

The Group

Chris notices that *Bruce* has logged in, and even acknowledges this, but it goes to no avail because he is muted. *Bruce* is pleased anyway, because at least *Chris* is willing to put out the effort. And that's more than *Bruce's* intern is willing to do. *Patrick* steers clear of this conversation, because he recognizes that the fact that both *Bruce* and *Chris* have to deal with recalcitrant employees. *Paul* joins in later and makes much the same conclusion. Dealing with employees is just the worst.

Ernest listens to everyone else, and all he can hear is, “Hippie! Hippie hippie hippie!” Nobody questions this.

Each character has five Hero Points to assign to bonuses for the session.

- *Nightwalker* - KDI family member, traumatized by time in the Hul dimension, has a pneumatic arm spike and a swinging grapple line. The leader.
- *Feral Juggernaut* - kid superhero in training, junk yard gadgets and brawling (real name: Rupert Jagger)
- *Wisp* - Nightwalker's new girlfriend, turns into mist? or turns invisible? We're not really sure.
- *The Gecko* - agile, wall walking, chameleon, and uses guns.
- *Cosmotron* - the cosmic spirit that briefly possessed Dynamo Joe, now housed in a flesh-bot duplicate of Umbral/Abyssal (real name: 𐄂𐄃𐄄𐄅𐄆𐄇𐄈𐄉𐄊𐄋𐄌𐄍𐄎𐄏𐄐𐄑𐄒𐄓𐄔𐄕𐄖𐄗𐄘𐄙𐄚𐄛𐄜𐄝𐄞𐄟𐄠𐄡𐄢𐄣𐄤𐄥𐄦𐄧𐄨𐄩𐄪𐄫𐄬𐄭𐄮𐄯𐄰𐄱𐄲𐄳𐄴𐄵𐄶𐄷𐄸𐄹𐄺𐄻𐄼𐄽𐄾𐄿𐅀𐅁𐅂𐅃𐅄𐅅𐅆𐅇𐅈𐅉𐅊𐅋𐅌𐅍𐅎𐅏𐅐𐅑𐅒𐅓𐅔𐅕𐅖𐅗𐅘𐅙𐅚𐅛𐅜𐅝𐅞𐅟𐅠𐅡𐅢𐅣𐅤𐅥𐅦𐅧𐅨𐅩𐅪𐅫𐅬𐅭𐅮𐅯𐅰𐅱𐅲𐅳𐅴𐅵𐅶𐅷𐅸𐅹𐅺𐅻𐅼𐅽𐅾𐅿𐆀𐆁𐆂𐆃𐆄𐆅𐆆𐆇𐆈𐆉𐆊𐆋𐆌𐆍𐆎𐆏𐆐𐆑𐆒𐆓𐆔𐆕𐆖𐆗𐆘𐆙𐆚𐆛𐆜𐆝𐆞𐆟𐆠𐆡𐆢𐆣𐆤𐆥𐆦𐆧𐆨𐆩𐆪𐆫𐆬𐆭𐆮𐆯𐆰𐆱𐆲𐆳𐆴𐆵𐆶𐆷𐆸𐆹𐆺𐆻𐆼𐆽𐆾𐆿𐇀𐇁𐇂𐇃𐇄𐇅𐇆𐇇𐇈𐇉𐇊𐇋𐇌𐇍𐇎𐇏𐇐𐇑𐇒𐇓𐇔𐇕𐇖𐇗𐇘𐇙𐇚𐇛𐇜𐇝𐇞𐇟𐇠𐇡𐇢𐇣𐇤𐇥𐇦𐇧𐇨𐇩𐇪𐇫𐇬𐇭𐇮𐇯𐇰𐇱𐇲𐇳𐇴𐇵𐇶𐇷𐇸𐇹𐇺𐇻𐇼𐇽𐇾𐇿𐈀𐈁𐈂𐈃𐈄𐈅𐈆𐈇𐈈𐈉𐈊𐈋𐈌𐈍𐈎𐈏𐈐𐈑𐈒𐈓𐈔𐈕𐈖𐈗𐈘𐈙𐈚𐈛𐈜𐈝𐈞𐈟𐈠𐈡𐈢𐈣𐈤𐈥𐈦𐈧𐈨𐈩𐈪𐈫𐈬𐈭𐈮𐈯𐈰𐈱𐈲𐈳𐈴𐈵𐈶𐈷𐈸𐈹𐈺𐈻𐈼𐈽𐈾𐈿𐉀𐉁𐉂𐉃𐉄𐉅𐉆𐉇𐉈𐉉𐉊𐉋𐉌𐉍𐉎𐉏𐉐𐉑𐉒𐉓𐉔𐉕𐉖𐉗𐉘𐉙𐉚𐉛𐉜𐉝𐉞𐉟𐉠𐉡𐉢𐉣𐉤𐉥𐉦𐉧𐉨𐉩𐉪𐉫𐉬𐉭𐉮𐉯𐉰𐉱𐉲𐉳𐉴𐉵𐉶𐉷𐉸𐉹𐉺𐉻𐉼𐉽𐉾𐉿𐊀𐊁𐊂𐊃𐊄𐊅𐊆𐊇𐊈𐊉𐊊𐊋𐊌𐊍𐊎𐊏𐊐𐊑𐊒𐊓𐊔𐊕𐊖𐊗𐊘𐊙𐊚𐊛𐊜𐊝𐊞𐊟𐊠𐊡𐊢𐊣𐊤𐊥𐊦𐊧𐊨𐊩𐊪𐊫𐊬𐊭𐊮𐊯𐊰𐊱𐊲𐊳𐊴𐊵𐊶𐊷𐊸𐊹𐊺𐊻𐊼𐊽𐊾𐊿𐋀𐋁𐋂𐋃𐋄𐋅𐋆𐋇𐋈𐋉𐋊𐋋𐋌𐋍𐋎𐋏𐋐𐋑𐋒𐋓𐋔𐋕𐋖𐋗𐋘𐋙𐋚𐋛𐋜𐋝𐋞𐋟𐋠𐋡𐋢𐋣𐋤𐋥𐋦𐋧𐋨𐋩𐋪𐋫𐋬𐋭𐋮𐋯𐋰𐋱𐋲𐋳𐋴𐋵𐋶𐋷𐋸𐋹𐋺𐋻𐋼𐋽𐋾𐋿𐌀𐌁𐌂𐌃𐌄𐌅𐌆𐌇𐌈𐌉𐌊𐌋𐌌𐌍𐌎𐌏𐌐𐌑𐌒𐌓𐌔𐌕𐌖𐌗𐌘𐌙𐌚𐌛𐌜𐌝𐌞𐌟𐌠𐌡𐌢𐌣𐌤𐌥𐌦𐌧𐌨𐌩𐌪𐌫𐌬𐌭𐌮𐌯𐌰𐌱𐌲𐌳𐌴𐌵𐌶𐌷𐌸𐌹𐌺𐌻𐌼𐌽𐌾𐌿𐍀𐍁𐍂𐍃𐍄𐍅𐍆𐍇𐍈𐍉𐍊𐍋𐍌𐍍𐍎𐍏𐍐𐍑𐍒𐍓𐍔𐍕𐍖𐍗𐍘𐍙𐍚𐍛𐍜𐍝𐍞𐍟𐍠𐍡𐍢𐍣𐍤𐍥𐍦𐍧𐍨𐍩𐍪𐍫𐍬𐍭𐍮𐍯𐍰𐍱𐍲𐍳𐍴𐍵𐍶𐍷𐍸𐍹𐍺𐍻𐍼𐍽𐍾𐍿𐎀𐎁𐎂𐎃𐎄𐎅𐎆𐎇𐎈𐎉𐎊𐎋𐎌𐎍𐎎𐎏𐎐𐎑𐎒𐎓𐎔𐎕𐎖𐎗𐎘𐎙𐎚𐎛𐎜𐎝𐎞𐎟𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨𐎩𐎪𐎫𐎬𐎭𐎮𐎯𐎰𐎱𐎲𐎳𐎴𐎵𐎶𐎷𐎸𐎹𐎺𐎻𐎼𐎽𐎾𐎿𐏀𐏁𐏂𐏃𐏄𐏅𐏆𐏇𐏈𐏉𐏊𐏋𐏌𐏍𐏎𐏏𐏐𐏑𐏒𐏓𐏔𐏕𐏖𐏗𐏘𐏙𐏚𐏛𐏜𐏝𐏞𐏟𐏠𐏡𐏢𐏣𐏤𐏥𐏦𐏧𐏨𐏩𐏪𐏫𐏬𐏭𐏮𐏯𐏰𐏱𐏲𐏳𐏴𐏵𐏶𐏷𐏸𐏹𐏺𐏻𐏼𐏽𐏾𐏿𐐀𐐁𐐂𐐃𐐄𐐅𐐆𐐇𐐈𐐉𐐊𐐋𐐌𐐍𐐎𐐏𐐐𐐑𐐒𐐓𐐔𐐕𐐖𐐗𐐘𐐙𐐚𐐛𐐜𐐝𐐞𐐟𐐠𐐡𐐢𐐣𐐤𐐥𐐦𐐧𐐨𐐩𐐪𐐫𐐬𐐭𐐮𐐯𐐰𐐱𐐲𐐳𐐴𐐵𐐶𐐷𐐸𐐹𐐺𐐻𐐼𐐽𐐾𐐿𐑀𐑁𐑂𐑃𐑄𐑅𐑆𐑇𐑈𐑉𐑊𐑋𐑌𐑍𐑎𐑏𐑐𐑑𐑒𐑓𐑔𐑕𐑖𐑗𐑘𐑙𐑚𐑛𐑜𐑝𐑞𐑟𐑠𐑡𐑢𐑣𐑤𐑥𐑦𐑧𐑨𐑩𐑪𐑫𐑬𐑭𐑮𐑯𐑰𐑱𐑲𐑳𐑴𐑵𐑶𐑷𐑸𐑹𐑺𐑻𐑼𐑽𐑾𐑿𐒀𐒁𐒂𐒃𐒄𐒅𐒆𐒇𐒈𐒉𐒊𐒋𐒌𐒍𐒎𐒏𐒐𐒑𐒒𐒓𐒔𐒕𐒖𐒗𐒘𐒙𐒚𐒛𐒜𐒝𐒞𐒟𐒠𐒡𐒢𐒣𐒤𐒥𐒦𐒧𐒨𐒩𐒪𐒫𐒬𐒭𐒮𐒯𐒰𐒱𐒲𐒳𐒴𐒵𐒶𐒷𐒸𐒹𐒺𐒻𐒼𐒽𐒾𐒿𐓀𐓁𐓂𐓃𐓄𐓅𐓆𐓇𐓈𐓉𐓊𐓋𐓌𐓍𐓎𐓏𐓐𐓑𐓒

