

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 04/21/2012

TODAY'S EPISODE: MURDER AVENGED

Our heroes are docked at Riddleport. Their crew runs amok in the city buying, burking, drinking, drugging, fighting, and fornicating. Serpent's wife, Samaritha gave birth to an egg in the dubious surroundings of a serpentfolk shrine. Serpent and Sindawe disposed of an unwanted prisoner using the time honored technique of "dumping". Little Mike, the 2nd Mate, was murdered with three arrows in a Rotgut alley.

Our heroes have started their murder investigation - 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.

CSI

Little Mike's body was found in a Rotgut district alley, three arrows in the torso and strange symbol cut into his flesh. The gendarmes took Wogan and Serpent to the body; it is unclear who found it. They in turn did a quick inspection then carried the body back to the ship.

Little Mike was a well-liked and valued member of *Teeth of Araska* crew. He served as a sailor in the Cheliix navy prior to his pirating career. He was seen last by Hatshepsut leaving the ship for an evening on the town. He did not go to Clegg Zincher's arena to watch Mace Venjum fight, because Little Mike didn't like the former Cheliixian captain.

The suspects list is long and possibly incomplete: rival pirate captains, rival Riddleport gangsters, Little Mike's personal enemies, random enemies accumulated by day-to-day life, etc...

Tommy and Hatshepsut are asked about the symbol carved in Little Mike, but they don't recognize it.

Tommy, "He died like he lived. With foreign objects in his holes."

Wogan announces, "OK. Time for *Speak with Dead*."

Speak with Dead

1. *Describe who killed you?* I didn't see them. I was in the alley heading to the next drinking hole when I got shot.
2. *Where did you go last night?* Bars. Giant and Raven, The Bloody Sword. Just partying.
3. *Who would want you dead?* Big Mike was always jealous of me. The law. The elves. The parents of my girlfriends.

Serpent declares, "Well, that wasn't much help. Let's ask Big Mike why he murdered Little Mike."

A short time later, the trio of officers arrive at Big Mike's bar, The Vile Fish. Big Mike and his partner Phil are busy using buckets of harbor water to wash away puke and other bodily fluids. The bar smells like a men's room full of dead fish. Another round of questioning begins and is extended by Phil's damaged hearing.

Who were Little Mike's enemies and friends? He was tight with the original crew of the Araska. He didn't like it coming up that he was in the Chelish navy. He didn't like being called Little Mike.

Where were you last night? Here. Running the bar.

Any witnesses? Locals. Some of the crew stopped by.

Have You Seen This Symbol?

The three officers go to Cypher Lodge to find out what Eli, the boss, knows about the symbol carved in Little Mike's body. Eli examines the symbol for awhile then identifies it as maybe, just maybe, related to the Arclords of Nex.

Wogan asks, "What's that?"

Serpent asks, "Who's that?"

Sindawe asks, "Do they hate sailors?"

In reply Eli launches into a long dissertation about the Arclords of Nex. He ends, then adds, "Sorry about your man."

Sindawe replies, "Thank you. We will have our revenge. Possibly on those who killed him."

On the way back into town the officers stop at a pineapple stand to purchase drinks, ham and pineapple sandwiches, and whole pineapples.

Sindawe asks, "OK. Where next? The bars Little Mike stopped at?"

Wogan says, "Sure. But let's check our stake-out first."

The officers travel back into Riddleport's Rotgut district. They approach the apartment stakeout stealthily. They find nothing amiss: no noise, no commotion, no lookouts. They knock, then try the door. There are bodies everywhere; drunk pirates and hookers litter the floor. The officers spread out to see if anyone else has been through the apartment. Serpent notices that one pirate, Delmer, is missing his coin purse.

Sindawe examines one drunk pirate, Olgvik, then complains to Serpent, "I thought your people were better than this."

Serpent replies, "That's a myth. My people are just as dumb as the next batch."

Sindawe tries to wake Olgvik, but stops upon hearing noise in the next room. He sneaks to that door, opens it and finds Stoke and his wife, Tegan, embracing with great zeal over the kitchen table. He closes the door.

Wogan takes a rum bottle from a sleeping pirate and replaces it with a pineapple. The trio exits the room, closing the door after them.

Outside Wogan says, "Well, let's go wait in a less depressing part of town. I'll read my sister's letter to you."

