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VAEL

VAEL

*Episode 1: Welcome to New Harbour
Transcript*

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Realms of Peril & Glory will begin after these short messages.

[BREAK FOR DYNAMIC INSERTION ADS]

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

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Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Welcome one and Welcome all to the very first episode of Realms of Peril and Glory. Welcome. It is so wonderful to have you here. My name is Zachary Fortais-Gomm and I will be your game master. Joining me is James Barbarossa.

James Barbarossa

Hi, I'm James and I'll be playing the voices of everybody that isn't the players that you're going to hear now or a random soldier.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And playing with us is Maddy Searle.

Maddy Searle

Hi, I'm Maddy and I am playing Isadora Ravenwood, who is a first level half elf Necromancer.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm also here with Elizabeth Campbell.

Elizabeth Campbell

Hello, I am playing the second level orc rogue Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Pip Gladwin

Pip Gladwin

Hi, I'm Pip Gladwin. I am playing Torbrennan the first level dwarf Paladin

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And also Laura Girling.

Laura Girling

Hello, I'm Laura. And I'm going to be playing the level one high elf Bard and Maerydyth Wynvere

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Amazing. Thank you very much guys. So we are going to be playing a game called 13th Age, which is a D20 Fantasy TTRPG designed by Rob Heinsoo, lead designer on D&D fourth

edition, and Jonathan Tweet, designer on D&D third edition, and it's published by Pelgrane Press. If you want to check out the game system yourself, please go to the podcast description for a link to the Pelgrane Press website. We're also going to be playing in a setting of my own design called Vael. Vael is a world of magic monsters and fantasy. In the Millennium after a great social regression away from magic, the world is beginning to recover and peace has reigned for the longest time in the world's history. We'll be journeying through the city of New Harbor, the social and industrial metropolis of the Imperial Commonwealth. So. Is everyone ready?

Maddy Searle

Yes.

Elizabeth Campbell

Yeah!

Pip Gladwin

Ready!

Laura Girling

Yes!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Then let's get started.

You are gliding through burned and blackened streets. The city reeks with the acrid stench of decay. A great haze washes the bright day to a faint grey. This is New Harbour but not like you've seen it. The once bustling metropolis, home to every species on Vael, lays decimated. You make your way through the wide ways and the narrow alleys, the life that once filled this city has been extinguished. Your home lies bare, devoid of anything and anyone. The hairs on the back of your neck stand on end as a great rumble runs through the city. As you turn, your eyes are drawn upwards. Dark clouds are consuming the sky and from them a violent flash. Wicked winds hurtle through the city, doors fly from their hinges, and trees are uprooted, buildings collapse as the city is finally consumed. With a pitched scream, your eyes shoot open.

Zongroff, Maerydyth, Torbrennan and Isadora you feel your hearts racing in your chest, the anxiety of your dream breaking to the bright sun of a new day in the city. You each race to the nearest window, checking to see if it had truly been a dream. With a sigh of relief you find the city unharmed.

Zongroff, you see the familiar streets of the Ivy Lanes, covered in merchants trying to disassemble the mischief of students from the night past, and in the distance Harbour Park and the hulking figure of Justice Hall, home to The New Harbour Watch.

Maerydyth, you see dense buildings, narrow alleyways and the familiar grey colour of the Ash Lanes, nothing has changed in the labyrinthian alleys that duck and weave through and into one another. If you crane your neck hard enough, you can just make out the flags of the Elven Dominion, The Imperial Commonwealth, and the Iron Brotherhood, atop the grand masts of ships preparing to set sail across Vael.

Torbrennan, you see these ships as well, though they are much closer. In Old Harbour the sea laps at the shore and up against the original village out of which the city bloomed, now, of course, built up and made into lavish homes for those old families of the city. From your small room you breathe a small sigh of relief.

Isadora, outside your window you see the sprawling green gardens that cover the campus of Athril; the Academy of the Arcane sits in the center of the city, the jewel of New Harbor. You see people zigzagging across the grounds, making their way into the day's classes. From behind you, you hear the voice of your roommate, Emily Potts.

Emily Potts

What's wrong with you? What are you doing?

Isadora Ravenwood

Umm... sorry, I just, I had a weird dream. It's probably nothing, it's probably fine... anyway.

Emily Potts

Oh, good. Uh, you know, people love it when you tell them about your dreams. You should do that at parties.

Isadora Ravenwood

Really? That's a really good tip.

Emily Potts

Yeah, people are super into it. Every time you meet a new person, just tell them some dreams you had, they're so- doesn't matter how boring. It's fascinating.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, my goodness, that is such a good tip. I will definitely use that. And actually, I was going to ask you, are you going to be at lunch later?

Emily Potts

Yeah, I mean, I might be. But if I'm being honest, I'm kind of busy. I got a lot of [MUMBLES INAUDIBLY] to do. And you know, it's a- it's a packed day for me actually.

Isadora Ravenwood

Yeah, I understand. Yeah. It's like, It's like, this school is super like, prestigious and you have to be like, constantly keeping on top of all your work and all that stuff. So yeah, I understand. Maybe another time.

Emily Potts

Oh, yeah, so you get it. That's good.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Through the letterbox in the door flies a little paper airplane, which makes its way over to you and unfurls itself in your outstretched hands Isadora. It's a note from Professor Urog asking for you to join her in the quad.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, nice. Um sorry, I need to run but I'm sure that I'll bump into you later. Hope you have a good day.

Emily Potts

Don't worry if you don't, don't worry if you don't.

Isadora Ravenwood

Okay, okay, cool. No worries. See you later.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You move through the tight corridors of Athril as students move every which way around you. You notice that everyone is giving you more space than they are the others. It seems as though the students are slightly wary of you even without consciously knowing it.

Isadora Ravenwood

Hey, guys, how you doing? Nice day in't. Yeah, it's really nice, cool.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Everyone mumbles and looks down, away from you. A couple people meet your eye, and give you a small smile. But as you go, you shoot down the spiral staircase and out into the grassy quad that acts as the thoroughfare for students moving between the buildings. At the base of a large tree examining its roots and mumbling something to fauna is an orc, umber and orange with slim tusks that only just poke out of the corner of their mouth. This is Professor Urog.

Isadora Ravenwood

Hi Professor!

Ghak Urog

Ah, Isadora. I'm glad that you got my note.

Isadora Ravenwood

Yes, yes. What would you like to talk to me about?

Ghak Urog

Oh, well, I was just going to invite you to the prayer event for Qinrith at the Church of Rhoz this evening. You know, I'm sure everyone would appreciate it if you were there.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, um, I – Yeah, of course. I'd be happy to, it's just that- even though I, obviously like, worship Rhoz, like my medallion and everything like everyone can see, but I've never actually been to a proper service before. The whole organized religion thing is kind of a mystery to me. So is there anything I should know?

Ghak Urog

I wouldn't worry about it. There's nothing organized. It's just in honor of Ms. Dorai, whom as you know, was missing recently. I wouldn't worry too much about that. Oh, by the way, I

know you– You appreciate the more interesting parts of herbology, I found these Nightcap mushrooms for you.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, thank you. These are brilliant. Ah, I can't wait to I can't wait to use them in my potions and stuff. That's so cool.

Ghak Urog

Yeah, I wouldn't consume them unless you particularly need to be, uh... unconscious.

Isadora Ravenwood

Okay, that's– that's a good tip. I'll remember that. Yeah. Thank you.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Isadora, for a moment you are jolted back into that dream. Only for a moment, light and sound flashes past you, and you get the distinct image of a room, tall and wooden. And a contraption, a clock counts down. Three, two, one, BANG! Fire engulfs you before you are slammed back into the grassy quad. Nothing seeming to have changed.

Isadora Ravenwood

Uhh, did–

Ghak Urog

Isadora, are you well?

Isadora Ravenwood

Did you see that? There was, there was an explosion? I– I I'm sorry.

Ghak Urog

I saw nothing. Isadora, are you– are you okay? You have not been consuming any mushrooms of your own have you?