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New Days at KDI

El Genio is spending long hours in the KDI Technology Lab, putting the finishing touches upon his new antigravity air/raft. Working alongside him is *Madolynn Kartrite*, a Technology lab technician, with lovely giant hands. She has an impeccable background, and has nothing suspicious at all in her history, except that she is an infiltrator for an Evil Conspiracy (unbeknownst to all). *El Genio* is legitimately smitten.

Overwatch never changes. He puts the new, updated KDI logo on his uniform. And he cannot help but chuckling at the fact that *El Genio* cannot stop talking about how wonderful *Madolynn* is. He also spends a lot of time with *Feral Juggernaut*, upgrading the kid's suit. He wants to see the *Bondi Beach Brawlers* turn into a real superhero team. He finds that having the *Juggernaut* around is useful, because he can send the young hero over to hear *El Genio's* bad poetry about how wonderful *Madolynn* is. This, plus the fact that *Overwatch* routinely ignores the *Juggernaut's* suggestions, leaves the young hero with a growing grudge against *Overwatch*.

Feral Juggernaut goes to *Dynamo Joe* to complain about *Overwatch*. *Dynamo Joe* assures him, "When I was part of *Baron Blade's* organization rival scientists would undermine each other all the time. The best solution was to murder your rival, but pin the crime on someone else. I don't think it works the same around here." *Feral Juggernaut* takes this advice to heart, which is likely to end well.

