

**Campaign/Game:** The Academicians: D&D 5e  
**Episode 9:** Beneath the Library  
**Campaign Date:** Allmud 4th-5th (Spring)

**Date:** December 16th, 2021

## Characters

**Brom Mahlard**, Rock Gnome Knowledge Cleric - 4 (Ryan)  
**Morwen Peregrine**, Half-Elf Lore Bard - 3 (Jenny)  
**Nero Leonheart**, Half-Elf Bladesinger Wizard - 4 (Brandon)  
**Thako Scarmonger**, Green Elf Wild Magic Barbarian - 4 (Tyler)

**DM:** Andrew

## Log:



Following a reprisal attack, the Academicians lure the Rat Bastards gang to a basement in order to learn more about who leads the gang and what they are up to. Morwen flirts with Queek the wererat lieutenant. Queek is hesitant, but makes himself look important by revealing that his “associate” Mus Sheol as well as Steve the Ogre have made their way to the Library of Manthor in service of their patron, a wizard-guy with ink-stained hands.

The Academicians spring the trap! Thako emerges from a side room and engages the strongest wererats in the center. Brom shoots from a hidden position inside an unassuming barrel. Nero drops from the ceiling and engages the wererats. Morwen trades magical attacks with two wererat warlocks positioned across the culvert. None of the thugs or wererats survive the engagement, but they now have a location to search.

Additionally, Morwen managed to learn some more details from a reliable source. There is in fact a forgotten vault located deep beneath the Library of Manthor that belonged to a dragonborn named Richtus of the Kalathka clan. This servant of the mad fascist Corvax created and maintained a unit of lycanthropic stormtroopers using magical artifacts left over from the ancient Masters - an alien race that tried to conquer the continent of Radavan long before the three heritages of elves, dwarves, and humanity arrived here.

The Academicians head back to the library after a short rest. Once again, they meet with Aya. They learn that two staff members have gone missing in the archive level of the library. The two are Garda Greenleaf and Ellison Berenger. They learn that Garda has been with the library for

quite some time and is a solid contributor but Berenger has only been with the Library of Manthor for four months.

They barge into the library and head toward the lower levels of the archives, grabbing keys to the barred stacks along the way. In the lowest levels of the archives, they see a light in one of the alcoves barred by rusty gates. The stone stacks stand silently as they unlock the creaky gate. They see a pair of gnomish feet poking out from behind a far stack. A circle of blood pooling around nearby.

They find the body of Garda Greenleaf. There are five force wounds, which might indicate attacks from eldritch blast or magic missile. There is some diamond dust near the body on the floor. Despite the current circumstances, Brom can't help but be annoyed. Across the stacks an incorrectly shelved book sticks out to his trained eye like a sore thumb. The spine of the book reads "Practical Applications of Sorcery on Clandestine Obfuscation." Brom grabs the book to reshelve but it opens a secret door. Inside, the party hears sinister whispers. Thako ventures in, and is immediately hit by a magical trap on the door. Meanwhile, three ghouls advance up the hall toward the green elf.

A fight against the eerie undead develops. Thako holds the door, raging and thrashing despite the ghoul's uncanny paralyzation powers. Morwen, Brom, and Nero support from outside the door until Garda's body rises unnaturally and attacks Thako as well! The Academicians struggle to finish off the revenant of the archivist, but finally are victorious from a well-placed blot from Morwen's crossbow.

The group continues on, easily following the trail of whomever went ahead. They find gates ripped from hinges and the body of a sewer drifter as they pass into a forgotten vault below the library. There, they find the fascist iconography of Corvax carved into the walls and tunnels, indicating that this was once an outpost of the mad monarch. The Regalia of Corvax (pictured) is particularly present.



They approach an experiment as it concludes in which an ogre is transformed into a lycanthrope through the power of a forgotten super-soldier device left by Kalathka Richtus, the leader of the wererat storm-vermin who served Corvax. The group identifies Ellison Berenger as the necromancer leading the work as well as Mus Sheol, the wererat leader of the Rat Bastards. A half-dozen unarmed wererat minions serve the necromancer. In one corner, a well of sorts leads even deeper - perhaps into a subterranean sea of the Underdark.

The Academicians attack at range, hoping to hold the villains at bay from the top of the stairs leading down into the lost lycanthropic laboratory of Richtus. "Steve" the simple rat-ogre charges the group. Thako locks the ogre up, but Morwen manages to charm the beast after a short while. Nero engages Mus Sheol in a duel, trading rapier thrusts and clever quips. Morwen is hurt when Berenger hits the party, along with Steven the rat-ogre with a fireball. Thako takes the fight to the necromancer closing the distance and picking off several of the rat-minions.

Brom heals Morwen, getting her back into the fight. Beringer attempts to escape down the well into the underdark, but Thako stops the false archivist by throwing rat-minions in such a way to hinder his movement. Nero finishes off the rat-man thug and throws himself at Beringer along with Thako. Morwen once again charms Steve the rat-ogre, pulling the giant, brutish smelly beast to safety as Beringer is slain. The necromancer's body falls, and a splash is heard below. A waiting ship fishes Beringer's body from a sunless sea, and then begins paddling off into the unknown. The heroes are victorious!



The night before, Nero had received an arcane message from his long-lost father Rolf. Rolf asked Nero to meet for a private discussion. He told Nero to come alone, and ask for "The Lion Rampant" at the Magister's Club - an upscale tavern that caters to wealthy spellcasters in the Temple District. Following the final battle, Nero meets with Rolf accompanied by the other Academicians. Brom continues on as the librarian of the Arcane Academy, but he is dismissed from his duties as an instructor and asked instead to focus on concentrating his energies on co-ordinating the adventuring Academicians. Morwen leans into her studies, becoming one of Headmaster Finnbuckle's best and brightest. She continues to befriend and nurture Steve the rat-ogre who lives in the sewers of College Hill in Blackangel feeding and caring for the abomination wrought by Corvax's evil magic.

Thako and Ravara continue on as security at the Arcane Academy. As for Everan, he has gone missing in the wake of all the excitement over the book thefts. The only clue to his whereabouts being that he was last seen entering the Library of Manthor looking for some specific guidance to control his wild magic talents.