

RAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 2/26/2012

TODAY'S EPISODE: RAIDERS OF THE COAST

Our heroes are aboard their pirate ship the *Teeth of Araska* off the Chelioxian coast at Blackcove, a cursed and inbred fishing village. They are:

- ^ Captain Sindawe H'kilata Narr, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ^ First Mate Ref "Serpent" Jorensen, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).
- ^ Gunnery Mate Wogan, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ^ Hatshepsut, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization who doesn't savvy much Common and her cobra Naja.
- ^ Samaritha, the wand-blastin' serpentfolk wizard in the guise of a pretty half-elf, and now Serpent's wife!
- ^ With them are the pirates of the *Teeth of Araska*, some 20+ souls consisting of:
 - ^ Survivors from the ship's previous pirate crew
 - ^ Ex-slaves escaped from their Chelish owner (Martino Marcellano) and recruited from their castaway island home
 - ^ Various other recruits, some willing, some not.

The away team scouting the Sallow Coast for soft targets consists of:

- ^ Bosun Tommy Blacktoes, the staff-slingin' sneaky halfling rogue (was Kevin, now an NPC).
- ^ Lavender Lil, a buxom tiefling ex-prostitute.
- ^ Crewmen:
 - ^ Kahina, ex-slave
 - ^ Sevgi, ex-slave
 - ^ Little Mike, ex-Chelish Navy
 - ^ Rolf, who killed an owlbear in Zincher's Arena

PIRATE BOOTY

The pirate officers (Serpent, Wogan, and Sindawe), along with Slasher Jim and Gareb, split the loot from their long, involuntary tour of Monster Island. The notable splits: Gareb gets the

Horn of Fog, Jim gets the *Headband of Charisma* and +1 *Trident*, Sindawe gets the *Minor Crown of Blasting*, Serpent gets the *Necklace of Alivis* (+5 to *Spellcraft*), and Wogan gets the *Pearl of Power* (3rd level).

Samaritha interprets the trio of pre-fall Azlanti books: *Idionestra's Histories* (a guide to the island), *The 7th Column* (history of an Azlanti rebel group), and *Sigil and Glyph* (a list of Azlanti experiments). They give her the books as long as she's on-board since she's the only one who can read Azlanti.

THE AWAY TEAM

The away team waves merrily to the *Araska* from the coastal road atop the sea-cliff. They descend into Blackcove where they are picked up by longboat. All six are present and in good spirits, mostly. Sevgi and Little Mike are less happy the rest, exchanging awkward glances; later Tommy explains, "They hooked up and I guess neither was satisfied with the post-game results."

Tommy tells the assembled crew, "While you all were slacking off, we were working. We found a target."

Many crew members grumble mean spirited suggestions. Several go on about the so-called slacking off, "But, but... Tentacles!!!"

Tommy ignores them all to continue, "Yes, I'm sure you had some exciting random encounters. Now simmer down and listen to our mission briefing. A lot of the towns around here are not centers of civilization, hygiene, or wealth. Little Mike had warned us most of these towns are hard-scrabble places, unhappy with Chelish rule. So, they keep to themselves and mostly never accomplish anything. But we found Hollobrae, a Cheliox lumber town. It is affluent and accessible by boat. No harbor, just a dock. Plus a river to move lumber down to the coast. And most of their

soldiers and gendarmes have been mustered in a town further east for some military operation. Plus there's an added bonus with Hollobrae... they are hosting a big wedding with lots of out of towners."

Lavender Lil suddenly shrieks - she has spotted Samaritha's wedding ring. The two women hug, admire the ring, and communicate with girlish screams of delight about the wedding, how Serpent proposed, etc... Sevgi and Kahina join in. The male pirates are deeply conflicted. They can't help but admire the attractive women bouncing up and down but the shrieking really does hurt the ears. The women remain off task for some time.

Yelling to be heard over the last of the shrieks, Sindawe asks Tommy, "Who's getting married?"

"Parnos - some third tier nobleman. To some out of town elf woman."

