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The Frozen Dorth

Adventures for Dungeon World

2017

Happenings in Christmas Village 2017

A 25 day community collaboration of magical holiday joy for queer gamers

As you may or may not know, being queer around the holidays can be a rough experience, as many queer folks do not have relationships with their families. The reality for a lot of queer people is that if they do not have holiday plans with friends, they do not have holiday plans. This project is dedicated to uniting friends with some gaming magic to bring holiday cheer to those who need it most.

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"Navigating the Snowstorm" is based on the Labyrinth move by Jason Cordova. http://www.gauntlet-rpg.com/

"Swept Away in the Storm" adapts material from Plundergrounds: The Hoard by Ray Otus. http://www.jellysaw.com/

The first day of Christmas gave snow The second day of Christmas gave bells The third day of Christmas gave holly The fourth day of Christmas gave tinsel The fifth day of Christmas gave hearths The sixth day of Christmas gave mistletoe The seventh day of Christmas gave elves The eighth day of Christmas gave candies The ninth day of Christmas gave spirits The tenth day of Christmas gave toys The eleventh day of Christmas gave trees The twelfth day of Christmas gave lights The thirteenth day of Christmas gave wings The fourteenth day of Christmas gave robes The fifteenth day of Christmas gave antlers The sixteenth day of Christmas gave seals The seventeenth day of Christmas gave stars The eighteenth day of Christmas gave cold The nineteenth day of Christmas gave doors The twentieth day of Christmas gave demons The twenty-first day of Christmas gave reindeer The twenty-second day of Christmas gave saints The twenty-third day of Christmas gave clocks The twenty-fourth day of Christmas gave gifts Christmas day gave joy.



The Frozen North

The Frozen North is always rather inhospitable this time of the year. This blizzard is something else, though. Still, rumor has it that there's magic and treasure to be discovered only in this season.

ADVENTURING GEAR - PHILLIP WESSELS

- Rations including water; dehydration makes it eaasier to freeze
- Alcohol seems to warm the bones, although it causes your body to lose heat
- > faster
- Snowshoes to stay on top of the cold
- Thick gloves and boots will keep frostbight at bay
- A heavy cloak and/or coat to block the wind's sharp cold
- A fur-lined hood, hat or helmet just might keep your ears from stinging

IMPRESSIONS - PHILLIP WESSELS

- Deep, soft snow covering the ground as far as the eye can see
- An eerie silence, when the cold wind isn't blowing and biting at your ears
- A layer of frost gathered on you and your belongings
- A white snowflake swirling down to land in the palm of your hand
- The occassional whiteout causing you to walk in circles
- ⁽³⁾ Your teeth chattering as you shiver, your steamy breath visible in front of you
- Dosing the feeling in your toes as you slip, fall and shuffle onward
- Trees heavy with snow. So, so many trees.

DRUIDIC LORE

The Frozen North is not just trees and snow; the Druid can see the spirits of the land and its diverse ecosystem of flora and fauna, including the elusive reindeer.

The Arctic Hares are shy and harmless, but they know how to survive in this unforgiving season and how to avoid being prey. If a pack of them keeps pace with the Druid and their party, they can kick up the snow around them, creating a brief but dense blizzard to blind predators and cover the party's escape. -JAMES MULLEN

Blizzards are the domain of the elemental spirits of air and night. Druids who can brave the blizzard can learn to lure these spirits into telling them what people have done when they thought wind and darkness hid them. -RICHARD RUANE

Anyone who can speak to animals this time of year will tell you that the owls are exceedingly bored by winter. Hunting isn't nearly as exciting against a bright white background. Thus the parliament of owls turn their attention to the mundane movements of non-prey, they can tell you where anyone went but don't expect their talons in aid. Damn owls and their neutrality oaths. -GREC GELDER

- The reindeer of the Frozen North are elusive, magical creatures. A Ranger can track, catch or tame one, if they have the know-how. -PHILLIP WESSELS
 - * The reindeer's footprints sometimes appear before they have been somewhere and sometimes well after. Don't make assumptions. The tracks sometimes lead to places the reindeer haven't even been. Watch your step... -LU QUADE
 - * Times are hard in the frozen woodland and the reindeer can be tempted out into the open by the promise of a fresh vegetable: something eye-catchingly bright, like a carrot, works best. It's even been known for a snifter of brandy to do the trick. -JAMES MULLEN
 - * Any experienced reindeer tracker will tell you that it's just as much about getting them to track you as it is tracking them. One has to have a clear conscious before you can turn around and see them. There, no matter where you are in the forest, will be a clearing of freshly laden snow and a family of reindeer. -GREG GELDER
 - * Reindeer can be shy when the woods are silent, but are drawn to celebrations. A snowy woodland bacchanal is sure to lure them out of their winter dens. -RICHARD RUANE



GAZING UPON THE STARS ABOVE

Despite snowstorm after snowstorm sweeping over the Frozen North, there are times when the sky clears and the stars do shine brightly. There's something strange about the stars here, twinkling as if all the beings out in the cosmos are watching this place. PHILLIP WESSELS

When you **wish upon a star**, state a broad desire that you feel from the bottom of your heart, e.g. "I wish I could find true love," "I wish was home," etc. Spend XP and roll plus XP spent; on a hit, your wish is granted in a way that seems plausible and not supernatural; on a 7-9, you'll have to give up on something else in order to seize this opportunity. On a miss, your wish is granted, but the intent is twisted into the worst interpretation that can be imagined, e.g. you get home to find it burned down and everyone there dead. _JAMES MULLEN

Such activity is forbidden in these parts. Little children are told to wish whatever they want but keep their gaze off the horizon. Nigel the gambler doesn't listen much to these townfolk and if you can pull his mouth out of that tankard he might teach you how to wish proper like. When you **wish upon a star** speak your wish aloud and roll + nothing 10+: You are visited at night by the brightest star in the sky. It will grant you your wish in the form of an object beneath your pillow. 7-9: A flickering star appears to you and requires some clarification on

what exactly you meant when you said all that. The whole encounter is very bureaucratic. You awake with a solid idea on how to make your wish come true. Take +1 forward when acting upon that idea until the wish comes true.