Isadora Ravenwood

No, no. Well, not not in the past week. I mean, a couple of weeks ago I tried a couple but, at the moment no. I'm sorry, I had a weird dream, and I've been told that it's it's cool to tell people about your dreams. But– I–

Ghak Urog

I would be careful, particularly someone with your magic powers. You know, I am– I think you should foster what gifts you have. But you should remember that visions of a magical nature may come dangerously close to predicting the future, which as you is you know, is very illegal.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, okay, yeah.

Ghak Urog

But I'm sure they just they are just dreams.

Isadora Ravenwood

Yes, yes. Right. Yeah, it's probably fine. And anyway, what- what time would you like me to be at the- at the service?

Ghak Urog

If you just come this evening, and we will get everyone settled down, and we will begin then.

Isadora Ravenwood

All right. All right. Thank you.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And briskly walking past you, bumping into you and coming out the other way, is a young high elf who runs briskly past you. This is Maerydyth Wynvere, who then runs out and into the streets of the Ivy Lanes where you see the magnificent stone buildings of the many universities that inhabit this borough. You see advertisements, billboards sign stands and more asking for your vote in the upcoming Harbour Election. And you see names like Marcus Satchwell, Moira Langford and Fenlys Littlefoot all promising you something different. It's Donaday the 16th of Fryhosh; one month since you arrived in the city, and moved in with your boyfriend Ash Aspen. With a great lurch in your stomach, as you're walking, you see the world moves around you and changes. You see a hand, a strange symbol inked into it; a half circle running along a horizontal line. Beyond those hands, you see the great hands of the New Harbour grand clock tower, Deafening D'Or, bursting in an explosion that engulfs everything. And with a final great lurch, you are back on the streets of the Ivy Lanes. You realize you're late for work.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh, God too much coffee this morning. Right.

Laura Girling

Okay, I'm gonna keep dashing work, I guess.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great, as you make it through the streets of the Ivy Lanes, you finally make it to a place called Café Pirelli, and you walk in the door. Café Pirelli looks like a place you might find in the Ash Lanes, actually; run down with bare exposed walls, wooden furniture worn down over time, and a staff consisting of beleaguered and disheveled employees. Altogether the place has the charming aura of somewhere that is just getting by, but thriving nonetheless. That is of course until you look a little closer and notice that the brick wall is exposed on purpose and with tasteful spackling, and the wooden furniture has not been worn down by decades of use, but by clever workman's tricks, and naturally the staff were not beleaguered because of destitution but because of the latest trend diet which had them running on mostly coffee and watercress. To the trained eye his was merely the illusion of struggle, or as the owner and your boss, Lorenza Pirelli, so crassly exclaimed; Poverty Chic. Lorenzo was a gnome whose biology you were sure consisted of two things; ignorance and hair grease.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Hey—a Maerydyth you're late for work. Come on, what are you doing?

Maerydyth Wynvere

Ah, sorry Lorenzo just having one of these— ah! You know those mornings, and like you have these weird caffeine dreams and— I think it's the watercress as well, it's kind of getting to me a little bit.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah, a lot of people on the watercress these days. Not— not sure— Not sure what the appeal is myself, but whatever. You know what, just get by in the bar. It's fine. Just get behind the bar. Don't worry about it.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Okay, okay.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Oh, ah— hey, by the way, there's bookings for the open mic night. They're open. I know you wanted a spot.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh, yeah. Oh, that'd be great. I'd love that. Really keen.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah, yeah I'll put you down— I'll put you down.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Thank you.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And he lets you know that open mic night will be tomorrow on Famsday, the 17th of Fry-hosh. So you got behind the bar and you start serving customers. You get through one or two customers eager to get their morning coffee and the next customer up is a high-elf, a student and actually, you recognize him.

Taavin Seguiin

Maerydyth? Hello. Ah, it's— it's— it's me. It's Taavin from school.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Taavin it is so good to see you, what are you doing round here?.

Taavin Seguiin

Darling, I'm so glad to see you here. It's great. You're— working... here, now.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah, so basically, I've— I've come out this way. I kind of, you know, I was I was at school things were fine and then I was just thinking like, you know what? Screw it. Screw it. I'm done with this. I'm in love. I need to move.

Taavin Seguiin

Yeah. Uh-huh.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I need to start fresh. So I'm here. I'm-

Taavin Seguiin

Uh-huh. Yeah. Uh-huh.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I've got my Viola I'm gonna kick start my career. It's all going really well, what are you doing around here?

Taavin Seguiin

Love it! Um, no, I am actually- I just, you know, I'm I- saw you were working and I thought I'd come in darling you know, it's just I don't know I've really been in the market for open mic nights, you know, like, I don't know if you know any of those going around, darling?

Maerydyth Wynvere

You know? Actually, yeah, we've we've got one happening here tomorrow, and I'm playing.

Taavin Seguiin

That's amazing.

Maerydyth Wynvere

So I'd love it if you can be there.

Taavin Seguiin

Yeah! I'm so glad that you, my best friend, Maerydyth, invited me. You know, I feel like we got on so well at school. You know, I feel like-

Maerydyth Wynvere

We did, we did, I miss the good days, I do, I do- but.

Taavin Seguiin

You were the rebellious youngster, and I was... somewhere else, I'm sure.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I mean, you taught me everything I know. Let's be honest.

Taavin Seguiin

Sure. I didn't teach you everything I know. But I'm sure I taught you everything you know, darling.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And he orders his coffee and very succinctly moves off, thanking you for the invitation. Next up is an orc. It is an orc dressed in the uniform of the Harbor Guard. This is Zongroff

Gral'Shaak, here to get her morning coffee before she goes on to Justice Hall for her first early morning meeting.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Hi, welcome to Cafe Pirelli. What can I get you?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Um, hi, just- just coffee, just black coffee, please.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Okay, cause we've started serving this new thing here called the Wynvere Whip and it's actually my specialty. Um, are you interested in trying one of those?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Ah- Not- No, not today, just- just like- just, like, a cup of black coffee.

Maerydyth Wynvere

No problem, I've got it cool.

Laura Girling

And I'll make her her black coffee.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Amazing. So as your coffee is being made Zongroff, you notice that there's a bird person that you recognize, a birdfolk in the colors of a peacock, and you remember; Oh, yes. This is Oxana Lucia.

Elizabeth Campbell

Yeah, yeah, I give a kind of half- Half wave, half smile in her direction.

Oxana Lucia

Oh ah, Gral'Shaak, Gral'Shaak- it's Oxana Lucia for the Harbor Tribune.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yep, no, I- yeah, saw you. Good morning.

Oxana Lucia

Yeah, if I might ask. I hear you're on a big case.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right now I'm- just getting coffee. That's- that's my case for the morning.

Oxana Lucia

I dunno, I mean- I heard people are going missing, right? This is a big case for you, isn't it, for a junior officer?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Well, you know we- we do what we can but again just- really just here for- for the coffee.

Oxana Lucia

I noticed that Detective Ironbone isn't handling this; is he also missing or is this just police negligence?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

I- look- I'm not trying to be rude. I just, you know, if you want- If you want to do this, maybe we can do this, you know, at the station, somewhere a bit more formal. I'm really- I really can't stress how much I just like the coffee right now.

Random Barista

Gral'shaak? I've got a black coffee for a Gral'shaak?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

I snatch it and try and move out.

Oxana Lucia

Officer Gral'Shaak, doesn't the public have a right to know if they're in danger?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

You have a nice morning.

Oxana Lucia

Is this related to the RapsCALLIONS? I heard their kid went missing in the Ash Lanes.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Zongroff you make your way out of Cafe Pirelli., attempting to avoid eye contact with any of the politicians smiling down at you from the posters flashing with arcane lights and nevertheless, you catch the eye of a friendly looking Dwarven woman claiming she will be a Regent for all of the city and next to her you see the tusky grin of the Sunset Lanes counselor for three terms running; your big sister Vilskrat Gral'Shaak.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah. I mean, it's a good photo, I'm not gonna lie. It's a good photo.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

With a sudden rush, that you were not anticipating, the floor falls out from under you and you tumble through black. You feel yourself collide with something hard and wooden. Around you, you hear a Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, and the huge machinations of gears and cogs all working together as one. Then you hear it again, different this time. Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick of a different machine, now. The ticks and the toks transforming together into a symphony of automation until, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick BOOM! You are slammed back to the streets, your sister watching you. And you spill your coffee.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Damn it! Ugh... right. Goddamn reporter getting in my head, just-

Elizabeth Campbell

I just kind of wipe the coffee off my uniform as best I can and just- try and make my way to the meeting.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great. So you walk through the streets of the Ivy Lanes zigging and zagging in between the different churches and university spaces until finally you get to Harbour Park. And you walk up the stairs. You arrive at Justice Hall, a gargantuan fortress that calls itself the home of the New Harbour Guard. You mount the marble steps, pass by the columns that guard the entrance, and emerge into the atrium. A sprawling room jam packed with people of all shapes and sizes moving in every conceivable direction. Before you can make it to the spiraling staircase towards your meeting, a young Wood Elf, Officer Pine Silver, approaches you.