Tommy hands over a map of the town he has sketched out. He's identified major buildings of interest. He has even established an "in" - he had Kahina pose as the owner of himself and Lavender Lil, because halflings and tieflings are both slave races in Cheliox. Kahina hired them out for the bachelor party (several days from now) to perform a live sex show. Lil giggles and shows off her slave leash... everyone shifts about uncomfortably from one of two reasons. The bachelor party will have about twenty Chelioxian rakes. It will be held at the *Fiery Dragon Tavern*. The bride's party is lodged at the town's inn.

A preliminary plan is devised:

- ♣ The original away team will be the inside team. Most will attend the bachelor party as entertainment. Little Mike and Rolf will purchase/rent a wagon and draft animals for carrying away loot.
- ♣ The night of the bachelor party the ship will sail up the river and anchor next to the town.

- ⤴ Stoke and a 3 man gun crew (Pirro, Ori, Karomander) will remain on-board to bombard the town at random or as directed by the raiding pirates (sunrods will be used for fire control).
- ⤴ Mace will remain on board because he has no thumbs and we don't really trust him.
- ⤴ Hatshepsut and Samaritha will stay on board to repel boarders and keep the stay behind pirates honest. In addition, the two have refused to participate in piracy.
- ⤴ The two targets will be the bachelor party (rich nobles) and a large armory shop (weapons and armor... pirates always need weapons and armor).
- ⤴ Raiding the Bachelor Party: Officers, Bojask, Olgvik, Bel, and Tanned Hank.
- ⤴ Raiding the Armory: Jaren the Jinx, Olhas, Orgon, Dum-dum, Mano, Big Mike, Delmer, Gareb, and Slasher Jim.
- ⤴ Several rams and ladders will be built. Lamp oil will be distributed for arson and confusion. Ropes and grapples will also be distributed.
- ⤴ Signal whistles are provided to the group leaders: one long whistle for "Come Help", three short for "Withdraw / Retreat".

NIGHT 1

The *Teeth of Araska* arrives at the river mouth leading to Hollobrae. It anchors well offshore. One longboat is launched for Tommy and Lil's crew. Despite being disguised as sex workers, their owner, and some guards, they get into a spot of trouble entering town, but are able to bribe their way out. Bribery in Cheliax is a fine and polite art, but thankfully the couple is well versed in said art.

A second longboat proceeds up the river to make soundings. The *Araska* undoubtedly has a deeper draft than the usual river traffic; getting stuck during the raid would end many pirate careers. Conditions are overcast, so it is very dark (Go Stealth!). There is a strong wind, which

Samaritha reduces with a spell. Going upriver is tough on the rowers, but the ship's officers (who are not rowing) stoically issue orders to continue. The soundings prove that the ship can go up the river and anchor within 30 yards of shore. The longboat is silenced while offshore of the town thanks to Wogan's *Silence* spell. No one in town is the wiser.

DAY 2

The *Araska* retires to well away from the coast before the sun rises. Wogan has the gun crew practice. Sindawe equips the two away teams and keeps the pirates busy with ship's maintenance.

NIGHT 2 - ARRIVING AT HOLLOBRAE

The weather is calm with enough light to allow navigation. The ship arrives without any sandbar incidents. The anchor is dropped. A small rum ration is distributed. Samaritha wishes Serpent good luck. His huge snake Saluthra swims alongside the longboat.

The first wave across is the Bachelor Party assault group. They disembark and wait for the boats to go back and return with the second group. While they wait someone whispers loudly, as imitating a bird call, "Heyguys! Heyguys!" Bel answers back with an equally bad bird call, "Overhere! Overhere!" It is Little Mike and Rolf with the wagon and two mules. Several pirates quickly mount a swivel-gun onto it. A nearby dog begins to bark but Serpent quickly quiets it with *Charm Animal*.

The second wave is coming in when a man sleeping in one of the fishing boats sits up. He loudly demands, "Hey! Who are you guys? Did my wife send you?" Several pirates grab him, cover his mouth, and stab the life out of him.

