

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 10/III/2020

TODAY'S EPISODE: BEACON ISLAND BLUES

Our heroes sailed the *Chainbreaker* from Port Shaw to find Garr Bloodbane's treasure, chase down Falken Drango, and kill were-sharks. With them is most of the regular crew and Irina, a hostage for Salty Dog chief Jimmy Sticks' good behavior. Our heroes arrived at Beacon Island to find the *Encore* wrecked and its crew standing on its hull surrounded by large sharks. They don't fall for the obvious trap and fled with were-sharks and the *Nightslink* pursuing. The running battle ended with the were-sharks losing.

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).

Immediately after the Battle

The *Chainbreaker* crew has suffered many casualties, mostly from were-shark bites and claws. Wogan's *healing bursts* kept most alive and consciousness, leaving only a small group in the "maybe dead" category: Stoke, Tasty Mike, Dum-Dum, Feissian Hareskinner, Tiberiu, and Clubbreaker Cordell. Wogan expends healing magic and uses his healing skills to save them, but two still die: Feissian Hareskinner and Clubbreaker Cordell. Serpent helps with the healing and surgery.

The attention of the rest of the crew is split on sailing the ship, watching the grappled *Nightslink* where Captain Bloodscupper (heavily wounded) retreated to, and looting the fallen.

The next topic worrying Wogan, Serpent, and Sindawe is which crewmen were bitten by were-sharks. Some crew say they were bitten, others deny being bitten, some lie about being bitten, and of course healing bursts makes it very hard to even find bite wounds. Right now, it is about a dozen crewmen suspected of being bitten.

Wogan can cast *remove disease* and *remove curse*, but not many. He has poultices, a local Mwangi folk remedy, that will cure the problem if administered within the first two days. Wogan casts *remove disease* on himself, then remembers he has a *Periapt of Proof Against Disease*. The pair perform physical examinations on each other and the rest. Probably infected are: Gareb, Dario, Tasty Mike, Stoke, Kunto, and Mitabu.

Wogan uses his *pearl of power* to recall *remove disease* which he casts on Tasty Mike.

The Ship Is Ours

Sindawe, meanwhile, boards the *Nightlink* with a small team of pirates. The ship is well built, despite its recent battle damage. It is painted black. Its two masts are designed to be laid down and popped back up quickly to make it sneaky and nimble, though terrible in rough weather.

A pirate points out a weathered, wooden chest closed with just a single wooden pin. Sindawe pops the wooden pin. Inside is sand, seaweed and old bones. He starts to tip the chest over, when he spots an inscription on the underside of the lid; it is in Common but he refuses to read it. The contents are dumped out on deck – the sand is bagged separately from the bones. The chest is tied open. All of it is hauled back to the *Chainbreaker*. The pirates loot small valuables but the hold is plunder free.

Sindawe checks the sloop out for crewing purposes, determining that he would need 6/12 to crew it properly for sailing. He returns to his vessel to find a prize crew, with the stipulations:

- No one from the initial “I was bitten by a were-shark” pool, passed or not by Wogan
- Start with asking for 12; they get 11 volunteers
- Wogan checks them out for were-shark bites and signs.
- No more infected are found.

Orgon is put in charge of the *Nightslink*, with Slasher Jim is his 1st mate. Their crew consists of:

- Bel
- Sevgi
- Kuutamo
- Pirro
- Fazzio
- Hovax
- Blacktop Bill
- Ori
- Aelia

Orgon asks for orders, which are:

- Return the *Nightslink* to Port Shaw
- Sail in under a white flag when you approach to avoid unnecessary fights with zealous Dragoons.

- If you see any weird behavior by the crew, order Slasher Jim to murder them immediately.
- Here's a letter by Sindawe, Serpent, and Wogan stating this is a pirate vessel, captured during battle, and it is our prize.
- Don't mention were-sharks. We only fought pirates. No sign of Falken Drango.

Green Sky at Night, Wyvern take Flight

The *Nightslink* departs just as the sun begins to set, the sky in angry red and yellow. The *Chainbreaker* sails into Beacon Island's natural harbor. They drop anchor at what they think is a safe point. They plan to wait out the night on board the ship.

Serpent's pet project is to have Marr Eiderson, the Ulfen skald, solve the secret of the musical riddle map to Garr Bloodbane's treasure. Marr is given rum, a lantern, the map room, and a plate of biscuits. Ship's officers are told the plan and encourage to visit Marr on their shifts to ensure the skald remains awake. Marr has to play the riddle tune over and over again throughout the night in order to solve the riddle.