Sindawe asks, "You have a sister?"

Wogan replies, "Yes. We grew up in a poor fishing village. Anya got out by marrying a minor noble. They live somewhere in Cheliax."

Sindawe slyly asks, "Oh. Do they live near the coast? What are the coastal defenses like?"

Wogan says, "Uh..."

Sindawe quickly adds, "Just kidding. I wouldn't do that to your sister."

Wogan selects the Fox's Cask cafe. The group orders beer, tea, and coffee. Wogan reads his sister's letter. She describes life in Cheliax, how her husband Stephon inherited lands in Nidal, and how they moved to those lands.

Sindawe asks, "Nidal. They moved there? Willingly?"

Serpent adds, "Yeah. Those guys worship Zon-Kuthon."

Wogan continues reading, "We met Ansar, an acquaintance of yours. We took him in. Some sort of plague is going around. We would ask the Shadowcallers for help, but they demand sacrifices. Perhaps you could come visit and give us your god's help."

Sindawe asks, "Serpent, do you want to check on your wife?"

Serpent shrugs, "Sure. I guess."

The others laugh at his lack of enthusiasm. They purchase fat, clean rodents, then visit Samaritha in the burrow behind the serpentfolk shrine. She is in good spirits having been visited by Salvadora Beckett and Hatshepsut earlier in the day.

Serpent and Samaritha discuss logistics of raising the eggs on board ship.

The Giant and Raven, The Bloody Sword

Early that evening Sindawe, Wogan, and Serpent arrive at *The Giant and Raven*. Its sign is a giant with a raven perched on its shoulder. It is a medium sized place on the upper end of "low rent". The crowd is small and growing. Notable denizens are a lady pirate in tight pants and the halfling barkeep. The barkeep doesn't remember much about Little Mike even after receiving a hefty bribe.

Their next stop is *The Bloody Sword*. It is a large bar that is on the nicer side of average. It has an odd assortment of people, including adventurer types - humans, half-orcs, gnomes, half-elves, etc... They are jovial and full of life.

Wogan asks the bartender, "Do you remember a customer from last night, Little Mike?" Wogan describes Mike.

The bartender is a human named Brandfield, complete with a pony tail, widow's peak, and poofy shirt. The man replies, "I have an eye for men."

Wogan throws some coins down then demands, "Tell us more."

The bartender says, "Talk with Edea and Melella. Your man had a penchant for the half-elf women." He points out two bar patrons continuing, "Edea is the one drinking beer and dressed in chainmail. Melella is dressed in the too small green dress."

The half-elf women are helpful when questioned but noted nothing amiss. Little Mike persisted for an hour trying to gain their attention, then left.

Wogan asks Melella, "Does this symbol mean anything to you?"

She looks at it, then says, "It could be Calistra's. They have one that's three daggers with tips pointing at each other." They thank her and tell her she should come try out for the ship's crew.

The officers return to *The Giant and Raven*, because Wogan thinks "Ms. Pants" the lady pirate might have been a half-elf. Ms. Pants is there along with more patrons.

The officers approach Ms. Pants to ask their questions. She is indeed an half-elf.

Another half-elven woman wearing a sex gargoyle outfit emerges from the kitchen. She sidles up to the group and kisses Ms. Pants passionately on the lips. She carries a whip and wears the Three Dagger symbol of Calistra tattooed on her belly.

Sindawe and Wogan's questions are deflected by the sex gargoyle's sly invitations.

Sindawe sighs, then says, "I apologize. We're not interested in you. We don't want anything from you except answers. Here's some coins for your trouble."

Serpent laughs, "Yeah! We're just big gay pirates!" His laughter is cut short when an arrow strikes Wogan in the back (20pts).

Wogan narrowly avoids this *death attack* thanks to Gozreh's blessing (and use of an Infamy Point) - Slasher Jim opens the door to *The Giant and Raven*, which allows a stray wind to blow leaves into the arrow's path preventing it from penetrating Wogan's heart.

The arrow signals the start of the fight. Ms. Pants stabs Sindawe with her rapier (18pts); Sindawe's *ring of energy resistance electricity* blocks the weapon's shock ability. Sindawe punches her several times (26pts).

