



cover art by Jaelani / Rectopus (@jaelani36)

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Raiders of Ivywatch

Raiders of Ivywatch is an adventure set in Vasloria, a woody, humid, and vaguely Europe-like region of Orden. The adventure is designed for two to seven 1st-level heroes and grants between 10 and 18 Victories.

Adventure Background

Ajax orders the Hawklords to steal the Sealing Stone from Ivywatch and bombard the town. Lizardfolk in the area seize the opportunity to raid the razed town and take citizens back to their fortress lair, as food and as sacrifices to their evil reptile god. With the Sealing Stone stolen, long held-shut portals to Arcadia open wide, letting anything through...

Synopsis

The heroes escort a merchant to Ivywatch and stumble into lizardfolk up to no good. They can pursue the lizardfolk to a nearby cave or go straight to Ivywatch as its still being raided. The heroes are tasked with saving the stolen citizens from the lizardfolk holed up in a nearby fortress. The heroes meet and potentially negotiate with a squire to knights battling against forces of evil in Arcadia, then battle Deatheye Yslansh and the deity she summons, Excrucior Interfectus.

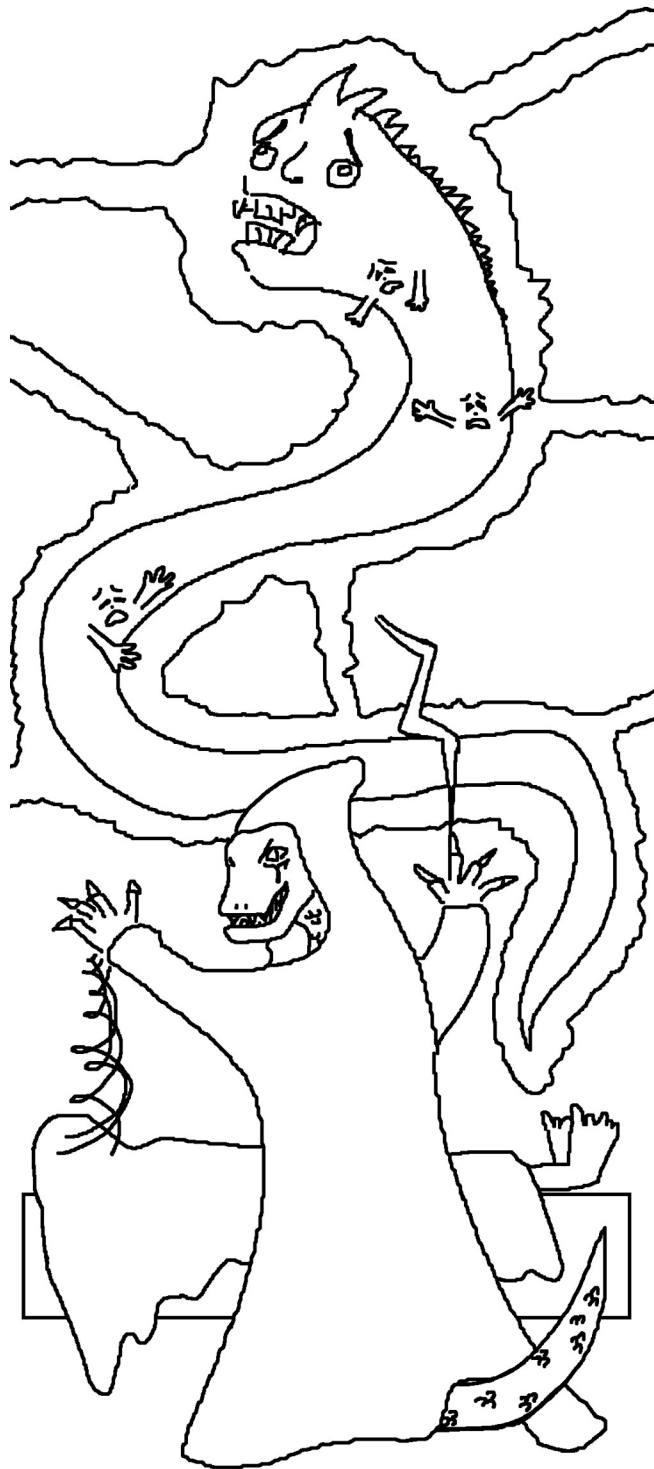
Adventure Hook

The following adventure hook leads the heroes into the Prologue of *Raiders of Ivywatch*.