Pine Silver

Oh, ah- Sergeant Gral'shaak I'm sorry to interrupt your coffee, there, Constable- Constable Silver.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah, of course. Hi Silver, how are you doing today?

Pine Silver

Oh, yeah, you know, I'm doing well- My dad yelled at me again. But that's- that's probably too much information.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

That's alright. You know, I've always said that, you know, there's not enough sharing in the workplace anyway. So, you know, yeah, you feel free, you feel free, my friend.

Pine Silver

Ah no-, he just kinda says that I'm sort of an underfoot figure. And it makes me feel a little bit uncomfortable. But, you know, I've tried- you know, standard stuff.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah, that... sucks.

Pine Silver

Yeah, actually been looking for a- more senior officer to, sort of, take me under their wing. You know- kind of like a parental figure or some- some kind, maybe.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Oh, that- I mean, that sounds really good. I- hope you find them.

Pine Silver

Yeah- actually I have an older- sorry, there's business. I actually have an older human lady in to see you. She's got some info on- Detective Ironbone, apparently.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah. Okay. Um, yeah, just ah- look, send her in to me as- soon as I can-

Pine Silver

Oh, yeah. No, I'll- get around to it.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

As he goes to go speak with her. Another man approaches you, a human this time, and you recognize this as Chief Venable; the Chief of the Harbour Huard.

Theo Venable

Oh, there you are, Sergeant. I was wondering what you'd got to... We got that meeting with Moira Langford now.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yes, Chief, I'm just- right there. So I was just talking to- to Silver. Yeah, no- on my way.

Theo Venable

Yeah, don't worry about it, he'll handle it. Look, come with me.

Elizabeth Campbell

I follow.

Theo Venable

So... Langford's a bigwig... Like it or not, since your superior Ironbone's gone walkabout, you're on the missing persons case. And sometimes, moving from being a beat cop to somebody on a- on a bigger case- means being in charge, and being in charge means explaining what you're up to to bigwigs who don't really know what they're talking about.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right. I just- I mean, I- look, Ironbone was really good at the public relations stuff. I just- I- look, I've not done this before, I don't- I don't really know what I'm doing.

Theo Venable

Look, I get that, but you know, she's not having any more of me, alright, and- and you are the officer on the case. I'm gonna need you to put your best foot forward and take point in the meeting. Just try and pacify her, so she doesn't start making a splash. We can't have information leaking to the public when we're trying to, you know, get the drop on the crims.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah. All right. All right. Yeah, of course. Yes. Yes. Chief.

Theo Venable

I appreciate that. I know this is all new to you, but I'm sure you can handle it.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

As they continue their conversation, we are floating upstairs into the meeting room where they are headed. And we see, sat at the table round is a human woman, looks like- this Moira Langford, perhaps. And next to her is a wood elf; she is clad in the armor of a hero, it looks like, and next to her is a dwarf. A young dwarf, by the looks of things, with a fanciful mustache. This is Torbrennan; just Torbrennan.

Rose the Swift

Torbrennan. We want to affirm ourselves to the Watch as part of this investigation. And I want you to be the one to step up and join the Watch Officer in charge.

Torbrennan

Right .Yes. That I can do, that I can do. Never never really saw myself working with a guardsman though.

Rose the Swift

No. Well, this is the situation that Langford's hired us to do. But I think an up and coming young blood like you is, is perfect and honestly, I believe in you. I think you'll do us proud, earn your name and prove the honour of the Blades.

Torbrennan

Thank you Rose. I will- I will not let you down.

Rose the Swift

I'm sure you won't.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The door opens and you see the lithe figure of one Theo Venable. He's dressed like a beat cop and wearing the expression of a man who would rather be having several of his most valuable teeth removed than here. You'd been told that this is the Chief of The Watch, the most senior officer there is in the city. And behind him strides an orc wearing the Watch seal.

Theo Venable

Yeah. Morning, everyone. This is Officer Gral'Shaak.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Hello. Thank you for coming... Candidate Langford, it's- It's nice- nice to meet you properly.

Moira Langford

Yes.

Torbrennan

May I introduce myself and- my superior? This is Rose the Swift, of The Blades of Valarus. I myself am Torbrennan, simply Torbrennan for now. It is a pleasure to be here and- quite a pleasure to meet... all of you. Um, uh... Mr... Venable, you must be-

Theo Venable

Yeah that's right.

Torbrennan

And- I do not believe I've had the pleasure.

Pip Gladwin

I gesture to Zongroff.

Theo Venable

Not you specifically. But I know we've met a fair few of your kind.

Torbrennan

Ah, well- good.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Sergeant Gral'Shaak. I'm- taking over the missing persons case.

Torbrennan

Ah, yes. Wonderful. I- hear we will be- working closely together.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right. Because you're... here.

Torbrennan

A Blade of Valarus.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Oh-

Torbrennan

Yes.

Elizabeth Campbell

Right. I look at the Chief. Kind of-

Theo Venable

Bunch of bunch of bloody vigilantes. But- They've been- they've been hired for the case that- that's just what- that's just- that's just what we're dealing with today.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Is this Langford's doing?

Theo Venable

Yeah, um... Seems like she doesn't really feel like we're pulling our weight on this one. Yeah, well, look, she's rich, she's got the money, she can hire... ahem... private security.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right. Well, it's lovely to meet you Torbrennan and... uh... Miss the Swift

Rose the Swift

Yeah, you- you can call me Rose.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Ah, very nice. Rose- Zongroff. Yes. Good. All getting along. Wonderful,

Moir Langford

Right. Well, I think it's probably time that we actually get down to business here. Look, no less than seven people have gone missing recently, including my own grandfather, who's a very prominent member of this city's elite.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yes, yes. Thank you- Candidate, I assure you that the Harbour Guard is doing everything in our power to- to find what's going on and to assist all the families of the people who have gone missing.

Moir Langford

Well, I'd hope so given that one of your own has gone missing as well, one of your Captains... but I would have thought you'd have made more- you'd have more leads by now?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Well, of course, you know- just because not all the information's been made public doesn't mean that- there's not many, many leads that are being considered by the Guard.

Moir Langford

Well, perhaps we ought to make a fair bit more of it public. I feel like the public has the right to know and maybe, if we outsource this, we might get- might get any information.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Well, I see we, we have certainly outsourced some of it.

Elizabeth Campbell

I look directly at Torbrennan.

Torbrennan

Well, now... if I may, Madam Candidate.

Moir Langford

Go ahead.

Torbrennan

Whilst the people do deserve to know what is happening, it would not do to cause a panic amongst the citizenry until we fully understand the scope of what is happening here. I would say that the Guard, it would seem, has been doing everything within its power to- to take care of this- of this issue. But perhaps- all respect... Perhaps the Guard's power is

not necessarily... sufficient, which is why you have hired us. And here we are. So I say, why are we wasting time around here? Let's go and get to the bottom this thing.

Moira Langford

And I certainly feel that they have been rather insufficient in solving this case on their own, which is why I have taken the liberty of hiring you, honourable sir dwarf, and the Blades of Valarus to assist the Watch in their work, out of my own personal funds, might I add?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yes, well, of course that is- That is your prerogative to do that, Candidate.

Moira Langford

I'm sorry, I'm willing to keep this under wraps for the moment, just for your own sake. I respect your reasoning, but honestly, I- I have a duty of public opinion, my hands are tied.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yes. And we have a duty of public safety and sometimes... sometimes things need to be kept quiet while things are being investigated, and I-

Elizabeth Campbell

Zongroff is just kind of tapping a pen, nervously.

