

Campaign/Game: The Sanguine Succession: D&D 5e
Episode 4: Sanguine Summation
Campaign Date: Verdance 28th - 30th 931 (Summer)

Date: July 1st, 2021

Characters

Barackus "Boomer" Doomhammer, Dwarf Wizard Evoker - 6 (Tim)

Bo, Human Beast Conclave Ranger - 6 (Chel)

Arro, Canine Animal Companion (NPC)

Desdemona, Dragonborn Moon Druid - 6 (Camille)

Taurianus the Bull, Human Berserker Barbarian - 6 (Jamin)

Shae, Changeling Lore Bard - 6 (Ryan)

DM: Andrew

The heroes arrive at the bandit fortress of Karela, the Red Hawk along with Bo. There, they find a thriving swine farm, packed with black, curly-haired pigs raised on scraps and garbage. Nearby, they encounter some man-shaped pits, covered over with rock and moss. Their awful smell leads them to believe that at least some of the guts of the pigs are deposited into these strange ditches.

The heroes dispatch a few orcs, but the complex is largely unguarded. They approach the main house and encounter Dimbo, undoubtedly Karela's plaything. He is a beautiful but simple tiefling. Shae manages to get Dimbo to reveal the few secrets he holds by transforming into a duplicate of the tiefling fool.

After clearing out all of the Red Hawk's treasures and spellbook, Desdemona bids farewell to the Privateers. Other adventures call out to the dragonborn druid within the Corpse Forest, so she is given a fond send off.

As the party returns to Sanguine just before dusk, they see smoke rising from the center of the city. Baron Timeon's palace is on fire! Timeon's butler Vanemoth tries to stop the Privateers, telling them that it is too late for the Baron but they charge into the flaming building. They find the Baron dead, with a knife through his chest. His room is completely ransacked, and there are signs of a struggle. Lady Julia's axe is embedded in the wall and she and the child Torali are both missing as well. The Privateers take anything of value they can safely sneak out of the burning building without being noticed, and Shae turns himself into Baron Timeon. As they emerge, they explain that Shae was able to save the "Baron" only at the expense of his own life. The remaining guards are dismissed as "Baron Timeon" has his own personal guard in the form of the Privateers. Vanemoth has a horrified look on his face, prompting the Privateers to take him aside privately. "I saw you dead!" the shocked tiefling butler croaks. They learn that the fire and stabbing was done by Galboro, the buck-toothed ruffian they briefly saw at the Bull and the



Boar. Bo takes Vanemoth to the authorities for questioning, but with “Baron Timeon” apparently still alive there is some confusion.

The Privateers surmise that perhaps Galboro took Lady Julia and Torali as hostages, or as some part of a sinister ritual. The group wonders aloud if Lady Julia is actually behind the killings. Maybe Galboro works for her! She had an opportunity to take the magic urn that they believe necessary to summon the dead god Alkir just after the return from the mine. They take a moment to look closely at the urn and realize that while it is a clever replica it is absolutely not the same urn the Privateers were given on the road to Sanguine.

Boomer receives a message that Fuglok was looking for him in the Golden Circle of the Trade District. The green elf explains that Urian the Fixer is dead, and needs some money to help get out of Sanguine. Shae realizes that the real Fuglok is also dead and that they are speaking with the changeling that was Zazzdop. They learn that Urian was killed by Galboro and his men as well, his body left hanging by its heels to warn anyone else not to cross the buck-toothed killer.

The heroes spend the night at a tavern called the Golden Binnacle. They pay for Zazzdop’s room, but don’t spend much more time with him. The next morning, they learn that King Valdric has died overnight. Horns sound and temple bells toll. Mourning clothes cover shuttered windows and sprigs of holly are nailed to the doors signifying death and rebirth. The fountains are shrouded. The heroes hear a proclamation, and learn details from the helpful hostess of the establishment.



Proclamation: General Iskandrian has declared martial law. Anyone seen on the streets is subject to arrest immediately. The gates of Sanguine are sealed and cannot be opened by any except those bearing direct authorization from Iskandrian.

Rumor: King Valdric’s body, crown, and scepter, are supposed to lay in state for ten days in the Throne Room of the Royal Palace. If Iskandrian has taken the throne, he’s broken the ancient law. But even if he dared to take the crown, he’d never dare take the sacred scepter in violation of such an ancient decree.

Proclamation: His majesty Iskandrian the Eagle, has mounted the Sanguine throne. Pray for him, his subjects, and rejoice in his great name.

Rumor: The nobles of the resistance are gathering at Countess Synelle’s castle to the far north. Iskandrian’s plan is to ride out to crush them before they gather full force.