Yowie finds that he faces a crossroads. He could become more of a normal human, allowing the *Yowie* to pass on, or he could embrace the *Dreamworlds* and truly become the *Yowie*. This dichotomy is captured by his efforts to pursue both *Dr. Broussard* (who represents his attraction to the mundane world) and *Jansa vi Dero* (who would be his gateway to abandoning his humanity). He schedules an AMA at the newly-reforested *Ayers Rock* to talk about how the *Outback* environment can be reclaimed. The interview goes well, but it forces *Yowie* to try to get in touch with his feelings in a way that is difficult for him. He ends up thinking upon his departure from the military, which was forced by the strangulation murder of his Colonel's daughter. He was briefly suspected of the crime but later cleared, though the Colonel has never forgiven him.

Golden Key learns new abilities from the *Heart of Acceleration* during his time in the Enclave of the *Endlings*, changing the way his speed-draining powers function. He also comes away from the Enclave with a pouch full of strange alien keys.

Dynamo Joe spends a lot of time in personal development, changing himself from a cobbled-together mess into an advanced sophisticated robot. He also develops a ChatGPT-style LLM so his dialogue isn't as stilted. He also helps KDI's reputation and market position by expanding to cover "mini-Kaiju", specifically the plague of dingo-kaiju who are breaking holes in the Great Australian Dingo Fence. In the process, he learns that the creation of the dingo-kaiju relates to a future threat that the group will have to face. The mini-kaiju have the aura of the Void to them – they might be creations of the Umbral!

KDI Is Doing Well

The characters' activities have done well by KDI. The business is expanding, requiring a larger headquarters. As an additional benefit, *Sergeant Stan* is promoted to be *Lieutenant Stan*. In game terms, this makes him a lieutenant rather than a minion, so he's a lot more survivable.

A Swirling Gust of Wind!



The group is assembled in the KDI boardroom to discuss the mini-kaiju problems when there is a sudden gust of wind! Papers go flying and out of the chaos steps *The Harpy*. She tells the group that there is a problem – the *Argent Adept* has gone missing, and she fears that the *Umbral* might be responsible. “With the power bestowed upon me by the Sacred Mask I can guide you through the Void and take you to the ethereal plane and the Void so you can unravel the Umbral’s machinations and save the Argent Adept!”

Yowie offers, “Let me just get geared up for Void travel. We need to be dressed as if we were in the movie *Labyrinth*. That means codpieces for everyone.” The others make their own preparations. Dynamo Joe in particular tells the others that he left a network of dingo sensors out in the Outback, hoping to detect signs of the Void Portal the Umbral is using to release his mutated dingo kaiju. He is able to detect Void emanations, but his efforts draw the attentions of other Void entities.

The Dark Side of the Moon

The Harpy tells the others that she learned to create Mist Gates from Nightmist, before Nightmist was destroyed herself opening gates to all alternate realities simultaneously during the OblivAeon Crisis. She invokes a gate and transports the group through a glowing portal to a dark landscape. Looking up, the characters can see the Earth – they realize that they are on a Void Reflection of the dark side of the Moon.

In the distance, the Argent Adept is visible chained to the side of a Lunar Volcano. A shadowy evocation of the Umbral stands by the Adept, drawing power away from the Adept. A Moon-dragon, its form shifting from dead Lunar white to near-invisible black as the shadows play across its skin, stands guard. And a squad of Moon-men marches forward to menace the characters.

Golden Key rushes all around the Moon-men playing the *Devil’s dentist*. He knocks out a lot of teeth, taking down two Moon-men in the process. El Genio rides his air/raft to the attack, propelling it through the Void on sheer personal confidence. He attacks the Moon-dragon’s wings, but is utterly repelled. Dynamo Joe tells the others, “We need to understand the environment of the Void!” He hands Yowie a set of Void goggles that show him the power nexi of the area (+3 persistent).

Yowie grows to tremendous size and attempts to strike the Umbral – but his attack is foiled by the Moon-dragon, which interposes itself between the two of them and returns with *claw-claw-bite-wing-wing-tail* attack. The Umbral’s Shadow commands the Moon-dragon, and it responds by clawing El Genio once again.

