

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 2/27/2022

TODAY'S EPISODE: THE HANGING OF JALIA RAMIREZ

Our heroes have returned Port Shaw to settle some scores and pick up Jacinth Deepwarder, an expert on ancient elf settlements.

Our 9th 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).

Serpent's Wife's House

Our heroes are recovering at Samaritha's house having just finished baths and several bottles of wine. The children, Fenrir and Jorum, are asleep. Hatshepsut leaves the room for a minute.

Sindawe whispers to Wogan, "Okay, the one kid is Jorum and the other one is Finger?"

Wogan replies, "Uh, yes?!"

Hatshepsut returns to the room and says, "It's Fenrir."

Sindawe and Wogan nod and spend some brain cells on remembering their names. They note the two are standing in the hallway staring at the visitors.

Sindawe flexes his hand painfully, noting that it still hurts where Old Fish hit him with an assassin's trick.

The pair crash in the guest room, falling asleep. Until their cypher glyphs start tingling. Wogan and Sindawe gear up then enter the hall, where they meet Serpent, who is similarly armed.

They go downstairs where they are joined by Samaritha who explains, “That happens several times a week. The cypher glyphs tingle, but only a second or two. As if they are running or flying by.”

Into the Night

Serpent excuses himself to check the perimeter, then returns to tell the others, “Three guys in an alley nearby. Sindawe, you are fast... do you want to check it out?”

Sindawe asks a few questions, but Serpent doesn't have much more info. Sindawe sneaks outside and comes around on the alley's other end.

Lurking like a Korean ninja, he watches the trio pass around a bottle. Two men, one older, and a woman. The younger two are teenagers.

He decides that the situation is relatively safe, so he approaches and asks, “What's going on here?”

The younger two run for it. The old guy stands his ground, explaining, “I'm allowed to drink in this alley!”

Sindawe whistles for his companions, who walk out and over slowly. They ask the guy if he's seen anything unusual. He doesn't, though he does have some usual stories of the “I have spent too many nights drunk and I have seen things” type.

Sindawe threatens the man's life to shake loose some information. The man is very frightened and mentions "creepy kids, creeping about". Serpent says in Aklo, "I think he's talking about *my* kids."

They walk him back to the house for Samaritha to clean his brain of "creepy children" memories with magic. The man leaves with a wine bottle and no memories of what just happened or of creepy children.

Sindawe washes the alley filth off his shoes, while Serpent, who hears a window open and close, re-enters the house to quietly look around. He determines that his kids snuck back in to the house just now. He wakes them up from their pretend sleep and asks them questions. They readily admit that they sneak out to study the "hu-mons" after dark.

Wogan, Sindawe, and others go back to sleep. Serpent and Samaritha discuss the children's misadventures.

The Morning Paper

The morning comes and the house dines on fried bread and coffee.

Samaritha asks, "What's new?"

Wogan explains, "We foiled an assassin's attack on Father Zalen, traced him back to his shop and found his ledger book. A hidden, encoded ledger book. Can you take a look at it?"

Wogan hands Old Fish's ledger book over to Samaritha. She looks it over and determines, "It is a list of targets with a symbol identifying a client. No key for the client symbols. He's had a long career with work outside Port Shaw, and then some marks since coming here,

including a Mr. and Mrs. Ramires. Then there's a seven year gap without any work. He started work again just recently with the names Sagacious Samuel and Father Zalen listed, with the same client symbol."

She asks, "What will you be doing here in port?"

Sindawe answers, "We are wrapping up some loose ends, then setting out for a long voyage. Did you husband ask you about going along with us?"

Samaritha's head swivels to look at Serpent who answers lamely, "Yes, you are welcome to come along."

They discuss the pros and cons with Samaritha deciding, "We will go with you and the ship. I want to see this coast's version of the Cyphergate."

The group spends several hours packing essentials, gear, and the children's belongings. That said, the household was ready to bug out in short order. Samaritha explains, "I will hire the local cart lad to haul our goods to the ship."

An insistently ringing bell at the front gate is from a pair of Jalia Ramires' street kids, practically shouting, "They got Miss Jalia! They are going to hang her!"

To The Hanging Dock

Our heroes follow the street kids down to the docks. They join the streams of people also heading to the docks, because word has gotten out that there will be a hanging. At the docks, several hundred people are gathered around make-shift gallows.

There is a batch of Dragoons at the gallows. Wogan takes the crowd's measure; they are agitated. The people in the crowd are talking about, "They are going to hang a were-shark agent!" Others say, "No, she killed someone!"

