

Reavers on the Seas of Fate - Session Summary 07/23/2017

Today's Episode: Arrival At Elf Island

Our heroes and ship have docked in Eleder, the capital of Sargava, for piracy information from the Aspis Consortium. While there they are hired by nobles, the Tolcrist, to find their missing daughter, Genevieve, who disappeared while sailing with Jacinth Deepwarder, daughter to a Viscount of Eleder. Jacinth explains that their ship, the *Dulcimer*, was bitten to shards by a killer whale, they swam to nearby Dolenta island, where they were assaulted on the beach by humanoids. She was knocked unconscious and awakened floating in the bay where she was rescued by a passing ship.

After some due investigation, our heroes have borrowed a ship, rounded up some of their own pirates for company, plus Jacinth, and set sail for Dolenta Island. En route they board and liberate the slaves aboard the slaver ship, *Iron Bastion*. The slaves are promised a safe haven on Dolenta Island, they accept, and Jacinth becomes their captain. Both ships continue onward to Dolenta Island.

Our 8th level heroes are:

- ♣ Captain **Sindawe** of the *Chainbreaker*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ♣ Chief Gunner **Wogan**, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ♣ Quartermaster **Serpent**, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).
- ♣ **Mitabu**, a trap-loving Mwangi rogue.

The Roster

The *Champagne Morning* continues sailing toward Dolenta Island followed by *Iron Bastion*. Their crew and passengers are:

1. Sindawe, Wogan, Serpent, Mitabu – on the Champagne Morning
2. JJ - seamunculus of a wizard refugee from the Sun Temple Colony – Iron Bastion
3. Feissian Hareskiner – Rog1/War2, Bunyip pirate – on the Champagne Morning
4. Thalios Dondrel, son of Mordekai (was first mate) – Iron Bastion
5. Luca Caletti – Ex-Chelish marine with a black powder sniping rifle
6. Flavia - aasimar bed warmer for Gareb – on the Champagne Morning
7. Prand – Rog1/War2. Buyyip pirate – Iron Bastion
8. Lavender Lil - a buxom tiefling ex-prostitute, and Tommy's girlfriend. - Iron Bastion
9. Melella - half-elf druid 1 from Magnimar, druid's vestment, treant seeds – on the Champagne Morning

10. Mandohu – lizard folk warrior, *hat of disguise, ring of feather falling* – on the Champagne Morning
11. Jacinth Deepwarder - Iron Bastion
12. Ko'oku'wa – witch doctor – Iron Bastion
13. 50 mwangi, ex-slaves - Iron Bastion
14. 10 slavers – imprisoned - Iron Bastion
15. 2 slavers – crew - Iron Bastion

The pirates, Ko'oku'wa, and Jacinth talk further and decide:

- Two slavers and a small set of the pirates will crew (JJ, Thalios, and Prand) the Iron Bastion. Jacinth will command. The other slavers will be manacled. The ex-slaves have the run of ship and will supply the rest of the crew and learn to basic sailing skills.
- The rest of the pirates will crew the smaller *Champagne Morning*.
- Both ships will proceed to Elf Island. The Iron Bastion will follow and take its navigation leads from *Champagne Morning*, as that island is rumored to have many navigation hazards.
- The two ships will anchor, the pirates will go ashore with Jacinth, and they will complete the search and rescue of the missing nobles.
- The pirates and Jacinth will also judge how viable the island is to settlement by the ex-slaves.

That evening the two ships drop anchor and tie up together to wait out the night. Sindawe arranges watches, explaining, “Guard both ships. Move around.” He sends time issuing orders to the ex-slaves in an attempt to restore order. Serpent decides to work on his 'moon tan' that night; he is joined by Lavender Lil and later Mandohu (the magically disguised lizard man).

Sindawe investigates screams of pain from below decks. He finds a slaver being tortured by the ex-slaves; his hands have been crushed by belaying pins. Sindawe cuts the man's throat, then chases the ex-slaves away with punches and kicks. The slowest to depart is assigned body disposal; that man drags the dead man up top with orders to “weight the body down”.