6-: A dark void pervades your sleep and troubles your mind. Shadows speak to you in waking hours and pollute your ambitions. You will, in time, be sucked into the void. You automatically fail Last Breath rolls from now on. You were warned! -GREG GELDER

When you **wish upon a star**, name someone whose dreams you want to visit, say why, and roll. On a hit, when you next sleep, you will visit the dreams of the one you named. The GM will tell you what you see and tell you two useful truths that you learn. However, on a 7-9, they will also remember your face from their dreams and learn two useful truths about you. -RICHARD RUANE

OUT OF BOUNDS PLACES

There are many remote locations in the Frozen North that can be difficult to travel to. In fact, the abundance of icy lakes, treacherous mountain passes, freezing temperatures, and general lack of vegetation can make some places downright impossible to reach by normal means. -MICHAEL G. BARFORD

- The Frozen Rift appears at this season as the larger sheets calve off from the ice shelf, revealing lands below that are buried for much of the year. There are legends of a fallen kingdom here, but the crumbling, icy walls of the Rift are impossible to climb. -JAMES MULLEN
- Glass Perch is a Roc nest located high up the vertical face of Mt. Ichini. It's called Glass Perch because this particular Roc has an affinity for affixing stained glass windows to it's nest. These broken windows cast eerie, distorted images of long forgotten gods on the vertical cliff faces. The Roc has flown south for the winter of course, leaving whatever else it values as easy pickings, if you can get up there. -GREG GELDER
- The deathless witch Kaziah has long given up escaping from her prisoncave on the upper peaks Mount Ahmrak. Those who come to her for help will find her willing to bargain. Her magic is powerful, but her prices are always high. -RICHARD RUANE

The Willage of Bellhome

IMPRESSIONS - PHILLIP WESSELS & MICHAEL G. BARFORD

- A cobbled street banked with soft, powdery snow.
- The ringing bells of the ornate clocktower.
- A dwarf's braided beard frosted with snow.
- A parade of pagan revellers jingling bell-sticks and laughing raucously.
- Small children sitting in a circle weaving vines into crowns.
- The green and red of holly bushes poking through the snow.
- Tinsel hung heavily on trees and inside windows.
- An elderly person billowing a dying hearth fire with youthful energy.
- Chimneys with faint trails of smoke.
- A solemn procession of short, northern elffolk meticulously decorating the trees with brilliant & colorful ornaments.
- A priest dressed in white robes, cutting down mistletoe with a golden sickle.
- A pair of elves perform a graceful ritual dance to celebrate the death of deciduous leaves.
- A choir of elves sing in ecstatic harmony a song celebrating the immortality of conifers.
- Crispy crickets with colorful candy coating.
- Ethereal ice nymphs skate along the surface of a frozen river.
- A child stops cranking their jack-in-the-box right before it pops.
- [©] The candle lights in Bellhome's windows go out one by one.
- A holiday greeting sent from a foreign diplomat, sealed with a star insignia.
- A rural farmhouse hangs antlers above their door to usher in blessings for the new year.
- Priests in gold robes gather solemnly in the courtyard.

NAVIGATING THE SNOWSTORM - PHILLIP WESSELS, BASED ON THE LABYRINTH MOVE BY JASON CORDOVA

When you **attempt to navigate the howling snowstorm**, describe where you're going, push on and roll+CON. *On a 12+, the party holds 2. *On a 10+, the party holds 1. *On a 7-9, the party holds 1, but encounters a dangerous obstacle or opposition or loses something in the biting-cold wind (unless they spend 1 hold).

At any time, 2+ in present company may agree to spend 1 hold to duck into the GM's choice of shelter, which may or may not contain anything useful.

At any time, the entire present party may agree to spend 3 hold to reach a specific destination.

ENCOUNTERS -MICHAEL G. BARFORD

Snow Golem Clobber (d6 damage)	Horde, Magical, Amorphous, Construct	Elven Bellguard Elfsteel Bellclub (1d8 stun damage)	Group, Organized, Intelligent	
Close	4 HP	Close	6 HP 1 armor	
Snowball (d4 damage) <i>Near</i>	4 ПР	The bellguard march through tow none of the citizens are seen wearing	-	
Special Qualities: Reforms		don't heed the warnings of their jingling bellclubs, you		
Something is controlling bidding	the snow, making it do its	will feel their wrath. It's for the goo Instinct: to enforce cheer.		
Instinct: To drive off trespat the clocktower.	ssers; to carry off valuables to	 Threaten the despondent with jingl Knock the resistant unconscious Call for back-up with a golden bugl 	0	
Batter with snow limbs		Smile incessantly	~	
Throw dense snow ballsRecover from dismember	rment			

WHAT A DOOR FORETELLS

It's still winter in the Far North, and it's still very very cold. Yet, travelers still make their way to and through Bellhome. The town has a tradition of decorating doors during this season, often as a sign of hospitality, but sometimes as a warning. -PHILLIP WESSELS

- Many weary travelers seek hospitality at this time of year and it is a tradition in Bellhome to tie a red bow on one's door to indicate that you offer such respite. To those in the know, however, the knots indicate whether someone inside is open to sharing their own bed for the night... -JAMES MULLEN
- Halfling hospitality demands your door be left open to travelers. This of course becomes problematic in the winter months as their is only so much wood to stoke the furnace with. Enterprising halflings have taken to painting murals of their foyer in perfect perspective upon the outside of their doors. It lets travelers know the door is open, even in these cold winter nights. -GREG GELDER
- Doors decorated with three holly wreaths are truce doors. In winter, any unarmed creature who enters through a truce door after sunset may ask for shelter until sunrise. Bitter aristocrats designate their smallest doors as truce doors so that anyone coming to ask for shelter will have to grovel. Truly wicked aristocrats make their truce doors too small for anyone to get through. -RICHARD RUANE

WHERE THEY DUCK INSIDE

- If you need to get away from the crowds... the clock tower itself provides some relief from the worst of the weather. It's not heated, but it shelters from the precipitation and wind... and is usually quiet and empty. -YOSHI CREELMAN
- Immersing yourself in the sacred waters of the font in The Shrine of St. Helena will heal almost all of winter's illnesses and injuries, but will make the cold outside seem all the more cutting and bitter. -RICHARD RUANE
- A **barn** on the outskirts of town is a good if not particularly warm refuge for anyone who needs to keep a low profile. Unfortunately, you aren't the only one who had this idea. -LARRY S.
- Down a snowdrift riddled alley and around the corner is Bellhome's only **Tinselry**. Here children work the long silver strands into lengthy garlands that shine like the clear night sky. The children are well compensated with the earnings of the shop, but where did they find all that silver? -GREG GELDER
- The Sweatlodge: every year at this time, a vast tent of hides is erected over a fire pit of glowing embers and hot rocks. Drinks are consumed here as water is poured over the fire pit, creating clouds of billowing steam. -JAMES MULLEN
- The **root cellar** is cold and close. Still, it gives you a chance to get out of the wind and tell someone something that will warm them. -LOGAN HOWARD
- The **Shrine of the Waters** is a hot spring the people of Bellhome have bathed in for many years, adhering to

strict taboos about mixed bathing. For generations, a guardian has been appointed from the village widows or spinsters to ensure that no shenanigans take place and she accepts gifts in the name of the god of the waters. -JAMES MULLEN

The Frosty Mug is a local tavern. -PHILLIP WESSELS

* Mistletoe is strategically hung above various doors and access points. You'll definitely be caught under one or another.