Dynamo Joe finds that he can still *analyze* the Moon-dragon's attack patterns. El Genio leaps up on the back on the Moon-dragon to understand why his earlier attack had no effect. He finds that on the dark side of the dragon the creature is only a creature of flesh, not stone! He gives the dragon a hammering on its fleshy parts.

Yowie acts like he's going to bring the fight to the Moon-dragon, but at the last moment he diverts and flings a protective *cocoon of vines* around the Argent Adept. The *Wisp* shows up and creates a misty duplicate of El Genio to protect him from attack.

Overwatch flies up to fire on the Moon-dragon. El Genio follows him by air/raft, fortifying himself with *void elixirs* along the way. The dragon doesn't know what hit it, in part because it doesn't take a lot of damage from the experience.

Dynamo Joe ties Overwatch's telemetrics feed into a *swarm of rocket drones* and sends it to surround Golden Key, passing him useful information. Golden Key uses his *supersonic streak* to eliminate the last of the Moon-men, forcing the rocket drones to struggle to keep up with him.

Yowie fights with Umbral's shadow duplicate, all the while calling out, "Ohana means family! And family means nobody gets left behind!" The Umbral's shadow fades back away from Yowie, and is visibly not convinced by Yowie's words, or the photo album he carries.

The Moon-dragon roars out, creating *Lunar echoes* that prevent the characters from boosting each other. It tears into El Genio, who is protected by Golden Key's *hundred shields*. Then Umbral's shadow uses his *otherworldly awareness* to boost himself, and the Moon-dragon. And El Genio realizes that the obvious way to counter the Moon-dragon's echoes is to yell loud enough to cancel them out – this isn't intuitive, but it is effective. El Genio's echo-canceling shout echoes across the dark Lunar landscape!

Dynamo Joe and Yowie carry out a series of one-two electricity-and-shapeshifting attacks against Umbral's shadow. Golden Key joins in stepping on the shadow's face. Aided by a swarm of rocket drones, Golden Key leaves Umbral looking pretty rough.

Stan the Mechanic cheers on Yowie and Golden Key. Go, heroes, go!

A moment later, Umbral's shadow reaches out and suppresses Yowie's and Golden Key's powers with a *Void siphon*. The heroes reel back from the attack, then are forced back further by a *teleport barrage* that leaves Stan wounded. Umbral retreats back into the protective aura of the Moon-dragon. The dragon lashes out at the characters, snapping at El Genio, Overwatch, and Dynamo Joe.

El Genio grabs the Moon-dragon by the (shadowed) wing and grapples it, sending the creature crashing to the ground. Yowie follows up with a "Good bustaroonie!", which he refuses to explain to any of the others. He attacks, transforming into a plant shape and engulfing the Dragon in strangling vines. Dynamo Joe unleashes his *mega-cannon*, a weapon to be used only the most dire circumstances, and blasts the Moon-dragon, destroying it! Moonlight floods out of the creature's body, flooding the entire landscape and transforming the area from the dark to the light side of the Moon!

The Umbral's shadow turns *invisible*, then reappears to pick up Dynamo Joe and smash him across his shadowed knee. Dynamo Joe evades with his newly-designed super-flexible body and avoids true harm.

A sudden *Moon dust storm* obscures vision and hampers breathing! (Breathing on the Moon? This is actually the Void, remember...). Golden Key comes straight out of the storm intent upon striking the Umbral's shadow, but finds that the villain's invisibility protects him very effectively. Yowie uses the *principle of flora* to spray out enough pollen to reveal Umbral's location.

Dynamo Joe activates *weird alien tech*, generating a bubble of strange energy that attacks the Umbral while healing himself and Yowie.

El Genio hurls himself down from the sky. He strikes the Umbral's shadow with one moon rock, then when the Umbral turns to stare at him he throws the second moon rock. The Umbral's shadow is destroyed, and the environment starts to go crazy, strobing bright and dark as it starts to lose focus. The Argent Adept mumbles, "We should really leave now." Everyone heads to the Mist Gate.