The second wave arrives as some nearby residences come awake at the combined commotions. Most are lighting lanterns or yelling out, "Keep it down." One brave soul steps out his door to

investigate - "Hey! What are you dicks up to?" Sindawe orders Bojask, "Kill that guy. Quietly, if possible." Bojask cuts the man down with axes, then goes into his home. Meanwhile the two pirate groups organize and head out. Jaren and his crew grab the wagon and head to the armory. Sindawe and his crew head to the bachelor party.

THE FIERY DRAGON TAVERN (ALSO KNOWN AS THE EX-ADVENTURER'S HANG-OUT)

The pirates walk quickly out of the river front and into the center of town. They are taken aback by the large number of people in the town square, apparent spill-overs from the pre-wedding parties. Plus, the town's lumberjack population, largely unmarried males, is on the prowl for entertainment. The pirates arrive at the Fiery Dragon Tavern.

Wogan says, "Front and back?" Sindawe sends the crewmen around back, giving the Ulfen warrior, Olgvik, a sunrod to mark the Mayor's house. The mayor's house is close to the tavern but not in a direct line with it. Sindawe hopes the cannon fire will drive the crowds away.

The officers enter the tavern as Wogan yells, "This is a raid!" Serpent says, "Yeah!" Sindawe immediately beats a nearby man to death. The serving girls and lumberjacks are shaken, several yell in panic, and three rush the pirates. One gets a lucky hit on Serpent and then the three locals die messily. Little Mike, Rolf, Bel, Tanned Hank, and Olgvik enter thru the back, spreading more chaos. The tavern's half-elf bard strikes up a dramatic chase piece on his banjo.

The barkeep pulls a club labeled Peace Keeper from behind the bar and slams it into Bel's arm, eliciting a cry of pain. Wogan shoots the barkeep point blank in the chest with his blunderbuss, then moves behind the bar intent on finding the cash box.

Sindawe yells, "Little Mike, where's the party?"

Little Mike replies, "Upstairs! Are we done killing here?"

Sindawe yells back, "We're never done killing!" as he kills another lumberjack.

A young, dark-haired woman shrieks out, "No! Uncle!" She waves her hands and chants, hitting the pirates with *Glitterdust*, and promptly blinds Little Mike, Rolf, Bojask, Bel, and Serpent. And many tavern patrons. Wogan shoots the downed barkeep again, more out of spite than anything else.

Sindawe begins beating the niece, demanding, "Turn off the spell and I'll let you heal your uncle." The blind Serpent, directed by Sindawe's shouts, smashes a nearby table. Bojask kills a patron. Olgvik goes berserk and ends another person. The patrons try to flee the tavern via any exit they can.

A batch of rakes from the bachelor party pour down the stairs, waving long swords. All are sans armor and all are in advanced states of intoxication and undress. They bravely fan out to fight pirates (and lumberjacks). One connects with the blind Serpent. Another rushes Olgvik and crits him in the belly.

Wogan casually casts *Bless* on his pirate buddies while emptying the tavern's cash box. Sindawe punches the sorceress unconscious after she protests, "My spell cannot be canceled! It is a conjuration you illiterate buccaneer!" Bojask kills one of the rakes with battle and hand axes. Serpent, still blind, slowly beats another man to death with many swings. Olgvik lops off a forearm with his great axe - the man drops, then crawls under a nearby table to quietly bleed to death. The other blind pirates ineffectually attempt a number of actions, further proving that *Glitterdust* is an awesome 2nd level spell.

Meanwhile, the world around the fight keeps going. Sounds of fighting come from the tavern's upstairs. A ship's gun fires and seconds later a nearby building is splintered by solid shot. The half-elf bard switches to a more redneck version of chase music.

Sindawe kills a rake with a Flurry of Blows. Serpent continues beating an unlucky rake with his staff. Wogan heals wounded pirates while the blind Bel and Little Mike hide under furniture. The somewhat reduced bachelor party population (there were going to be twenty!) do very little damage in turn.

