

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 04/07/2012

### TODAY'S EPISODE: A BIRTH AND A DEATH IN RIDDLEPORT

Our heroes have returned to Riddleport aboard the *Teeth of Araska* and the *Black Bunyip*.

The crew runs amok in the city buying, burking, drinking, drugging, fighting, and fornicating.

There have been complications despite Riddleport's reputation as a "pirate haven": pirates robbed, drunken signings to fight monsters at Clegg Zincher's arena, a new Gozreh priest, and lots of gendarmes. The officers happily ignore these problems to rescue a serpentfolk egg from the sewers (placed there for safekeeping by Samaritha). They are:

- ♣ Captain Sindawe H'kilata Narr of the *Teeth of Araska*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ♣ Bosun Ref "Serpent" Jorensen, the staff-bashin' ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).
- ♣ Samaritha, the wand-blastin' serpentfolk wizard in the guise of a pretty half-elf, and now Serpent's wife!
- ♣ Hatshepsut, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization who doesn't savvy much Common and her cobra Naja.
- ♣ Captain Wogan of the *Black Bunyip*, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ♣ Bosun Tommy Blacktoes, the staff-slingin' sneaky halfling rogue.
- ♣ Lavender Lil, a buxom tiefling ex-prostitute, and Tommy's girlfriend.
- ♣ With them are *Teeth of Araska* pirates:
  - ♣ Survivors from the ship's previous pirate crew
  - ♣ Ex-slaves escaped from their Chelish owner (Martino Marcellano)
  - ♣ Other recruits, some willing, some not, including a few from the Andoran Colony.
- ♣ 20 or so pirates captured along with the *Black Bunyip*; they have signed on with the *Araska*. Their ex-captain, Morgan Baumann, languishes without thumbs in the Citadel.

## *A New Day - To the Sewers!!!*

Tonight, Mace and Gareb (*Teeth of Araska* sailors) plus a dozen others will fight in Clegg Zincher's arena against fish-men. The arena will be flooded with the fish-men starting in the water and the gladiators starting in row boats. No one is sure about the rules past the cardinal one: "Don't die!" The pair is practicing on deck with tridents while the rest of the crew cheer and hum "DA NA NA NANANANA NANANANA NAH (dum dum dum dum dum dum)". Mace hits Gareb with his electrified net, dropping the man to the deck amidst a spreading pool of urine. The crew cheers wildly!

The officers watch all of this while they don gear and check weapons for their trip to the serpentfolk shrine in the sewers. Serpent finally notices that his wife, Samaritha, is gearing up too.

Serpent asks, "Are you sure you want to go with us? You'll get dirty."

Samaritha replies, "I bought these new boots. I'll be fine. Besides, half-elves never get dirty."

Sindawe comments, "I have read plenty to the contrary on restroom walls."

Samaritha shrugs, "Oh. Maybe I was thinking of elves."

Wogan quips, "Ask Kahina about elves." Kahina is well known for her thoughts on elves: "They're whores! And when they're not busy being whores, they're thinking about being whores. I know these facts because my great grandma, *Lizzy MacHateElf*, told me so."

Before departing Wogan casts *water breathing* on Mace and Gareb, but doesn't tell them which spell he just cast. Later he tells the other officers, "I think it will be funny when they struggle mightily to not be pulled beneath the water and when it happens they can't drown." The other officers agree; that will be funny.

The officers and Samaritha walk to a remote section of the warehouse district where there is a secret entrance to the Serpentfolk shrine. They find that the building housing that secret entrance has been leveled and paved over.

Serpent idly toes a paving stone, then says, "We should call on Salvadora Beckett. She'll know the best way down. Probably."

The others agree and head off to the *Dead Duck* in the *Rotgut District*. The *Dead Duck* is a filthy, low rent drinking establishment owned by *Ball-less Bill*, a man missing an eye, an leg, and an arm. It is famous for being the place where "that Gozreh priest electrocuted those giant cockroaches." A less advertised quality is that Salvadora Beckett, the Overlord's inquisitor, can be contacted there.

In preparation for this dive, Samaritha cast *disguise self* to give herself the appearance of a ne'er-do-well male pirate. She reinforces the disguise by swearing, spitting, touching his/her crotch, and commenting on his/her love of 'lady parts'.

Ball-less Bill quickly takes the group to a secluded room and asks them to wait. He leaves a bottle of dubious liquor on the table. A short time later a female half-orc, Salvadora Beckett, enters through a slim door at the room's back.