Sindawe turns his attention on the remaining slavers, “You can see your choices are limited. I have need of experienced sailors on my ship. Join me honestly and you'll live and earn some coin. Remember, I have several mind readers on my crew, so “I'll join now and betray him later” sort of plans won't fly.

Four of the remaining eleven agree to join Sindawe's crew. The rest protest, “No, I live here. I can't be a pirate!” and “I would only follow a moral man!” The new pirates are assigned by Sindawe to a pirate buddy: Feissian + Kem (ex-slaver), Luca + Arnigo Gamba (ex-slaver), Wogan + Vel (ex-slaver), and Serpent + Fazio (ex-slaver).

On board the *Champagne Morning*, Wogan and Serpent hear a woman's scream from below decks. The scream is cut off, then a large black bulk charges up onto deck. It is black skinned, shark man dripping blood from his shark jaws. Wogan hits it dead center with pistol fire, which it ignores in favor of clawing and biting at Serpent. Lavender Lil uses her bardic performance (dance) to inspire courage.

Serpent yells at Wogan, "Do you have any silver bullets?"

Wogan yells back, "Yes, but not loaded." He empties a blunderbuss into the humanoid shark, then orders Vel, "Go below and see what's going on!"

Arnigo at Luca's order attacks with his dagger. Luca shoots the beast.

Serpent switches to a silver scimitar which cuts the beast deeply. It bellows then bites Arnigo's head off. And claws Sindawe nicely. Sindawe retaliates with a silver short spear, then Serpent ends it with multiple slashes from a silver scimitar.

Vel yells from below deck, "There's a dead woman down here! And lots of blood."

Wogan joins Vel and heals the nearly dead Melella – he heals her wounds. He looks around and spots a compartment that appears to have been burst open from the inside; perhaps that's where the shark man came from.

Serpent announces, "I'm going to make sure." He beheads the shark man, who now looks like a filthy, wounded white guy.

Wogan and Vel investigate the compartment where shark man was hiding. Strange, chemical smells come from that room – most notably Dragonsmoke (i.e. opium). And a filth level indicating that the man was living in that compartment for several days. Wogan asks Melella, "What happened?" She explains, "I smelled something burning from that compartment, opened it up, and got bitten by giant shark man."

Serpent replaces Wogan investigating below decks. The new pirates are ordered to clean up the blood and mess. They start by tossing the body overboard... after Wogan takes a quick look – commoner's garb, no tattoos, and nothing revealing. The remaining new recruits are then assigned to lead the search for more shark men (none are found).

Wogan takes the head to Jacinth on board the *Iron Bastion*. He asks her, "Do you recognize this guy?" She flinches away and says, "No! Just some commoner!" He notes the ex-slaves are partying, then throws the head overboard.

Sindawe yells over, "That better have not been shark guy's head hitting the water."

Wogan whispers to JJ, "Go get that head."

Wogan asks Jacinth, "Can you get this under control?"

She replies, "Well, eventually. They are like children and need us to give them orders." She follows up by ineffectually issuing orders that everyone receives with enthusiasm but otherwise ignores.

Sindawe returns to the *Iron Bastion* to continue working on discipline.

Wogan and Serpent worry about lycanthropy and whether Mellela will become a were-shark. But no one has much intel on that, so they plan on a “remove curse” in the near future.

Speak with the Dead

Wogan prays for new spells including *Speak with the Dead*. He and the others decide on questions for the shark man's head. They discuss their shark based knowledge: The Stormdaughter was Black Dog's woman, but she betrayed him for another man who lead a Cult of the Shark God. And her ship was named the Crimson Shark. And more recently they fought a gnome seated on a giant shark's body... and his murderous cultists. Mwangi recognizes the Shark as a great spirit, but not a beneficial one like the Turtle.

- *Why were you on board the Champagne Morning?* **I needed a place to hole up. I was hurting bad.**
- *Why were you hurting bad?* **I had these crazy nightmares and was hungry all the time. So, I needed to hole up and smoke it off.**
- *Where is the HQ of the Shark God?* **What's that?**
- *Where did you get bitten?* **In Sargava, near the wharf.**

Armed with a little more info, Wogan goes below and bestows a “remove curse” on Mellela. She feels better, but not enough to help sail the ship. Wogan agrees with, “Take the day off.”