- Arvin the Assassin has solemnly sworn never to kill anyone he's kissed. If someone might hire him to kill you one day, wait for him under the mistletoe. If someone has already hired him to kill you, wait for him while wearing a mask. -RICHARD RUANE
- Dervla is half-human, half-demon and all sweetness: she works in the Frosty Mug as a room-maid and tries to avoid the bar area as much as possible. Her demon heritage means that anyone who kisses her will become enthralled with their own deepest, most secret desires until they have satisfied them. -JAMES MULLEN
- Aunty Etna is a sweet, round woman with rosy cheeks and a winning smile. Although she has no relations in the village, all the kids still call her aunty. If you chance into her beneath the mistletoe, she'll laugh a hearty laugh and hug you tight before pecking you on the cheek and leaving you standing there, feeling ten years old again. -GREG GELDER
- It's very likely you'll be caught wth one of the rival adventureres on the next page!
- The tavern has some very special drinks, some of which are off the menu.
 - The **Warming Ale** is the signature drink, but on a busy night they'll only put enough magic in it to keep it slightly above room temperature. The cinnamon is a nice touch, though. -PHILLIP WESSELS
 - Old Albert runs a little distillery out in the woods and provides The Frosty Mug with a barrel of his **Forest Fruit Dew** every week, but what with all this snow, no-one has seen him and his cart for days. Maybe some thirsty customers could brave the elements and collect the barrel in person... for the good of everybody, obviously! -JAMES MULLEN

The Frosty Mug's daytime barkeep has two twin sons named Oogle and Boogle. To keep them occupied during business hours she has them sell **Hot Fermented Snow Juice** which of course, is just hot water. Most find this cute, and pitch in the copper pieces to amuse themselves while Oogle and Boogle scramble back and forth in elaborate mimicry of cocktail preparation. The water tastes faintly of roses. -GREG GELDER

The Frosty Mug stopped **mulling their wine with the distilled spirits of fir pitch** after last year's cheerful solstice celebration devolved into a frenzied bacchanal. The heretical priest Agreus still sells the stuff, and it's said to give drinkers disturbingly truthful visions. -RICHARD RUANE

THE RIVAL ADVENTURERS -MICHAEL G. BARFORD

Aega, the Warrior		Solitary, Intelligent
Hand Axe (1d10 damage) Close	14 HP	4 armor (+1 Shield)

A gruff woman with wild red hair. She sports an eyepatch that doesn't quite cover the scar over her right eye. Her cold iron armor is scratched and dented, but that is only a testament to the battles she has overcome.

Instinct: Protect her allies.

- Jump in front of an ally to block a blow
- Point out a weakness in the enemy
- Break something useful

Jix, the Rogue	Solitary, Intel	ligent, Stealthy
Twin Daggers (2d4 damage) <i>Hand</i>	12 HP	1 armor

A slender individual with a veiled face. Their leather armor is cobbled together from several different pieces, but has been dyed together with the same polish used on their black boots. Their eyes are heavy with condescension and arrogance.

- Strike from behind
- Set up a follow-through from an ally
- Leave a trap behind

Pinneret, the Mage	Solitary, Intelligent, Magical
Magic Missile (1d8+1 damage) <i>Near, Far</i>	10 HP

It's hard to tell what sort of frame this woman has beneath the piles of robes she is wearing. Only her head and one arm are free from the mound of dyed wool. Enigmatic and red-faced.

- Craft a compelling illusion
- Threaten to summon a powerful demon
- Leave behind a runic ward

She often reaches into her folds of fabric and pulls out strange trinkets, tools and talismans:

• A small device that looks like an egg-timer with red sand running through it, the wizard continually checks this and seems to keep some kind of schedule according to it:

The Red Alert: Grip this in your hand and ask it how long it will be until you will next face life-threatening danger, the sands will start running down exactly 3 minutes before the danger occurs, less if the danger is imminent when you ask.) -JAMES MULLEN

• A local boy swears the kind wizard gifted him with a beautiful orange tabby kitten just the other week. It was a handsome cat with a beautiful red ribbon around it's neck. He lost the cat though, it ran off in the night.

Pinneret's Polymorphing Present: 0 weight, 1 use Pinneret's Polymorphing Present appears to those who no longer hold joy in their heart as a grey putty like mass. To those who do, it appears as what their childish soul desires most. It can be used as leverage for Parley and will return to the users pocket within the week. The present breaking, running away or disappearing of course robs the recipient of all joy. -GREG GELDER

A QUICK FRIEND - MICHAEL G. BARP

Fringham Bellringer 2 Loyalty 4 HP Skills: Minstrel 2

Fringham is a small excitable goblin dressed in festive winter garb. He carries a stick covered in small iron bells. He wears a cheery but unsettling grin that stretches from ear-to-ear. *Instinct:* To spread cheer.

A Hero's Welcome - When you enter a place of food, drink, or entertainment with a minstrel you will be treated as a friend by everyone present (unless your actions prove otherwise). You also subtract the minstrel's skill from all prices in town.

Items/Equipment: Festive Garb, Bell-stick

THE HOLLY CROWN GAME - MICHAEL G. BARFORD

The village of Bellhome lies in the ruins of the ancient Elven city of Bellethiel. Long ago, the grand city's sovereign would pass their crown to a humble citizen for the day of the winter equinox as a sign of goodwill. It is speculated that this practice may have once resulted in the decimation of the city.

Today, that ceremony is honored, or rather, lampooned, in Bellhome with a traditional holiday game. Participants pass around a woven holly crown and create silly rules that must be followed for the night. Those who break the rules are pinched on their cheeks for their misbehavior.

Each character willing to participate should take a turn wearing the crown. When you **wear the crown**, your character should take on an accent of mock nobility and come up with a silly rule. For example, "All must stand on one leg." Or, "Any who meet underneath this sprig of mistletoe must kiss!" When you describe your character following the rules in spite of embarrassment, mark XP. When you **describe your character breaking a rule to avoid embarrassment**, take 1d2 damage from savage cheek pinches. If your character refuses to take part in this childish game, take +1 forward when the party is interrupted by something sinister.