The Privateers see the newly self-crowned King Iskandrian lead the army forth from Sanguine to challenge the forces of the united nobles for control of the city-state. He bears the crown of Sanguine, but the sacred scepter is conspicuously not at his side. A skeleton crew of armed forces remain behind to man the gates of the city and the walls of the Royal Palace.

The Privateers see the handwriting on the wall. They believe that it is only a matter of time before whatever faction of nobles has the urn returns Alkir to his avatar to once again plague Sanguine. They decide that they need the royal sceptre of Sanguine, knowing that it is in fact the Staff of Avanrakash and can be used to defeat the dead god Alkir.

Shae, as "Baron Timeon" convinces the royal guards that he has sided with the new king and wishes to lend his forces to the army. He and the other Privateers are accepted into the Royal Palace grounds, but asked to wait in some administrative apartments until Iskandrian's return. There, they meet an annoying baby-faced noble who calls himself Lord Gibabe. This guy has also pledged his meager forces to Iskandrian. He asks too many probing questions, and is much too smarmy so Bo plants a ring on him to track his movements.



That night, the party sneaks out of the apartments toward the palace where the body of dead King Valdric lies in state. Boomer invisibly manages to trick the two guards on duty at the door to open the throne room, and the heroes follow behind. Once they are alone again, the heroes examine the royal sceptre. Just as the ancient texts said, this jeweled sceptre is in fact a powerful artifact. As a matter of fact, it is only the bare wood of the item and not the rare metals or gemstones that decorate it. Those ornamentations were only added over the years to aggrandize the occupant of the Sanguine throne. The Privateers hear the guards returning with reinforcements, and decide to escape through the sewers just as the earth shakes. As they emerge from the underground sump by the Red River, they feel another earthquake and see a dark cloud above the Mountain of Alkir illuminated with shocks of a green, alien energy. The Privateers decide to make their way there immediately.

The Privateers make their way up the steep path toward the top of the mountain. At the top, they see Lady Julia and Lord Gibabe leading a dark ritual in front of eight masked cultists. Torali is bound and gagged at the feet of a huge statue of a four-horned tiefling man not unlike that in Katos room. Before the throng of chanting tieflings, the urn once carried by Shae burns with an eerie green glow belching a black smoke that surrounds the top of the peak.



The Privateers manage to sneak forward and launch a sneak attack on the cultists. Boomer hits the group of them with a fireball and Shae charms many of them with a pattern of hypnotic magic. The masked cultists are seen to include some familiar faces they had met from the city. Bo climbs up to a perch to protect the young Torali from the evil ceremony. Taurinus rushes in to attack, cutting the throat of two cultists. The Privateers have the situation well in hand, until they see one of the nobles of Sanguine appear in the sky above the mountain on a flaming steed. Everyone vaguely recognizes him as Lord Taramemnon, the paramour of Lady Senelle.



Taramemnon cajoles the heroes. Boomer turns away a blast from his magic staff of frost with a counterspell, and responds with a series of scorching blasts which are weakened by the nightmare's magic.

Taramemnon's magic weakens the party enough that the horned cultists get the upper hand. At one point, the horned cultists almost push Taurianus off the side of the mountaintop to certain death. However, he manages to hold on for dear life before climbing back up and flinging some of the burnt and stabbed cultists to their own doom.

Meanwhile, the statue of the dead god Alkir crumbles away revealing his real form - a colossal four-horned tentacle with a gaping mouth to devour all it can. It immediately picks up Lady Julia who shrieks, "Not me you stupid god!" forcing it to toss the traitor to the Privateers away. As the avatar of Alkir reaches for young Torali, Boomer grasps the Staff of Avanrakash in two hands and stabs it deep into the alien body of the dead god. It screams an unholy moan,

and melts back into the form of a plain, black stone block of volcanic stone.

With the cultists dead and his god once more imprisoned, Lord Taramemnon is forced to abandon his steed after Shae blinds it. He advances on Shae, threatening certain death on the wounded bard. Before the tiefling noble is able to complete his murderous plan, Boomer strikes him from behind crushing his skull and knocking his bloody body off the side of the mountain.

Following the battle, the heroes capture and question Julia. Once again make their way down the steep mountain along. At the bottom, they are greeted by the old tiefling woman they had met while chasing down the undead on their way back from the mines with Baron Timeon. She offers to take back the urn, and perhaps teach the heroes all she knows about the Order of Avanrakash. The Privateers hand over the crucible. Boomer, Shae, and Torianus all join the old woman. Bo turns Julia into the authorities of Sanguine before continuing her work investigating missing persons across eastern Radavan.

JHEBBEL