Samaritha/Sam comments, "Now that's some fine female flesh! Gotta squeeze me off a taste of that!" Everyone ignores her/him.

Salvadora asks, "Why the social call at this early hour?"

Sindawe replies, "We want into the serpentfolk shrine to retrieve something that Serpent's wife left down there."

Salvadora stares at Samaritha/Sam, then says, "Can I go with?"

Sindawe quickly agrees, "Sure. No problem here. Serpent? Sam?"

Serpent waits for his wife's reply. Sam announces, "It's always good to have fine female flesh along!"

Salvadora Beckett gives Sam another long stare. Then she speaks, "OK. I have another way to get in there. The old way in has been leveled and paved over, so it's a no go."

Wogan says, "Now that's been decided, I want to ask about the new Gozreh priest in town. What do you know about him?"

Salvadora rattles off, "Roland Torin. Gozreh priest. Half-elf. Wears a blue nautical coat. 5'8" with blue eyes. Residing on the old docks. Moderate threat level.

Serpent asks, "What threat level are we?"

Salvadora leads the others out of the bar while replying, "You guys are tough but not a threat to the city. So, you know..."

The pirates spot the disguised Splithog Pauper lurking amongst the *Dead Duck's* meager crowd. Serpent, Sindawe, and even Wogan stare hatefully at the man as they walk past.

Salvadora leads them to a sewer entrance, which she unlocks with a skeleton key. She explains, "We started installing locks on the sewer entrances after the serpentfolk shrine's second revival. It's the only way to keep the freaks out."

Wogan places a light spell on Sindawe's head. Sindawe drops thru the opening into 1.5' of water, while protesting, "I wish you would stop doing that!" Wogan chuckles.

The immediate tunnel holds only darkness, water, and smell. The others descend quickly. Salvadora points the direction, then takes the left while Sindawe takes the right. Serpent takes rear guard, leaving Wogan and Samaritha/Sam in the middle.

Salvadora comments, "It's been relatively quiet since you left. A three man Urgathoa cell came into town; stirred up some trouble."

Sindawe asks, "And?"

"They died. Trouble over."

Several tunnels later, the pirates note a strong chemical smell. Sindawe puts on his gas mask. Wogan asks, "Is this air flammable?"

A pile of yellow gunk chooses this moment to lash out at Samaritha/Sam with its pseudopods. She dodges away, then hits back with a volley of *magic missiles* (11pts). Serpent leaps to his wife's defense, bashing the gunk pile with his staff (15, 13, and 8). Sindawe punches away with gauntleted fists (12, 9, and 8). Salvadora Beckett decides that her sword won't help much, so casts *protection from evil* on Samaritha/Sam.

Wogan pulls and fires a pistol, putting an impressive hole in the gunk. This is followed by an equally impressive gas explosion (22pts). Several of the combatants are spared the worst by diving into the vile waters. The yellow gunk dies in the firestorm.

Riddleport denizens on the street overhead hear the explosion's "whomp"! It is followed by a rat exodus from the sewer. The denizens calmly tuck pant legs into boots and go about their day.

Down below, Wogan throws several healing bursts for which everyone is grateful. The group discusses which oozes and jellies are best fought with bludgeoning weapons.

Samaritha drops her Sam disguise, in favor of her half-elf form, announcing. "Surprise! It's me!"

Salvadora seems unsurprised. Noting Samaritha's bulging belly, she says, "You're coming along."

Wogan recognizes the next length of tunnel, "This is that place near the forges where there's an entire room with rock grinding machinery."

Samaritha says, "Yes. That means the serpentfolk shrine's other secret entrance is nearby. I'd recognize these tunnels anywhere... Every time they kidnapped me they brought me through here."

A short time later they are in the shrine's antechamber. The pirates and inquisitor are on guard. They find the main corridor's pit trap jammed open.

Wogan asks Salvadora, "Doesn't jamming a pit trap 'open' seem dangerous? Anybody and everybody can fall in. If it were jammed closed you could use this whole corridor."

Salvadora replies, "Jamming it closed just means some asshole shows up days later and pulls out the free iron spike."

Samaritha begins to shake lightly; it stops after a few minutes. Wogan examines her but doesn't find anything wrong.

Sindawe asks her, "Are you alright? Are you about to drop a baby?"

