

**Session/Game:** RotT Gatavia 6

**Date:** July 22, 2009

## **EPISODE 6: Whoever Did This...**

**Campaign Date:** May 1-16<sup>th</sup>, 1218 AFC

### **Characters:**

Aulus Vipsanius Agricola, Ardean, Adventurer-1 (Chuck Fleurie)

**GM:** Dave Nelson

*Portus Nardo, May 1<sup>st</sup>*

In the morning, a messenger arrived at the apartment of Aulus Vipsanius (The Troll-killer). He bore a message from the clerk's office at the basilica in Noviodunum, informing Aulus that he had inherited a considerable bequest from the estate of Publius and Decius Maronius. Publius had been Aulus' mentor in rune magic, and Decius, a tax-collector, had been his long-time friend. Aulus arranged for a river-boat passage to Noviodunum, but decided to visit the local armor-smith Lucius Fronto before leaving town. He ordered a superior quality spear from Lucius, after paying twice the normal cost in order to move his order up to the top of the wait list. He also ordered a shield to be made embossed with the grinning head of a troll. Lucius Fronto informed him that the goods would be ready on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Aulus paid in full in advance and hurried to catch his boat.

*Noviodunum, May 3<sup>d</sup>*

After Aulus arrives in Noviodunum, he hurried to the clerk's office to find that he has inherited a 1-square mile estate from the Maronius brothers, who both had been slain by bandits. Aulus made a meeting with the Tribune of the Garrison, Marcus Julius Wulfgar. The tribune said that the brothers were slain by bandits and were crucified in the front yard, with titles attached saying they were sorcerers. Forty of the farmer workers and slaves had also been massacred. His men had left things lie, since it was bad luck to touch dead sorcerers.

*Silva Fusca, May 4<sup>th</sup>*

Aulus walks to the Silva Fusca region, into the Wood's Edge District, where the Villa Maronia was located. He stopped at the small village that had grown up around the old highway Mansio (way-station). There he had a conversation with the inn-keeper, Pincus by name, about the murder of the Maronius brothers. He then hurried to the villa, and began to clean up the remains. He used the password Publius had taught him to open the door to the magically sealed study and examined its mysterious contents. Aulus then returned to Vicus Mansionis where he had a dinner of fried turnips and "oat lumps" prepared by Pincus. Passing over the "Gelderberger Special" wine, he tried Aurelius Bronze Label instead.

*Noviodunum, May 5<sup>th</sup>*

Returning to the city, Aulus makes elaborate plans for a funeral. He hired a large number of grave diggers, burying the slaves and workmen in simple graves. He also arranged for tombstones, a large pyre, professional mourners and a priest (Father Dubricius) for a proper funeral for the brothers. He also carts in a supply of food and drink for the occasion (the actual cooking to be done by the peerless Pincus). He spread the word to the neighbors and to the tax authorities at Noviodunum about the funeral.

### *Villa Maronia, May 7<sup>th</sup>*

The funeral (costing 168sp) was attended by many of the small-holder farmers of the area, and by Titus Grampius, the head of the veteran's colony nearby, and by Lollius Drusus, the major land-owner of the district. Titus pointed Aulus to some of the witnesses who had escaped the massacre by one means or another. One of them, the wood-cutter Junius, said that the massacre had been achieved by an Ardean priest, carrying a splendid but old-fashioned sword, and his 10 North-man henchmen. Titus also promised to allow Aulus to recruit hired workmen from the lands of the colony.

Aulus's conversation with the land-lord Lollius Drusus was less agreeable. Lollius, an insufferable snob, offered to purchase the estate from Aulus. He then denigrated the capabilities of small-holders in such a dangerous frontier. Then, he mocked the skills of Pincus. Finally, he made it quite clear that Aulus was not to recruit workers off of his lands.

### *Noviodunum, May 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>*

Aulus returns to Noviodunum to buy various supplies for his villa. He asks around about a priest with a notable sword. One inn-keeper told him that such a man was seen making a public penance several weeks before (walking around the city, while holding out some heavy bricks). Aulus then goes to the monastery and meets with Abbot Demartus. At first, the stool in Demartus' office collapsed under Aulus; the second stool gave off an embarrassing noise when Aulus sat upon it. Abbot Demartus was unable to give out any information about someone who had received a penance from the Orthodox Fane.

Aulus then begins to talk with some dock workers. One of these men tells him that his cousin Vitolinus had met the penitent priest, while he was on guard at the ruins of the Augur's Tower. Aulus then met with Vitolinus and his pals, bribing them with a cask of Aurelius Iron Label. One of the guards said that he had seen the priest coming back to town with a wagon load of stuff several days later. After a brief conversation with the duty centurion at the army camp, Aulus discovered where the priest might have hired his Northrons.

Aulus then checks with various taverns at the dockyards about a priest who may have hired some Northmen. One taverner said that he had seen such a man, and that one of the North-men mercenaries had returned to town and was throwing around money a few doors down.

Aulus then confronted the mercenary, who was drinking a bucket of beer, while wearing one of Publius' old bathrobes over his armor. Eventually, Aulus stabs the north-man (now dubbed Sven) and bundles him out of town.

### *Villa Maronia May 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>*

Aulus nurses Sven back to consciousness, despite his critical wound. HE makes final arrangements with locals to hire 25 hired men to work the estate. When Sven awakens on the 12<sup>th</sup>, he tells Aulus that their leader on the raid was a priest named Antonius.

### *Noviodunum, May 13<sup>th</sup>*

Aulus sells Sven in the Noviodunum slave-market. He then asks Father Dubricius about Father Antonius, and he provides some general information about Antonius' crusade against sorcerers and his villa up to the north. Aulus takes the riverboat back to Portus Nardo.

### *Portus Nardo, May 14<sup>th</sup>*

Aulus picks up his new spear and shield from Fronto. He sends his belongings off to his new villa. Intending to scout Antonius' villa on his way back to his new home.

