

# Documentation

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## The Noble Circle

*Episode 4 of Shadows of the Unnamed - A Social Infiltration for 3-6 Investigators (Levels 3-5)*

“Behind every mask lies another mask.” - Lady Ravenscrest

### Introduction

In the wake of Father Bernard’s murder, his final warning leads to Ravenscrest Manor’s annual Masquerade Ball. The city’s elite gather for what appears to be a night of refined revelry, but beneath ornate masks lurk deadly secrets. The guest list mirrors suspected cult activities too perfectly to be coincidence.

### Part I: The Grand Entrance

**Arrival at Ravenscrest Manor** Carriages line the torch-lit drive as masked figures ascend marble steps. Investigators must first pass the scrutiny of Jenkins, the eerily observant butler.

**Initial Challenges:** - Cover story maintenance - Invitation authenticity - Proper etiquette - Initial surveillance

**The Grand Ballroom** Crystal chandeliers illuminate a swirling sea of masks and finery. Lady Ravenscrest holds court near the orchestra.

**Investigation Opportunities:** - Observe guest interactions - Note suspicious groupings - Track servant movements - Monitor dance patterns

**Key Dialogue:** “Welcome, dear friends, to my humble gathering. Do mind the masks - some secrets prefer to stay hidden.” - Lady Ravenscrest’s opening speech

### Part II: The Dance of Deception

**Social Infiltration** Success requires mastering the art of noble interaction.

**Key Methods:** - Partner-switching during waltzes - “Accidental” eavesdropping - Servant impersonation - Strategic gossip

**The Midnight Performance** Madame DuBois’s violin performance provides crucial distraction.

**Suspicious Elements:** - Musical code patterns - Audience reactions - Hidden signals - Timing coincidences

### **Part III: Behind the Masks**

**The Conservatory Investigation** While guests are distracted, the conservatory reveals darker purposes.

**Discovery Elements:** - Void-corrupted plants - Hidden meeting alcoves - Suspicious documents - Ritual preparations

**Environmental Features:** - Exotic flora dangers - Steam-filled spaces - Glass ceiling escape route - Fountain mechanisms

**The Study Break-in** The heart of Lady Ravenscrest’s secrets lies within.

**Key Evidence:** - Cult membership ledger - Ritual calendar - Bernard’s death order - Museum theft plans

### **Part IV: Unmasking**

**The Grand Revelation** Everything collapses during the midnight toast.

**Chaos Elements:** - False identity reveals - Mask confusion - Servant betrayals - Chase sequences

**Action Features:** - Chandelier swinging - Staircase sliding - Dancing escape - Garden pursuit

## **Running the Adventure**

### **Tone Management**

1. **Opening (Light)**
  - Social comedy
  - Dance mishaps
  - Identity confusion
  - Etiquette humor
2. **Middle (Investigation)**
  - Growing suspicion
  - Hidden dangers
  - Secret meetings
  - Evidence gathering
3. **Climax (Action)**
  - Mask dropping
  - Chase scenes
  - Combat moments
  - Dramatic escape

### **Key NPCs**

#### **Lady Ravenscrest**

- Gracious host facade
- Cult leadership hints
- Deadly intelligence
- Perfect manners

## **Madame DuBois**

- Obvious fake accent
- Terrible disguise
- Actually dangerous
- Key cult member

## **Jenkins the Butler**

- Knows all secrets
- Possible ally
- Hidden motives
- Perfect timing

## **Location Details**

### **Ballroom Features**

- Multiple exits
- Orchestra platform
- Hidden passages
- Servant routes

### **Conservatory Layout**

- Maze-like paths
- Hidden alcoves
- Glass ceiling access
- Exotic hazards

### **Study Security**

- Complex locks
- Secret compartments
- Servant passages
- Escape routes

## **Resolution Paths**

### **Success Requirements**

- Gather key evidence
- Identify cult leaders
- Maintain cover
- Secure escape route

### **Failure Consequences**

- Cover blown
- Partial evidence
- Noble pursuit
- Cult warning

## **Campaign Impact**

### **Immediate Effects**

- Noble circle exposed

- Cult hierarchy revealed
- City corruption clear
- Underground connection

### Future Hooks

- Sewer system maps
- Underground ritual sites
- Noble pursuers
- City-wide conspiracy

*“As the masks fall away, the true face of power is revealed.”*



Figure 1: Classic D&D-style isometric manor map featuring Victorian architecture. Three-floor layout showing: GROUND FLOOR with grand entrance, ballroom, dining room, and conservatory. SECOND FLOOR with study, library, and family quarters. SERVANT LEVEL with hidden passages, storage, and escape routes. Include detailed furnishings, secret doors, and multiple staircases. Style: Traditional D&D dungeon map in sepia tones with blue grid, Victorian architectural embellishments, decorative border featuring masquerade masks and musical instruments.





Figure 2: A grand Victorian ballroom filled with masked dancers in elaborate costumes. Crystal chandeliers cast dramatic light across swirling figures. In the foreground, a suspicious exchange between two masked nobles, while Lady Ravenscrest watches from her throne-like chair. Style: Elegant oil painting with dark undertones, dramatic lighting, rich colors and intricate costume details.



Figure 3: A private study illuminated by moonlight streaming through tall windows. The walls are lined with family portraits, their eyes seeming to follow movement. A figure in noble attire examines documents near a partially opened safe, while a sinister shadow looms in the doorway. Style: Gothic horror meets Victorian mystery, dramatic moonlight, rich wooden textures.