Samaritha pretends nothing happened. "I'm fine."

Sindawe shrugs, "Fine, have your baby in the sewers. Just don't do it during a fight."

Sindawe asks Serpent, "Take the lead. Keep an eye out for tracks."

Serpent leads the group slowly forward, checking for tracks and traps. He find a solo set of boot prints, probably weeks old. The others keep their eyes peeled for ambushers. Everyone checks the side rooms as they move along.

Nothing happens and eventually the group covers the ground to the main shrine. Its solid bronze doors hang open.

Sindawe whispers to Wogan, "How much does bronze cost? That's a lot of bronze?"

Wogan whispers back, "No idea. I'm betting not much, else someone would have carted them off already... though they are very heavy." Both pirates stare greedily at the doors.

The pirates spread out inside the main shrine, checking the shadows and corners. The room is largely unchanged for their last visit. The black basalt altar appears unused. The religious paraphernalia remains missing; previous revivals had the cultists restoring the religious trappings.

Samaritha tugs on the serpent god statue's fang, opening a secret door. Sindawe and Serpent enter, traveling down a tunnel full of warm air, and into a large earthen chamber. The chamber's floor is a pool of water and at its middle a tiny island of dirt and sand. A single egg sits there. *Heating stones* lining the chamber explain the warm air, their red glow providing poor light.

Samaritha crosses to the island and puts her ear to the head-sized egg.

The pirates begin arguing about what to do next: "We're just here to check it out", "No, we're taking it out", "It's safer on the ship", "I don't want that on the ship", "Ships sink", and so on.

Samaritha ends the conversation by collapsing to her knees. Wogan declares, "I think she's going to drop a baby." Wogan and Serpent take over the birthing. Sindawe and Salvadora stand guard in the main shrine.

Sindawe asks Salvadora, "Should we drag her about 80' out of here before she drops her kid?"

Salvadora replies, "If it were anyone else I would say yes."

Sindawe asks, "How long have you known about her?"

Salvadora shrugs, "For a while now."

Sindawe prompts, "And? You're OK with her? Not worried about her people's propensity for world domination and reviving their dead god?"

Salvadora replies, "Yes. Yes and yes. But I think she's not part of that."

Sindawe nods, then asks, "Do you know where Scarbelly's slave operation is located?"

Salvadora says, "Sure. I'll draw you a map." Scarbelly is housing his stock in Riddleport's warehouse district, until they can be shipped out for sale to orcs and other unscrupulous types.

Sindawe and Salvadora pass the remaining time by playing cards.

In the egg chamber, Samaritha's drops her half-elf illusion as her snake body convulses with contractions. Sindawe and Salvadora do their best to ignore the strange noises. Hours later, Samaritha drops a single mucus covered egg, then lays dazed with exhaustion.

Serpent pulls out a bottle of aged brandy, demanding, "Let's toast to my kid!" Not wanting to miss out the drinking, Wogan hurriedly swaddles the egg in a cloak and hands it Samaritha.

Wogan asks, "Do you have a name for the egg? Does the kid get another name?"

Samaritha replies, "Yes, but it is bad luck to share the egg name. Yes, the hatchling gets another name."

Wogan nods at that then asks, "We're taking the eggs back with us, right?"



Samaritha replies, "I think I should stay with them down here for now. Salvadora will keep an eye on them for me. And I have the placed warded." Wogan glances around and for the first time notices the many, many glyphs in the chamber.

Serpent shakes his head at such folly. Nowhere is safer than behind him and his skull smashing staff. He tries to talk Samaritha out of leaving the eggs down here. He fails miserably, in part because he starts with "Your lady parts are affecting your thinking."

Wogan asks, "How long will it take your eggs to hatch?"

Samaritha yawns, "I have talked to Hatshepsut and done some research. The best answer I have is 'more than a month, less than a year'."

She yawns again, then says, "You boys go off and see to your killing. I'll stay here awhile longer."

Serpent nods and walks out immediately. He tells Wogan and Sindawe, "She said we could go see the arena fight. She'll be OK."

Wogan snickers, "You believed that?"

Sindawe agrees, "Yeah, why would you believe her? This is clearly a trick. You're supposed to say, 'Oh no! I would rather stay here with you.' You better get back in there."

Serpent shakes his head in disagreement, "In the land of the Linnorm Kings, a man doesn't pay any attention to his children until they are of age to challenge the father. If they win the challenge their father must learn and use their name. On that day the child's name changes from 'Hey You!' to their proper birth name."