Moira Langford

Well, I feel that getting this sorted is the best route for public safety, and I think if- that if letting that out of the bag is the best way to do that, then that's the route we should take but for the moment, I will permit you and the Blades here to work together to sort this out.

Torbrennan

If there is some sort of shadowy wrongdoer behind these disappearances, it would not do to immediately let them know that we are on the case. Perhaps a level of- subtlety is- is what we need here and believe you me, I know a thing or two about subtlety.

Pip Gladwin

And yeah, I will stand, gleaming.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

A light that should not exist in this room twinkles off of your armor.

Pip Gladwin

I audibly clank as I stand up.

Elizabeth Campbell

I wipe coffee off my armour.

Moira Langford

Is there a skylight in this room I-

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Torbrennan. One moment you are stood looking rather dashing in this room, and the next you are flying through inky black, your entire being is hurtled through nothing. Until finally you land, touching down on the cobbled streets you've come to associate with New Harbour. Everything is covered in a haze, obscuring the buildings and people around you. Through the haze, you can hear distant screams. You walk forward and through the haze emerges a huge mass on the ground. As you get closer, you see the face of an enormous clock, the metal twisted and contorted. There are deep gashes in the ground where you think the clock face must have landed. You feel a tug behind your belly button and the last thing you make out before you are yanked away are the hands, one towards 11 and the other towards 4. In an instant you are dropped back into Justice Hall, stumbling and falling to the ground, looking less dashing than a moment previously.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Oh, man, you okay?

Rose the Swift

Torbrennan, are you fine?

Torbrennan

Huh? Yes- something in my eye. Um- terribly sorry- I shall- I shall- sort myself out and then you and I, Sergeant, we shall get on the case. Haha. Rose a moment? And-

Rose the Swift

Yes?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

For one second, Zongroff could you roll me wisdom, please? Perception check, specifically.

Elizabeth Campbell

Yes.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

First roll of the game!

Elizabeth Campbell

Can I had my police-style perception to this?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Please do, please do.

Elizabeth Campbell

Well, that's a natural 19 to start with. So that's... 25.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Wonderful, Zongroff you recognize what just happened to Torbrennan.

Elizabeth Campbell

Right.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You feel that's familiar to what happen to you in the streets.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right. Well. Good. Ah, it'll be nice to have some support.

Elizabeth Campbell

I try to smile at Torbrennan as he's trying to get Rose's eye.

Pip Gladwin

I sort of smile and- just sort of trying to take Rose out of the room for a second.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Geat! Rose you are led out of the room by Torbrennan as you speak out in the hallway for a moment.

Rose the Swift

Torbrennan, what was that?

Torbrennan

Okay, so... never happened to me before. Ah- you know when you know people get visions of like the future... In all the stories, there's always a- there's always a vision of the future, some- some terrible portent, and then the hero has to go and solve it... I just had one of those.

Rose the Swift

I... think I'm following you.

Torbrennan

I just had one- there was a clock, and- it was a lot of smoke, and I think something was on fire, and there was- a 11 and a 4, but I couldn't remember- I don't remember which of the hands are on the 11 or the 4 -that's going to come into play. That's going to be, ooh, that time. Very important... to everything that's about to happen.

Rose the Swift

Yes, that sounds like particular details that you should maybe be... jotting down.

Torbrennan

I just- Okay, good. Good. Um, I mean, you know, genuinely I- I honestly thought you might have been more skeptical.

Rose the Swift

It sounds like, maybe this is something to do with... your future here. And your part in this- in this quest?

Torbrennan

Well, I mean, I mean, that yes–

Rose the Swift

I would say maybe don't let it get in the way, or let The Watch notice that maybe you're, you know, falling over and seeing things.

Torbrennan

Well, okay. Sure. I mean, you know, I fell over a little bit. That's fine.

Rose the Swift

You went right over. Flat on the floor.

Torbrennan

All right. Okay.

Rose the Swift

It was embarrassing, honestly.

Torbrennan

I'm, you know... no, you're right.

Rose the Swift

I mean Torbrennan, I believe in you, and I know you can handle this, but I think- some level of decorum would be important.

Torbrennan

So not just rush at it headfirst then?

Rose the Swift

Well, I wouldn't say that. That I mean that- that is- that's your biggest strength.

Torbrennan

That is my biggest strength.

Rose the Swift

Yeah, you've got the momentum.

Torbrennan

Not fast, but once I get going, hard to stop.

Rose the Swift

Yeah. It's an unstoppable force, immovable object kinda situation.

Torbrennan

Well, okay, this is a lot to- to process. I think I'm just gonna carry on with whatever– Just Just– we'll sort out this missing persons thing. And you know– and you know what– you

know what- I guarantee this whole clock thing and people disappearing, and this whole missing persons thing. Oh, they're connected. Oh, they- they're always connected. They're always, always connect.

Rose the Swift

Yes- al- always connected. You can- you can always- you can always trust those dreams.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The door opens and Moira Langford footsteps out.

Moira Langford

Ah, um, I hope you- I hope- you're both well. Look, I- I wish you luck young sir dwarf. I know that hiring the Blades for this was the smartest thing I could have done and I- hope between you and me that- that the Blades may add some import, some speed to this... proceedings.

Torbrennan

I think we can be trusted to add some speed to the proceedings.

Moira Langford

Marvelous. Well, best of luck to you.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And Moira Langford steps away.

Rose the Swift

Look, I believe in you Torbrennan. And I'm sure that whatever it is you're seeing, it's going to lead you in the right direction. I'm gonna go and join Moira.

Torbrennan

Yes, um... perhaps mention it to Elias, if you see him before I do. You know, he's the... he's the longest standing member of the Blades, I mean... he must have experienced something like this before.

Rose the Swift

I'll bear that in mind, I'll- I'll bear that in mind. You're representing us now, Torbrennan. I think you'll do a great job.

Torbrennan

Thank you Rose. Good luck.

Rose the Swift

And you too.

Pip Gladwin

I'll- big warrior's clasp- handshake her.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Are you saying you're gonna predator handshake?

Pip Gladwin

No, no, not predator one of these, one of these, with the forearms.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great. Okay, forearm handshake. Wonderful. Yes, you both shake eachother's hands very, very strongly, very warrior like.

James Barbarossa

Dap eachother up.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And Rose breaks away and heads back following Moira. And you see Chief Venable also exits the room with a nod to you, wishing you luck and walks away as well.

Pip Gladwin

I will. If he nods at me, I'll give him an ostentatious bow that I'm certain will irritate him.

Theo Venable

Jesus Christ...

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Can you do me a favor? Yes. Roll me a Dex Check, with a background.

Pip Gladwin

Sure. A traditional Blade of Valarus ostentatious greeting, er... Ah man, that's vast. That's like, 24.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Describe to me how you bow.

Pip Gladwin

In the time it sort of takes him to turn slowly and do a little, you know, an acknowledgement nod. I have thrown my right arm out to the side, placed my left hand sort of on- in the middle of my chest, stepped back with my right leg, bending, keeping the left leg straight, and I lower and bow- and, sort of, sweep out my blue, sort of, cloak, as I do so.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great.

Theo Venable

Miss Langford, people, people like this are just a danger walking around the corridors. Are you sure you want this on the quest?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Moira just scoffs and walks out. And he walks away in turn. Great. So Zongroff is the only

one left in the room and Torbrennan you're outside.

Torbrennan

So leads, what have you got? I take out a little notebook.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right. Um... right. Look buddy-

Torbrennan

Suspects? Leads? Someone's missing, you know... there'll be something?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Right. Look, I know- look, you've been hired here. You're here to do a job. I respect that. I just- the vigilante angle, it's not... Yeah. Okay. You know what... I appreciate the help. I appreciate- I appreciate the help.

Elizabeth Campbell

I take out my notebook that I definitely got coffee on this morning, and it's all- the pages are sticking together, and it's just- it's not been a good morning has it?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Alright. Tor- Torbrennan, is it? Yeah?

