

Game: Gloomwrought Campaign, D&D 5e

Date: September 2nd, 2019

Characters:

Ping the Vile, half-elf ranger - 9 (Dan Gilbert)

Bartleby, gnome hedge wizard - 4 (NPC)

Trogdor, human barbarian/bard - 7/2 (Nate Grim)

Vlad, lizardfolk pugilist - 4 (NPC)

Rear Admiral Nigel Ramsbottom, half-elf rogue/warlock - 5/4 (Quinton Laughman)

Ellie Finnbuckle, gnome wizard - 9 (Kayla Nicholas)

Rowan, Shadar-Kai cleric - 9 (Kayla Nicholas)

Duck Newton, half-orc cleric/fighter - 5/4 (Justin Nicholas)

DM: Andrew Smith

Log:

The walls of the Arcane Academy are breached. Demons cavort openly, killing the mortal defenders of the school and sending bystanders of Blackangel running. At the top of the administrator's tower, Rooke Bartley questions a visibly bloody Liadon while a six-armed half-snake demon looks on. She wants to know how to get to the artifacts in the specially magicked lockers. Six other multicolored demons tear and destroy from the ground around the ruined walls of the academy. The heroes realize that Rooke is in fact now working for Bezos and not Abraxas. She's switched allegiances again and is a triple agent!



The heroes make themselves known, rushing to engage and save the professor. Rooke sends Marlith the snake-demon to deal with the adventurers while she casts defensive wards. The demons are defeated one by one. Duck and Trogdor charge into the tower and engage Rooke.

Rooke unlocks the artifact lockers, triggering the security protocols. All the artifacts disappear into secret pocket dimensions. Rooke is slain, but not before casting a powerful prismatic spray spell, catching Duck square in the fact. Luckily for him, his orcish heritage and basic stubbornness keeps the blessed of the Traveller from falling. Trogdor strikes Rooke down, aiming for a non-fatal blow only to find Rooke's body melt into water like snow in the springtime. Rooke was a simulacrum all along!

Professor Liadon is maimed. His hands have been cut off at the forearm, and his fingers and hands have been chewed and digested by the demons. With his hands ruined, Liadon has lost the ability to cast spells with somatic components. Liadon shares a real moment with Ellie wherein he demonstrates contrition for not appreciating her contributions in the past. The bodies of the Fey doubles of Duck and Ellie lay broken in the corner. Rosie is found, shaken but alive hidden beneath her desk.

The party has been gone in the Feywild for almost a month. Professor Liadon tells the heroes what he knows. Bezos the Vendor is now openly working for the Prelate of Erathis, and Salt Temple has built a mighty army. They are poised to sweep through the Plaguelands converting or putting heretics to death and conquering in the name of Erathis the Lawmaker.

To aid in this task, the Prelate has managed to make enough supernatural bargains to assassinate Olidammara, the ancient god of music and revelry. As the old god dies, the Prelate plans to take on their godhood using a number of artifacts that he has collected.

Liadon reveals what he knows now about the artifacts. If the party can get enough of them, they can fight off the Prelate's apotheosis by claiming this godhood themselves. However, all is lost. They need more artifacts to fight the Prelate. Even if they return the spyglass, there is another artifact that is the key to them all. It keeps changing forms and is hard to track. Liadon reveals that the name of this item is "Proteus." Nigel and Ping immediately recognize that name. "We can get that for you," Nigel asserts "Let's get to work."



The heroes take a night in Blackangel to recover from the battle before planning their next move. Nigel decides to check on his friend Bear. On the way to the Bear's house, he spots the "Hulk" - the boat Bear lent Nigel - in the dock, looking abused and barely seaworthy. Nigel walks in on Bear and Fey Nigel in a compromising position. Bear is both delighted and worried at Nigel's appearance. Fey Nigel says nothing but "Hi I'm Nigel!" Real Nigel wishes Bear the best with his newfound love Fey Nigel, but not before marking Fey Nigel and teaching him to go by the new name "Nagel."

That night, Nigel is visited in his dreams by Abraxas. The fiend is very calm and civil. He gives his most "sincere" apologies for what he did to Ping and for Nigel's sacking. He gives no indication that anything is wrong. Instead, he asks a favor. He wants Nigel to find and capture Rooke Bartley - dead or alive. He offers Nigel the Tome of the Moon and Stare - a powerful artifact - if he helps him. Abraxas reveals that Rooke has some "important information" he can get from her corpse.

Meanwhile, Trogdor can't play music. He suffers from a terrible creative block since returning from the Fey. He picks up his axe, but doesn't feel anything. He makes noises, but it just isn't music. There's no soul.. It is as if the music itself has been drained from the world.

