

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 04/28/2019

### TODAY'S EPISODE: BROTHELS AND BROADSIDES

Our heroes and their vessel sailed into Port Shaw where they have embroiled themselves in local horror stories before deciding to chase a pirate legend's treasure cache. They round up their crew, rescue a few from a barghest's bomb plot, and foil an assassination plot against Bishop Zalen. Just a few more loose ends before our heroes leave the city in search of pirate treasure... including a ship stealing scheme backed by documents forged by Sagacious Samuel of the Magic Emporium, Samuel' disappeared apprentice Cartias Delnor, Delnor's necromancy activities post-disappear, and finally Delnor's curse of one prostitute Bordeaux. After selling a large pile of loot and buying some goods at the Magic Emporium, Sindawe invites Samuel to the secret opening of the Lavender Feather.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> 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).

#### *Soft Opening of the Lavender Feather*

Sindawe, Wogan, Serpent, and Sagacious Samuel, the city's premiere alchemist, leave the Magic Emporium late evening and head over to the Lavender Feather. The soft opening (a term which causes all the workers to giggle every time someone uses it) will include limited crewmen from the *Chainbreaker*, existing clients of the girls considered "safe", Dragoon Sergeant Darenar, and the alchemist Sagacious Samuel.

The exterior of the establishment is a closed shop that is lit with a half dozen lavender shaded hanging lamps. Light knocks on doors and cryptic phrases gain them entry to the “back area”. Sagacious Samuel is introduced and taken off their hands by the ladies. The crowd plays faro, dice, and other simple games of chance. Klangdin informs them that Tommy has “basement” news for them. They depart for the basement.

In said basement, Tommy, a halfling, has another halfling strung up from the rafters. That halfling was taken alive after trying to assassinate Bishop Zalen. Tommy tortured some information out of the man:

- The out of town assassin trio was hired through a local crime fixer named Old Fish.
- They were to kill Bishop Zalen if a bomb plot failed to take out his church.
- They went into hiding in the slums to wait for their opportunity.
- They were waiting in their slum hideout when a shadow whispered to them that the bomb plot had failed.
- Once Zalen was dead they were to take the first ship out of town.
- This type of assassination is costly, much more so than hiring random goons to do the work.

Tommy tells them that the halfling knows more but nothing that is pertinent to Zalen and their employers. And that the man won't survive his torture wounds. The man is killed quickly and his corpse wrapped in heavy canvas that is tightly tied with heavy ropes.

They leave the basement to return to the party. Several more of the pirate crew have joined the party, plus a few strangers, including a blonde woman wearing a captain's uniform

playing faro. Feather informs them that that woman is Captain Mercy, whom Mitabu lost the ship's papers to in a game of chance.

Captain Mercy is invited to a private faro room for a quiet discussion. Molly catches Wogan's attention before they depart.

Molly, "Do you know who she is?"

Wogan, "Captain Mercy? No idea. Just another Port Shaw captain?"

Molly gives him some details.

### *Back Room Deals*

Meanwhile in the faro room, they wait until Wogan joins them.

Captain Mercy shows all of the signs of being a long term sea captain.

She opens with, "Gentlemen, I own your ship."

Sindawe says, "Yes, that was our understanding, but none of the circumstances sound legitimate."

Mercy replies, "Well, it was a fair game witnessed by various civic leaders. However, I already own a ship and I am not unsympathetic to your situation. Luckily, I have a business proposition for you."

Serpent grouses, "You didn't have to 'steal' our ship to get a business discussion with us."

Mercy retorts, "Your man losing the ship in that game was just a coincidence. There's a legend of a city of gold that is common in this area. It is a Tulita legend. I have access to a

gentlemen that was there. His ship landed there by poor luck and he was the only survivor. His information agrees with other information sources I have on said island. The island lies within the domain of Admiral Tame, a pirate captain that was successful enough to become a pirate lord. He has claim to a stretch of water to the southwest of Port Shaw. His capital is an artificial island named the Armada, a serious of lashed together derelicts.”

Mercy continues, “Admiral Tame does not like me and he has considerable means to monitor my ship... well, actually all ships. The rumor is any vessel within 50 miles of the Armada is instantly recognized and hunted down. My offer is to use your vessel to sail into the Admiral’s territory and loot the city of gold. My take is 50% of the take. My men deserve no less than 50%. My first mate would stay here and hold your ship’s papers.”

The pirate officers ask questions:

- The *Chainbreaker* must land on the Armada to gain permission to be in Admiral Tame’s territory.
- Captain Mercy will bring an iron maiden full of sea water and some personal luggage.
- Captain Mercy will bring along the sole survivor of the ill-fated golden city.
- Why the *Chainbreaker*? Mercy says, “Because its officers are reputed to be honest and ruthless enough to succeed in this mission. Plus, your crewman decided to lose the deed to the ship to me.”
- What happens if no treasure is found or recovered? “Well, if I think you put all due effort into it, then I will return your ship to you.”