The Umbral's Devious Plan

The echoes of battle fade away as the characters emerge into their headquarters from the Mist Gate. The weakened Argent Adept tells the others, "I cannot express my gratitude. The Umbral seeks to recover the Amulet of the Abyss! For that he requires the Tome of Kralatos!"

Harpy is incredulous, "Surely that piece of lore must be long lost, or hidden away in some far corner of the multiverse!"

Argent Adept answers, "No, it is here on Earth! It is at the Diamond Manor, now called the Aviary!"

Harpy is incredulous, "Diamond Manor! You mean my home! I have placed strong defenses there – the Tome is safe!"

The Argent Adept takes a serious tone, "You underestimate the Umbral's power."

The Harpy explains to the others, "My mentor was the last of the Diamond family, and after her passing I inherited their family mansion which I have renamed the Aviary."

Yowie asks, "So, this is like a rich person's private island?"

"No, it is a mansion in the swamps outside of Rook City. I'll defend the Aviary with every fiber of my being! I'm not going to allow the Umbral to seize the Tome!"

While the Argent Adept and the Harpy discuss the Umbral's plans, most of the other characters attempt to reconcile the Harpy's age considering her previous identity as the Matriarch, her stint in prison, and her eventual reformation. Based on that (and her appearance as the Matriarch) she should be in her 50's or maybe her 60's, except that the Harpy visibly appears to be in her 20's or 30's.

Suborbital Flight to Rook City

The characters take a quick flight across the world to get to Rook City, where Yowie introduces everyone to Rook City-style deep-dish pizza. They look like tourists as they drink down huge quantities of light beer. The Harpy plays along with them, and on the side orders an entire separate pizza that she takes outside and feeds to the birds. Massive, massive flocks of birds. None of the characters notice that she's doing this, though lots of onlookers do – and give her wide berth.

Dynamo Joe can't really enjoy pizza, so he goes to the famous but mysterious statue called the Bean. He spends actual hours staring at the thing.

El Genio enjoys pizza with the guys, then goes to call Madalynn Kartrite to tell her how much he misses her... and then tells her all sorts of sensitive operational details about the mission. The comic panel after he hangs up shows her walking away from the phone, transforming into a dark, shadowy shape.

Overwatch learns what he can about the Diamond family. He finds that they were monster hunters and heroes for generations, and that one of their legacies was the *Diamond Book of Monsters* that describes the weaknesses and dangers of a huge array of threats they dealt with. He also finds that they spent years turning their mansion into a combination fortress and (monster) containment facility. Truly, there are few places on earth that would be a better place to hide the *Book of Kralatos*.

Golden Key just hangs around with the Harpy, listening to her and saying things like, "Wow, you're one of the few women I know who can pull off a bird mask!" He has found out that she used to be a supervillain, and now he's all in. His taste in women is specific, and definitely ill-fated. It's also not entirely clear if Harpy is even interested in men, though Golden Key is guaranteed to not pick up on that.

The Aviary, Cursed by Shadow

The characters arrive at the Aviary to find it engulfed with shadows as Umbral's mocking laughter echoes around the property. The Harpy exclaims, "We're too late! The Umbral has already arrived!" A gang of shadow clones menace the characters.

Golden Key tells the others, "We don't have a moment to waste!" He vanishes with super-speed and returns a moment later with a crate of cheap dollar-store mirrors. They might be cheap, but they're enough to drive away the shadow clones.

Now that the characters are able to see the mansion, they are able to see ancient glyphs that create a barrier blocking access to the building. Overwatch takes to the air and describes the locations and shape of the glyphs to the others. Yowie tells the others, "It will be too hard to defeat the glyphs, so we're going to bypass them." He uses the *intangibility* of his dream-form to slip past the barrier and deactivate the Baruch glyph from the back. As he does, he realizes that he can also eliminate the illusionary mist that fills the mansion, distorting time and distance.

The characters move into the mansion. Unstable portals appear and disappear around them. The Harpy warns them, "The stress of the events is affecting the house. Chaos portals are starting to appear!"

