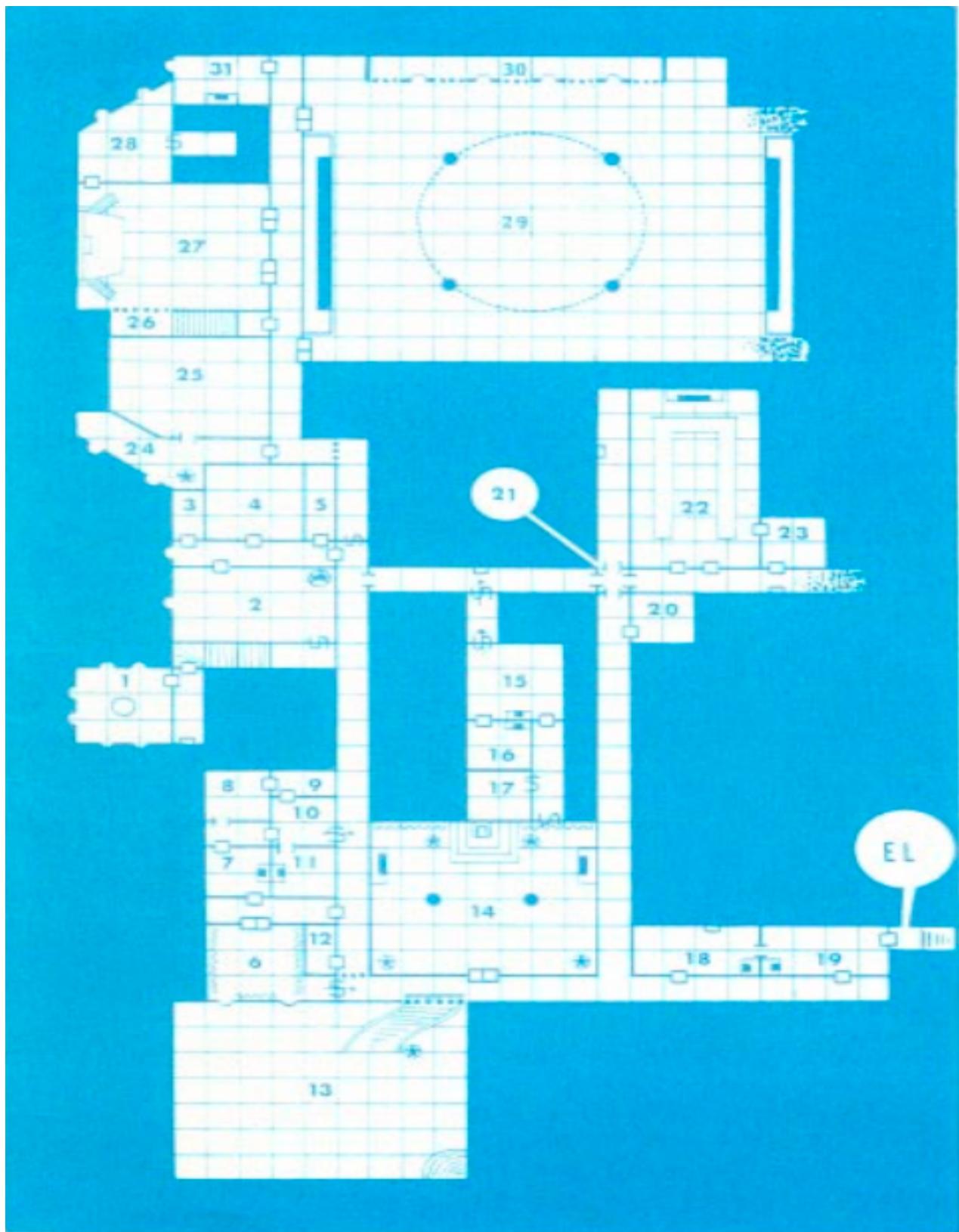


MAPS

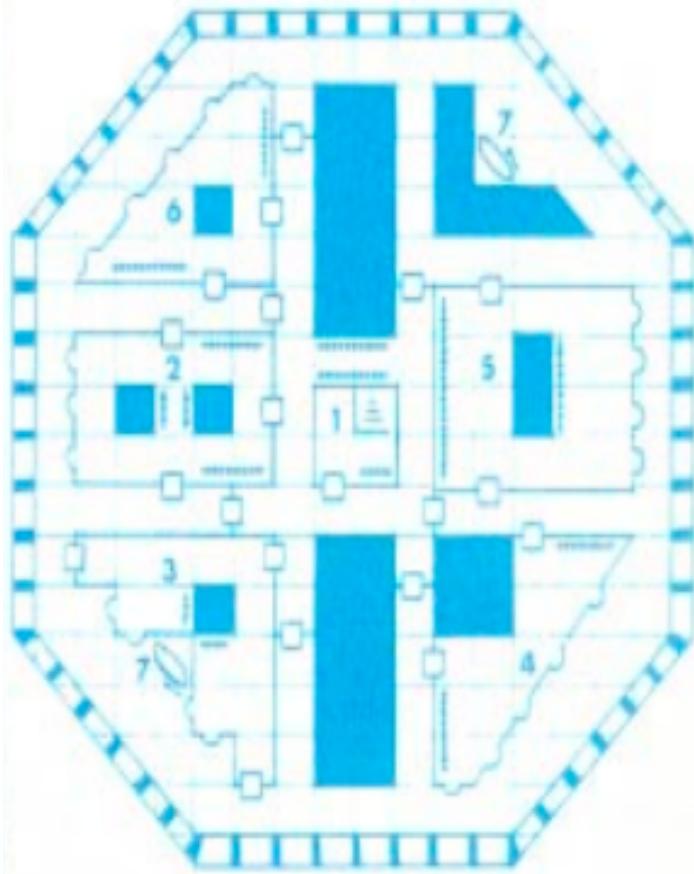
ENTRANCE LEVEL



UPPER LEVEL



GUARD TOWER LEVEL



MONSTERS

Bubble, 13

Carrion Crawler, 15

Cat, 25

Cave Bear Cub, 16

Diger, 17

Gargoyle, 24

Giant Rat, 20

Kobold, 13

Panther, 25

Poisonous Snake, 14

Purple Moss, 12

Travis, 22

Ubue, 26