MAYBE DON'T EAT THE BERRIES - PHILLIP WESSELS

Plucked from a holly bush, these plastic-looking berries appear delectable. You can easily carry an innumerable amount of these.

When you **eat one of the berries**, which are quite bitter, roll+CON. On a 12+, you will succeed on your next move as if you rolled a 10+. On a 10+, take +1 forward. On a 7-9, take +1 forward, but you will be interrupted by uncontrollable vomiting at a vital moment.

Young, unlucky or excessive consumers, should roll 1d6 damage.

You may use the juice of these berries to create poisons.

OTHER BELLHOME TRADITIONS

- The leaves of the holly bush have been used as wards against evil since ancient times.-PHILLIP WESSELS
- The tiny wrens that live in the rafters of the village houses are taken in and fed, because it is believed that their song keeps evil presences at bay. It is a bad omen if the wrens leave a house, because it suggests something has scared them away. -JAMES MULLEN
- A late fall milking of the goats is cultured quickly using leftovers from last year. This sour and curdled "winter milk" is a panacea for all ailments of the physical and spiritual kind. Tastes like goat breath. -GREG GELDER
- In the dark of winter, ghosts can follow the evergreen vines of ivy to revisit their mortal homes. To cause an unwanted ghost to go astray (forever offending it), loop ivy 13 times around its headstone. -RICHARD RUANE
- In winter, the warriors of the clan wear thick silver rings on their middle fingers, and clang them against their breastplates to bring courage and bravery to their hearts. -MICHAEL BARFORD
- Justice in Bellhome is pretty typical. What people don't know is that convicted criminals tend to go missing around this time of the year. It's said that if you put your ear to the floor, you can hear them screaming in the underworld. -PHILLIP WESSELS
- Little inverted triangles that are meant to bless the eaves, so they don't collapse under the weight of snow and icicles. -MICHAEL PRESCOTT
- Small brass carriage wheels are often worn by travelers at this time, either pinned to an outer jacket or worn close to the chest on a chain. These talisman are said to ward of traffic on busy roads. Spinning the wheel slowly clockwise often guides you to clear and open roads. Spinning the wheel counterclockwise is not advised. Of course direction is all a matter of perspective and traffic a matter of patience. -GREG GELDER
- When the second son of the warlord Skyrpon eloped with a local stableboy many Yuletide ago, his father had his new son-in-law beheaded. However, the severed head laid a curse on Skyrpon foretelling his death. Even now, newlyweds celebrating their first Yule wear medals showing the young man's head to ward off the cruelties of their in-laws. -RICHARD RUANE

INUNDATED IN TINSEL

Around this time of the year Bellhome becomes progressively more inundated with silver tinsel. No one knows where the silver comes from (except the children who work at the Tinselry), but the tinsel is used in strange and interesting ways. -PHILLIP WESSELS

- When the snow falls and the mist rises, travelers in the woods are glad to find the glittering silver rope that guides them back towards town. -JAMES MULLEN
- Miggs, the old cat lady, will tell anyone who will listen about the dangers of tinsel. Too much, wound in just the right way, can produce the most fearsome winter foe: The Tinsel Serpent. Says that's why cats hate tinsel so much. Crazy Miggs...-GREG GELDER

- They say that when young lovers tie their hands together with the starry tinsel that drapes the pines beneath an aurora, they will be bound together in the afterlife, as well. -MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- Many of the villagers take fists of tinsel and scrub the walls with it. Scouring out the shadow, they say. -PHILLIP. WESSELS
- The silver sprites are small and generous, but also cautious, and vicious when provoked. It is said if you leave your weapons outside their grove, and come bearing gifts of tinsel for their nests, they will reward you with a feast beyond imagining. -TOMER GURANTZ
- To calm the ragings of a werebeast, wrap a single strand of Bellehome true tinsel around their eyes. A werebeast so bound will become calm for one night and may even do those who bind it a service. -RICHARD RUANE
- You might be lucky to be rewarded with a few yards of tinsel bundled together and tied into a knot. When you throw the tinsel knot into the air, it catches the light and twinkles. Wish for a specific object and roll+CHA. One a hit, it lands as that object. On a 10+, it is an exquisite silver replica. On a 7-9, it is good for one use only, splitting and unraveling into a mess of tinsel. -PHILLIP WESSELS

Pavuchky, the Little Spider	Stealthy, Solitary, Tiny
Bite (d4 damage) Close	1 HP

Gold and silver strands of tinsel are found strewn about in spiderweb patterns. They are the givings of Pavuchky. The little white spider is always around, watching from the shadows, in a tree or shrub if it's there. *Instinct:* to reward good will and charity; to punish greed

- lurk in the shadows, watching
- descend on a golden strand
- jump several feet with the speed of a blink

If Pavuchky leaves web, it is pure gold or silver and can be gathered and spent as coin. Pavuchky leaves at least 1 coin's worth whenever it appears but may leave much much more.

When you **commit an act of selfishness or greed**, Puvuchky may see it and attack. If Pavuchky bites you, your hair turns to silver or gold. The needy and greedy will yank at it and come at it with blades, or try to kidnap you for their wealth. This will only end once you give away all of your possessions and walk the streets as the poor do.

A Stop at Snowdrift Inn

-MICHAEL G. BARFORD & PHILLIP WESSELS

You notice a small log inn, the roof covered in snow. At first it appears empty, but the windows start to glisten with the light of a fire inside, and then it seems there's actually quite a number of people inside. The door is frozen shut, yet a warmth emanates from within. You feel your hands, your bones even, start to regain their heat as you pry it open. Inside you notice a brick hearth with a large, brilliant fire. An array of patrons are enjoying the warmth of the inn and indulging in food and drink.

