

02/23/2020

p.1

Blades in the Dark - Session 10

Chris	Lurk	Hasten Doom
Bruce	Hand	Marta "The Bear"
Patrick	Leech	Thaddeus "Toad" Todd
Ernest	Whisper	Reis
Tim	Cutter	Kraid Naiber
Paul		

Last session - the group broke into a prison, and the experience went so well that nobody gained many XP.

The group picked up Dylasia Finchester as a patron so they could come up with sufficient coin to become (week) Tier 2.

The group has gained a good positive reputation with the Centralia Club by turning over the Hand of Katar to them. This is in large part why Dylasia Finchester was willing to sponsor them.

The gang has acquired two empty hulls, clockwork robots that can contain a ghost. They both need new soul vessels. Reis holds the Plasmic Blade Flail.

Hasten Doom urges the character to do something to earn some coin. By coincidence, the worshipper Gee Iniru Gah, servant of the Gaping Maw, stole the Naladiches Cartography from the Church of the Ecstasy of the Flesh, and then (allegedly) framed Dylasia Finchester for the crime. She is willing to pay to avoid responsibility for the theft.

02/23/2020

p.2

### Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

Gea Inru Gah builds cults. She teaches them how to operate, what rituals to do (bespoke design). She has several supernatural powers:

- Changing Shape
- Flight
- Striking from the Shadows

She may be a Wendigo\*. She has a wide variety of enemies, is hunted by the law (though she kind of outguns them), and leaves a string of dangerous cults in her wake. \*She might also be a demon.

The Naladiches Cartography was written by the ghost of the cartographer Naladiches. It is incomprehensible to casual review, which leads folks to believe that it shows the geography of the ghostlands, or provides clues to the locations of strange secrets.

Reis and Bear go to the Centralia Club, hoping to get information about the map. Also, the Iruvian Consul Elsterra Avrathi is present. Bear makes small talk, he learns that Iruvia is installing new lightning walls around their cities and rail lines. The Consul hopes that it will be possible to reopen the old ruins to drive away the dead and extract untold riches. He has a lot of big plans. His big priority is to ensure that any new sparkcraft technology from Akeros makes its way to Iruvia.

Reis easily finds Dylasic Finchester, they exchange small talk then go to a private alcove to discuss business. She agrees to have a forged version of the Naladiches Cartography made. As they leave, a Madame Teslin slips Reis her card, indicating that she organizes spiritual salons - which is of interest to the Whisper. She runs a parlor for the purpose.

02/23/2020

p.3

Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

Dutria

Hasten Dorn and Toad go to a party at the Barbar House, hosted by the food critic Sylador Dutria. She is a prominent critic, and can define the new trends. She also always goes masked. Small talk includes her complaint that she recently was sold a lot of counterfeit moss tea; she is quite dismayed by its low quality. She declines Hasten's offer to beat up the counterfeiter. But she does set a task: get her some Tigerfruit from the Karaf Mountains in Inuvia. It's rare, and hard to find. Locally-grown tigerfruit is hydroponic and far inferior.

Reis reaches out with his ghost powers to call up the ghost of the cartographer Naladiches, who might be able to find the location of his own map. He manages to get a ghost map to show how to get to the ghost map.

Bear goes looking for Gaping Maw cultists. He's able to find some of the well-known ones. He's cautioned that they're all psychopaths who want to feed everything to the void. He spies on them rather than talking to them, learns that Gee Iniro Gab is creating multiple small chapters of the cult. They tend to be like little cells of serial killers.

Bear talks to Inspector Gulick, whom the gang knows (he's the party of a city prosecutor). He asks about recent Gaping Maw murders, and learns about a guy with a scar down his face who had ~~been~~ posed as a doorman and took some kids, including a Prosecutor's daughter. Nobody knows his name, and he's still at large. His alias was Bar Juan Shelley, called "Shelley the killer". He worked the Talk Cat Arms. His scar goes all the way down his face, and up into his hair - he has a distinct white lock.

02/23/2020

p.4

Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

Also, he wears a monacle.

The characters track down Shelley the killer's safe house. They and a pack of recruited Bluecloaks\* show up to bust down the door... and unvest and destroy their forged Natadiches Cartography.

\* Technically, cult-hunter squad members

Team #2: Sneak in first to swap the Cartography (2 scribbled documents, notebooks)

Stealth Team: Reis, Bear, Hasten Dorn

Assault Team: Kraid, Toad, plus the Bluecloaks

Bear finds a secret door, but he thinks it's trapped. Reis attempts to disable it... Bear helps. Spring-loaded spikes come out! His armor takes the hit! Hasten simply kicks the door until it comes open, evading spikes as he does

Kraid uses his Command skills to lead the Bluecloaks in. They grab several cultists, until they find that there are more cultists who have already taken up defensive positions. He storms them, taking a gunshot in the process. He finds himself in the room where the cultists dismembered and sacrificed their victims.

Down with the Stealth team below, they find an open space with a willow tree, fed by blood from above. Its roots are embedded in a pool of Leviathan blood. There are bones and spirit crystals woven into the branches. The tree is slowly scratching prayers to the Gaping Maw into the wall. Reis sends his spirit map to find the Cartography... it goes right past the tree.