## *Let's Go See the Killing at the Arena*

Serpent, Wogan, and Sindawe join a large crowd at Clegg Zincher's arena. Many of their crewmen are there. Wogan looks at the complex betting board and chooses, "Gareb and Mace survive and kill something." He is able to get something slightly better than one-to-one odds. The trio shell out for box seats and invite their crew to join them. They are joined by Stoke, his wife Tegan, Bel, Ori, Orgon, and Tommy.

They ascend to the box level, leaving the common seats and their 'fried rat on a stick' behind. Their box has an attractive man and woman to take their food and beverage orders. The pair is also available for sexual services, because that's what a box seat gets you at Zincher's arena.

The pirates order steaks, fried stuff, and drinks. Ori leaves with waitress explaining, "I want to make sure you get the order right." He will find other excuses throughout the evening.

The cypher sigils possessed by Wogan, Serpent, and Sindawe begin to burn. The trio assume something horrible is about to attack them... then notice Clegg Zincher in a nearby box. Perhaps the sigils are keying off each other... nonetheless each man keeps his weapons handy.

More *Araska* crewmen arrive at the box: Slasher Jim, Samuel, Tanned Hank, Delmer, and JJ (delivered via sack by Delmer).

There are VIPs in the other box seats:

- Overlord Gaston Cromarcky and General Anton Mesher with their young wives.
- Clegg Zincher
- Captain Scarbelly, his first mate Aggro, Boss Croat, and a small horde of unruly orcs and half-orcs.
- Four-Eyes Rhona and her retinue of well dressed men and women.

Clegg Zincher stands up in his box and announces the fight. "The sea is always trying to take Riddleport. But we're lucky to have these brave men and women here to fight back for us!" Chains rattle, pulling a half-dozen row boats into the flooded arena. "Let's see which of these fine pirate crews have the right stuff! Release the fish-men!"

Lights in the water activate revealing sahuagin flitting about gracefully. Mace and Gareb sit/stand back-to-back. The other boat crews do the same. One boat's crew, a dwarf and a human, seems ill at ease in the water; their boat threatens to tip before the fighting even begins.

Gareb throws an axe at a nearby sahuagin. Mace screams out intimidating insults in aquan (used by water peoples). Several sahuagin try to tip their vessel. The two sailors handily resist the maneuver while noting that the dingy is designed to be very stable.

Gareb stabs at the nearest creature with his short swords. Mace swings his long sword two-handed and cuts deeply into another sahuagin, killing it instantly.

More fish-men attack! One claws as it climbs aboard, while another leaps aboard and swings wildly. Mace cuts one severely while Gareb holds the other one at bay. A fish-man claws Gareb lightly while Mace is wounded multiple times by claw and teeth. Both fish-men rock the boat, driving Gareb to his knees but the pirate cuts twice then rends outward, killing his attacker.

In the box, the pirates cheer Mace and Gareb on. Tegan attempts to give Stoke a handy but he pushes her hand away whispering, "My officers are here!"

The other boxes vary in excitement levels. Most of their occupants are watching with great interest. Scarbelly's crew screams and hollers with delight. Several members of Zincher's wait staff are pinned against the back wall while orcs paw at them. Rhona's gang is enjoying conversation and paying little attention to the fighting.

The fight turns against the *Araska* sailors as more sahuagin climb aboard to join the one already attacking. Both pirates are clawed several times. No one wound is life threatening but the blood loss is slowing them down.

The other crews are also doing their fair share of fighting: one dinghy crew is dead, another crew is down to their last fish-man, while the rest are busy fighting 3-4 fish-men.

A sahuagin claw drops Mace (-2hp), leaving Gareb to face all three attackers. He stabs Mace's attacker to death then spins quickly to face remaining two.

Sindawe grabs JJ telling him, "Get down there. If either of them die, grab their valuables. I'll split it with you."

JJ agrees, "Fast ball special!" Sindawe throws him into the water. JJ's small form blends in with the other garbage being thrown by the spectators. Sindawe looks around and spots Clegg Zincher nodding at him.

Another pirate boat falls to the sahuagin; its occupants are bitten and clawed to bloody bits. Mace continues to bleed out. Gareb takes another minor cut as he fatally stabs a fish-man in the gills. Another boat falls to the sahuagin for a total of three down. But a second boat's occupants win their fight. The lost boats are ratcheted back in; Zincher's men use crossbows to encourage the sahuagin to abandon those boats.