DANGER: ETERNAL PATRONAGE OF THE SNOWDRIFT INN

- Grim Portent: Falling into an impossibly deep snowdrift next to an inn
- Grim Portent: The warm inviting feast-hall of the Snowdrift Inn delights your senses
- Grim Portent: The other patrons have a noticeable obsession with the fire
- Grim Portent: The other patrons pressure you into joining the festivities
- Grim Portent: The crackling hearthfire mesmerizes you

Impending Doom: You join the tormented patrons of the Snowdrift Inn for eternity

COMFORTS AT THE SNOWDRIFT INN

- The hot buttered rum is a shot of glowing warmth that slips its way into your fingers and toes, giving them a little tingle that puts a smile on the face of the least festive person. -JAMES MULLEN
- Someone is playing a jaunty tune on an old squeezebox. The song is about exhaling bad memories from the past year and inhaling good fortune in the new year. -MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- The haze of smoke smells like cinnamon and the carols are starting to sound like lullabies. If you fall asleep, you might not wake up for days, but the enchanted rest promises to restore so much of what you've lost in your adventures. -RICHARD RUANE
- The wild pipeweed is a snow-blooming plant. It's small yellow flowers can be spotted near the roots of cold and barren trees, and even when dried and smoked it leaves a taste like melting snow on your tongue. -RICHARD RUANE
- Snowdrift's coffee-dark stout is a legend in the northern realms. When the temperature drops, they turn it into their own version of lambswool, stewing it with dried apples and sage leaves until that you can warm your hands as well as loosens your tongue. -RICHARD RUANE
- While garlic and turnips are both native to the north, garlic-turnip stew comes from the mountainous western desert. Northerners have adopted it for themselves, though, and every manor, inn, or public house has its own variation they swear is the most authentic. -RICHARD RUANE
- One coin buys you a ticket for the Bottomless Buffet, a limitless supply of sausages, baked potatoes, pots of beans, spicy roast vegetables and other home-spun fare. -JAMES MULLEN
- There's a freshly stuffed cushion on every stool and chair, each one hand stitched by someone in the village, each embroidered with their own best wishes for the season. -JAMES MULLEN
- It's hard work, and causes the inn to get through 100 times more candles than usual, but the glittering strings of lights that throng the rafters and window frames makes it twinkle like the stars at night. -JAMES MULLEN

INDULGE IN A COMFORT

When you **accept the hospitality of the Snowdrift Inn**, give the GM one hold and roll+CHA. On a hit, you placate the patrons. On a 7-9, you can only do so if you convince another member of your party to indulge.

If you refuse to partake of the warm food, drink, and fire, you will anger the host.

INVESTIGATE A PATRON

When you **check out what's up with a patron at the Snowdrift Inn**, say what they think is really going on with the patron, then roll+WIS. **GM:** On a 10+, show them how this ghost's torment is worse than they imagined, revealing insight into how to deal with Snowdrift Inn. On a 7-9, only give a vague hint that something is amiss; it's on them to make it useful.

AZMODAHL THE SCORNED

The Snowdrift Inn is a popular subject when the children of Bellhome stay up too late sharing whispered tales of ghosts and ghouls. They say it's haunted by a hearth spirit, summoned to this plane by a sorcerer whose name has long faded from memory. Azmodahl, as he likes to be called, is stubborn and insatiable, as is befitting of a demon from the fire plane. He has used this abandoned structure as a trap to gather his favorite form of kindling - the ignorant souls of the content. In addition to his mesmerizing demonic gaze, he can animate the cold, decrepit inn with illusionary comfort and warmth. With enough effort, he can make the illusion reality, and command the inn itself to take the form of a large brick-and-timber golem. **Instinct:** To consume fuel

Fire Demon Form	Magical, Amorphous,	Terrifying, Devious
Searing Heat (1d8+)	nold damage)	(6 x hold) HP
Close		hold Armor

"If you won't give me your soul, I guess I will have to settle for your flesh!"

- Mesmerize them with a crackling fire
- Command the patrons to pressure them
- Pull tinder into its gaping maw with flaming tentacles
- Block their escape with a fiery obstacle

If the GM acquires 3 hold, Azmodahl can animate the Snowdrift Inn itself to threaten the party.

Snowdrift Inn Form	Huge, Magical, Amorphous, Terrifying, Construct. In Shambles	
Clobber (d12 damage) <i>Near, Reach</i>	18 HP 3 Armor	
"Did you think you could skip out on your tab?"		

"Did you think you could skip out on your tab?

- Lock the doors and batten the hatches
- Compact them like garbage
- Punish escape with brick and timber limbs
- Collapse into a smoky pile of glowing embers

Upon defeat, Azmodahl may be gained as a follower:

Hearth Spirit Form 0 Loyalty Skills:

12 HP Skills: Hearth Spirit 2

"Alright, you've proven your strength. Before you snuff me out, how about we strike a deal?"

Demonic Engine - When you **appeal to a hearth spirit to inhabit bricks as a golem**, tell the GM what you're trying to achieve. The GM will tell you what you must sacrifice to the spirit as fuel.

Through the Fire Plane - Azmodhal can inhabit an empty hearth with suitable tinder. When you **look in his flames**, describe their color and roll+WIS. The colorful flames fill the entire hearth, and through it you see a destination. On a hit, you may name a known destination and step through. On a 10+, take +1 forward to cast any magic; when you do, it is colored with the color you chose. On a 7-9, take 1 harm when stepping through.

WHAT HERE IS USEFUL OR VALUABLE TO ME?

There is a basement beneath the inn, with a hatch leading down to the ruins of Bellethiel. It appears Azmodhal rose from somewhere older and deeper.
Gold coins from different ages and origins.

The ashes of an extinguished hearth spirit are well regarded in the fields of alchemy and enchantment.
An ancient leather-bound manuscript, written in ancient Elvish. There are handwritten notes inked in the margins. If someone were able to decipher it, they would discover that it is a textbook on demons, and the notes were written by a young sorcerer's apprentice named Yend.

DEMONS THAT CAN BE SUMMONED ONLY IN WINTER

If Yend's notebook is deciphered, the following entries can be read:

- Fidurath, the Demon of Charity, can only be summoned by making a sacrifice of coins that have been freely given to the summoner, not gained as part of any payment, stolen or found. This is the best time of year to summon the demon, when people give to any stranger who begs for their change, not knowing that the coins are charged with that feeling of generosity: once the coins are sacrificed to Fidurath, you will become the recipient of ever greater acts of charity, but you will need someone very generous in order to donate their soul, or Fidurath will collect from you! -JAMES MULLEN
- Ilgrakaun, the ancient elves called him. Roughly translated as "the bleak sky at morning with no flowers." He can be summoned at the cost of one's ambitions for renewal by laying down on a hill and seeing only the sky with no horizon for an afternoon. Heed this passage, "Woe and misery are his footsteps, like winter wind in ice covered branches!" -GREG GELDER
- Oatherin, whose calligraphy is as exquisite as it is illegible, is the Chief Clerk of the record books of the Abyss. Anyone accepting and opening a gift wrapped in a contract Oatherin has inscribed is bound by that contract as if they has signed it in their own blood. -RICHARD RUANE
- When a grudge become unbearable, you can summon one of the Nine Mnemoae and pay them to carry the bad memory to their abyssal storehouse. However, they may insist that the storehouse is full, requiring that you volunteer to carry someone else's grudges in return for your own. -RICHARD RUANE
- You can hire one of the hellish Misthof inquisitors to stand beside your door and howl if an enemy of yours tries to enter your residence. Once a year, though, their standard contracts permit them to lie to you, identifying a true friend or loyal family member as a foe. It is up to you to determine if they are howling at an innocent. -RICHARD RUANE

Swept Away in the Storm

BY PHILLIP WESSELS, WITH MATERIAL FROM PLUNDERGROUNDS: THE HOARD BY RAY OTUS

Winter's hitting Bellhome particularly hard, and Postmasters have been having trouble making it to town.