Torbrennan

Yes.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

We got- we got seven missing people now, they've all just... disappeared without a god-damn trace, in the city, and... one of them is Captain Ironbone, who was in charge of this case until he went missing. Look, I was just supposed to be the junior on this, I was just here to help, this is... you know, it was great, I thought this is great, this is like... a big case, it gets me gets me off the streets, you know, gets me away from just having to tell kids to stop writing on walls and stuff. I thought this is exciting. This is gonna be a big... big thing that I'm gonna have my mentor- my mentor Captain Ironbone to help me, and he had all the- all the clues and all the evidence. And he was thinking it through and then... Anyway, he disappeared uh, so um... I'm in charge now. Ah, yeah, it's ah- it's been four days. Er. And I'm in charge now.

Pip Gladwin

I take a step towards Zongroff.

Torbrennan

Sergeant, you seem- what's the word? A little... stressed, perhaps?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

I just I mean, I just it's I don't think I've been sleeping well.

Torbrennan

Sleep is very important.

Elizabeth Campbell

I think Zongroff kind of remembers for a second, I think she was she was lost for a moment in- in the stress of the case, and then kind of remembers that- that moment, that flash earlier this morning, and what she just saw with Torbrennan, and kind of... I don't know, stares at him trying to- trying to suss him out.

Torbrennan

Shall we?... As they say, shall we walk and talk? Shall we take to the streets, and- see what we can dig up? Get in a few scrapes. You know, I- it's not my brand of fiction normally, but- but I have been enjoying some more, you know, police procedural novels lately. And I'm- I'm excited to get involved. So yes, let's... get on the beat.

Elizabeth Campbell

I think that that moment of kind of curious camaraderie, has now immediately waned at the suggestion that this guy's treating it like a fiction novel.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah. Cool. Alright. New... person on this case.

Torbrennan

Lead the way, Sergeant.

[BREAK FOR DYNAMIC INSERTION ADS]

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm going to cut away for a moment from Torbrennan and Zongroff. We're going back to the Cafe Pirelli. The morning rush has ended. It is... 11-ish, little after 11, people aren't really needing much more coffee anymore. You hear old Lorenzo yelling at you from the back.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Hey Mae, Wha- what are you doing? It's dead here, take a break. Spending all my money on nothing. Come on.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Don't mind if I do.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Out the door you spot a flash of purple and with a pang of dread you remember the terror of your dream from last night. You feel relieved as your eyes adjust and you see that it's merely a half-Dark Elf dressed in purple. As she moves by you see a flash, for a second of her face twisted and contorted in a ghastly scream. And that same shape, a sphere bisected by a horizontal line.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh actually, Lorenzo you know what, I think I'm just gonna like... take a seat, have a coffee for a moment, I'm not feeling so great.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah, do whatever you want, but it's not on a tab, you gotta pay. I'm not made of money, come on.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh, forget it.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Into the- shop walks, Isadora.

Isadora Ravenwood

Um, hi. I- Could I get a- just a latte, please. If you've got any like nice spices or anything that would be that'd be awesome.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Oh, yeah. Yeah, we got some lovely spices here. I'll get some spices for you. What kind of spices? Yeah, I got some... I got some nice cinnamon. That's a good one.

Isadora Ravenwood

Yeah, yes, please. That would be great.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah, cinnamon latte. I got- I got it for you- I got it for you. Don't get up, Mae.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I think she needs a Wynvere Whip.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Don't get up, Mae, I said.

Isadora Ravenwood

What's the Wynvere Whip? That sounds awesome. What is it?

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh, my goodness. Okay so it's the best.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Not on the menu.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Okay just- Lorenzo, just let me make one-

Lorenzo Pirelli

It's not on the menu.

Maerydyth Wynvere

-And we'll see if she likes it, okay?

Lorenzo Pirelli

Look, it's not on the-

Maerydyth Wynvere

I think I think we can let the customer decide.

Isadora Ravenwood

Yes, yes. Um- I'd if it's like off menu that's, like, special. That would be really cool.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah, Yeah. It's like- It's like an exclusive thing.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Maerydyth roll me charisma check at advantage.

Laura Girling

22

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, he's pretty convinced.

Lorenzo Pirelli

If I get another one of those incidents. You're gonna have a problem. It's coming out of your pay.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I don't know what you're referring to.

Laura Girling

And then I walked behind the bar. Start making the coffee.

Lorenzo Pirelli

I did get- I did get you to sign that nondisclosure agreement, that's fair. We are pretending that didn't happen.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Sure, sure.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Maerydyth, can you roll me a intelligence check to see if you- how well you can make this Wynvere Whip?

Laura Girling

I can make it in my sleep. [ROLLS DICE] Oh, maybe not. I got a 10

James Barbarossa

Woof ba boof.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

So you're struggling to put together-

Laura Girling

Or a 12 with background? Can we say that? 12 with background?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

12 with Background... you're still struggling to put together this coffee. You should be able to make it pretty well. You don't know why you're struggling.

Laura Girling

It's been a really long confusing morning.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You keep having these flashes of Isadora's face. You keep- the flashes of this woman screaming, and you remember kind of the horrible vision you had this morning as you were walking into work. It's really throwing you off.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Hey, you don't have any, like, hand tattoos, do you?

Isadora Ravenwood

No, I don't actually have any tattoos. Uh...

Maerydyth Wynvere

No, no, I keep- Oh my god, you ever just have those days where you just keep like- things are just weird, things are just a bit off?

Isadora Ravenwood

Yeah, actually. I like- I had this weird thing earlier when I was meeting up with my- with my tutor and, like, I had this weird flash dream vision thing where everything was exploding and it was all weird, and I didn't like it. And yeah.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh my god. Yeah, so like that, that big clock. That massive clock. It's- It's freaking me out today. I just can't even look at it. I just start to feel a bit emotional about it, you know? And I just I keep thinking- I keep thinking about, like, this hand tattoo with- with like a half circle and a horizontal line. And I'm just like, does that mean I need to get a hand tattoo? Because like, I've not had any tattoos before, and I- don't know if I'm ready for that kind of commitment, you know, like... I don't even know what it means. And it's like, maybe I should do some research into this symbol, in case it's like offensive or something, because I don't want to go walking around with like, something horrible on my hand, and then I'm just handing people coffee. And then there's just there's just something offensive there and... no!

Isadora Ravenwood

I mean- I don't really understand what you're talking about, but it sounds really tough.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Neither do I!

Isadora Ravenwood

And I'm really sorry.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah, I am still here and this sounds insane. I'm right here.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Do you do you know what half circles with horizontal lines through them mean, Lorenzo?

Lorenzo Pirelli

Half circle- half circles with horizontal lines?

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah. Is that like a thing? Is that like a gang thing?

Lorenzo Pirelli

I... don't think that's a thing.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Is that like a cool thing?

Lorenzo Pirelli

I don't think that's a thing. I don't think anybody thinks that's a thing. I think you could tell that to a random customer trying to get comfortable and you'd probably freak them out. You know? So. Yeah, this kind of stuff is- ah-

Maerydyth Wynvere

I think she likes it. People think I'm charming.

Maddy Searle

Because I've done a lot of research into weird arcane stuff. Would I be able to dredge through my memory? See if that- if that makes any sense to me?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

If the symbol makes any sense to you? Uh, yeah. Roll me an intelligence check.

Maddy Searle

Oh, no. That's an 11.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm afraid not. You don't really know of any symbol that represents anything that's a half line and a semicircle?

Maddy Searle

Yeah.

[CLOKTOWER BELLS RING]

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You hear- all of you in the room, you hear the Dong Dong of Deafening D'Or, the clock tower, in the distance.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Ew.

Lorenzo Pirelli

That thing is so loud.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And for a brief moment, you all remember that dream you had and the vision you had. Maerydyth, can you roll me a perception check, please, but with advantage and background?

Laura Girling

Well, that was a natural one, so let's- AH, NATURAL 20!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

There we go. First crit of the game!

James Barbarossa

Nice.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Um, okay, natural 20. You feel as though the vision that you had was pointing you towards something. It wanted you to know something and it didn't feel like any ordinary dream. You also know from what Isadora said, I believe you were talking about your vision, weren't you?