Wogan, after reviewing the crew rolls, reminds Serpent and Sindawe that JJ the diminutive seamunculus is still missing. Sindawe asks Serpent, "Can you and Saluthra track him down using tracking? And your fabulous scent sense?" Serpent agrees.

He and Saluthra find JJ buried under some broken crates and sacks in the ship's hold. JJ has used the time to make himself a little burrowed out home with furnishings made of splintered wood... including a burlap wife doll. He's only been in there for 48 hours! "Seemed longer," the seamunculus muses. JJ returns to his bunk, dragging Becca his burlap wife after him.

Watches are set with double the usual complement. The skald bellows the riddle song so much that the crew comes up with their own naughty lyrics to the tune about a sailor who use his own crusty nut sack, which is large and broad as a ship's sail.

The night passes seemingly without incident. The next morning, Serpent and Wogan are on deck praying. They finish and take note of their surroundings in the pre-dawn. They hear an odd noise. As they look around for its source, they figure out that the sentry, Stormy, is missing from the crow's nest. They raise the alarm and order the warning bell rang. Sleeping pirates wake up.

Serpent and Wogan search, eventually finding a light dusting of blood droplets on the deck. Serpent suspects a flying beast. He orders the reflective beetle carapaces and *ever burning lanterns* formed up as searchlights against the dark sky.

Serpent asks, "Did we kill that bone devil yesterday?"

He and Wogan order the devil's remains brought out for examination.

Sindawe climbs to the crow's nest for a look-see. He finds blood splatter on the mast. He is too late to shout a warning to his crew as a large, gliding form sweeps across the ship's deck. The form grabs Flavia as it flies across the deck; its tail spears her.

Serpent screams, "Wyvern!"

Someone counter screams, "It's pronounced wav-ern!"

Sindawe runs along the rigging and leaps onto the wyvern as it passes, grappling it by the tail. He burns it with his *sbirt of immolation* (14pts). Mitabu gleefully tosses a bomb at the wyvern (19pts of fire damage). Flavia and Sindawe take splash damage.

The wyvern's momentum carries it further away from the ship, snapping at the grappling monk attached to it. Flavia remains in its grip.

Tasty Mike screams, “Flavia! No!!!” (Flavia is his wife’s sister).

Then a second wyvern snatches him off the deck as it glides across. Its stinger misses spearing Tasty Mike. Serpent speeds several arrows after the beast (11pts). Wogan blasts away with pistols (12pts). Crewmen fire crossbows, hitting several times (17pts). The wyvern glides further away with Tasty Mike still in his clutches and its stinger whipping around uselessly. It disappears into the darkness, beyond lantern light range. Tasty Mike drives his short sword into the beast’s belly (10pts). The wyvern drops him into rough water near the beach.

Sindawe continues maintaining his grapple on the other wyvern; he punches once and burns the beast again. The beast twirls through the air and tries to shake the monk off, but fails. Bullets and bolts slash past into the darkness. Sindawe manages to pin the wyvern’s tail and wings, plunging all three of them into the surf near the beach.

The wyvern stands up in the waist deep water, and ignores Flavia who alternates playing dead with crawling toward to the beach. It attacks Sindawe with all it has, missing with all its attacks. Sindawe maintains his pin throughout. Serpent sends arrows into their flaming brawl all the way from the ship. Sindawe snaps its burning neck; the wyvern slumps into the surf.

Flavia yells, “Captain! Behind you!” She casts *daylight* revealing the second wyvern gliding toward them. Both pirates dive out of the way as the wyvern flies past, empty clawed. Serpent’s arrows plunge into its hide (15pts). The wyvern dumps into the sand.

Tasty Mike emerges from the surf. He and Flavia embrace in a potentially inappropriate manner.

Sindawe looks around for more wyverns. He spots another wyvern atop the lighthouse eating something (probably the missing Stormy).

Healing before Beacon Island

Wogan orders the longboat to retrieve the three pirates from shore. Wogan heals the wounded pirates when they return, then goes back to his prayers.

Later, he and Serpent deliver *remove disease* spells on the crewmen they believe are infected. The results seem very promising. Well, somewhat promising.

Serpent, Sindawe, Wogan, Mitabu and Saluthra are dropped on the beach by the ship's boat. The island is overgrown with foliage. The lighthouse stands tall, though some white paint has flaked off to reveal the gray stone beneath. The island is only maybe a thousand yards long.

