

JESAMINE CRAINE (hawkish, shrewd) leans back in the booth of the seedy Nightmarket bar, her narrowed eyes studying you intently. She flashes a toothy grin before setting down her cocktail glass. She pushes an envelope across the table with an outstretched finger.

*“Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a natural philosopher—one of the greats. When they cast me out of **CHARTERHALL UNIVERSITY** for dabbling in ‘witchcraft’ I chose to dedicate my pursuit of knowledge to a new purpose: revenge. Fruits of my studies are to be presented by my former professor in Morlan Hall this coming week. Ensure that the presentation goes awry and I will compensate you accordingly.”*

Inside the envelope, you find a tattered photograph of a frazzled, one-eyed professor labeled “Una Farros” and a newspaper clipping from the Duskvol Enquirer detailing the event. The article features a picture of a white hart (stag), with the caption:

Students of Charterhall: Scientific Progress Unveils Brilliant Achievements! Hullcraft Takes on Astonishing New Forms! Witness the Grand Demonstration at Morlan Hall

THE GRAND DEMONSTRATION

This week, **UNA FARROS** presents a new form of Hullcraft—the study of mechanical bodies created to house spirits—at Morlan Hall. The circular stone building culminates four stories up in a bell-like dome. Bioluminescent vines climb open arches and ornamental railings on the building’s exterior.

Security is unexpectedly tight and there’s an air of excitement for the upcoming event.

SCENES & COMPLICATIONS

*A group of arrogant students confronts you. “Look at these vagrants, Henry. I guarantee they’ve never even seen **SHADOW ESSENCE!**”*

- ❖ A small crowd gathers, drawing attention
- ❖ One of the students spies an item you’re carrying and tries to snatch it away
- ❖ A soldier in a felt cap grabs your arm. “You don’t look like students to me,” he snarls

A group of protestors breaks through the demonstration’s perimeter. “This is an abomination of science!” they yell.

- ❖ A soldier mistakes you for protestors, and runs at you brandishing his club
- ❖ A grenade goes off nearby, throwing the crowd into chaos
- ❖ A line of soldiers fires a volley of bullets

A hush falls over the assembly as Una Farros reveals a glittering crystal sculpture of a hart. In a cage beside it is a human prisoner. Before you can react, she cuts the prisoner’s throat!*

- ❖ The crystal hart comes to life instantly and charges into the crowd, towards you
- ❖ A ghostly wave emanates from the hart, shattering vials and dispersing their contents

The hart bolts for an exit, knocking down soldiers and members of the crowd. Una bellows from the stage: “Stop that experiment! If it escapes, my demonstration will be ruined!”

- ❖ The hart reaches out with a desperate tendril of ghostly energy and claws at your mind
- ❖ The hart knocks over a table of spirit bottles, releasing the trapped spirits into the crowd

** Is the prisoner someone close to the party? This is an opportunity to raise the stakes and make the score personal!*

Jesamine is gleeful as she taps on a recent newspaper clipping. “You made the news,” she croons, and her grin is somehow even wider than before. Handing you a pouch of coins, she murmurs quietly.

“I warned you not to steal my research, Una. Did you listen? No. Couldn’t have a lowly student outshine you. Now you’ll watch me carry on my work without the University!”

On Jesamine’s finger, a crystal ring quivers faintly.