Duck has a connected experience. He has been having odd dreams lately. In them, Olidammara the ancient god of music and debauchery struggles in agony in a completely featureless plane of existence. He is weighed down by burning ropes of propriety and order. He is boxed in by monstrous soldiers of pure logic, shaped like platonic solids with arms, eyes, tentacles, and weapons. He cries out in pain, and he falls dead. The mirthless logic soldiers begin to cut the corpse of the dead god apart, seeking to retrieve that essence which makes a deity. With a resounding crash of an orchestral chord, they are rebuffed - for now. Duck's vision ends.



Next morning, Ping is contacted by Rowan through a summoning spell. Harkon, formerly the bartender of the Cracked Keel has become a bit of a celebrity among the downtrodden of Gloomwrought. He is a symbol of what the city could be now that the rule of Bezos has been foiled. Despite his terror of public speaking and being killed at any time, he has been a true believer.

Just the other day, Rowan learned of new caravans coming to Gloomwrought from the Prime Material Plane. The wealth that trade could generate might break Abraxas' hold on the city and further drive a wedge between the ruling coalition. She might even be able to turn the Crimson Sashes loyalty away from House Carradh in a single stroke if you could steal the contents of the caravan and give it to another house, such as the still greedy but less tyrannical house Harskel. That way, Rowan has a chance to overthrow the rule of both Abraxas and Bezos.

Through a vision from the Lady, Rowan managed to identify where and when the caravan is set to arrive from the Prime Material plane to House Carradh. She knows a secret, that although there is a large caravan of goods one of the agents in the caravan holds a fortune in gems and platinum meant to pay off the Crimson Sashes. If she can locate them within the caravan and take that fortune she can free Gloomwrought!

The heroes decide to help Rowan, and perhaps get Proteus in return. Ellie needs to stay behind in Blackangel to assist Professor Liadon in tracking down the hidden artifacts and restoring the academy's magical defenses. She uses a plane shift scroll to send the heroes to the Shadowfell.

The heroes arrive in Gloomwrought. Rowan has intel on the target, and the heroes set an ambush. The Rakshasa and bodyguards of the Carradh family are slain, and the proceeds are

given to Rowan and Harkon. In exchange, Rowan parts with Proteus who immediately has things to say to Trogdor. Using a favor owed by the Ebony Guard, Rowan is able to return the party to the Prime Material Plane.

Meanwhile, Ellie struggles with Professor Liadon. The flute, the crystal box, and the mask are all recovered, and Trogdor still has the lute. The tulwar is lost.

Next, the heroes decide to track down the spyglass. Ellie muses that she could use teleportation circle, but she doesn't know if there is an appropriate sigil on the pirate island. Nigel reveals that he has the sigils for the teleportation circle on Portusclepta tattooed on him. After a brief discussion about why Nigel's mother Willow would do that, Ellie uses those tattooed sigils to transport the party there.



The group appears in the teleportation circle on Portusclepta and they are immediately surrounded by threatening pirate guards who demand to know how they were able to access the circle. Nigel explains, and a messenger is sent. Two emissaries of Willow Aeofell arrive named Cokelly and Grawp. They lead the party take them past Governor "Pence and Pound" to Willow's private quarters in the burnt-out shell of a volcano that is the pirate island of Portusclepta.

"My Nigel! My boy how you've grown. It is so good to see you!" She coos. "As you know I want to rule the Expanse one day, and I want to do it from here. Portusclepta is my puppet now. I own Governor Pence, and I'm building alliances as we speak."

She leans in towards Nigel, "I'll want you by my side; I'll give you this artifact now, but you'll come back and serve me when I ask." Nigel agrees to his mother's terms and the party returns to Blackangel.

Finally, Nigel makes contact with Abraxas. He agrees to bring Rooke back to him, dead or alive. Abraxas is pleased, and tells Nigel where Rooke is squatting in an abandoned storefront in the rough part of Blackangel.

The party infiltrates the storefront, but Rooke catches on. From the looks of her, Nigel believes she's had better days. Her hair hangs in matted threads and she wears a dingy, soiled shift. She scribbles furiously at a desk by a candle in a darkened back room. Despite her haggard appearance she still has one more trick up her sleeve. She summons the Balor, a demon of considerable power and might. This monster fights the party to a standstill, killing Vlad outright and beating Trogdor and Duck to within an inch of their lives. The party barely manages to best

the fiend and send it back to the hell it came from. Vlad is revived. Nigel slays Rooke and burns her body to charcoal to prevent anything from questioning the body. Of course, this action will trigger Abraxas' anger in the future. However, the party has more important issues as they now know that Bezos, along with his main agent on the Prime Material Plane Plagelord Kalaback are assisting the Prelate of Erathis in his ascent to godhood.