DANGER: AN ICE DRAGON HAS MADE BELLHOME ITS HOME, IN THE TOP OF THE CLOCKTOWER.

Grim Portent: A snowstorm hits hard; players must Navigate the Snowstorm when moving outside

Grim Portent: Someone wonders aloud about having been waiting a long while for some packages to arrive

- Grim Portent: Postmaster Biggins stumbles in, covered in snow, without his cargo. "It was swept away!"
- Grim Portent: The clock in the tower stops (and no one will shut up about it).
- Grim Portent: Snow golems take over the village; no one can go outside without being attacked.

Impending Doom: The ice dragon preserves its hoard in impenetrable ice.

Stake: Will they raid the hoard of holiday gifts for treasure or be concerned with getting things to their recipients?

Stake: Will they try to cut a deal with the young ice dragon and help it find a different home?

NAVIGATING THE SNOWSTORM BASED ON THE LABYRINTH MOVE BY JASON CORDOVA

When you **attempt to navigate the howling snowstorm**, describe where you're going, push on and roll+CON. *On a 12+, the party holds 2. *On a 10+, the party holds 1. *On a 7-9, the party holds 1, but encounters a dangerous obstacle or opposition or loses something in the biting-cold wind (unless they spend 1 hold).

At any time, 2+ in present company may agree to spend 1 hold to duck into the GM's choice of shelter, which may or may not contain anything useful.

At any time, the entire present party may agree to spend 3 hold to reach a specific destination.

Postmaster Biggins 2 Loyalty

8 HP Skills: Tracker 2

A big man with a big red beard, tightly bound in furs, he has kind green eyes and round, rosy cheeks. Everyone's friend, though the dogs don't care for him much. He has no qualms about doing what needs to be done. Instinct: To take unwelcome initiative

Track - When a tracker is given time to study a trail while Making Camp, when camp is broken they can follow the trail to the next major change in terrain, travel, or weather.

Guide - When a tracker leads the way you automatically succeed on any Perilous Journey of a distance (in rations) lower than the tracker's skill.

INSIDE THE TOWER

The cold here is beyond any natural cold. You have trouble holding your eyes open as the air tries to turn your tears to frost. -GREG GELDER

Frost glitters on every surface and you spot a bird perched on an icy rafter, watching you as you pass below... but it doesn't turn it's head as you pass. It doesn't move at all; that's when you realize it's frozen solid. -JAMES MULLEN

It's immediately evident that the missing mail, post, and everything else has been stashed here. A dragon's roar can be heard from high in the tower.

CONTENTS OF THE DRAGON'S HOARD

- Anything anyone lost navigating the snowstorm
- Appropriate treasure, if they loot it (see 2 pages ahead!)
 A letter from adventurers sharing their intent to come to town and raid the "dungeon"
- * A box of delicious chocolates from "Triselda"

- A letter from a young scholar who was arrested when caught inside the Archimandrite's private library; they beg their family for the money for their release or they will rot in an oubliette until next winter. They also hint that they have learned a terrible secret of great importance while in the library... -JAMES MULLEN
- The Western lordships are notorious for their byzantine legal systems and mercurial clerks demanding yet another tax stamp or some embossed credential. But here, in this package, is all the legal documentation one would need to liquidate the assets of Baron Truchio VII the Virginal. Such things should not be sent by mail... -GREG GELDER
- Countess Renn's granddaughter is beloved throughout the northern territories, but this lost letter contains a warrant for the young lady's assassination and permission to present evidence of her death for a significant reward. -RICHARD RUANE

SNOW GOLEM PATCHES -MICHAEL G. BARFORD

Some snow in this area is capable of forming into humanoid snow golems that attack in droves. Your sword and spear are useless here - as long as there is snow, the golems can reform themselves.

When you **devise a clever plan to overcome a snow golem patch** (perhaps through fire, song, or a magical top hat), roll+INT. On a 7-9, you escape without too much cost. On a 10+, choose 1:

- You gain the loyalty of a snow golem whose sentience is separated from the patch.
- You acquire a few coal snow golems' eyes, that can summon a brief blizzard when burned.
- You learn a spell to summon a golem when snow is near.

GETTING AROUND THE TOWER ADAPTED FROM THE MOVE IN PLUNDERGROUNDS: THE HOARD BY RAY OTUS When you **attempt to navigate the frozen, hoard-cluttered mechanisms of the tower**, roll+INT. On a 12+ hold 2.

<u>On a 10+ hold 1.</u>

On a 7-9 hold 1, but you encounter a hoard denizen and/or find yourself in a bad place. On a 6- the dragon is one step closer to detecting your presence and location! (See Danger: A Game of Cat and Mouse.) This is in addition to any hard move the GM has in mind.

After rolling you must spend hold:

- 🏶 Spend 1 hold to find something valuable or useful. (Spend 2 for both.)
- 🍀 Spend 2 hold to get a clue to the dragon's whereabouts. 🖉
- 🍀 Spend 4 hold to get a clue how you might possibly harm the dragon.
- 🍀 Spend 5 hold to find an exit, locate the dragon, or find his nest.

One person rolls each time you navigate. The group's hold from multiple rolls is pooled together. When you spend hold, describe how you run through the GM's obstacle.

OBSTACLES TO RUN THROUGH

- A line of huge swinging pendulums
- * An amorphous scramble of spinning gears
- Pulleys and cables going between platforms
- Giant icicles crashing down left and right
- Flapping shutters in the icy wind
- Any other icy/mechanical obstacle you think of

DANGER: A GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE ADAPTED FROM PLUNDERGROUNDS: THE HOARD BY RAY OTUS

The ice dragon lives in and loves his hoard. He slumbers in dark corners, roams the tower organizing and admiring his accumulated wealth, decorates it with ice sculptures/ frozen people and things, and hunts down any pesky intruders (new decor).