02/23/2020

p.5

### Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

The tree comes alive as soon as the characters draw near. Peis calls on a chilling fog to dissuade the tree. The cold slows it. Bear uses his pistols to suppress the tree, allowing Peis and Haston to get through.

Upstairs, Kraid hears a lot of gunshots from below. Someone throws a small stuffed animal at Toad; he throws it back, and that's when he is set upon by a blade-wielding assassin. It is Shelley the killer! In spite of his murderous assault, he is quite refined. But Toad is faster; he twists (desperately) out of the way and stabs Shelley in the side. Kraid comes in ~~the~~ to help, chopping his head clean open with his glaive. He braces his foot on Shelley's collarbone to pull the blade free.

Bear attempts to shoot his way past the tree. He takes a cllobbering, but his armor takes most of the damage (desperate roll, +1 Insight xp). A bit of the tree breaks off, and gets caught in his clothing. Bear does not notice.

Haston and Peis sneak into Gee Iniv Gah's ritual chamber. They see the books, and Haston manages to swap them and sneak away before she notices. Peis takes aim and shoots with his pistol. He draws a trickle of (mortal) blood. Gee Iniv Gah draws protective darkness around her and addresses him, "It is amazing that you managed even that much! But it's the last success you'll see!" She leaps to the ceiling and sends a hand of darkness at him. He dissipates the hand with a tempest that knocks her from the ceiling.

Bear runs in, guns blazing. He gets the backlash from the darkness wave,

02/23/2020

p.6

Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

Still manages to shoot Gee Iniru Gah once anyway.

Hasten sneaks up on Gee Iniru Gah and attempts to choke her with one of the (forged) volumes of the Cartography. She pulls out a silver nail and attempts to pierce his shadow with it. Reis breaks an electropasm vial to generate a burst of light, making Hasten's shadow disappear. He almost succeeds - Hasten is pinned in place; his armor prevents a wound. (a nail-hole appears in it).

Toad grabs a piece of grating and pulls it away. Huzzah! A strange white and red-veined tree branch grabs one of the Bluecloaks and pulls him through. Kiraid rappels down as the Bluecloak screams; he is prepared to kill the tree. He chops madly, but takes a remarkable amount of damage in return. Toad helps out by flinging firebombs at the tree. Very quickly the area is engulfed in flame.

Bear uses electropasmic ammunition to shoot himself free of Gee Iniru Gah's smoke magic. Hasten attempts to free himself by tearing the silver nail from the floor. He succeeds, but not all the way - and he feels that his shadow is tearing free from him. Permanently.

Reis hits Gee Iniru Gah with a lightning hook, but as she drops she breaks a small vial. A black shape expands from it. Bear blasts it apart with electropasmic shells, but not before it takes a swipe at Reis... which he evades.

Kiraid chops madly at the demon tree, cutting himself free and destroying

02/23/2020

P7

Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

the trunk. It bleeds and writhes like a living thing!

The characters carefully organize the scene for when Inspector Eulich arrives on the scene. It's amazing how credulous he is - the group has no trouble fooling him into thinking that the Maladiches Cartography burned up in the fire... Along with Gee Iniru Geh - an unfortunate effect of an accidental shot that broke open a lit lantern. Inspector Eulich is pleased to have brought such a notorious criminal to justice.

Haster Dam ends up with a torn shadow. Likely to have some consequences.

The characters have also just killed a powerful spiritualist, and may find that her ghost will torment them in the future. Unless the Inspector turns the body over to the Ghost Wardens.

Payoff

+4 Reputation (public, against a hated target)

+8 Coins (mostly from Dyksia Finchester)

+0 Heat (done w/ cooperation of the authorities)

No big entanglements (no visits from ghosts)

Down time

+0 Coins from Fighting Pits, +1 Coin from Met-wearing sweatshop, +1 Coin per PG

4 coins to the vault.

Kiraid: Infirmary (completely healed!), Stress relief (-6 Stress, plus over-indulge in community activism) (arrange adoption to a seamstress shop, only

02/23/2020

p. 8

Blades in the Dark - Session 10, cont.

to find there is no such shop - the "shop-owner" just abducted the child).  
(could be a future complication or job). The guy is operating out of Coal  
Ridge, probably selling children to workhouses.

Toad: Infirmary, and stress relief (-4 stress)

Bear: Dice (-6 stress) and finish his kennel. He now has a tracker dog.

Haster: Infirmary, Stress, Gain Martez as a friend (pugilist) [+2 ticks]

Pess: Train Resolve, Polieve Stress, Project to gain Dylasia Finchester as a  
friend [+3 ticks] [+3 ticks for 2 coins]

EXP

Tracking/Violence?	2	} Spend on Piness, buy +1 Finess
Beliefs/Drives/Heritage?	2	
Vice/Traumas?	0	

(4)

Team

Battle/Extortion/Sabotage?	1	
Abae Station?	0	
Bolster Reputation?	1	
Express Goals, Drive Inner Conflict?	1	(3)