Laura Girling

Yeah.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You know that you two had the same type of vision, different images, but fundamentally felt the same from what she described.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Okay, so like, I don't mean to freak you out. Cuz like, I know, sometimes I can come off a little bit strong, but like, I think- I think we might be connected.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, my God. I mean, I like- That- that's really cool. And like, don't worry about coming off strong. I'm, like, totally, totally up for this. I mean, how do you think we're connected? What- what- what do you think this all means?

Maerydyth Wynvere

I mean, so I feel like I- I've been having these visions, and then like, I looked at you, and I just kind of got the sense that you've been having these visions as well. And we've been having like, the same visions, and I'm, like are we on a- are we on a wavelength? Are we like, in each other's dream space? Are we like, we like, we like dreams sisters?

Isadora Ravenwood

I mean, is there a way that we can find out? Like, I think if we both had like, these really the weird days where we've been seeing weird explosions and things. I think it's definitely possible. I mean-

Maerydyth Wynvere

I think so-

Isadora Ravenwood

I have these like, really cool professors at school, I could probably ask them, they know a lot about sort of weird, arcane, magical things.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I think that would be a good plan, to be honest, I think we should find out because like, I've just- it's this really horrible feeling, you know, like, I don't know about yours, but it just feels like something bad's gonna happen?

Isadora Ravenwood

No, it didn't feel good at all.

Maerydyth Wynvere

And I feel like I should probably, kind of, be doing something?

Isadora Ravenwood

I mean, we could go and ask my- my professor, Urog for help, because they- they know a lot about like... Well, actually, maybe not them, they know a lot about plants, that's probably not useful right now, anyway-

Maerydyth Wynvere

I mean, yeah, I think there's a time and a place for plants, and I don't think this is the time and the place, but like, I'd love the tips on some maybe some good plants for interior decorating, to be honest, like, I mean, I'm staying in a real grimy place right now, so yeah, I think I need some help.

Isadora Ravenwood

If you ever need a shopping buddy, I mean, this gal right here.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Anyway. I'll hit you up!

Isadora Ravenwood

That would be so great, that would be so good! Anyway, um, yeah, visions, weird. What

should we do? What- What should we do?

Maerydyth Wynvere

I mean, I don't know, I kind of feel like- maybe we ought to kind of go investigate this clock but at the same time the clock freaks me out and I don't want anything to do with it. So-

Isadora Ravenwood

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I remember, like, something counting down to one and then exploding and I don't want that to happen to us if we go there. But also...

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah.

Isadora Ravenwood

-we're probably not going to know what it is unless we go there and um, I don't know.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Did you have any like specific times in your dream?

Isadora Ravenwood

No, I don't think so.

Maerydyth Wynvere

No?

Isadora Ravenwood

It was just yeah, it just counted down and... it was a tall room, it was made of wood. That's all I remember, really.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Well, maybe if we go and we just like avoid the time, like- avoid going on the hour so we're not there when it chimes we'll be safe.

Isadora Ravenwood

Okay.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I reckon? I think that's a good plan. I think I made a really good plan, here.

Isadora Ravenwood

That is a really good plan. That is a good plan. Okay. Let's do it.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Cool. Sweet.

Lorenzo Pirelli

That's amazing. You know and I think, uh... for when you get dreams I think what's it's important to do is, I've heard that you should, ah, always be generous you know, give out

the energy you take in and I've heard soul- soul dream sisters always tip. That's what I've heard. They always tip.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, really? Oh!

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah. Always it's- it's like a sow the seeds, you get it, back kind of thing. Yeah yeah yeah.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh my god, okay.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Got a tip jar. Got a tip jar for- for- Yeah, for- for Mae, obviously for Mae. Yeah, Mae's, Mae's-

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah. And I did I did also hear that soul dream sisters do... buy each other coffee from time to time? And, uh...

Isadora Ravenwood

Wow!

Lorenzo Pirelli

I have also heard, that I have also heard that. The most expensive one on the menu. I've heard.

Isadora Ravenwood

I'm learning so much. I could learn so much from you. Okay, right. Let me get my purse. And I'll get purse out and, like, tip extremely generously.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Fantastic! Oh, yeah. This...

Maerydyth Wynvere

Thank you so much.

Isadora Ravenwood

You're very welcome.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

It's five silver pieces for each coffee.

Isadora Ravenwood

Alrighty.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah, that's definitely five silver pieces worth of... positive energy, that's going to go back

to you and your- your visions or your dreams or your- your miracle quests or whatever.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, my goodness. Thank you.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm just going to- Isadora could you roll me an intelligence check please? With advantage.

Isadora Ravenwood

Certainly. I got a 21.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Five silver pieces is you know, not- not- not out of the question for coffee. But it is certainly on the high end of how much one could charge for a cup of coffee.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Oh, it's is for the for the Winford- Ah- Wiltshire- Ah Weeping Whip. You know? That's- that's the house special, it's the house special, you know what I mean, ah, Mae?

Isadora Ravenwood

Yeah. I mean, this seems like a-

Maerydyth Wynvere

Does that mean I can put it on the chalkboard?

Lorenzo Pirelli

That means you may abs...olutely... put it on the... chalkboard, it's our... BEST... SELLER...

Maerydyth Wynvere

Thank you so much.

Laura Girling

And then I'm just gonna scrawl.

Lorenzo Pirelli

No, wait!

Laura Girling

I'm doing- I'm sure there's like some gorgeous calligraphy.

Lorenzo Pirelli

That's permanent marker- that's permanent marker- WAIT!

Laura Girling

I'm just gonna- I'm just in a messy caffeinated scrawl I've written Wynvere Whip, five silver pieces.

Lorenzo Pirelli

God damn it.

Isadora Ravenwood

That looks amazing. I'm so excited I get to be here for this moment. This is like a new coffee being created. This is amazing.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Thank you so much.

Lorenzo Pirelli

I'm gonna have to get a new chalkboard. Hey, five silver's five silver- five silver's five silver. Come on.

Isadora Ravenwood

There you go. There you go.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Right. Let's go see a clock.

Isadora Ravenwood

Okay. Um, okay, I've got an idea. That may or may not be a good idea, and I would love your opinion on it. So-

Maerydyth Wynvere

I love hearing ideas.

Isadora Ravenwood

I have this thing I can do. It can sometimes freak people out a bit and I'm not sure, like, if it's totally necessary, but I would personally feel safer if I did this. So I can create skeletons. And yeah-

Maerydyth Wynvere

What?

Isadora Ravenwood

I can summon this skeletal minion. His name's Horace. He's lovely. Horace Boneman. He's my best friend. And he can help protect us if anything weird happens at the clock tower. What do you think?

Maerydyth Wynvere

So has Horace like, always been a skeleton? Or like was he once an alive man who then became a skeleton? And like, has he always been like a skeleton that you summon? Or at one point was he just a skeleton, just an inanimate skeleton, like..?

Isadora Ravenwood

Um, well, I don't really know. I'm still learning a lot about my abilities and things and it's all a bit confusing, but I'm studying a lot. And what I think is, I think that... I have summoned

a skeleton that already existed somewhere in the world, and I don't know who it belonged to. But I call him Horace, because that's a nice name.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Horace is a great name. I think we should bring him along. I mean, like, I've heard that like skulls are like on trend at the moment anyway, so like, it'd be cool to be seen with someone like that, I reckon.

Isadora Ravenwood

Okay, maybe we'll wait until we get into the clock tower before we do it just in case because I've- I've made that mistake a few times.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Otherwise everyone will want a skeleton friend.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, yeah.

Maerydyth Wynvere

You know, and you can't just be summoning skeletons for everyone.

Isadora Ravenwood

It's extremely special and important and only for like the most important occasions.

Maerydyth Wynvere

I completely agree. I feel honored that I get to see Horace, I'm so glad.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Hey, Mae, uh... if you're having fever visions... it's pretty quiet here. Maybe you ought to just take the rest of the day off.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah, I was gonna. Thanks.

Lorenzo Pirelli

Yeah. All right. All right.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Have a good afternoon. Tell everyone about the Wynvere Whip, okay?

Lorenzo Pirelli

I am not gonna do that.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And you walk out of Cafe Pirelli. And you make your way over to Deafening D'Or, the clock tower that resides in the same building as the Harbor Council.

