

Campaign/Game: The Academicians: D&D 5e
Episode 8: College Hill
Campaign Date: Allmud 3rd (Spring)

Date: December 2nd, 2021

Characters

Brom Mahlard, Rock Gnome Knowledge Cleric - 4 (Ryan)
Everan Gemflower, Human Wild Magic Sorcerer - 4 (Paul)
Morwen Peregrine, Half-Elf Lore Bard - 3 (Jenny)
Nero Leonheart, Half-Elf Bladesinger Wizard - 4 (Brandon)
Delmirev Ravara, Dragonborn Berserker Barbarian - 4 (Abby)
Thako Scarmonger, Half-Orc Wild Magic Barbarian - 4 (Tyler)

DM: Andrew

Log:

As spring just begins to take hold of Blackangel, the students and faculty of the Arcane Academy are taking advantage of the fresh weather. Nero Leonheart, a new researcher at the school and teaching assistant studies feverishly as Brom Mahlard, the master librarian busies himself restacking books with a grumble. Morwen chats with her classmates, sharing some hot gossip about a relationship between two particular staff members.

Mahlard turns back toward the stacks, and manages to spot a book floating off a shelf. He immediately recognizes this as someone invisibly snatching a tome from his library. Thinking quickly, he hits the area with the spell Faerie Fire, revealing that there are not one but two invisible forms. The two villains take flight, running through the front doors of the academy into the crowded College Hill mid-day traffic. "Well don't just sit there, help!" Brom cries. Nero and Morwen follow the diminutive librarian in the chase.

As the book is spirited out of the Academy library by invisible figures wreathed in magical flame, the academy's door guards Ravara and Thako are shaken into action. "Stop! Thief!" Brom cries. The two barbarians join the chase after the two shapes as well.

Everan stands outside the Academy, pondering how his wild magic was able to transform his clothes. His pants are made of socks. His cloak is made of socks. His cap is socks and of course, he wears several pairs of socks on his feet and hands. Everan sees the guards sprinting after the invisible thieves and the floating book and gives chase as well.

The academicians chase the invisible perpetrators. Nero catches up to one, stabbing the thief with his magical icy rapier. The cold bites into flesh, and blood is spilled. However, the barbarians' blades don't draw blood despite delivering solid hits. Luckily, Morwen manages to put one to sleep, slowing it down and Everan lashes out with goutts of magical fire to burn at the villains. Brom catches the sight of a strange form to the invisible figures, suggesting that they

are more monstrous than mortal. The gnome produces a bell to toll the dead with magical energy, while Morwen and Thako tackles and pins one of the invisible figures. The thieves reveal themselves as they retaliate and try to escape. They appear to be humanoid rats. Wererats! That explains why the attacks weren't effective. The abominations are slain, and the book is returned. While not a particularly valuable book, it appears to be extremely germane.



A Guide to Practical Lycanthropy - Raise your confidence, connect to your primal self, and deepen your spirituality with this empowering book of lycanthropic magic. This book features authentic shape-shifting rituals, spells, meditations, and folklore. This book can show you how to awaken your inner animal and transform into a happier, braver, and freer person.

With the chase concluded, the heroes return to the academy. There they meet with Headmaster Finnbuckle, who asks the group of educators and students to join together to find out what happened to a number of other books lost in similar circumstances. The three exceptional tomes were stolen from various people residing in Blackangel. Each theft was two days apart. The first book was stolen eight days ago from the office of Aya Glenmiir, a researcher working for the prestigious Library of Manthor. The book was a treatise on the Weave titled: *The Weave: A Collection of Impractical Observations*. The second book that was stolen belonged to Marten

Foss. He is a retired adventurer who kept the book *Gant Hornswain: A Memoir* in his private collection in his home. The third and final theft occurred two days ago and was that of a book titled: *Arcane Lineages of Radavan*. It was in the possession of Agin Lamarck, a local noble who specializes in Radavanian history - specifically genealogy and heraldry.



The Academicians travel to the Library of Mathor. There, they meet with Ellie's friend Cassa Brandywyne. The party notes her ink-stained hands and fine clothing. Cassa is a master scrivener. She fixes and preserves books, sometimes rewriting them from scratch. Cassa describes all three books. Following a brief discussion she takes them across a courtyard to a shabby hut and introduces them to the elven mage Aya Glenmir.