Guards for Hire: The heroes accompany a merchant who has hired them for protection along the wooded road to Ivywatch, promising coin and political connections as a reward.

If the heroes arrive in Ivywatch for their own reasons, go straight to the town (Part 1B). The following hook can be used to lead the players to Ivywatch.

Distant Assault: The heroes see Ajax's Hawklords carrying their notoriously destructive iron orbs. Wherever the Hawklords are taking those, there are likely to be people in need of heroic assistance.



Deatheye Yslansh summons Excrucior Interfectus

Guide to Tullow Vale

Tullow Vale is tucked in between foothills of The Myr Mountains of Vasloria, with farmland to the east and elf-haunted wode to the west.

The Central Tension

Long ago, an ancient civilization in Tullow Vale was ruled centrally by a single dwarven king in the great city of Kalacles. In the wake of Ajax's campaign and the death of the duke, the lords of Tullow Vale now question whether to retain the town-and-lord system under the distant and apathetic Baron, or to centralize power under the Old Ways and choose a new King of the Vale.

Major Factions & Leaders

Gwenyll Thornton, Lord of Ivywatch

"We've survived worse, and we did it by looking out for ourselves. And nobody else."

Lord Thornton is skeptical of anything but a **decentralized Vale**.

Wilim "the Idle" Griffies, Lord of St. Gaed

"You weren't able to save the peasants from their fate? A pity."

Lord Griffies **wishes he was King** Griffies.

Tybald MacGraw, Guildmaster of the Company of Cordwainers

"The company knows every boot in the Vale. Where it's been and where it's going."

Guildmaster MacGraw foresees the greatest profit in the Capital of a **centralized Vale**.

The Mountain Reaching Downward in Still Water's Mirror, Listener to the Apothechron

"Listen long enough and the Vale's history echoes. A speech becomes a legend becomes a speech again."

Listener Stillwater **does not want to compete with a King** for the hearts of her parishioners.

Running the Adventure

Throughout the events of *Raiders of Ivywatch*, the heroes will naturally want to take Respite. If the heroes leave a location unfinished, upon their return, choose a battlemat from one of the formerly-combat Scenes they pass through and fit it with the following encounter.

For example, if the heroes do Scenes 2 and 4 of Fort Ranaghan, then leave to take a Respite in Ivywatch. Upon their return to the fort, they find this encounter in Scene 2 (Scene 4 is not a combat and has no battlemat).

Draw Steel! "Beyond Saving"

The heroes are confronted with the consequences of their hesitation. Former villagers of Ivywatch, now turned undead, attack the heroes.

Earn 1 Victory for killing all non-minion enemies before they can reach the box marked "ESCAPE."

Encounter

The heroes begin in the box marked "START." The positions of all enemies are immediately detectable.

Party Size	Location	Enemy Forces: <i>Undead</i>
2		Squad A: 1 Scaletooth (capn) + 5 Tonguers (m) Squad B: 1 Bloodeye
4		Squad A: 1 Scaletooth (capn) + 5 Tonguers (m) Squadless: 1 Scaletooth Squad B: 1 Bloodeye (capn) + 5 Grunts (m)

** for unlisted party sizes, add 1 Bloodeye (Outside – Squadless) per extra member over a listed party size.*

Tactics

The bloodeyes in the cave can attack from the windows, granting them full cover. The non-minions will try to escape up the river (using their swim speed) starting on the 2nd round.