A third woman, the archer, drops from her place of concealment in the rafters; she drops her short bow, pulls a pair of kukris and slashes at Serpent without success. Serpent hits the kukri

wielding woman several times (45pts). Ms. Whip attempts to trip Serpent with her razor whip several times, succeeding only in leaving minor cuts. Wogan uses a healing burst (14pts).

Ms. Pants slashes about with her rapier. Ms. Kukri slashes Serpent three times including a critical hit with a blade that leaves a trail of shadowy haze. Serpent resists the *shaken* effect and poisoning (18pts of damage). The other blows (16 and 12pts) deliver several more poisons which he also resists.

Sindawe and Serpent notice that the women appear to have slightly glassy eyes. Sindawe nods at the information then punches Ms. Pants three times (38pts) including a stunning fist (stun) and an eye gouge (critical hit, 3rds of blinding). Ms. Whip blinds Serpent with her whip (1rd). Slasher Jim rushes Ms. Lash with his trident. Serpent wipes the blood from his eyes (move action), then hits Ms. Kukri with his staff (27pts). Ms. Kukri steps away from Serpent and quaffs a potion of *invisibility*.

Sindawe steps up to Ms. Pants and announces, "I will kill her unless you surrender."

Ms. Whip steps back and coils her whip up, "We got off on the wrong foot." Slasher Jim steps with her, keeping her in range of his trident and holds his attack.

Serpent pauses, waiting. Wogan casts an *invisibility purge*, revealing Ms. Kukri sneaking over the bar.

Sindawe demands, "Drop your weapons."

Ms Kukri says, "Well, we were misled about your capabilities..."

Sindawe says, "Time's up!" He kicks Ms. Pants (with stunning kick) (11pts), then stops believing her to be unconscious.

Ms. Lash strikes at Sindawe several times without success. Slasher Jim two-handed attacks with trident and switchblade (7pts). Serpent crashes into Ms. Kukri with his staff, killing her instantly and messily. Wogan shoots at Ms. Lash.

Ms. Lash drinks an *invisibility* potion, dodges Slasher Jim's attack of opportunity, then runs and leaps out a window, negating Wogan's *invisibility purge* by virtue of leaving the area. Slasher Jim crouches over Ms. Kukri to make sure she is really down.

Serpent runs after Ms. Whip; he clears the building the looks around for... well, anything. Wogan leaps fat-man style thru the open window, taking part of the frame with him. He lands easily, then rolls to his feet with a pistol at the ready. He is unsurprised to find Ms. Whip mere feet away; he shoots her in the corset (7pts). Serpent steps close to the woman, then swings his staff through a dizzying kata ending with Ms Whip meeting the staff twice (22pts and 17pts). Then he bites her for good measure (10pts).

Desperate to escape, Ms. Whip drops a *smokestick* and attempts to stealth away. Wogan shoots into a likely place just as Sindawe tackles Ms Lash (28 on Perception check). Ms Whip retaliates with dirty fighting; Sindawe knocks the wasp dart from her mouth.

The smoke clears enough to allow Wogan and Serpent to join Sindawe in pinning Ms. Whip, allowing the monk to pummel her unconscious. They retreat back inside with their prisoner.

Wogan puts 20gp down on the counter announcing, "That's for the damages." The place is empty.

Sindawe announces loudly, "Let's take them to the gendarmes. Slasher Jim, pick up that corpse."

Once clear of the building Sindawe says, "Let's take these two someplace quiet for a little talking to."

They arrive at the stakeout flophouse. Lefty and the others are in party mode and scream "Woot!" at the sight of the three women, despite one being dead and the other two being well beaten.

The officers take their prisoners into the second room and throw everyone out. They tie the prisoners to chairs, then do a second proper search and disarm. Wogan follows up with *detect magic*. He finds that the two living women are under the effect of Lover's Vengeance, a Calistrian spell. The spell fills the recipient with rage for anyone that has wronged the caster. The spell may only be cast upon a sex partner from the last hour.

The pirates revive Ms. Pants and begin their interrogation:

Who hired you? We are not for hire.

Then what is your beef? Why did you do it? She offers a vague response.

Sindawe leaves the room, returning with Olgvik's axe. He cuts the head off of Ms Kukri, not bothering to explain that she is already dead. Ms. Pants turns white. Sindawe says, "Answer our questions or the other dies too."

