

Campaign/Game: Saturday Showups - D&D 5e

Date: September 16th, 2023

Session 14: Wherein the Showups venture into a long forgotten secret lair of a psychotic wizard where they wrestle a dragon

Characters

Bull in China Shop, Loxodon Barbarian (Scott)

Flint Grumblestone, Dwarf Warlock (Jim)

Hero, Half-elven Lore Bard (Josh)

Heskan, Dragonborn Paladin (Adam)

K'last DeLake, Human Champion Fighter (Travis)

Terrence Lighthand, Gnome Battlesmith Artificer (Craig)

DM: Rew

Log:

In an arcane age, adventurers have arrived in the “new world” from wherever they originally came from in search of adventure, riches, destiny - something that drives them. Collectively, they are known as the “Showups.” This is their story.

As the Showups approach Mount Chelbonear, they all have a discussion with their guide Shamus O’Birdums. The affable dwarf is interested in what motivates each of the Showups.

Magnelsa is a white dragon that served Heskan’s father, the red dragon Cisnaryth. Heskan is certain Magnelsa is holed up in the cave complex within Mount Chelbonear, a cursed area that was once a hotbed of demonic activity. Magnelsa was wounded gravely in battle in Heskan’s homeland. Her throat was torn, which kept her from speaking any louder than a whisper and directing her icy cold dragon’s breath appropriately. Destroying all the lieutenants of Cisnaryth is Heskan’s sole motivation.



Recently, the dwarven princess Princess Freyja was kidnapped from her family’s towers just outside Ineas by a white dragon. Hero the bard suspects the experiments the princess did with respect to elemental magic could be the reason why she was taken, but it could also be for ransom as the Freyja family has offered a large sum for her safe return. Hero keeps his secret of the princess’ plight a secret from the other showups in hopes of a huge reward he might keep for himself. Since there was a recent sighting of that white dragon near Mount Chelbonear, Hero has traveled with the Showups to investigate.

Bull in a China Shop was on the lookout for missing members of his herd. During his searches he learned about a clan of frost giants who traveled to Mount Chelbonear to serve a sorceress who fled to Apreea after being terribly wounded. The giants are serving to fulfill a blood debt from a previous generation, but the Loxodon understands that the giants are also expecting a large payday.

Terrence knew a bit about the history of the mountain. Draven the Kind was a complex and haunting figure, a sociopathic megalomaniac who serves as a cautionary tale of the dangers of unchecked ambition and the seductive allure of dark magic. He lived long ago during the Seventh Elven age and built a hidden cavern fortress below Mount Chelbonear. His life's highlights are a chilling testament to the depths of his depravity and the enduring mystique of his malevolent reign.

Just as soon as the entire party gets to know one another, a small boulder drops in from the snow-whipped sky and crushes Shamus O'Birdums killing him instantly. The Showups are under attack from a group of lanky ogres led by two trolls, supported by a thick-armed giant with a teeny-tiny head. The ogres identify themselves as servants of Magnelsa, the current mistress of Mount Chelbonear. They attack, hoping to subdue the Showups and drag them to their leader.



K'last, and Terrence attack from range, supported by the sweet musical stylings of Hero, the half-elven bard. Flint is charged by the lanky ogres, but Heskan's smites keep the more beefy trolls from reaching the warlock. Bull in China Shop charges the idiot giant, scoops him up, and dumps him down a crevasse killing the demon made flesh instantly. With the threat neutralized, the party continues toward Mount Chelbonear.

Near the foot of the mountain, the heroes find three cavern entrances. The heroes picked the one from which they could hear voices. Inside, three sets of the lanky ogres discuss how "the mistress" is mistreating them. They were asked to move some sort of huge magic mirror, and one of their number was punished just for not being careful enough.

Bull in a China Shop charges in, collapsing part of the cave on two of the ogres. Hero causes another to fall asleep before hiding among the natural stalagmite formations. Flint manages to convince several that he is "the mirror guy" there to help with some magical artifact before the battle is joined by K'last, Terrence, and Heskan. One lanky ogre escapes the raging Loxodon who temporarily gets lost in the icy passages when he reaches a dead end. The Showups take a short rest and then continue.