Later that morning, Lavender Lil says, “Wogan, come here. There's something I want to you to see.” She points toward the glittering sea.

Wogan examines the area with his spy glass, sees nothing, but relays it onward. Sindawe spots some ship wreckage.

The *Champagne Morning* takes off toward that leaving most of it crew behind to get the *Iron Bastion* moving... most of its Mwangi “crew”. They close up with the wreckage, slow, and come closer to it. It appears someone has rigged sails to protect from the sun. A gaff hook is used to pull the raft in closer. The torn sails thrown off to reveal three ancient witches. Several crew men are terrified by the hag's horrific appearance.

Wogan replies with a murder gun – grape shot tears up their raft. Lavender Lil begins a dance of courage. Sindawe and Serpent leap aboard the wreckage to savage one hag with their attacks. The hags flee, then resurface nearby drawing another murder gun shot from Wogan. A crossbow bolt from Sindawe shatters just in front of him – an invisible obstacle?!? Serpent casts *call lightning*. Wogan joins him after shrugging off three more evil eyes from

the hags. Lightning strikes the trio, stopping the wounded one in mid swim. One hag goes after her. The last one continues toward the ship.

Sindawe determines that the back half of the ship is sealed in a *force cage* (with holes) which contains all but Wogan, Fazio, Mellela, and Kem. A single hag climbs aboard to claw at Wogan. Mellela attacks the hag and is dropped by a backhand. Wogan counters with *inflict serious wounds*. More *called lightning* drives her away.

Serpent uses his remaining lightning to pummel the nearby water; he is convinced the hags remain nearby. Wogan uses *dispel magic* to remove the *force cage*. The pirates sail away quickly.

A Whale Of A Good Time

The *Champagne Morning* returns to the Iron Bastion. Orders are issued for the later to follow the former. They sail on to Dolenta Island, or “Elf Island” as they prefer to call it, with Sindawe hanging off the front, watching for navigation hazards. Elf Island a small lush tropical island. Razor sharp rocks and coral ridges lurk below and just above the water. The western approach appears more feasible but still has rocks and coral ridges. Six fathoms. The *Champagne Morning* has 3' draft and the *Iron Bastion* is 6'. Sindawe spots a large form underwater moving slowly toward his ship.

Wogan orders the murder guns loaded with solid shot, then casts water breathing on the crew. Sindawe drinks a potion (touch of the sea). Wogan hits the creature, still moving slowly and below the surface, with lightning. It jumps into high speed, intent on ramming the ship – it breaks the surface revealing itself to be a sperm whale. Serpent transforms using his spirit totem, achieves a swim speed, and dives overboard, followed shortly by Sindawe. They swim toward the whale. Sindawe meets it first and misses with his spear. Serpent hits it with a rapier.

Wogan hits it again with lightning, then helps one of the murder gun crew unfoul their machine. Sindawe strikes it again and again leaving many wounds in its hide. It rams and capsizes the *Champagne Morning*. Everyone goes in the water. Serpent rages then attacks with his rapier and master work T-rex dagger, his weapons fail to pierce its blubbery hide but his animal bite rips out a chunk.

Wogan uses his dry load powder horn to fire pistols under water – he hits beast at point blank range. He casts *blessing of fervor*. His Gozreh Mask allows him to breath underwater. Sindawe and Serpent press their melee attacks. Lavender Lil casts *sound burst* on the monster which is greeted poorly by everyone's hearing. The whale swims clear of its attackers then begins to circle. Serpent swims in pursuit, followed by Sindawe.

The sperm whale bites and tail slaps the pair. It barely misses Sindawe with its bite. Then Serpent kills it with a fatal rapier thrust to the eye.

The pirates regroup to examine the capsized ship. The hull section hit by the whale was destroyed. It can be fixed, but will take time. First, they use ropes and a coral reef to right the ship. It is still full of water but will now move easier. Wogan and Serpent split off later to investigate a ship wreck, leaving the others to slowly move the ship toward shore. They start by towing it slowly with ropes via swimming and bracing against rock formations, then dragging it further in.

