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Blades in the Dark - Session 07

Ernest	Whisper	Reis	
Tim	Cutter	Kraido Naiben	(out)
Patrick	Leech	Thaddeus "Tad" Todd	(out)
Bruce	Hand	Marto "The Bear"	
Chris	Lurch	Hasten Doom	
Paul	(in charge)		

Last thing the gang did was to take the Fang of Iberia. In the course of the job, the characters killed Professor Slice.

Downtime

- Reis: lower stress & continue clock to ID the entity behind the Cult of the Ecstasy of the Flesh (the person/entity involved in carving up the Hollows under the temple).
↳ Tycherosi.

He and his possessor ghost Nyrix make excellent progress in the search, by summoning multiple ghost & interrogating them they get the name of Carriless Firm, a Tycherosi w/ solid black eyes. He belongs to the Wraiths gang, a very mysterious crew in Silkshore & Nightmarket.

They normally steal luxury goods and gather intelligence. Best guess is that he's doing his rituals as a demonic sacrifice. Spirit was Rune, a

- Marto: Relieve stress (-6) by gambling w/ Whisper for the Carrillo and the Inuvians. Also, finish the project to Increase Crew Size by recruiting Inuvians. The gang now has a large group of ~20 poorly-equipped gangsters.
Whisper for the Wraiths. ~~was~~ ~~lotus-head~~ before he died. Rune is a Lotus-Head.

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- Hasten: Relieve Stress by gambling with the Invivians (-3), and training for his Playbook.

The characters go to see Lutes, owner of the Sad Jackal tavern and their main contact w/ the Gondoliers. He brings them help beer (so tasty and salty!). Reis tells him, "We know who has been dumping those hollows. The main guys are Wraiths members, the Tycherosi Carriless Firm and the Whisper Rune." Lutes knows that the Wraiths are under new management and have been getting bolder. The heat is on them, but they've kept their secrets. Important points:

- They wear masks and have a secret sign language
- The worst member is their ~~key~~ member, The Lesson (an enforcer)
- Rune can summon some kind of demonic dog. She might be found in a drug den.
- Their leader is a mysterious woman, a Spider who stays in the shadows
- Carriless Firm is still a pretty tough customer.

Lutes knows that black lotus is available at the Leaky Bucket. They probably have a back room for users' convenience.

Taking Rune off the Board

The plan is assault: hit the Leaky Bucket when Rune is indulging. She'll probably have some Wraith rank-and-file, so bring a squad. Neutralize her before Reis is overwhelmed by her demon dog.

Marto sneaks the place to identify when she is in place. Action starts

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in a risky position - the characters & a squad of 10 storm into the bar, heavy loadout. The gangsters perform crowd control as the characters break into the back room. They find Rune there, inhaling black lotus vapor. Her massive demon dog is there, black smoke tendrils drifting from its nostrils and mouth. Its ears perk up as it sees the characters.

Reis flings an ectoplasm vial at the dog. His throw is true, electricity bails up, and the hand recoils back. Haster flings a knife at Rune! She is badly wounded, her hand pinned to the table by a knife. The dog starts to move, so Marto pins it with a barrage of electroplasmic fire from his fire pistols. Bang! Bangbangbang!

Reis pulls out a pistol and holds it to Rune's head. "Call it off!" he demands. The dog turns to smoke and teleports to Rune's side; its awful fangs bite into Rune's arm. His armor takes the impact, and she does as he wishes. "You're coming with us!"

Rune tells Reis, "Your words are so blue!" The characters hustle her out of the Leaky Bucket. Marto (by the skin of his teeth) and Haster ensure that the bystanders remain under control, the troops do a good job. The demon dog remains behind, fading into shadows.

Marto asks, "Why did we capture her? That wasn't the plan! What do we do now?"

Reis points out, "I didn't know she was hot. Besides, now we can ask her about Carriless and the mysterious Wraith leader."

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The characters take her to Schooner Shore, once a "beach resort" built out on piers and abandoned for decades. But, it has lots of electropasmic lights that Reis can power up to create light w/out shadows. The characters surround Rune with lights and start asking questions, esp. about Carriless and his ritual sacrifice of Hollows. Also, about the new leader of the Wraiths.

Rune claims to know little about Carriless' activities. The new leader is Cattaby, but Rune says little about her except that she has secrets. And then she starts to struggle, because she senses the ground is so far away. (Lutes suspected that the Wraith leader is well-connected, a government official or a noble). Marto has heard the name Cattaby before, as a rising noble house.