And we're gonna cut over to Zongroff and Torbrennan. You both are also walking through

the Ivy Lanes. You walk through Old Harbour, you're talking through the different aspects of the case, getting- getting him up to speed. Torbrennan you hear the chimes of a bell nearby. And you look around and you see the clock face from your dream. It is Deafening D'Or.

Pip Gladwin

I freeze and stare up at the clock face. What is the time on the clock face in this moment?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The time on the clock face is 11:10.

Pip Gladwin

And as I look at this clock face that I assume is... very clearly the clock face from my- my vision.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, you recognise it.

Pip Gladwin

Which- in the vision do I recall which hands were pointing or which numbers I have? 11 and four, but-

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You have 11 and four? Um, roll me- let me think about this. Roll me perception again.

Pip Gladwin

Yeah.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

At a disadvantage.

Pip Gladwin

Fuck yeah. Love a disadvantage.

James Barbarossa

Spicy.

Pip Gladwin

That is a natural 20, and a 2!

Elizabeth Campbell

Oh....

Laura Girling

Ooh!

Maddy Searle

Ooooh!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oooh!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You can't- Your your brain has- has- mangled-

James Barbarossa

D-d-disadvantage!

Pip Gladwin

but with my level, that's a three. Sorry, Zack.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, well three, why didn't you say so?!

Pip Gladwin

I just want you to be able to be giving the correct amount of information for a three not a two.

James Barbarossa

D-d-disadvantage plus level!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I prep'd different information for a three rather than a two, so this is handy. Your brain has really muddled- You, you can see both the long hand at 11 and the short hand that 11. Likewise, the same for the 4.

Pip Gladwin

Okay, well in my head if 11:04 was the time that this thing was going to blow up and it's 11:10 now it would have already-

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

No, the hand was at four right right so if it was one minutes hand it would be 20.

Pip Gladwin

So it would be- Oh, I see right sorry, yes, I'm- I'm- I'm... remembering how clocks work, please cut this out.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, analog clocks really something we're gonna need to educate our Gen-Z listeners on.

James Barbarossa

Pip, you're doing it in character.

Pip Gladwin

I am doing it in character, I'm an idiot.

Elizabeth Campbell

I mean, do I notice him freeze and stare at the clock?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, absolutely. 10 seconds like just staring at a clock.

James Barbarossa

He just freezes for 10 straight minutes.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

You alright there, new guy? Uh...

Pip Gladwin

I spin around-

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Oh!

Pip Gladwin

-and I- I reach up and I grab, kind of, as close to Zongroff's collar as I can.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Oh!

Pip Gladwin

-and I endeavor to pull her head sort of closer down to my-

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Roll me an opposed- do you want to let this happen? Zongroff?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

I mean, I feel I'm taken by surprise, but I wouldn't necessarily allow this to occur.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Roll me an opposed dexterity check background and level please.

Pip Gladwin

Oh, man, I'm rolling a lot of twos, uh...

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

I mean, I got an 18.

Pip Gladwin

I mean, you definitely beat me, it doesn't...

Elizabeth Campbell

So I have a dwarf just tugging at my collar.

Pip Gladwin

I grab onto Zongroff's collar and just one arm pull-up myself.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Oh, hello!

Pip Gladwin

I attempt to pull her down down. It doesn't work. So I just bought myself up to Zongroff's face.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Absolutely.

Torbrennan

Sergeant. I have very- I have very little time to explain this to you. I have reason to believe that something terrible is about to happen and it involves that clock. We need to get up there and we need to get up there now.

Pip Gladwin

And I let go- THUNK- back onto the ground and I spin and I just charge towards the building. I don't know how to get in. I don't know how you get to the clock tower, I run at the building.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Roll me- while you're running away, roll me a quick perception check.

Pip Gladwin

I'm good at those!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

With advantage!

Pip Gladwin

Oh and, yeah, why?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Because it's obvious and no one's trying to hide it.

Pip Gladwin

That is a that's- that's a natural 1 and a natural 20.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Ah! You see a person leaving the clock- a door through the clock tower. The door is still open, and as the door's shutting, you shove your foot in and you can get into the clock tower.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Wait, where are you going?! You can't- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Pip Gladwin

You see me disappear. I go into the clock tower. I've gone.

Elizabeth Campbell

I guess I chase after him because I guess he's my responsibility now.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great you vault into into the clock tower after you manage to pull off the same maneuver as him getting into the door, um...

Pip Gladwin

If I can add- if I can add one thing just at the end of that just to upset, not- just- just- just because I think this would upset and worry Zongroff even more; as I'm charging, as I get closer to the door, I think the thing that I catch the door with is not my foot, it's my sword. This massive two handed sword which I draw whilst running.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Innapropriate! This is innapropriate in the streets!

Pip Gladwin

swing it open with the sword and just like disappear in, and you hear like a battle cry as I go into the building.

Elizabeth Campbell

Just reverberating.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

So um... Maerydyth, Isadora, do me a favor, roll me perception checks. Both at advantage.

Maddy Searle

Alright!

Laura Girling

Eh! 18. Oh but with- sorry, perception is- I know you just said it, Wisdom?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Wisdom, background, level.

Laura Girling

Lovely. [HUMS] 24.

Isadora Ravenwood

16.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You both are walking towards the clock tower investigating things. And you see a dwarf draw a sword, screaming, running into the clock tower, and an orc in the Harbour Guard uniform run after him yelling “Hey, hey, you can’t do that!”

Maerydyth Wynvere

Do I recognize that it’s the orc that I served a black coffee to this morning?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, and actually, Isadora you recognize the orc as well. This is Zongroff Gral’Shaak member the Harbour Guard. You have to check in with the Harbour Guard occasionally. And let’s just say there have been a couple incidents on the streets, those moments where you learn not to just summon skeletons, willy nilly.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, is that– that’s Sergeant? Sergeant Gral’Shaak? What? Why? Why is she running after that... that man with the massive sword?

Maerydyth Wynvere

I don’t know and, do you reckon they had like, scary clock visions too?

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh my god. What if they did? What if they did?

Maerydyth Wynvere

They might have done I think we should follow them.

Isadora Ravenwood

Okay. Yeah, yeah, let’s do it. Let’s do it.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Okay, okay, cool. Yeah, yeah, totally going in the big clock.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Okay great!

Zongroff Gral’Shaak

There are guided tours once a week, come on. Torbrennan

Torbrennan

Have at you, you filthy timepiece!

James Barbarossa

[CLOCK VOICE] “And I’m the clock!”

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Isadora, Maerydyth you run into the tower, still able to get in through the unlocked doors seemingly, surprisingly.

Pip Gladwin

Can I just sidebar, can I just hilariously sidebar? This is a little bit meta but, I think that's okay, we're recording this is. Like, straight up, that person who walked out is the person who did it. They've gone. They've walked out. That was them, and they've gone. If I'd been more switched on I'd be like, well hang- who's that guy coming out of there? But it's like no- Argh! The tower! Go! Fuck...

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

So Torbrennan you are running up the steps of the clock tower. You are getting to the clock tower room. Gral'Shaak- Zongroff you're desperately trying to catch up with this somehow speedy dwarf.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

He's so short but determined.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And you hear ambling behind you are two young women just saying but what if they had visions too, what if they had visions too? And climbing up after you. Torbrennan you reach the door first to the clock tower room, and Zongroff, a moment later catch up to him. The door is closed.

Pip Gladwin

Okay, I wouldn't break my stride. I would kick it as hard as I can.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Absolutely. Roll me strength please.

Pip Gladwin

This is a dramatic thing to do. So I feel I'm going to add my Blade of Valarus background to this for kicking a door in.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Please. Yeah, yeah, absolutely. Absolutely.

Pip Gladwin

Man, that's a plus eight. That's a natural 20.

That's a natural 20 but, that would be 28 with bonuses.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Describe to me running up the stairs and knocking down the door.