Sindawe uses his *bat of disguise* to take on the form of Gregory Bonedeuce, even though he is out of town. He moves through the crowd and approaches the Dragoons.

A corporal greets him, "Commander?"

He asks the corporal, "When is she due? Who is escorting her? Where is she being brought in from?"

The corporal, "From the fortress. A standard squad. Any minute now."

He tells the corporal, "If things go wrong, hold your position, keep the crowd back, and make sure the execution goes smoothly."

Sindawe returns to his friends and tells them, "They will be here any minute!"

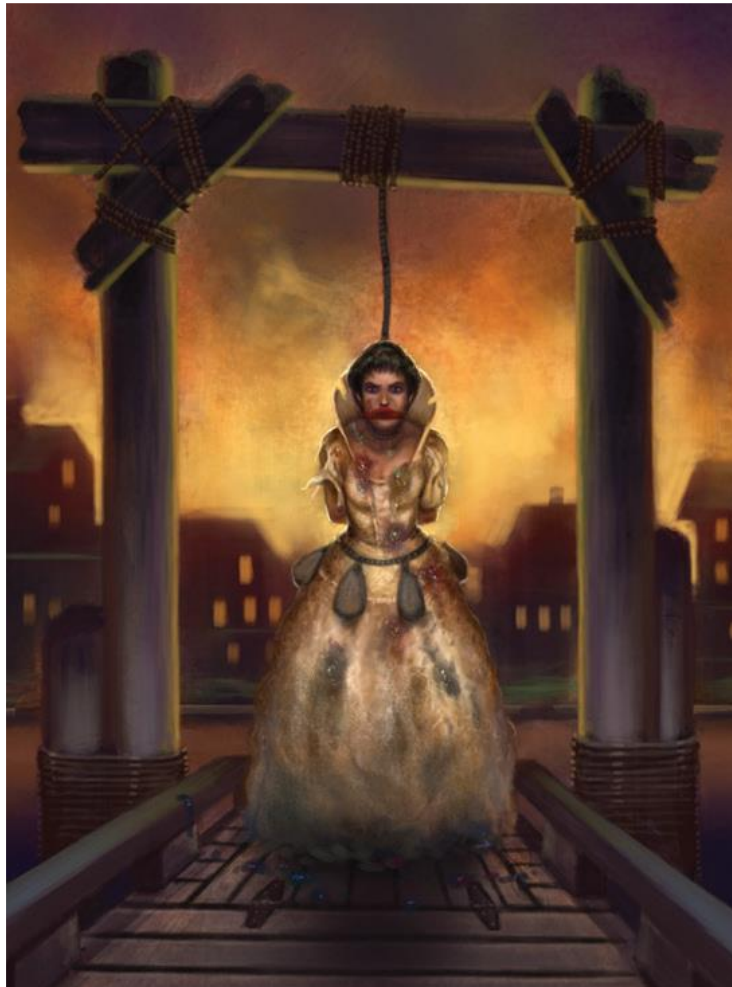
Their cypher glyphs burn! Sindawe notices several undercover Dragoons in the crowd. All of them see Barrison Hargrove, a hard-eyed and unknown Dragoon captain, and a squad of Dragoons pushing their way through the crowd escorting a somewhat roughed-up Jalia Rodrigues in a white satin dress.

Sindawe whispers to his friends, "Let's hit them now! Wogan, throw a *fireball*!"

Wogan looks around and the hundreds of bystanders and replies, "Really?!?"

Sindawe says, "Okay... how about a *sleet spell* then?"

Wogan, "Aye, aye, captain!"



Sindawe approaches Jalia's escort still disguised as Bonedeuce, then Wogan drops the *sleet storm* on their group and up to the Dragoons guarding the gallows. It blocks all sight and makes the ground very icy in a large area, and extinguishes torches and other small fires

Serpent starts into the *sleet storm*, then pushes deeper in, trying to reach Jalia. He shoves past screaming people, navigating unerringly through the Dragoon escort. He grabs a fistful of white satin, throws its owner over his shoulder, and heads out.

Sindawe drives through the crowd but gets hung up on the Dragoon escort in the sleet. He shouts out as Bonedeuce, confusing the Dragoons.

The sleet disappears. Flying overhead is Aeron Chambers, Sorcerer Supreme of the Dragoons. Several Dragoons are escorting Barrison Hargrove away. Serpent does have Jalia over his shoulder.