Dynamo Joe sends a swarm of drones ahead of the group. He hopes to determine a safe path by watching where drones disappear. He is able to find a path, but some of his drones end up trapped by portals and are transformed into hateful reverse versions of themselves.

Villains in the Library

The characters are eventually able to find the Library at the heart of the manor. Umbral is there, along with some allies. One is *Myriad*, a swarm of bugs shaped into the form of a human. The other is a huge female *Grila the Troll*. And a strange giant puzzle-box floats in the center of the room. Myriad starts generating insect-swarm minions.

Harpy tells the others, "That's the Sphere of Dimodos!" Apparently, she recognizes it from her childhood.

Golden Key and Overwatch aren't paying much attention, because the evil drones are flying in to the attack. Umbral orders Grila the Troll to leap across the room at Dynamo Joe with *terrifying hunger*. El Genio steps up and decks her. Meanwhile, Golden Key unleashes the *Devil's dentist* on the evil drones, destroying them all.

Yowie leaps and grows, grabbing the Sphere of Dimodos in two hands and compressing it back to inactivity. He flings it straight at Umbral, forcing the villain to back off.

El Genio hits Grila again, knocking her over a couch. Dynamo Joe attacks Grila, but disturbs a hidden glyph as he does. The assembled magic of the Library lashes back at him and drains him of all his powers!

For her part, Grila hits Golden Key with a bit of *trollish might*. Her hunger is terrifying! Golden Key announces, "She just bit through my shoulder!" Yowie reaches through the Dreamtime and relocates Golden Key away from Grila... to Umbral and Myriad. He arrives just in time to see Myriad organizing up another five giant insect swarms. They attempt to devour Golden Key alive. He mourns, "This is easily the worst Wednesday I've ever had." El Genio distracts Grila by boxing with her.

Umbral tells Golden Key, "I don't want kill you, I just need to get my amulet back!" He grabs a seemingly random book from the library shelf and surrounds it in a bubble of magic. It floats upwards and vanishes.

Dynamo Joe, left without powers, attempts to deactivate the evil drones by simply turning them off. He succeeds, but he ends up with a (deactivated) magnetic drone stuck to his arm.

Grila takes a roundhouse swing at El Genio, who ducks right underneath her ham-fist.

Myriad infuses his minion swarms with infernal power. They tear into Golden Key, who is saved only by the fact that Yowie is able to reach *through the veil* to deflect the damage. Golden Key rushes into a *supersonic streak*, tearing apart every insect swarm in his reach and hammering Myriad. Yowie steps up next to him, and clobbers Myriad again. And Golden Key follows up once again, leaving Myriad

absolutely on the edge. Then Yowie grows *taller than a building* and flings Myriad right into Umbral. This takes out Myriad, but leaves Umbral (who has the benefit of being *invisible*) largely unharmed.

Loyal Stan the Mechanic rushes over to Dynamo Joe and breaks the curse restricting his powers, though in the process he absorbs the curse's energy and gets knocked out. Dynamo Joe responds by powering up his *tesla cannon* and letting Grila have it. He discovers that Grila is specifically hurt by electricity! Then El Genio picks up a sofa and uses it like a bat to knock Grila right through a window. "Home run!"

Golden Key notes, "Now you're honor bound to marry her!"

Umbral realizes that his allies are all down. He moves over to attack Golden Key... with almost zero effect. Then is forced to dodge to avoid Overwatch's gunfire, and Golden Key's *sudden stop*. None of that helps when Dynamo Joe clocks him with the *tesla coil*. Or when Yowie and El Genio batter him with powerful fists. Finally, Umbral simply evaporates into shadow.

Once the fighting is done, the Harpy checks the library and verifies that the Umbral did in fact get the *Tome of Kralatos*. However, the Argent Adept explains that he was able to conceal one piece of key information from the Umbral – the completion of his ritual also requires the *Utopian Spindle*, also concealed in the halls of the Aviary. The characters have an important choice to make: defend the Spindle, or destroy it (which will not be easy).

Everyone discusses the situation, and agree: the Utopian Spindle must be destroyed.

End of the Session

The session ends with the characters deciding that the Utopian Spindle must be destroyed. The characters gained 5 Hero Points to use next session.