Sindawe and Olgvik shows their gratitude by killing more rakes. Three rakes surround Sindawe, who agilely avoids their attacks. The blind Little Mike swings and smashes the bard's instrument; the bard flees. Several more rakes fall to the ship's officers.

The remaining rakes rally despite their horrible losses since coming down the stairs. Or maybe not; their attacks fail. And the blind pirates recover their vision seven rounds after the *Glitterdust* was cast. Wogan complains to no one in particular, "She was 7th level? Who picked this ex-adventurer's hang-out for our raid?"

Another cannon shot lands close enough to knock out the tavern windows, spraying shrapnel across the common room (dealing 1 point of damage to everyone).

Seeing only two rakes standing, Sindawe charges up the stairs to help the "inside" team. Wogan follows closely. Serpent remains behind to manage the killing and looting.

THE COMMON ROOM WRAP UP

Serpent regains his sight and looks around at the carnage of the common room. He declares, "I did all of this? Awesome! Start looting!" Serpent kills wounded groomsmen. Olgvik and Bojask kill a late arrival in an orgy of axe blows.

THE ARMORY CREW

The second team bashes down the door to the armory and loots it thoroughly with no resistance. The assigned job completed, they consider following orders but instead decide to investigate the nearby inn hosting the bridesmaid's party. They head off for a little R&R.

UPSTAIRS TO THE BACHELOR PARTY

At the top of the stairs Sindawe finds Sevgi rolling around in a death clinch with a nearly naked rake, *Saving Private Ryan* style. Both are heavily wounded. Sindawe kills the man. Wogan arrives to pull her to her feet.

Sindawe demands, "Where do we go, Sevgi?" She points down a hall, "The main party room is that-a-way." Wogan heals her.

Sindawe charges that-a-way, passing an open door. Following, Wogan notices a young nobleman in that room. The man is clearly packed, dressed, and ready to sneak out.

Wogan recognizes the nobleman as Martino Marcellano, a Chelioxian who owned Ox and half of the *Araska's* ex-slave crew. He confronts the man. Martino puts his hand on his rapier and says, "Let me pass, I have no quarrel with you." Unimpressed, Wogan strikes first with *Blindness*. The blinded nobleman draws rapier and dagger, then lunges in Wogan's direction. Sindawe turns back to help; he disarms the nobleman.

Sevgi stage whispers, "I hear chanting from the party room. Maybe they're still partying?!"

The noble attempts to deploy a potion to escape, declaring "I can't see but I can Dimension Door!" Sindawe (spending a Fate Point) grabs the potion away and punches the man in the face, dropping him bloodily to the floor. Defeated, the man declares, "My father will ransom me."

Sindawe answers, "Accepted," and beats the nobleman unconscious.

Meanwhile, Wogan creeps forward to listen at the door to the party room. Yup, that's chanting. He peeks through the keyhole to see Lavender Lil, Tommy, Kahina, and three men locked in an orgy with Seyanna the Succubus. Wogan calls Sindawe over to look.

Sevgi, straining to see, asks, "What's going on?"

Wogan asks Sevgi, "Did Lil mention summoning a demon?"

Unhappy with what he is seeing, Sindawe tells Sevgi, "Go get Serpent." Sevgi does so.

Wogan begins reloading his guns.

The other pirates arrive and immediately start asking questions. Sindawe assigns Bel and Little Mike to grab the prisoner... a bad choice given that Bel immediately tries to kill his ex-owner. Little Mike and Bel struggle. Wogan casts Healing Burst on the gathered pirates.

The pirates burst in to find Lavender Lil, Tommy, and Kahina dressing. The rakes are dead. One pirate complains, "What? They fucked them to death? And we missed it!"

Sindawe mumbles, "Sorry. False alarm. Thought we were rescuing them from a Chelioxian demon party." Wogan goes back and peers through the keyhole again to see if it contains a programmed illusion or something.

The dead rakes have no violent marks upon them, plenty of hickies though. The bodies are shrunken with happy looks upon the faces.

Tommy declares, "Yes, we poisoned them to death."

