

Oakhurst and Party Backstory

The tiny logging village of Oakhurst has always known peace. The town was poor yet joyful, plain to look at yet wondrous to interact with. All its charm came to an end nearly 10 years ago. Many townsfolk speculate it happened long before anyone had seen the new man in the village, for the Hercule family, the presiding Reeves who acted in behalf of the Nobles of Neverwinter, seemed unperturbed by him. At first he seemed to only be an enforcer. Then it became clear that he was not only enforcing strange laws from Gwenoln, the head of the Hercule family, but it was his decree as well.

The strange law that was passed was a mandate that everyone in the town would devote some time to the building of a chapel that would serve as a place to honor the dead. The townsfolk thought it was the old Gwenny going mad, as she was getting later in age. The people happily complied as it would be likely the last thing that she saw through and she had been a marvelous leader for the town folk. After all, it was her idea to broaden the roads that connected Oakhurst and Neverwinter that expedited trade, leading to the town becoming the primary supplier of lumber to Neverwinter even over the village Ubbin Falls despite it being much closer than Oakhurst. The beloved Gwenoln also eradicated the goblins from an area of Mount Hotenow that produced an apple that brought strength and healing to the townsfolk, making them capable of producing more lumber than ever before.

It was a year after the people began building the chapel when they began to see the bearded man. His skin was crimson red. He first appeared to be a caretaker and bodyguard for the Hercule family, staying close to them, residing mostly in their home. Then some claimed to have seen him wandering about at night at the site of the chapel. Soon he roamed the construction sight during all times of day ensuring that everyone was contributing to the edification of the chapel. One day, the old Orrin, claiming to suffer an ache in his knees that day, did not show up, breaking the law of Gwenoln. It is said that the red

man broke down his door, pulled him from bed and dragged him to the site</p>

Five years later the chapel was completed. Soon after, the old Gwenny's health declined and she was reduced to her bed. Few were permitted to visit her. Rumors began circulating that her hazel eyes had become dark and that a shadow rest over her face even in good lighting.

Then Gwenoln died. Her funeral was held in the chapel that the town had built for her. When the townsfolk entered they were shocked. Inside, the chapel was completely changed. Everything had been painted black and deep red. Instead of the beloved dragon entity the townsfolk had placed there, a statue of Asmodeus stood behind the pulpit, the king of the devils, and the symbol of the Nine Hells hung over Gwenoln's coffin.

News of the devils taking power over Sword Coast had spread through Oakhurst and this only confirmed the fears the townsfolk held that the red man was indeed a Bearded Devil and he had come to enslave the town.

As tradition required, the heir to the head of the Hercule family was to speak to the congregation where it was custom to promise to uphold the rule of the Noble Family of Neverwinter and honor the Reeves before her. Kerowyn, the woman next in line who dearly loved her mother, upheld that tradition. Tearfully looking at Gwendoln's coffin, she lauded her mother, promised to serve the Noble family, but, with anger in her voice, she also promised to protect the townsfolk from any forces that would harm them. The red man became enraged, grabbed her by her long braided hair and dragged her from the chapel. In the town center, the townsfolk found her tied to the water well, whipped, hair shorn from her head, and unconscious.

She recovered quickly. A week later, she announced, defeat in her voice, that the people were to begin worshipping Asmodeus as the Nobles of Neverwinter commanded, any who didn't would be whipped and incarcerated until they agreed to continue to worship the Deity. Troops of lesser devils bearing the Neverwinter symbol moved into the town to keep guard over the

people. They seized control over the trade of lumber and withheld the prized apple so that trade dropped and the people became reliant on the devils to sustain their families. They each were forced morning and night to attend the chapel where a devil stood at the alter with a ceremonial blade. The devil would find a part of the body that was uncut, even going as far as to command them to remove clothing, and draw the knife across their skin, collecting a half ounce of blood from them and spreading it across the top of the alter.

The Heroes, Gavinrad, Sinisa, and Leonias, gathered a small band of townsfolk to liberate the people of Oakhurst and send the red man back to the Hell from which he came.

Sinisa discovered the secrets of the red man, that he was indeed was a part of a larger scheme to enforce the worship of the King of the Devils Asmodeus among the residents of the region of Neverwinter and the towns that surround it. He discovered the whereabouts of the apple tree which was in an underground citadel near Mount Hotenow. Lenioas charmed the red man and while he was drunk gained knowledge of the barracks where the devils resided, an old dwarves forge near Tristream.

The party set out in the dead of night to plunder the citadel. They overcame the guards there, taking back the apple and with the strength it provided, directly journeyed to the Forge of Fury and attacked the devils and the red man as they slept.

They returned to Oakhurst heroes, having driven devils from the town. Kerowyn commissioned Gavinrad to pull down the statue with the whole village cheering him on. Kerowyn decreed that the party would be treated as honorary members of the Reeves and gave them gold rings with the noble crest that all members of the Hercule family wear.

It is here that the rest of our adventure begins.

Creatures and Items Encountered at The Sunless Citadel

* any monsters listed here the characters may take 1 hour to research at a library after their travels

BOSS MONSTERS AND VILLAINS

- [Druid](#)
- [Gulthias Tree](#)

COMMON MONSTERS

- [Adventurer](#)
- [Bugbear](#)
- [Dragon Wyrmling](#)
- [Giant Rat](#)
- [Goblin](#)
- [Kobold](#)
- [Skeleton](#)
- [Twig Blight](#)

NOTABLE ITEMS

- [Night Caller](#)
- [Wand of Entangle](#)
- [Feather Token](#)

Creatures and Items Encountered at The Forge of Fury

* any monsters listed here the characters may take 1 hour to research at a library after their travels

BOSS MONSTERS AND VILLAINS

- [Nightscale \(Black Dragon\)](#)

COMMON MONSTERS

- [Duregar](#)
- [Orc](#)
- [Orc Eye of Gruumsh](#)
- [Roper](#)
- [Stirge](#)
- [Troglodyte](#)
- [Young Black Dragon](#)

NOTABLE ITEMS

- [Ring of Spell Storing](#)