As the resident expert on the Weave, Aya was entrusted with a rare book titled: *The Weave: A Practical Observation of Impractical Occurrences* by Master Opanrael of the Library of Manthor. She has long, black hair and radiant green eyes. Aya wishes to see the book returned safely and answers as many of the Academicians questions she can. She is, however, hesitant to reveal and discuss her displeasure at someone besting her magical safeguards. She reveals that the book belonged to the library and had been in her study for two years before it was taken. The book was the only thing stolen from the hut, and it was stored in a glass display case of breathtaking quality that clearly had some powerful magical defenses on it that have been bypassed through guile or wit. Despite sensing that Aya was holding something back, the Academicians begrudgingly took her word that no one outside of the others who work with her at the Library of Manthor had any interest in her work. She half-heartedly suggests that two of the newer sages, Ellison Berenger and Garda Greenleaf had inquired about the work.



Next, the Academicians pay a visit to Marten Foss. A former adventurer himself, Marten shares a special kinship with Gant Hornswain and collects items that once belonged to the famous adventurer. Amongst his belongings is a collection of Gant's memoirs. Though most of the collection is in the Library of Mantor, he kept one particular volume in his office until it was recently stolen.



Although he is retired, Marten runs a small practice yard. For a gold piece, someone with a desire to learn how to swing a sword can come to bang away on chunks of wood for an hour or two under the watchful eye of someone who knows what they're doing. For two, he'll tell you what you're doing wrong.

As the Academicians question the dwarf, he keeps looking over at his daughter Vera sparring with a series of other dwarven fighters in training. Marten tells the party that he made little attempts to secure the book from magic and only noticed its disappearance when he went to read his favorite passages from it. He says it could have easily been stolen in broad daylight by someone entering invisibly. The book includes stories about

how Gant encountered some of Corvax's artificers using technology left over from the times of the Masters to create lycanthropic storm troopers.

As they start to leave, Marten invites the Academicians to spar with Vera and the dwarves. Ravara, Thako, Nero, and Everan each pick up chalked wooden weapons and enter the ring. Everan doesn't even get a chance to land a blow, but the others put up quite a fight. The Academicians are eventually triumphant, and in appreciation Marten gives them silvered weapons to fight lycanthropes as well as a tome similar in make to the one that was stolen.



Finally, the Academicians pay a visit to Agin Lamarck. His bodyguard lets them into his dusty shop where he works as an accountant and scrivener, specializing in the genealogy of the noble families of Blackangel. At first Agin shows absolutely no interest in cooperating with the Academicians. However, he later finds that his bodyguard has been bribed and his shop is under attack by high elven bounty hunters looking to take Thako the green elf back to the Empire from whence he came. The party defends Agin, and the nobleman offers all the loose coin in his shop as payment through bitter tears. Morwen figures out Lamarck's secret, that despite his name he is not really of royal lineage himself. He would offer a reward if his tome was either returned or destroyed to cover up his duplicity.

After a quick meeting at a student watering hole in College Hill named "Smurfs' Study Hall," the Academicians decide to split up for a little bit. As the sun sets, Brom, Nero and Everan decide to visit the Library of Manthor and do some magical investigation for the books. They decide to tune their magic to look for something similar to the book Marten Foss gave them. Brom's magic points toward the archives of the library buried several layers deep in the catacombs below the fortress-like library.

Morwen remembers someone in Blackangel who might be able to help. Frigg is a friend Morwen knew through Resalyn, another member of the Peregrine Family Circus. When they were in town, the three of them would go dancing sometimes. Frigg was very reckless and ran with the bad crowd. Perhaps she knew more about the Rat Bastards? Morwen made arrangements to meet Frigg in Beverage Hill.

Frigg had heard stories that the Rat Bastards were working for someone who wanted books. In the past, she was a valuable asset to the gang. However this time the Rat Bastards punished her for knowing too much. As Morwen, Thako, and Ravara approach they are attacked by a gang of wererats.

Meanwhile, across town the others are also attacked by a cadre of wererats led by a lieutenant as they turn to leave the Library of Manthor. The two battles raged. By the library, Nero's magic kept him safe from the wererats blades while Brom's mostly failed him. Everan burned those who dared to challenge him to dust with scorching fire magic. In an alleyway in the Beverage Hill district, the silver blades gifted by Marten Foss were put to the test. Deep in the throes of rage Thako and Ravara stood back to back against the horde while Morwen did her very best to stay out of the way and deliver devastating spells in support. With both groups of the Rat Bastards defeated, the Academicians find a note and learn the location of the gang's headquarters. They decide to rest up and then storm the wererats' gang in search of answers.

JUST GET IT DONE, MUS. IF THEY FIND ME, THEN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS HAVE BEEN A TOTAL WASTE. ENSURE THAT THE WHISPETERER'S FAITH IN US WAS NOT ILL-PLACED.

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The very next morning, Morwen located the family of Frigg the fallen informant to tell them of her bravery and selflessness when she faced mortal peril. Morwen also gave the family ten gold coins from her coin purse. Later, when time allows Morwen visits the Wings of UMBER Orphanage in the Temple District and anonymously donates the proceeds taken from Lord Lamarck.