Sindawe nods, "Good job. Let's loot these rooms." Pirates split up to tear the place apart. Several pirates help wrestle Bel off the prisoner.

Sindawe goes back downstairs to examine the barkeep. He is dead. He briefly thinks about killing the unconscious niece until Bojask arrives and asks, "Bring her along?" Sindawe nods - taking her along delays the hard decision.

Bojask picks the niece up, "I have a cage all picked out for her." Ok, maybe the hard decision just got worse.

THE ESCAPE

Hearing one long whistle Sindawe leads his crew back to the boats declaring, "I hope they used the right signal."

They encounter the armory team escorting the wagon back to the boats. The wagon is loaded down with arms, armor, and five screaming elven women. The armor team is fighting a running battle with bow armed lumberjacks. Wogan ends that battle with an *Obscuring Mist*.

A cannon shot scatters an advancing group of axe-armed lumberjacks. In the distance, the Church of Asmodeus glows hellishly. That can't be good.

Three boats are needed for all of the pirates, loot and prisoners, so the officers commandeer fishing boats. The GM calls for Profession: Sailor checks from the PCs to determine how much and how quickly pirates and loot are moved back to the ship. Each officer oversees one boat: they roll 24, 21, and 20.

Wogan takes the first boat across. He boards and begins issuing orders, "Lift anchor! Don't unload that boat! Just tie it securely - we'll haul it off with us! Stoke! Put a round into that Church!" He points dramatically at the hell glowing church in time to see four or five of its gargoyles jump into the air and fly toward the ship. 'Crap!'"

Sindawe follows Wogan's example and has his pirates tie off their boat to the ship, then clamber aboard. The crew is doing a good job of getting the sails set. Stoke aims a cannon carefully and puts a round thru the church, sending additional non-animate gargoyles tumbling.

The fliers arrive in time to attack Serpent and his pirates on the last boat. They are coated in rotting flesh, crawling with flies. They have reptilian skin, double sets of vulture-like wings, and

horned skull heads. They have claws and forked spears. Their opening attack is to breathe a shower of flies upon the boat.

The elven women and all of the pirates except Serpent and Slasher Jim are sickened by the attack. The non-sickened duo take up the slack - Slasher Jim makes a split second action to keep a wayward oar dug into the sandbar from upsetting the boat. But all of the panicking prisoners and sickened pirates are rocking the boat. Two elven women, Gareb, and Delmer go overboard.

Sindawe orders, "You men, help with the ship. Stoke! Swivel gun those flyers!" He snatches up a spear and hurls it at the nearest demon.

Serpent commands, "Jim, get us moving!" Gareb climbs back on board. The he tries to drag a woman aboard - she claws his face and swims away. He looks disappointedly after her. Serpent pulls Delmer back into the longboat while yelling at the other swimming elf, "Get out of here. You're better off swimming back to shore." Jim manages the boat into the side of the ship. The pirates and prisoners, sickened or not, start climbing aboard.

The demons attack the pirates with spear and claws, wounding several. One demon fumbles an attack and rakes itself with a claws (thanks to Jaren the Jinx).

Wogan shoots silver into a nearby demon (23pts). Samaritha casts *Control Winds* knocking the flying demons about and filling the *Araska's* sails. Several pirates continue sailing the ship; most are busy fighting the demons. Serpent's boatload of pirates busies themselves dragging the struggling (and still screaming) elven women aboard. Sindawe orders his mini-crew, "Kill demons!" as he attacks the demon just shot by Wogan (14pts).

Demons beset Delmer and Gareb aboard Serpent's boat. Serpent attacks to cover the two pirates (he rolls a pair of 1's and Jaren the Jinx curse kicks in). Serpent's staff flies out of his fingers and into the back of Big Mike's head as he climbs the boarding net, turning him temporarily glassy-eyed. The staff falls back into the boat.