- Mutual non-aggression pact for the entirety of the mission. Neither party is to harm the other party.
- The Armada lies 400 miles out, past the Witches Teeth.

Serpent and Sindawe argue for “ship’s papers now, then mission” to which Captain Mercy declines, stating she doesn’t trust them without that leverage. They eventually agree to Mercy’s agreement.

After Mercy leaves the room, Wogan and Serpent discuss the iron maiden and its possible contents. They arrive at “some sort of aquatic humanoid”. They go out to join her in the main room of the brothel.

Captain Mercy summons her first mate with a loud whistle from the alley. A minotaur emerges from the dark, dressed in officer’s clothing. He enters the establishment by ducking low. Korg is told to make himself comfortable.

Wogan says, “Can we see the document?”

Korg pulls out a leather map case and at further urging lays out the *Chainbreaker’s* deed. Sindawe asks Sagacious Samuel over to examine the document. Serpent and Mercy have hands on blade hilts. Sagacious looks at the deed curiously and explains he has never seen it before.

Korg sits at the bar for beer. Bordeaux joins him.

Captain Sindawe orders drinks for Captain Mercy, then departs to tell Lil and Tommy about the arrangement.

He finds Tommy and Lil in her room. Tommy is helping Lil squeeze into a corset. Sindawe explains the deal to them. They discuss the Korg as hostage deal. Thalios and Tommy will be left behind to help Lil guard the Lavender Feather and Korg.

### *Back Room Squeals*

Sindawe, Wogan, and Serpent to wait out the night at the Lavender Feather. Bel and Kahina have a loud but short argument early in the night before they are broken up. Kahina leaves for the ship.

Wogan tells Serpent and Sindawe about Molly's information on Captain Mercy. Mercy's real name is Bethany Razor, after the local coast, the Razor Coast. Her husband Jacob Razor died in the battle between Garr Bloodbane and Gregory Bonedeuce. Her ship's name is the *Gozreb's Whore*. She's a pretty famous local character.

Serpent spends the evening drinking lightly and writing a letter to his wife, Samaritha, explaining his absence (the voyage to gold city) and his to excuse his imagined ill behavior toward Feather.

Marr Eiderson, the Ulfen bard, sings tales of White Estrid's battle prowess. The prostitutes and customers gamble and play. The drinks flow easily and often. Cigar and pipe smoke clouds the air.

Sindawe plays faro while watching Bordeaux (braided hair) who is the top choice for carrying "ghoul fever". Bordeaux seems to be quite willing to service the minotaur first mate of the *Gozreb's Whore*.

Wogan leaves around midnight for his room aboard the *Chainbreaker* to preserve his chastity. Sindawe and Serpent stay overnight at the Lavender Feather.

Serpent finishes and seals his letter at breakfast, adds a large bag of gold coins, and hires a messenger to deliver them to his wife, Samaritha.

Sindawe says goodbye to Ophelia before searching our Bordeaux one last time, as she did not ghoul out the night before. She is not in evidence in the common areas, so he checks the forms. He finds her in a “private” room; she and the minotaur are nude. No one is dead or injured.

He returns to the common areas to wake up his crew and sends them outside, then leads them to docks and the *Chainbreaker*.

### *Morning on the Chainbreaker*

Wogan awakens to sounds of luggage coming across the gangplank. He emerges onto deck to find that the crew are watching Captain Mercy and her luggage being brought aboard. Her luggage is handled by her crew, who leave after seeing her put away. Pulleys and ropes are used to lower the iron maiden into the cargo deck, where it is secured.

Serpent’s quarters are given over to Captain Mercy. Serpent will stay with the regular crew.

Mercy shows Sindawe how to chart a route to the Turmoil where Admiral Tame rules. While plotting the course from her charts, Sindawe follows on his own, she tells Sindawe and Wogan a bit about the Turmoil and Admiral Tame. She also sketches out her plan at a high level.

The Admiral keeps a court of sycophants, entertainers, and guards. He enjoys magic and drinking and whoring. He loves magic items. He enjoys any sort of entertain, but avoid failing as he will sic his sea giant on you and your corpse will decorate his palace. He has many lizard folk in his capital, even among his guard and harem.

The Admiral is a cannibal. He can be impressed but it takes more than “winning a fight for his entertainment”. He lets his anger take control when he is angry. He has fits of poetry speaking.

Wogan, Serpent and Sindawe work Tommy Blacktoes and the ship’s junior officers to identify the crew on board and work out shifts. A sailor is assigned each shift to keep an eye on Mercy’s iron maiden.

Falken Drango doesn’t appear before they depart. Captain Sindawe says “one visitor per voyage is plenty” and doesn’t wait.

The *Chainbreaker* leaves Port Shaw easily enough and even enjoys 3 extra knots from a wind storm.