Gareb takes another hit, staggers back and quaffs a *cure light wounds* potion leaving him at 2hp. Mace stabilizes. Sindawe spots JJ darting about in the water.

Serpent sees Four-Eyes Rohna cast *lesser confusion*, possibly onto the combatants below. The remaining sahuagin babbles aquan at Gareb and gets cut for its conversation attempt. It steps over Mace and claws Gareb unconscious. The *Teeth of Araska* crew in the box groan in despair!

They watch as Mace and Gareb's boat is ratcheted out of the combat zone. The victorious sahuagin jumps off while screaming in aquan, "Who's the Big Fish Now!"

Wogan and Sindawe run downstairs to help their dying crew. They find Zincher's employees performing triage, first aid, and crude surgery on wounded pirates. Wogan uses several healing bursts to bring Gareb, Mace, and others back from the brink. The triage workers are happy for the help. Sindawe makes a scene to allow JJ to escape the pool unnoticed, then spots JJ clinging "Cape Fear" style to the bottom of a stretcher being carried out of the area.

The fighting ends with the dwarf and big human being declared the winners by Zincher. Several local boys take second place. More drinking and revelry takes place as bets are collected and paid. The next entertainment is halflings fighting a bireme battle for comedic effect. After that sea monsters (an orca vs six sharks) battle it out. In between fights the Zincher arena mascot, *Trident Head*, throws prizes into the stand - the crowd eagerly vies for the thrown strings of sausages, cheap jewelry delivered via oyster shells, eye patches wrapped around copper pieces, etc...

For the last fight the survivors from the first fight are asked if they want to fight the remaining sharks. They accept. They are placed in cages that are partially lowered into the water. The local boys are slain messily after their cage's bars fail. The dwarf and the large human reign supreme. Zincher himself presents their prize money via a flashy ceremony.

By the end of the night the box is stuffed full of *Araska* pirates, including the defeated Mace and Gareb. Several bottle blonde prostitutes arrive for Mace and Gareb, courtesy of Zincher. Several pirates carry the Mace and Gareb to their richly deserved prostitute rewards.

## *Four-Eyes Rhona*

Serpent suggests, "We should talk to Four-Eyes Rohna, because she helped Gareb during the fish-man fight." Wogan and Sindawe agree.

Introductions are made. Everyone is polite and friendly and a bit cautious. They exchange local news. Rhona asks about their plans and receives nothing unexpected or particularly informative in reply. They ask about her business and she replies, "Information and such. And avoiding conflict with anyone." Rhona's gang is bohemian rather than the usual sailors and scumbags found in Riddleport's other gangs. Rhona and her people depart.

The officers and their crew return to their ships, where the party resumes. Drunken pirates, prostitutes, and a tame bear eat, drink, and fornicate thru the night.

## *Package for Mr. Scarbelly! Package for Mr. Scarbelly!*

Sindawe decides it's time to get rid of their Ulfen prisoner, Anga, daughter of Valgard and shield maiden for White Estrid. They'll dump her outside Scarbelly's slave holding facility. He and Serpent gear up and change into clothes more common for Riddleport. Then they visit the brig where the prisoner is beaten unconscious, tied, gagged, hooded, and rolled up in canvas. They are able to sneak off the ships because the crew and their guests are gathered around the *Teeth of Araska's* figurehead: the prostitutes are trying to out-buxom the ship's figure head which was modeled after the well-endowed Lavender Lil.

The pair sneaks into the warehouse district, sticking to streets and allies that are poorly lit. Their trip is uneventful until a spider monkey drops onto their package. They stop so that Serpent can try his *wild empathy* on the creature. Sindawe puts his Mordant Spire elf mask on, then

punches the prisoner back into semi-consciousness. Serpent establishes that the spider monkey isn't hostile; it just wants a ride, and they learned their lesson about molesting local monkeys on a prior visit. They start moving again.

They arrive at their destination and hide in a nearby alley. Serpent peeks out to check the warehouse. He spots crossbow armed guards on the roof. Serpent dons his mask, then they stroll noisily past the building with their package.

One sentry finally notices them and hisses for his buddy. Soon both guards are shouting down at the masked men and their package.