One demon launches itself at Rolf, pinning the pirate with its spear then raking his guts with its talons. Rolf screams then goes limp. Another demon hits Olgvik for 2pts in an attempt to anger the barbarian. A demon threatening Delmer switches to Serpent who handily avoids its attacks. Wogan shoots a demon (natural 1); it misfires into Sindawe who bats the bullet aside (Deflect Arrows also works on bullets!).

Stoke and his gunner fire the swivel gun (15pts) into the pair of demons threatening Serpent. Sindawe ends the wounded demon (38pts) with Flurry of Blows. The dead demon reverts to stone and sinks quickly into the river. Serpent hits a nearby demon with his silver scimitar (11pts). The demon killing Rolf completes the job by pitching him overboard via spear tip. Sevgi rams her own spear into its back (10pts). Samaritha hits the same demon with Scorching Ray which does not harm it (she failed her knowledge roll). The demon fighting Olgvik wounds him again. Serpent dances thru a hurricane of demonic attacks, in part helped by a demon fumbling an attack (it pulls a wing!).

Wogan continues captaining the ship (30 on the Profession Sailor check), recalls *Dispel Magic* with his Pearl of Power, and casts it up a nearby demon. But the demon shrugs off the spell. Sindawe throws a rope to Serpent but misses by a wide margin. The boat carrying Serpent pulls further behind, thanks to being the last boat tied up. Serpent retrieves his staff and kicks the last elven woman overboard (two of the five have been dragged aboard) saying, "Swim away little girl!" His demonic attackers breath a cloud flies over him - he is sickened.

Wogan and Samaritha help Serpent by targeting one of his demon attackers with pistol shot (8pts) and a *Ray of Enfeeblement*. Salathura shoots out of the water and wraps herself around a demon besetting Serpent. The pair plunge back into water, disappearing from view.

Several pirates descend on the demon fighting Olgvik on deck. Tommy entangles it with his whip; the creature tears its muscles trying to fight free. Wogan helps by healing the wounded Olgvik and stabbing the demon with his trident. The demon succumbs to its many wounds.

Sindawe hauls on the line connected to Serpent's boat. He makes little progress until Sevgi joins in (she rolls a natural 20). Looking back Sindawe admires her straining limbs thinking, "That woman sure can tug it!" Big Mike joins on the line pull - Serpent's boat gets draws closer. Lavender Lil joins the effort by stepping between Sevgi and Sindawe. She wraps her arms seductively around Sindawe's waist to grasp the rope, which magically animates and rolls in quickly. Serpent's boat is pulled tight against the ship.

Despite the sudden acceleration and equally sudden stop Serpent remains on his feet, slashing at the demon with silver scimitar (11pts). Sindawe, using Lavender Lil's surprisingly strong embrace to stretch a bit further than he could manage on his own, leans down and stabs the last demon attacking Serpent with his magic spear, *Shock Tooth*. Lil keeps herself and Sindawe from pitching overboard via the expedient of grabbing Sevgi with her scissoring thighs (thank you erotic dance classes!). Serpent, using Sindawe to flank, hits the demon several times (8pts and 10pts). The demon reverts to stone and falls into the river.

The pirates take up sailing with a vengeance. They want no more demons.

THE LOOT

Jaren the Jinx and Big Mike had exceptional luck while looting: a Dagger of Venom and a +3 Punching Dagger. Tommy and Lil will use the former until it is time to sell. The latter will be held by Serpent for safekeeping... he doesn't trust anybody with the 18,000gp item. He considers various ways to strap it to his body under his clothing.

The 7th level retired sorcerer had: Lesser Rod of Silence (Wogan*), scrolls (Obscuring Mist, Expeditious Retreat, See Invisibility, and Black Tentacles)(Lil and Tommy*), and a Cloak of Resistance +1 (Sevgi*).

Off of Martino's looted body and luggage they find: masterwork cup-hilt dagger (+1 AC when fighting defensively, 350gp), nice clothing (300gp), rare cologne (+2 to diplomacy, 50gp).

Other notables: one ton of fine wood (mahogany, 200gp max), four crates of arms (common, 225gp max), one crate of arms (fine, 500gp max), rake finery (2 sets, worth 150-450gp demanding on the blood stains). Maximum prices are wholesale prices.