Wogan takes all of this in, then *dispels* Aeron Chambers' *fly* spell! The sorcerer slowly drifts to the ground in the crowd.

The bristle-faced commander goes after Serpent! The remains of his squad follow him, though several linger a half-second to look for orders from Sindawe (disguised as Bonedeuce).

The Dragoons near the gallows volley fire at Wogan but just end up hitting the crowd around him. A squad of Dragoon sorcerers appear on a nearby balcony and fire *magic missiles* at Wogan and Serpent.

Serpent pushes his way through the press, shoving and stabbing Dragoons, sending them toppling like toddlers.

The Dragoon captain announces himself as, "Surrender yourselves to Mulgrass Freth!"

Sindawe decides that Serpent has his situation under control, so he throws himself into the crowd to get at the grounded Aeron Chambers! He pours on the speed with a ki point and arrives at Aeron's side. Aeron does not look convinced that Bonedeuce has come to his rescue and unleashes a volley of *scorching rays* – only one hits, but many bystanders die in the fiery rays.

Wogan decides the rescue is over and he is screwed, so he dons his Gozreh mask and casts *obscuring mist* so he can make good his escape. He moves with the crowd, heading for the nearest alley.

Mulgrass Freth charges Serpent, but the crowd holds him back, so he pulls a pistol and shoots Jalia. The bound and gagged woman screams in pain over Serpent's shoulder. Mulgrass' Dragoons do no better in getting through the crowd. The Dragoons guarding the gallows fire at Serpent; a musket blows up, covering the unit in shrapnel and black powder smoke.

A Dragoon sorcerer on the balcony casts *glitterdust* on Serpent, failing to blind him, but covering him and everyone around him in glittering, magic dust. Several more sorcerers cast the identical spell on Sindawe, reasoning, "well, that looks like Bonedeuce, so a little *glitterdust* won't hurt him."

Serpent uses his lead to continue fleeing, bursting out of the edge of the crowd! Some of the townsfolk decide to be heroes and try to tackle him, but they only succeed in flailing uselessly on his hide! Mulgrass pushes through the crowd and takes another shot at the bound Jalia.

Sindawe unleashes a flurry of blows on Aeron, stunning him and dealing some damage, but he notes that his skin is very hard! Wogan hits the balcony with an *ice storm* causing magical hailstones to pound down on the sorcerers and obscure the area. Then he flees further away with the crowd. The partially hurt sorcerers retaliate with *magic missiles*; one spots Wogan (7pts) but the other two can only see Sindawe (16pts).

The musket-wielding Dragoons at the gallows fire at Serpent and the crowd around him, hitting the crowd. Serpent shifts Jalia into the "carrying an infant maneuver" to protect her from their fire, charges forward, and sees another unit of Dragoons carrying muskets move into the

open, cutting him off from the Port Shaw streets. He realizes that this is way more force than security for a hanging justifies, it's obviously a trap – probably a trap for them. He dives into the water after casting *water breathing* on himself and Jalia. Wogan runs for the *Chainbreaker* after casting an *obscuring mist* on the new unit of Dragoons.

Sindawe shifts tactics and grapples Aeron, burning him for 14 points! Aeron taps his heels together and is gone from Sindawe's grasp. Sindawe utters something that would make his mother cringe.

Wogan's running form attracts more musket fire. Serpent cuts Jalia's bonds, then they swim for the ship. Sindawe, failing to spot Aeron, heads for the building with the Dragoon sorcerers; he charges into the building and starts up the stairs when he hears arcane chanting from the back room. He backs down the stairs, toward the back room. He pauses behind some furniture to guzzle a *cure moderate wounds* potion. He peeks in through a barely opened door into the back room; it is Aeron Chambers. He finished casting *fly* and leaves via the back door. Sindawe rushes after the man, again pouring on the ki fueled speed, tackling Aeron just before he climbs for altitude (and his *shirt of immolation* deals 12pts of fire damage to the sorcerer).

Wogan continues his run for the ship, where he can see Samaritha and the cart lad offloading her travel luggage and the twins, Finger... Fenrir and Jormun. He can hear Mulgrass' pounding feet behind him, so he screams, "Murder guns on that Dragoon goon!"

Mulgrass notices the murder guns swiveling his way and pauses to throw a smoke stick at the ship; it emits a purple smoke. Then the man runs away. Wogan clears the gangway and looks about for crewmen on the dock and seeing none, orders, "Gangplank up! Now!"