Prologue: Ambush

You've spent the last few days following the Baron's Road to Ivywatch, walking alongside the wagon of your employer, a blond, spectacle-wearing, fidgety polder merchant named Lewin Coppertoe.

Should Mr. Coppertoe and all of his cargo make it safely to Ivywatch, you will be paid the rest of the agreed upon amount and he promises to put in a good word for you with his cousin, the steward to the lord of Ivywatch.

Boxed, italicized text like this is meant to be read aloud to your players!

Take a moment to do the following:

- Encourage the players to introduce their heroes if they haven't already.
- The heroes are each well-known in some region if not this one. Ask which exploits the bards sing of each of them the most.
- Ask the players how their Heroes each spend evenings in camp while on the road.
- Ask the players what their heroes' marching order is while traveling. Mr. Coppertoe drives the wagon. The heroes are expected to not ride the wagon, but whether each of them walks alongside, scouts ahead, brings up the rear, or otherwise is up to them.

The sun is high, filtering through the canopy of trees stretching over the road. The terrain is more hilly today, the road winding between embankments.

Low ground and surrounded by blind spots...

You round a corner and the path is blocked by two felled trees right in front of a bridge. Another wagon lies broken in a ditch. Dried blood covers the road. You hear chittering around you in the forest.

It's an ambush!



Lewin Coppertoe

Draw Steel! “Blocked Bridge”

Lizardfolk ambush the heroes and their employer.

Earn 1 Victory for ending the threat while keeping Mr. Coppertoe alive.¹

Movement

- Squares with a tree grant cover (whether on the ground or in the tree).
- Squares with any amount of tall grass count as difficult terrain and grant concealment.
- While in a full square of water, use the “Underwater Combat” rules: fire immunity 5, lightning weakness 5, and if your speed doesn't have the Swim keyword, all your power rolls take a bane.

Height

- The water is **1 square** deep.
- Standing trees are **2 squares** high for the purposes of climbing and jumping from.
- Fallen trees are **1 square** high for the same.

¹ Players should always know exactly what the conditions are to earn Victories in each encounter in this adventure. Just read it aloud before they draw steel.

Encounter

The heroes, the wagon, and Mr. Coppertoe all begin in the box marked “START.” The positions of each enemy in **Squad A** are immediately detectable, all other enemy forces start concealed.

Party Size	Location	Enemy Forces: <i>Lizardfolk</i>
2	Ridge Bridge Water	Squad A: 1 Bloodeye Squad B: 5 Tonguers (m) Squad C: 5 Tonguers (m)
4	Ridge Bridge Water	Squad A: 2 Bloodeyes Squad B: 5 Tonguers (m) Squad C: 5 Tonguers (m) Squadless: 1 Scaletooth

* for unlisted party sizes, add 1 Bloodeye (Water – Squadless) per extra member over a listed party size.

Tactics

The tonguers can pull the heroes into the water, where their power rolls have banes. The bloodeye can attack from high ground, where it has an edge. If the heroes are tanky (30+ Stamina) or the players are confident, assign the minion squads captains.¹

If you ignore the reference map and instead start the party on the bridge, the encounter is much harder, as the lizardfolk have more angles to pull the heroes into the water from and more high ground to attack them from within range.

Ambush Averted

The lizardfolk slain, the scene becomes more obvious upon inspection. It looks like bodies were dragged from the wagon with resistance into the forest.

Mr. Coppertoe asks that the heroes clear the road, ignore the scene, and continue with him to Ivywatch. But there might still be people in need of help...

Mr. Coppertoe warns, a nervous quiver in his voice:

“Allow me to courteously remind you: if any one of you leave, the contract is broken and the reward is forfeit. And my cousin would be very disappointed!”

If the heroes choose to follow the tracks through the woods, they have no trouble (no skill tests needed). Continue the adventure with [Part 1A: The Cave](#).