Tommy offers that the elven women could be sold for 75 to 300 gp apiece. Slave markets exist almost everywhere in this area of the world. Except the pirate city of Riddleport... unless you go down the right alleys.

Cash box and individual pockets: 280gp.

THE OTHER "LOOT"

Sometime during the escape and looting counting Martino Marcellano escaped (he has Escape Artist +15). Several of the ex-slaves cry out, "NO!!!" Wogan brags, "Well, he's still blind. And that's permanent!" All of the ex-slaves exclaim, "Woot!!!"

The other prisoners are still present though! One female sorcerer and two elven women. The other three elven women escaped (or drowned), largely thanks to Serpent's gallant efforts to kick them to freedom.

Sindawe wants to know if they're worth anything. If they're worth something, then he can save them from less savory activities.

Mace, the ex-Chelixian captain, has Knowledge: Nobility. He interviews the elven women and finds out they are "women of good breeding". Multiple pirates yell enthusiastically, "Woot! BREEDING!!!" Mace continues, "Almost any elven community would ransom them for 500gp apiece." Several lust maddened pirates burst out, "I'll give you 500gp for one of them."

Deciding that there's no way out of this, Sindawe demands the pirates bid for the elven women. Of course, they're bidding their future earnings (i.e. the day's loot that won't be sold and split for several months).

Many of the male pirates bid for the women. Kahina joins in too. Apparently, her time with Tommy and Lil has expanded her horizons, so to speak. Tommy, Little Mike, Bojask, and Gareb make the final round. Sindawe points out, "No killing. You have to take care of your property." This gets all of the pirates murmuring and asking questions, "Why no killing? Killing's the best part." Sindawe explains that it will make the others sad if they kill their elf slave and generally convinces them of the wisdom of keeping them alive.

The bidding knocks out all but Bojask and Tommy. And the prices are driven up to 580gp apiece. Bojask drags his prize below by the hair - Sindawe yells after him, "Mind the screaming. I need my eight hours of sleep."

By comparison Lavender Lil and Tommy are treating their new slave well. The pair is talking softly to her while Lil combs her hair. Wogan shudders, "It's like they have a pet... or sex doll."

The pirates who lost the bidding demand, "What about the sorceress? Do we bid on her too?"

Sindawe tries his best to get the sorceress to say, "Yes, I have non-violent, rich people who will gladly ransom me." This fails miserably with the sorceress bragging about her violent, high-level ex-adventuring buddies who would love nothing more than murdering a bunch of pirates. The officers discuss it for awhile and decide that killing her is best. That is until Samaritha whispers to Serpent, "Don't kill her! Please! For me! I can control her."

Another long conversation takes place. Serpent argues for Samaritha's plan. Samaritha is a serpent-folk and serpent-folk are all about dominating mammals. (Their racial package includes the *Dominate*). Sindawe agrees but demands Samaritha sign the ship's articles, officially becoming a crew member. He also demands that the sorceress' abilities become a resource for the pirate ship.

Samaritha agrees to it all but states, "I won't kill anyone just because you say so." Sindawe shrugs, "That's fine. Why do you think I keep creatures like Slasher Jim around?"

A short time later, Samaritha is removing the sorceress' blindfold. The woman's last act of free will is to say, "Is this one of your weird pirate sex tricks?" Then she is dominated. We get our first real information out of the woman. Her name is Daphne.

Serpent brags to Wogan and Sindawe, "My wife controls most of the high-level folks on board our ship."

Samaritha agrees, "Yes. You warm bloods get dominated a lot."

Sindawe replies, "I told you she was an evil genius."

Wogan makes the universal "pussy whipped" sound and gesture at Serpent.

OUR LOSSES

The *Teeth of Araska* sails west into the wide open ocean. The pirate crew, minus those with new toys of the breathing variety, holds a funeral ceremony for Rolf. Wogan presides over the solemn portion, then over the "wake" portion. They try to ignore the occasional shriek from the brig below.