Pip Gladwin

Um, yeah, I'm- doing my best to, kind of, take the stairs sort of two at a time, which isn't easy being a dwarf being this height and wearing full plate armor, and carrying a two handed sword. But yeah, I'm- I'm charging up, I sort of come up and around the sort of corner of the stairs and spy this door. And yeah, I don't break my- my stride, I kind of pull the sword in and lower my left shoulder, sort of roughly at the- I'm kind of at perfect height for the lock I feel, being dwarf sized and like yeah, my armour, the sort of pauldron on the

shoulder is the is the thing that hits the door first. And I- I assume with a natural twenty that I just plow right the hell through it.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh 100% that door is not built to withstand anything, let alone-

James Barbarossa

[CLOCK VOICE] "I just want to tell the time-" [SCREAMS]

Pip Gladwin

Can I just gotta confirm from the from the DM that that isn't actually happening?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

That's not really happening.

James Barbarossa

[CLOCK VOICE] "I don't exist!"

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

So you burst that door open, that door splinters into 1000 million pieces. This is no longer a functional... blocking. This is merely a portal now into another room. You see the grand bell chamber before you of the New Harbour clock tower and Deafening D'Or, the bell for which the tower is named, hangs ominously above your head. And you feel the shrill piercing ring of something distinctly magical thrumming around you, but you've seen nothing. And behind you, Zongroff arrives, and a couple seconds later so do Isadora and Maerydyth.

Elizabeth Campbell

I will obviously immediately try and grab Torbrennan who has just had a full snap and-and- destroyed public property, as far as I'm concerned. I just grab his shoulders.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

What- what- what-

Torbrennan

Sergeant, please, there's- there is- there is method to this, something up here is not right, like- take a second for yourself and tell me you don't feel that.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Roll me a perception check Zongroff, and actually everyone else.

Laura Girling

25 from me.

Elizabeth Campbell

22.

Maddy Searle

9 for me.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Maerydyth and Zongroff. Both of you wait for a moment. Pause and... yeah, you feel this shrill, dark, magical energy ringing.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Can I hear any ticking?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You hear the ticking of the clock tower... and... what was your perception?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Twenty- uh- two, I think

Pip Gladwin

22, it was.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, and you hear the tick, tick, tick, tick, tick of something else, something a little bit smaller.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Ah... hmm.

Torbrennan

I understand that you're upset; this is a door and can be replaced. There is something else happening here. And I suggest we discover what it is. Hello!

Pip Gladwin

I say, seeing these two young women who've just arrived.

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh, hi. Um, did you guys have like, I mean- sorry, this is really forward and personal. But like, did- did you have like weird clock visions and dreams?

Torbrennan

Oh my god. Yes!

Maerydyth Wynvere

Yeah. Right.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Sorry. What? That... Isadora? What are you-?

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh, oh, yeah, I'm sorry, Sergeant. I- yeah- I just came with- came with this- this lovely lady here because-

Maerydyth Wynvere

Oh, I'm Maerydith.

Isadora Ravenwood

Oh sorry, I'm Isadora. Sorry, we were like- we went straight to like- the super like- strong friendship, dream sister thing-

Maerydyth Wynvere

Nice to meet you. We're best friends!

Isadora Ravenwood

-without actually knowing eachother's names. That's weird

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Hang on, hang on, visions? You said something about- Sorry. You said something about... visions, and the clock.

Torbrennan

Oh, Sergeant, it's clear. You had them too, didn't you? Of course you did. Of course you did. Here we are the four of us. It makes perfect sense. And I am very excited to- to dig into this. But if you all had the same vision as me, there's a good chance we're all about to die. So let's... find out from- from wherever it is that that- rather unpleasant magical sensation is coming from, shall we?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah...

Torbrennan

A little light. And- perhaps you could put your um... prodigious investigative skills- to the test, uh, Officer Zongroff. How does that sound?

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah. Yeah.

Elizabeth Campbell

Zongroff is just very shocked at everything that's just happened in the last 30 seconds. But...

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

Yeah, yeah, no- something bad- something bad is gonna happen.

Pip Gladwin

I pat Zongroff kind of on- the back and just-

Torbrennan

Just, police work first, and freak out later.

Pip Gladwin

And then just start looking around the room.

Elizabeth Campbell

I just- I just nod and start investigating because that's- that's what autopilot looks like. Yep.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Absolutely everyone roll me an iiiii... a perception check; Maddy roll with an advantage.

Maddy Searle

Alrighty.

Pip Gladwin

Can I game something here a little bit, what's the light level like in this room?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Um, there's light from outside, it's pretty- pretty light.

Pip Gladwin

It's well lit? Okay, not to worry.

Laura Girling

I rolled an 11.

Maddy Searle

I got a dirty 20.

Pip Gladwin

This- the- this- this- This d20 apparently only rules twos. So we're gonna put that one in the naughty d20 jail.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

I rolled a 22 again,

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You all start looking around the room. Torbrennan you, become- you look up at the bell and you kind of start to convince yourself that the bell is definitely where the sound is coming from, probably you can hear like some like- reverberations off the metal or something. But you're like definitely sure. It's probably the bell. Maerydyth you are just looking in corners. Like there's something hidden somewhere but you don't find anything. Zongroff, you turn on that familiar kinda... police ear. You start like- you're not even, like, looking you're, like, listening more and like, you're kind of echolocating this thing and you- your foot actually finds it first. You stub your toe against something. And you can feel magical ZAP push you back.

Zongroff Gral'Shaak

There's something here.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Isadora, would you like to touch it?

Maddy Searle

Um, Yes.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Isadora you push your hand against what seems to be nothing. And then suddenly, Psssh!!! The spell dissipates and you see the shape of a sharp and brutal machine come into focus. Without a moment's hesitation, the machine jumps to life, seemingly aware of its detection. Metal slides against metal, as two figures unfurl from the machinery and prepare to strike. Roll initiative. What is this mysterious machine? How does it relate to these ethereal visions? And can our heroes defeat these automatons? All this and more in the next episode of Realms of Peril and Glory! See you next time.

Pip Gladwin

Theme tune, theme tune, theme tune.

Elizabeth Campbell

That's the theme tune, right?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

So, Maddy can you let everyone know where they can find you?

Maddy Searle

You can find me on twitter @Maddy_abstract and on my twitter there are various links to other stuff that I do including my old fantasy comedy podcast, the Prickwillow Papers and stuff that I do for Resty Quill like Stellar Firma and the Inexplicables. So check it out!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Check it out! Laura, what about you?

Laura Girling

Right! So! You can check me out on twitter and instagram with the handle @byLaura-Girling, and my Etsy Store is [byLauraGirling.Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/byLauraGirling) I'm selling, pin prints, gifts, greetings cards and handmade little bits and pieces. If you use the code Vael at checkout you can get a 10% discount. Wahoo!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

James, where can people find you?

James Barbarossa

I can be found on twitter @barbarossaphone and also check out the Christmas Special of You Awaken in a Strange Place which will be on the RPG feed around Christmas time 2021.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Pip, is there anywhere people can find you? I don't think there is but-

Pip Gladwin

Yes, infact there is. I can be found beyond the vail of secrets in the catle of the night, the old troll knows the way but you must answer his riddles three! Um no not really! Uh check out Wooden Overcoats, I'm in that, uh and yeah some other stuff the names of which I've forgotten! You know listen to some podcasts-

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah!

Pip Gladwin

And one time out of fifty someone at the end of it will say 'featuring the voice of Pip Gladi-win and you'll go, 'oh yeah I know that guy, he's that Dwarf in that show'. So yeah.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And Liz where can people find you?

Elizabeth Campbell

You can find me on social media @LizxCampbell, that's Liz, the letter X, and then my sur-name. And when I do stuff, I will post it on my twitter.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great!

Elizabeth Campbell

So follow that!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Follow that! You can find myself personally @zackfg on Twitter and Instagram. You can follow Realms of Peril & Glory across all social media platforms @RealmsPod. You can go to our Patreon, Patreon.com/LightandTragic to get bonus shows, ad free listening, our Patreon exclusiver show, game, thing The Witch is Dead that Liz is also in. That's coming out this October. And then you can check out James and I'd other show The Orphans and you can also get our merch at the link in the description. Thank you guys so much for tuning in bye!

[THEME MUSIC]

James Barbarossa

[CLOCK VOICE] "Goodbye everyone!"