Reis attempts to turn Rune, to get her to join the Gamblers Orphans. She remains loyal to the Wraiths, noting that many Wraiths (including Carriless) have grown to like murder, and have strong bonds. Rune says that she cannot leave, or suffer the same fate as her sister: "She is a back now." Apparently, Cattaby meets the Wraiths at the Library.

Marto goes out to act as sentry. He spots two figures, one big and one small, sneaking up. He opens fire with a brace of pistols. The little one deflects a bullet with his walking cane. Marto: "That's not a good sign..." The big guy plows into the characters' goons - his blows are strong enough to send his targets flying 10-15 feet. And the dog is also there. These appear to be Carriless Firm and The Lesson. The Orphans' rank and file aren't collapsing, but they are taking hits and losing people. Rune just notes that the characters are now doomed.

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Reis quickly assembles a (one-use) anti-demon barrier with his anti-demon charm.

Hasten Doom sneaks up on Carriless Firm. He lunges, but as he does Carriless moves with demonic speed. He gestures with his staff and a blade snaps out. The blade slides off his armor, but Hasten feels his own knife bite into Carriless' side. Both of them tumble off the side of the pier.

High above, Manto fires upon The Lesson from a richety tower. He hits, but he sets the tower on fire and is forced to scramble to escape.

Reis has his demon barrier ready. He watches as the hand and The Lesson take down the last of the Orphan's gangsters.

Down below in the water, Hasten grabs onto Carriless and attempts to drag him down below the waves. He hopes that he can hold his breath longer than the little man. He takes two levels of harm from drowning.

Manto sees The Lesson and the hand starting to enter the building where Reis and Rune are. He blazes away at them, stopping The Lesson from entering. He hears a "click" behind him: Cattaby has snuck up behind him on the roof. He drops off the roof, through a rotted bit of planking, and into the water. He escapes, but there is something in the water with him.

The hand enters the building and Reis sets off his demonbane trap. The trap lights up, and the hand vanishes! Rune hauls out in complaint!

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Marto is in the water, and so is something enormous with black scales. He huddles, shivering, on a pylon, hoping for the creature to go away. By the time it does, the Wraiths are all convinced that he is dead.

The Lesson stamps in on Reis, ripping the door out of its frame. Reis has Rune at gunpoint. The Lesson demands Rune back. Reis answers, "She wants no more of your demon-cutting ways!" The Lesson seems almost hurt by this. He approaches, right over the section of floor Reis had weakened. The planks buckle, and he falls into the water! Marto watches him drop and grab onto a pillar. A giant black-scaled thing rises up out of the water. Its upper torso is a scaled woman with horrible draconic aspect. She holds Carriless Finn in her hands. His mouth hangs open. She carries him away like a groom over the ~~threshold~~ threshold.

Inside, Reis hears a woman's voice, "You're surrounded, your people are gone, you can't hold us off forever. What's your move now?" She offers to ransom Rune back, and disavows interest in Carriless' hobbies. They work out a deal, including ransom and a promise to halt Carriless' activities in the catacombs. Ransom will be paid through Lutes. The Lesson carries Rune away in surprisingly caring manner. And then, Reis tries to sell her a giant sapphire. ("The Leviathan's Eye")

Reis finds Haster Dam washed up on the shore, unconscious and in need of medical care. He collects up the surviving gangsters and heads home. Marto eventually joins them.

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Blades in the Dark - Session 7, contPayoff:

- 6 coins (2 per character)
- +0 Heat (thanks to Bluecoat Intimidation)
- Entanglements: The Crows want a tithe of 2 coins

Downtime

- Hester: Heal a level of harm (5 ticks, so down to 1 level of harm, plus 1/4 progress to the second), and relieve stress.
- Reis: Relieve stress
- Murto: Relieve stress & train in Resolve.
- +3 Reputation

ExpMurto

- Tracking +1
 - Hostage/Background +1
- 2 XP → gain +1 to Command

Hester

- Stealth +1
- 1 XP

Reis

- Knowledge/Arcane +2
 - Background - Ransoming +1
- 3 XP

Crew

- Baffle +2
 - Abuse Station +1
 - Bolster rep +1
 - Goals/Dries +1
- 5 XP → one away from an advance!