- Grim Portent: The interlocked piles of treasure shudder and then grow quiet again with the distant passing of the dragon.
- Grim Portent: Snow golems burst out of the surrounding ice!
- Grim Portent: A distant roar of rage means the dragon has discovered that one of his treasures is missing!!
- Grim Portent: A tangible reminder that the dragon is stalking the characters: e.g. a throaty growl from a side passage, a forceful blast of freezing wind, the tower shakes and icicles fall
- Grim Portent: The dragon knows where you are!

Impending Doom: The dragon pounces without warning!

There are damned few people who have been down a dragon's hole and lived to tell about it! If you can find one (maybe one of those other adventurers in town), they will give you the following advice.

Be aware of your surroundings; look for signs the dragon is near. If he is, freeze in place. If he seems to be far off, try to find an exit as quickly as possible and move toward it. Go slow. Look for cramped places and narrow passages where the dragon can't go. Always have multiple escape routes open to you; don't get caught in a dead end. Touch nothing! Stay quiet! Avoid having/carrying anything with a notable smell (so as tempting as a warm, fiery torch is here, ditch it!). Don't leave any traces. And pray – if there are any gods who will listen to you. Veteran hoard raiders are crazy and tend to rely heavily on luck. They certainly ignore their own "touch nothing" maxim. Plundering hoards is a big game of cat and mouse. If the dragon catches you, it's probably your time to go. Even so, most raiders have a trick or two up their sleeve against that day (or think they do) and they can't resist the lure of a big score. The RIVAL ADVENTURURS are surely up for it!

Use the checklist to bring the encounter with the dragon closer every time the characters fail at the "getting around" move or another major roll. Tempt them into pushing their luck with the occasional giftbox. If the dragon finds the characters before they hunt it down on their own terms or escape from the hoard, the dragon will catch them flatfooted and probably wreck them!

The Ice Dragon	Solitary, Magical, Hug H	re, Captivating, Ioarder, Wings
Ice Breath (1d12+3 dam <i>Near or Far</i>	age, Ignores armor)	16 HP 5 Armor
Bite (b[2d12]+5 damage, 4 piercing, Ignores armor) <i>Near, Messy</i>		

This young 16 foot tall dragon is magnificent, like a moving ice sculpture. Instinct: To make/protect its home

- Freeze someone or something solid
- Stir up some snow golems
- Sweep away their stuff in the snowstorm

COMPENDIUM CLASS: DRAGONBACK POSTMASTER

You have offered the dragon another home (somewhere people shouldn't go) and given it an item of value. You may accept this compendium class if you climb on the bentdown dragon's back with bags of gifts and mail in tow.

You have the dragon as a follower. For now, it will only help you secure its new home. After that, it will always be loyal. If you are not at or securing its home, the GM can have the dragon fly off as a hard move.

When you **ask the dragon to take flight for your bidding**, give it something for its new hoard and roll+CHA. On a 7-9, it will want more.

You are treated as a friend by everyone in town. When you **deliver post**, roll+CON, minus the number of deliveries. On a hit, you will be given a tip of 1d6 gold per delivery. On a 7-9, take 1d6 damage form the cold.

MAGICAL ITEMS

- Ghost Dog Whistle A faded blue wooden whistle, with a tarnished silver chain. Blow on the whistle if you are lost, hurt or in danger - the huge furry ghost dog will appear and help you with your woes.-LU QUADE
- Stocking of Treats An oversized, red woolen sock with a white fur trim, it has a bottomless supply of rations in the form of satsumas, nuts, candy canes and chocolate shapes. It only works that way if you've been nice all day though; if you've been naughty (made a Hack & Slash or Volley move), it just gives you pieces of coal. -JAMES MULLEN
- Box of PEGOS 1 weight, 3 uses. Pegos are a favorite among children of all ages. These locking building blocks also serve a use to adventurers who can use them to construct one use, mechanical devices. Describe what triggers the machine and what the machine operates when triggered. Alternatively can be spread on the floor as caltrops. -GREG GELDER
- Place a dream journal beneath the head of a sleeping comrade and it will record a list of everything that appears in their dreams. The books are thin, leatherbound volumes, and any writing in them disappears with the next moonrise.. -RICHARD RUANE
- A tin of Everlasting Fruit Cake If you cut a slice (1 ration) and put it back in the tin, you'll never run out. It's sickeningly sweet and lies on the stomach like a lead slab. -JAMES MULLEN
- Twig of Mistletoe A bunch of green leaves and 3 large white berries. Succeed at spouting lore to unlock the following: when you pluck a berry off of the mistletoe, take +1 forward or ward off an evil entity. -PHILLIP WESSELS

LITTLE BELLA -PHILLIP WESSELS

A old cloth doll with yarn hair, button eyes, and a simple blue dress; it is about the size of a grown man's hand.

When you **rest somewhere in Bellhome**, you stir during the night to find the doll sitting on the window sill looking out at the village. If you humanize the doll and talk to it as if it were human, even jokingly, she will reply. She will introduce herself as Bella and tell you that she lived in Bellhome as a little girl a very long, long time ago, when it was the capital of the kingdom. She escaped from the terrible danger that destroyed the city a thousand years ago. As she lay freezing in the cold, staring at the sky as she froze and holding her favorite doll, a golden light broke through the clouds and whispered things to her. She hears that whisper now, again, after all this time.

When you **ask Little Bella to scout ahead**, she will be ignored by all. She is but part of the pall that hangs over Bellhome.

TRAPPER HENRY'S LAST GIFT TO THE WORLD

-CIEL FERMA

When you move through a snowy landscape or town near a wooded area, ask the GM to unlock this microfront.

-1 -1

"What? The White Bear Clan? Fearsome matriarchal warriors, known, feared and respected throughout the land, even the southerns respect them, for they prize 1 thing above all, to keep their word."

DANGER: THE SNARES OF CRAFTY OL'MAN HENRY (RECENTLY DECEASED) LIE IN WAIT AT EVERY TURN

- **O Grim Portent:** A fair haired newborn babe is discovered wriggling in a snow drift.
- **O Grim Portent:** At full moon the newborn turns to ravenous bear cub.
- **O Grim Portent:** The red burning coals of a wounded mama Werebear's eyes pierce the darkness.

Impending Doom: The Wrath of the White (Were)Bear Clan Descends on Civilization

- Stake: Will they return the child or is it too cute and potentially powerful?
- **Stake:** How many must die before peace is restored?