Serpent spends his time with the crew in the sailors quarters and working regular shift duties, including swabbing the deck. This is all unsettling for the crewmen who know about his dramatic and public and violent fight with his wife. But the swabbing is the most upsetting. They keep their distance.

Serpent spots a woman drowning in the ocean. She is begging for help while barely keeping on the surface. She goes under just as he pulls his bow to shoot an arrow at her. He then yells out a warning to crew to stay away from the rails and ignore drowning people. The crew on duty is reduced to its minimum number to further reduce risk.



## *The Captain's Table*

That evening they heave to, drop anchor, set lights and the first guard squad. Ori asks what the lady captain wants for dinner to which Wogan orders some dishes he likes. Captain Mercy gives Ori a thread of saffron.

Wogan slips down before dinner to examine the iron maiden. It is non-magical and appears to be a iron maiden in shape but not function. It makes no noise.

The dinner is tasty with quiet conversation until a crash is heard on deck. The officers rush out to see the problem.

Nemo is lying on the deck, badly hurt by his fall out of the rigging. He is very wet. Klangdin yells, "Something sprayed him from the water. Knocked him off his perch."

The officers spread out to examine the water with the guard squad. Serpent is first to spot the tidepool dragon and several of its mates off the port side. The other officers join him at that rail where boiling water is shot at them by the tidepool dragons.

Serpent and Mercy shoot arrows and bullets at the creatures. Wogan tries a blast from his *mace of terror* without effect. The creatures emit blasts of boiling water and also summon gouts of normal sea water from many different angles. Wogan is knocked into the water.

Wogan dons his *Goz Mask* then pulls and fires a pistol at the closest tidepool dragon (it already has arrows sticking out of it) with the help of his magically dry powderhorn. Mercy throws him a line.

Sindawe stabilizes sailor Nemo, then seeing Wogan go overboard, rushes the rail and dives in. He lands near a wounded tidepool dragon, which he grapples and boils to death.

Klangdin attempts to blast away with a swivel gun but it misfires. Several tidepool dragons flit about near Sindawe. Serpent fires arrows at them, hitting once. Wogan swims toward the dropped line, while firing another pistol. Mercy swings out and down on a ship's rope, wounding a tidepool dragon with a rapier on the extremity of the arc before returning safely to the ship. That one is ended by Sindawe swimming up to it, grappling it and using his *shirt of immolation* to boil it to death.

The last tidepool dragon takes one last blast with boiling water at Wogan before fleeing deeper. Crewmen haul Wogan up on the rope, after he holsters his pistols. Sindawe swims back with his prize (the size of a cat). Mercy helps him out of the drink.

Wogan heals himself, Nemo and the other wounded with a positive energy burst. The tidepool dragon is given to Ori for the next night's dinner. Ori presses them to finish dinner while it is still warm. Sindawe and Wogan dry off a bit first then rejoin Serpent, Mercy and Tommy for dinner.

Later, Sindawe tells Tommy, "I think Captain Mercy should be welcomed aboard officially by Mr. Smiles."

Tommy nods, "Got it. I'll get Karomander working on that."

### *The Next Days at Sea*

The rest of night passes without incident. The next day few days are largely uneventful:

- Day 2 – a large, unidentified carcass rotting on the sea surface.
- Day 3 – a thick fog that Wogan guides them thru using his *Goz Mask*.

Night 3 – Wekk the Cloven and Wogan plus others are on the second guard shift when they spot a blue glow about a 100' off the stern. The glow is from below the surface and seems to be drifting with the current, somewhat toward the ship. They call out the command staff to take a look... just in case. Serpent looks carefully and declares, “I think it is a really large (16' wide body) jelly fish.” The officers discuss it for a while and decide to sit tight while it passes. Sindawe fetches the ship's logs and makes more notes than usual. Wogan smells ozone as it drifts closer and warns the others.

Sindawe sends the crew down below. Wogan, Serpent and Mercy cast *protection from electricity* spells upon themselves. A short time later the jelly fish discharges an electric “storm” on small area of the ship. Sindawe and Serpent take a little damage and are staggered by the shock. Wogan and Mercy avoid damage and other ill effects.

Wogan and Mercy with limited help from Sindawe and Serpent are able to raise the ship's anchor and keep its “electrical systems” in check.

Day 4 – rain with moderate wind, but no problems.

Day 5 – again nothing unusual. They reach the edge of the Turmoil where Captain Mercy tells them to fly the “flag of parley”. The area is claimed to be cursed or protected by exotic and esoteric creature of legend.

They see the Armada heave into sight in early evening. It is a heaving “island” of derelict ships topped with several buildings and more than a few vessels are docked on its edges. Figures move around on their daily business.

Captain Mercy says, “This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Armada. The first sank, the second burned and third sank. There are about a thousand people on that island. Goods are very expensive.”