The ship wreck is the aft section of a whaler. They find a silver engraved name plate – Captain Delino Ambrose. The wreckage has been here awhile, though not ancient. Sand, coral and sea life have invaded the vessel. They do retrieve the murder guns from the *Champagne Morning*... after getting a few teeth from the dead sperm whale.

Beach Blanket Bingo

About 150' out the pirates are able to walk in 5' of surf. The *Iron Bastion* drops anchor outside the reef. The pirates aboard the *Champagne Morning* heavily fatigue themselves fighting through the surf and pulling the ship in. Wogan and Serpent use spells and wands to cure fatigue. As expected they are attacked on the beach by the same humanoids that attacked the Jacinth and Dulcimer's crew.

The humanoids are feral humans with sharp teeth. They break into two groups of three, running forward, howling. The first trio hit Vel, Mellela, and Sindawe. Vel gets bitten (6hps and -4 WIS, and still down 3 Str and exhausted). Mellela is bitten (7hp, -4 WIS) and falls to the ground. Their bites have some kind of extreme will-sapping poison.

Wogan *fireballs* the second group with fireball courtesy of Samaritha's contribution spell to the Rain Tiger (spell storing). Mandohu stabs Mellela's attacker in the back. Sindawe kills one with a flurry of blows. The burning humans close with the pirates. Fazio is bitten but remains standing. Serpent is bitten and falls asleep. The degenerate man grabs up Serpent and runs away. Everyone groans at this loss. Wogan casts *hold person* on that one, freezing him in place.

Fazio throws down his weapons and drops. Mandohu is bitten (4hps, -3 WIS) but remains standing.

Lavender Lil casts *invisibility* on herself, then uses oratory to inspire courage. And is immediately knocked unconscious by a lucky bite. Kem runs into the surf with a shark man in pursuit, who gives up after a while and goes back for Fazio.

Sindawe catches up with the paralyzed native carrying Serpent. Then ends him with a flurry of blows. Serpent awakens from a terrible dream promising a life of blood, sex, and power. He throws off the dream and its promises, declaring, "Not for this Ulfen." Wogan shoots an attacker in the belly, then moves backwards drawing

another pistol and shoots it again. He takes a bite on the arm but does not succumb to sleep. Serpent comes to his aid, chopping it soundly with his ax repeatedly. Wogan pulls a third pistol and ends the beast man.

Beast men pick up Mellella and Lavender Lil and run for the jungle. Another continues chasing Kem in the surf. Sindawe closes with the one carrying Lavender Lil, drawing its ire. It rages, then claws (14pts) and bites at Sindawe. Mandohu continues gamely stabbing away with his spear. Then it dies from another flurry of blows.

Wogan aims and shoots the shark man fleeing with Fazio, allowing Serpent to close and end it with an ax blow to the skull.

Chase on the Beach, Chase in the Jungle

Sindawe runs into the jungle after Mellela's kidnapper, yelling to Serpent, "Follow me! Wogan's got the beach."

Wogan orders Mandohu to gather the fallen pirates together and try to awaken them. Wogan tries to get to Kem who continues heading out to sea. But Kem's lead is too great and he drowns before Wogan can reach him.

Serpent follows Sindawe, easily jumping the punji stake pit that Sindawe narrowly avoid, then avoids a second further along the path. Sindawe takes a *potion of ape walk* and takes to the trees. He eventually comes across the front half of a ship in the jungle. Still no shark man. Serpent continues pressing forward, handily defeating another trap until a giant javelin trap is tripped. He arrives at the same location as Sindawe.

Back on the beach, Wogan examines the sleeping forms of Fazio, Vel, and Lavender Lil. They are deep in erotic dreams, and writhe, moan, and touch themselves in their slumber. No amount of slapping and shaking will awaken them.

Slavers have AC 13, HP 14, attack bonus +2

Immediate tasks:

- A pair of Mwangi slaves are found in Alvingham's quarters. They (Chidike and Kunto) are freed and brought aboard the Chainbreaker. The sixteen-year olds are eager for a new life of piracy.
- New home for Rucia
- Find new home for Iron Bastion ex-slaves
- Rescue Tolcrist's daughter from Elf Island.