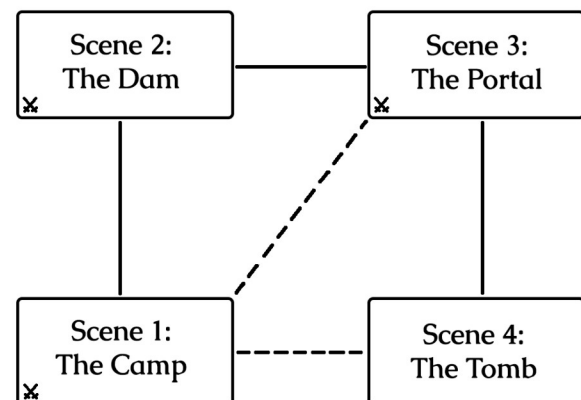
If the heroes choose to accompany Mr. Coppertoe and his goods all the way to Ivywatch, continue the adventure with [Part 1B: The Town](#).

Part 1A: The Cave

You follow the trail through the forest with ease. The obvious tracks suggest a struggle.

Maybe the abductees still live!

Scenes



¹ Generally, it's better that the players clearly understand which enemies are minions (“these ones look particularly frail and untrained”) and which are captains commanding minions (“they seem to listen to the orders of this one”).

Scene 1: The Camp

The trail leads upstream to a cave mouth in a tall escarpment. The stream flows out of the cave. A small lizardfolk camp is set up just outside the cave, and a few guards patrol the grounds lazily.

A distant echo of a scream escapes the cave. A couple of the lizardfolk guards look at each other, bare their teeth, and make barking noises.

On the fire is a roasting spit with the head of a horse, the eyes already removed.

Draw Steel! “The Camp”

The heroes surprise the lizardfolk guards at their cave.

Earn 1 Victory for killing all non-minion enemies before they can reach the box marked “ESCAPE.”

Movement

- Squares with a tree grant cover (whether on the ground or in the tree).
- Squares with any amount of tall grass count as difficult terrain and grant concealment.
- While in a full square of water, use the “Underwater Combat” rules: fire immunity 5, lightning weakness 5, and if your speed doesn’t have the Swim keyword, all your power rolls take a bane.

Height

- The water is **2 squares** deep.
- Standing trees and wooden platforms are **2 squares** high for the purposes of climbing and jumping from.

Miscellaneous

- Walls adjacent to toxic plants on the map only have 1 Stamina and crumble if a creature or object is force moved into them.
- Two windows provide full cover to targets of ranged abilities shot through them, unless the attacker is adjacent to the window.

Encounter

The heroes begin in the box marked “START.” The positions of each enemy in **Squad A** are immediately detectable, all other enemy forces start concealed.

The enemies have not yet noticed the heroes’ approach.

Upon close examination (or success on a secret, reactive **Easy Insight Test**), the walls near the toxic plants seem to be crumbling and weakened.

Most of the lizardfolk appear to be under-equipped and not paying attention. You see one that looks more attentive and kitted-out enter a small cave entrance off to the side of the camp...

Party Size	Location	Enemy Forces: <i>Lizardfolk</i>
2	Outside	Squad A: 1 Scaletooth (capn) + 5 Tonguers (m)
	Inside	Squad B: 1 Bloodeye Hazard: Toxic Plants (DTO)
4	Outside	Squad A: 1 Scaletooth (capn) + 5 Tonguers (m) Squadless: 1 Scaletooth
	Inside	Squad B: 1 Bloodeye (capn) + 5 Grunts (m) Hazard: Toxic Plants (DTO)

** for unlisted party sizes, add 1 Bloodeye (Outside – Squadless) per extra member over a listed party size.*

Tactics

The bloodeyes in the cave can attack from the windows, granting them full cover. The non-minions will try to escape up the river (using their swim speed) starting on the 2nd round.

Delving Deeper

If the heroes gain access to or otherwise notice the hidden passage, then they can go deeper following the toxic plants (go to Scene 3) or away from the plants (go to Scene 4).

Otherwise, they can go deeper into the cave along the river (go to Scene 2).