They happen upon several rooms from the Seventh Elven Age built by the Draven the Kind. They encounter a waiting room covered in ancient art. These wall art frescoes delve into the

chilling and treacherous mind of Draven the Kind, the enigmatic and malevolent wizard whose lust for power knew no bounds. Visitors are invited to explore the twisted psyche of a man driven by insatiable ambition and an unwavering belief in his own supremacy.



On one wall, the party uncovers Draven's relentless journey from humble beginnings to the apex of his magical prowess. Born in obscurity, his thirst for power and control led him to a chilling revelation—one that would alter the course of his life forever.

Set against the backdrop of a desolate, snow capped mountain in the far reaches of the north, Draven's tale unfolds as he methodically builds his secret lair within the labyrinthine tunnels beneath the icy peak. There, he conducts his sinister experiments, amasses an army of loyal followers, and harnesses the very essence of the mountain's ancient magic to fuel his insatiable quest for dominion over all.

On an adjacent wall, artistic tilework details the heart of Draven's delusions. The party sees the creation of his malevolent artifacts and witness his relentless pursuit of dark knowledge, all while manipulating the forces of nature itself to bend to his will. One such creation, the “Mirror of Space and Time,” was meant to allow passage into other planes for the purposes of recruiting more minions to control all of Apreea.

The Showups discover a long-forgotten trapped armory, as well as an empty tomb with the following epitaph.

Here Lies Draven the Kind

*In life, he sought power unbounded,
A wizard of darkness, his ambitions confounded.
A twisted soul with malevolence in his heart,
In the realms of magic, he played a sinister part.*

He built his lair in the mountain's cold embrace,

*A master of shadows, a twisted mind's grace.
With the Mirror of Space and Time, he dared to breach,
The boundaries of existence, his dark knowledge to teach.*

*Through interdimensional gates, he summoned the abyss,
Infernal minions at his command, for power was his wish.
A megalomaniacal reign, he sought to spread,
Over Apreea's lands, his dominion widespread.*

*But in the end, his ambitions did consume,
A soul so twisted, bound for doom.
Now rests Draven the Kind, his dark tale told,
A cautionary epitaph for the power-hungry and bold.*

*In the annals of history, his name etched in dread,
A reminder of the perils of paths mislead.
Let this tomb stand as a lesson profound,
Of the consequences when darkness is unbound.*

The party continues toward the center of the mountain. They encounter several slain lanky ogres, including the one that escaped their attack still feathered by K'last's arrows. They surmise correctly that they were killed out of spite for bringing bad news.

The heroes reach the heart of Mount Chelbonear. There they find two frost giants discussing metaphysics with a zaftig dwarven princess, Freyja. Two trolls stand about to serve the giants. The Showups spring into action taking the initiative. Hero sneaks out onto the battlefield to free the princess and incapacitate the larger of the two giants for much of the battle. Bull in China Shop charges the second giant while Flint and Heskan deal with the trolls. K'last and Terrance target the mirror, aiming to destroy this door into the hells.

Finally, the mastermind behind re-enchanting the mirror appears. The white dragon sorceress Magnelsa manifests from within the mirror. In a rough, whispery voice she announces that she has already helped Cismar, the Creep of Worms, travel to hell to secure the help of an army of devils. His return is imminent, and in the meantime she would crush the bones of all the Showups for daring to show their faces within the tunnels of Mount Chelbonear.

Heskan and Magnelsa lock in close combat. The dragon's jaws and talons cut deep into Heskan's flesh. Bull in China Shop takes a potion of growth in order to wrestle the dragon,



pulling her down off the high ground and body slamming her repeatedly. The party took advantage of the Magnelsa's position to deliver punishing blows. The white dragon gives as good as she gets, knocking Heskan from the battle only to be saved by a lute solo from Hero and a timely riding horse from K'last's Robe of Many Things. Terrence's attacks finally take their toll, shattering the Mirror of Space and Time just as Heskan's final attack slashes Magnelsa's throat and she is defeated.