Sindawe and Serpent pretend to be surprised. They drop their package and run for it. Serpent shouts a few elf phrases taught to him by Samaritha while Sindawe says "Gleep!" The spider monkey remains with the package, screeching angrily.

Unbeknownst to Sindawe and Serpent a nearby pick-pocket tells his drinking buddies about the night he spotted a sailor and a Mordant Spire Drow carrying a carpet with a monkey riding it through the warehouse district.

### *The Next Day*

Wogan asks, "Who wants to go see that new Gozreh priest?" Serpent agrees to go saying, "I think I wanted to buy something. But I can't remember what."

Wogan wakes Sevgi and several other pirates to accompany them. Several minutes later the small group heads off in search of the priest.

Sevgi asks Wogan, "This isn't about werewolves is it?"

Wogan shakes his head, "No. Why would you ask that?"

Sevgi explains, "Bel's been acting weird."

Wogan asks, "How so?"

Sevgi, "He's just been acting weird. With me."

Wogan, "Oh. That doesn't sound like lycanthropy. Maybe he likes you."

Sevgi, "We've been comrades since our escape from slavery. He's like a brother to me."

Wogan replies, "Well, he's got his balls back now. His cojones. His grrr!!! He's interested in you." She seems dubious but intrigued by the concept.

They arrive at the dock where the Gozreh priest, Roland Turin resides. He is a thin, athletic build, half-elf wearing a bright blue, nautical coat with shiny buttons. He and Wogan exchange Gozreh greetings, then Wogan introduces himself and the others. He hires Roland to manufacture of two *wands of cure light wounds*.

Roland says, "Hey! I think I have something for you. You have a sister, right?"

Wogan replies, "Yes."

Roland pulls a wad of parchment out of his coat pocket. From that he hands over a single page to Wogan. "I got it while passing through Kintargo. Everywhere I stop I offer to carry messages for the faithful. Your sister thought you might be out this way; she gave me that letter."

Wogan says, "Thank you. I'll read it tonight."

Serpent is inspired by the situation. He pulls out a silver pendant and asks Roland, "Do you anything about this? Where it came from?"

Roland examines the pendant then shakes his head, "It looks ulfen, but I can't tell you anything more than that."

Wogan says, "I have some letters for my sister. Can you deliver them?"

Roland says, "Sure. I'll end up back that there sooner or later. You can hand them off when you pick up the wands."



And with that Wogan, Serpent, and the rest head back to the ship.

### *Cliff-Hanger*

A group of gendarmes interrupt their return trip. From nearly a block away, the gendarmes point and shout, "There they are!" They run at the pirates.

Wogan pops a *fog cloud* and shouts, "Run for it!" They make it about 100' when Wogan notices an open tavern. He says, "In here!"

He orders drinks all around, then asks the bartender, "Anything going on?"

The bartender replies, " Well some folks got killed by fish-men. In the arena, I mean."

"Anything else?"

"There was a monkey attack. It jumped some elves or something."

Serpent looks over from his guard position at the door and demands, "What was that about a monkey?" He turns back to watch the street, just as four gendarmes walk in. Serpent backs up.

One gendarme demands, "You guys are with the *Teeth of Araska*, right?"

Serpent replies, "Yes. What's up? Trouble?"

The gendarme replies, "Yes. The fatal kind. We need you to identify a body. Will you come with us?"

The paranoid pirates agree to accompany them. They are lead to particularly vile alley in the Rotgut district containing a body, a not entirely uncommon decoration of alleys in this area. A gendarme raises a lantern that is necessary because the surrounding buildings block out the natural light. The body is Little Mike.

Sevgi says, "Oh no!"

Wogan replies, "He's one of ours."

The gendarme officer says, "We found him during our patrol. I'll remand him over to you. Have a nice day." The gendarmes depart.

Wogan and Serpent examine Little Mike. They find multiple arrows, not bolts (more typical for Riddleport). He hasn't been robbed; his magic studded leather and wallet are still present. Someone killed him but didn't disturb the body. Wogan thinks he was killed instantly by the arrows. And someone slashed at his chest postmortem. Serpent and Wogan speculate that someone was trying to leave a message or cut religious stuff into him and got interrupted.

They carry the body back to the ship, where the crew gather about to mourn and gape. No one remembers anything of significance on the previous night about Little Mike, except Hatshepsut. She remembered Little Mike heading out last night. The man didn't approve of Mace Venjum, because Mace was a Chelioxian captain. So, he was off on his own.