Wogan issues orders: “A team continue getting the murder guns up and clear that dock, B team get us underway, and C team stay out of the way!”

Serpent climbs up from the water of the harbor along the ship’s hull using his serpent totem tricks, hauling Jalia after him. Once on deck, he casts *cure light wounds* on her.

Sindawe guesses at where the sorcerer might have teleported to. He runs right into the house with the balcony full of sorcerers and sure enough, sights the sorcerer fleeing through a back door. He pursues him out into the alley. Aeron pulls out a wand and shoots it over his shoulder at Sindawe, who dodges the blast but a random innocent bystander does not. Aeron takes to the air again but Sindawe gives a running leap and grabs him and pulls him to the ground in a grapple. Sindawe improves his pin on Aeron, while his *shirt of immolation* burns the man (14pts). Aeron finally goes limp. Sindawe stuffs the dead Aeron into his *bag of holding* to the sound of a cannon shot in the distance! Some bystanders gawk as the sorcerer’s body disappears from view. Sindawe tucks the bag away, then takes 10pts of *magic missile* damage from a Dragoon sorcerer who just spilled out the back of the bar. The monk runs away at right angles from the sorcerer and his soon to appear buddies, heading toward the *Chainbreaker*.

Shore Batteries, Fire!

Wogan hears a boom and sees a cloud of smoke from the top of Fort Stormshield’s towers in the distance. The aft side of the *Chainbreaker* takes a cannonball hit (48pts to the 60pt section)! Wooden shivers fly across the deck, wounding crewmen. A troop of Dragoons on the pier fire into the ship too, injuring more crew. Serpent leaps onto the pier, casts *gust of wind* at

Mulgrass' smokestick, sending it further along the pier to land next to a fishing trawler. The *gust of wind* also prevents the Dragoons from rushing him.

Wogan orders the mantlets up to block enemy musket fire, while another team of pirates unfurls the sails.

Mulgrass desperately waves his arms trying to signal the fort to fire at the *Chainbreaker* and not his smoke, when another puff of cannon fire appears. A cannon ball hits the fishing trawler! Wogan uses a *feather token, fan*, to drive wind into their sails. The sudden wind catches the crew by surprise, so Serpent trims line to help his ship clear the ship docked in front of them.

The pier Dragoons fire at the crew, but only hit the mantlets. Mulgrass grabs the smoke stick and runs it back toward the *Chainbreaker*. Wogan orders the murder gun crews, "Shoot that man with the smokestick!" Grapeshot tears holes in the man (13pts), resulting in the thrown smoke stick landing in the water where it is extinguished. Dragoon muskets avenge his wounds by killing a pirate manning a murder gun.

Sindawe pauses to re-disguise himself as Father Zalen, then starts the run down the pier. He tears past the Dragoons on the pier and charges up the gang plank on the cargo ship that was docked in front of the *Chainbreaker*. Mulgrass orders his men to not fire at Father Zalen, on the theory that he's here to smite these evildoers. Wogan *channels positive energy* to save some mortally wounded pirates.

A Dragoon naval ship crawls slowly toward the *Chainbreaker* from the dock at the fort; its chase gun lands a shot in water where the ship will soon be. The second chase gun also misses. "This is completely unreasonable!" cries Wogan. Samaritha casts *fireball* at the pier Dragoons, well

after “Father Zalen” clears the area. The *Chainbreaker* sails by the ship docked in front of them, barely missing it as they make for open water.

Sindawe runs onto the docked ship and makes a running jump from its rail at the departing *Chainbreaker* while Serpent moves to the railing, grabs a line, and swings out to catch him. The two tumble into the aft of the ship.

Run For It!

Wogan orders the aft guns loaded. Serpent tells Sindawe, “Captain, go man the wheel! I don’t think Tommy can see where we are going!” Samaritha hits the pier Dragoons with a second *fireball*, killing many. Samaritha shrieks in agony and points at the dock, where their adopted son Fenrir stands staring at the ship!

Barrison Hargrove appears next to Fenrir and places his hand on his shoulder, causing Samaritha to shift temporarily into serpentfolk form in helpless anger.

Serpent rushes to the rail to see Fenrir and Hargrove disappear from sight. “I wonder if that guy is Tammerhawk?”

Samaritha turns frantically to her husband and replies, “Yes, it’s him!”

The *Chainbreaker* picks up speed, fleeing the concentrated forces of Port Shaw’s military.