They march to the lighthouse. Some of the band watch the skies for wyvern, while Wogan looks for signs of foot traffic. He finds some bloody sand and signs of someone crawling. Serpent takes over and follows them to a crevice. Wogan drops a stone covered with a *light* spell into the crevice, revealing Falken Drango who is covered in wyvern stings. Serpent drags him out and Wogan administers some cure spells and *lesser restoration*. Sindawe searches him while Wogan checks him for signs of lycanthropy.

Falcon revives and tells them, "My whole crew is were-sharks. They sank the *Encore* and captured your crew. I jumped overboard and swam for shore. Then the wyverns got me."

Wogan asks, "Where did they take Big Mike and the others?"

"They took them to the Snake's Head, which leads to an underwater cave. Took them down one at a time. I escaped."

The pirates pepper Falken with nasty comments about having gotten the others killed.

Falken says, "We need to rescue them. The shark guys said they were being taken to Dalang Jalamar."

No one can recall specifics about Jalamar. Dalang is a Mwangi term for... yeah, no one remembers that one either.

The wyvern attacks on their approach to the tower. The pirates are ready. Serpent cuts it (2rpts) as it glides past, Wogan shoots it (1rpts), and Sindawe grapples it (12rpts of shirt of immolating). The beast flies up and away, shaking the monk off of it. Serpent shoots arrows at it while Wogan continues blasting away with black powder weapons.

The wyvern flies back to the lighthouse and climbs inside. The pirates follow on foot and enter the base at the lighthouse keepers' house. The first few rooms are his living quarters, which are intact and quite cozy. Wogan rolls up the carpet to see if there anything beneath; he finds a trapdoor.

They climb down the ladder into darkness until Sindawe activates his *ioun stones* which are covered in *light* spells. Twenty feet down is the cellar floor, three bodies, and of course crates and barrels. Sindawe and Wogan approach the corpses carefully.

Undead rush out from the crates and barrels to ambush Sindawe and Wogan. The fast zombies pour over Sindawe and Wogan, including the three "corpses" on the floor. The two stand back to back – monk fists end several. Serpent climbs down the ladder and joins the melee where he cuts down a zombie. Mitabu looks at Falken Drango and says, "After you!" Drango replies, "No no, after you!"

Wogan channels positive energy, burning zombies for 18rpts. Several become ash and die. The pirates destroy more zombies.

Sindawe screams after killing several zombies, "Welcome to the Punchateria!"

Serpent yells back, "What? You want me to punch them?"

Wogan bashes at the remaining zombies with his *mace of terror*. Sindawe mops up.

Sindawe spots one zombie that is different than the others. It moves differently and has entrails waving from its rib cage and mouth. It runs up the ladder and slams the trapdoor shut, trapping Wogan, Sindawe, and Serpent below.

Drango smacks it with his stolen shark-tooth club, but it shatters. Mitabu shoots his pistol at the monster but the bullet pass thru its torso harmlessly.

Serpent climbs the ladder and throws his shoulder into it, but the undead standing on trapdoor is not bugged. "It's my mortal enemy, wooden construction!" he yells down.

Drango slumps to the floor as the creature claws at Mitabu, grappling the poor Mwangi. Mitabu struggles to pull away while flailing with his hastily pulled dagger.

Wogan blasts the trapdoor with his pistols, then Serpent chops at the door with his ax. The monster leaps aside as the door breaks into pieces.

The monster grapples and shoves a tongue down Mitabu's throat, paralyzing the pirate. It turns and leaps upon Serpent, clawing and scrabbling. Sindawe dashes up the ladder and punches the skeletal creature (13pts). Wogan follows and flanks with Sindawe. Serpent chops at it one-handed as he is grappled, missing.

It releases its grip on Serpent in order to rain more blows on him (12pts and grappled again). Wogan tries to touch the creature with *cure critical wounds* spell. Sindawe flurries fists and kicks (21pts). Serpent rages while raining ax blows on it one-handed (38pts).

The monster seems quite healthy. Serpent fights off paralysis again so it double claws him again (11pts and grappled again). Wogan discharges his *cure critical wounds* on it (44pts, halved to 22pts), hurting it badly. Serpent's axe connects once for 20pts, shattering the creature!

Its form buckles under the massive weight of its entrails. Wogan examines the corpse, announcing, “This is a mohrg. He would have been a serial killer when alive.”

Falken and Mitabu revive after several minutes. Wogan starts passing out healing magic.

Meanwhile Sindawe throws some furniture into the long cabin’s hall to slow attackers (none currently present), locks the door to the outside. The corpses in the cellar – they are a collection of the lighthouse keeper, his family, the first re-supply run, and random shipwrecked sailors.