Ms. Pants finds some defiance, "No! Calistra's vengeance will seek you out."

Sindawe bargains, "Talk to us. Who sent you?"

Ms. Pants says, "Let her go."

Sindawe replies, "No. Tell us what we want to know. But we'll hold onto Ms. Lash to guarantee your truthfulness. If your info is good, then she goes free." The enhanced interrogation proceeds for a while.

Lefty opens the door and whispers, "The gendarmes are at the door."

Sindawe asks, "Wogan, you want to handle it?"

Wogan goes to the door to find Salvadora Beckett, "Ms Beckett, what brings you here?"

Salvadora replies, "I'm following the trail of miscreants."

Wogan looks puzzled, "Miscreants?"

"Yeah, the type that includes a black guy, an Ulfen, and a priest. They tussled with three Yellowjackets." Noting Wogan's unconcerned look, she adds, "Yellowjackets is slang for Calistrian assassins."

Wogan nods, "Oh."

Salvadora offers, "I might be able to negotiate something for you. If you gave me the survivors, I could convince Madame Pamodae that this sort of behavior isn't acceptable. My organization already has a deal with the church of Calistria. They don't get to use Yellowjackets here in Riddleport and I'm quite cross with them for doing so."

Wogan says, "I'll pass that along. Be right back." Salvadora steps back and leans against the far wall.

Wogan tells Serpent and Sindawe the deal. No one is impressed by the Yellowjackets; they're just one more gang out to watch out for. But having the peace brokered by their friend Salvadora seems like a good move. They agree. Sindawe beats Ms. Pants unconscious.

Salvadora Beckett is brought into the room, where she shackles the prisoners. "Can you get them mobile?" Wogan uses healing bursts to do so; the partying pirates cheer at the unexpected healing. Salvadora leaves with her prisoners, forcing them to carry the dead one.

The pirate officers do retain the Yellowjackets' gear: *+I shock rapier*, *+I leather armor*, *amulet of natural armor +I*, *cloak of resistance +I*, *ring of protection +I*, *cloak of elven kind*, *potion disguise self (2)*, *+I studded leather armor*, *+I kukri ominous*, *+I kukri cruel*, *+I dueling scorpion whip*, *+I leather*, *cloak of resistance +I*, *potion of cure serious*, *thieves tools*.

Slasher Jim lays claim to the *+I studded leather*.

Serpent informs Bel, Lefty, Mace, and Orgon, "Your share from Armripper Island is 1685gp. You'll get it when we pay out everyone's shares."

The officers leave after Sindawe throws some coins about for the crew's "help". They meet Foxkiller and several other pirates coming up the stairs. Serpent assures them that the party is up there. Wogan tells them, "Ask Lefty about the pineapple!"

Cliff Hanger - Recruitment Check

Serpent, Wogan, and Sindawe walk to the Gold Goblin for a night cap and to check on Saul's recruitment drive. He is helping them hire more crew for the *Teeth of Araska's* next voyage.

Billy Breadbasket is eating and cooking in the kitchen. Saul and Akron Erix are at the gaming tables. Hans and Beyar are on guard duty. Old Scratch the imp, Durt the ex-cabin boy, and Wendt are also on duty. Marzielle Ajuela is tending bar; she tells Sindawe that the party preparations are ready.

Saul joins them at the bar, "How goes it?"

Wogan assures him, "Fine. We got the murderer, so we thought we'd check on the recruitment."

Saul replies, "It is going OK. I've been skimming the cream off the top." He pulls out a sheet of parchment and reads off the names:

- Cannonball Jack
- Nemo, 14th mate on Azlant Gem. *The Azlant Gem's captain is hierarchy crazy.*
- Kent the Rusty Butter Cutter. *No one is sure about the nickname. Is it bad,*

creepy, or just sad?

- Duke Ron - experienced sailor
- Ragged Pete Morgan
- George Peters
- Long Bonifacio Copper
- Kitty the Cantankerous - she's mean and quick to draw a blade.
- Captain Sempronia - her ship got sank recently and she's looking to sail even without a captaincy.

Saul says, "I can't vouch for any of them, but I did trim out the drunks, junkies and perverts."

Wogan demands, "Did any of them bribe you to get on the list?"

Saul laughs, "All of them."

Serpent says, "We'll interview them all. See if any of them stab us in the face."