The were-club was born to a trapped mother, and escaped get help. The real danger to the characters is not the White Bear Clan, but the array of snares and traps that Ol' Henry has left (now unattend) about the woods. There is a map of Henry's Trapline. Destroying the traps, revealing the Henry's death, etc will appease the clan.

MAGICAL LIGHT SOURCES

In the dark and forgotten places of Dungeon World, sources of light are absolute necessities, and should be treated with the utmost care. Just imagine what it would be like to be a half-day's journey into a cave, only to accidentally drop your torches into a chasm.

- Who so wears the Candle Crown will shed it's light for all to see, but beware! It scritches and scratches at the wearer's head, drawing blood from them to feed the flames (the wearer takes 1d4 damage for every hour they wear the crown). -JAMES MULLEN
- When you are lost in the dark, retell the ancestral story you most treasure. When you wake up, you will be holding a candle that will burn for 2d4 hours. When you summon the light with a story, you must Spout Lore. If you fail, you can never recall that story again. -RICHARD RUANE

Local farmers have been working with Miktar the Warlock for several years now. They bring their cows and goats to him and he enchants them into glowing statuary for the winter months. Miktar sells these as festive decorations and the farmers don't have to feed the livestock for the winter. No reason you couldn't tie a enchanted chicken to a stick for portable light. -GREG

Candy for Douth

-PHILLIP WESSELS

Nobody knows who the mysterious confectionaire is in Bellhome. Delectable sweets have been found just about everywhere. It's unclear how the candies along your path, under your pillow, in your hand. But there they are, and oh how delightful it is!

DANGER: THE WITCH OF THE WOODS

- **Grim Portent:** An orphan is missing in the village.
- Grim Portent: A trail of candy leads into the woods
- Grim Portent: All of the village's children are missing.
- Impending Doom: The now beautiful witch comes with her candy golems to enslave the village.
- **?** Stake: Will they care more about the children than the magic the witch can offer?
- **?** Stake: Will they be tempted to eat any of the beautiful, delectable candies?

DELECTABLE SWEETS

When you eat a piece of the witch's candy, you may gain 1 experience point if you do what the witch whispers into your mind; otherwise take -1 forward.

- Blackstrap toffees aren't the tastiest candy, but taking one before you fall asleep will allow you to switch places with your dreamworld self. You'll get to adventure in the land of dreams in your own body while your dreamworld self promises you it will see to the wants and needs of those you've disappointed. -RICHARD RUANE
- Allow a Candied Rose Petal to melt on your tongue and the words out of your mouth will sound sweet to all who hear them. When you Parley, on a 7-9 you may tell them a true secret that you know as assurance of your promise. -JAMES MULLEN
- Champions Caramel Crunch appears in the pockets of the witch's favored friends. Not only is it filling (counts as 1 ration) but when you defend you may spend hold to ask "What will bring my opponent to heel?" -GREG GELDER

THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE

A trail of candy leads to an ornately crafted gingerbread house deep in the cold, frosty woods, behind a fence of candy canes. It has walls of gingerbread, a door of chocolate, sugar windows, licorice trim, pillars of peppermint and lemon sticks. Pies and cakes and other desserts cover every surface within. There's some strange magic here, put into the walls; no magic works inside but that of the witch.

Candy Golem	Group, Magical, Amorphous, Construct, Large
Clobber (d6 damage) <i>Close</i>	4 HP
Special Qualities: Explodes on death to make it rain candy	

Instinct: To drive off trespassers; to wander around at night

- Thwok with huge candy arms
- Leave a trail of candy
- Grab any children, retreat swiftly by rolling away

Triselda, The Witch of the Woods	Magical, Devious, Intelligent, Solitary
Scratch (d4 damage) ^{Close}	10 HP
Special Qualities: Heals quickly offscreen: blind but can smell	

Special Qualities: Heals quickly offscreen; blind but can smell -2 Loyalty Skill: Adept 6

An old witch living in the gingerbread house. *Instinct:* To live forever. *Cost:* Children *Knack:* Arcane/culinary knowledge

- Sees through her thick glass spectacles
- Bribes adults with magic items & knowledge
- Squeezes the cheeks and fingers of the children

Captured Child

(Sansel, Ava, Thom, Jobby, Dela, Rickard) 2 Loyalty

The captured children are either the witch's slaves or her prisoners. *Instinct:* To run, hide, play, cry. *Cost:* Protection

When you approach one of the children, they will tell you one of the following:

- They love the gingerbread house, it's their favorite place in the world
- They tried to escape but the candy golems got them
- They miss their family back at the village

A badly kept secret: all the candy (house included) is made from children.

Darkness Under Bellhome

-MICHAEL G. BARFORD & PHILLIP WESSELS

Beneath the village of Bellhome lies the ruins of the ancient elven city of Bellethiel. Once upon a time, an ancient enemy of the elves, the dark sorcerer Yend, was imprisoned in the forest outside of the city with ritual magic; his essence stretched thinly and anchored to three points within the woods. It is during the winter solstice-the longest night of the year-that his power is at its height. In ancient times, the elves of Bellethiel engaged in frenzied acts of joyful revelry to starve the sorcerer of the negative emotions his magic preved upon. Despite enduring a cataclysmic event that left the city in ruins, the ghostly inhabitants of the city maintain their exuberant vigilance unto undeath. If Yend were to gain enough power to break free of his arcane bonds, his shadowy incorporeal form would rise to the village above and terrorize its people until his hunger was satisfied, granting him the strength to fully substantiate his final horrifying form on this plane. No army of this age would be able to defeat him.

In the green light of the forest you see the silhouette of someone you love or hate. Who is it?

How do you get through the thicket of the forest?

IMPRESSIONS

- + Green eyes watching from afar in the darkness of the woods
- + A sourceless green light moving shadows of gnarly branches
- + Silence jarringly interrupted by the explosive cawing of crows
- + Any light or flame slowly turns green

Yend's echoing whispers of dark thoughts and curses

THE OBSIDIAN FOREST OF YEND

BASED ON THE LABYRINTH MOVE BY JASON CORDOVA

When you follow a trail through the Obsidian

Forest of Yend, describe how you do it, then roll+STAT. On a 12+, hold 2

On a 10+, hold 1

On a 7-9, hold 1, but you also face an obstacle or enemy. On a miss, you face an obstacle or enemy. On a 1-3, also lose all hold.

- $\mathbf{+}$ Spend 1 hold to learn something useful or valuable about your circumstances, 2 hold for both
- Spend 1 hold to gain an item that is useful or valuable, 2 hold for both
- Spend 3 hold to catch up to whomever has left this trail

THINGS FOUND IN THE DARK

- + Mask of the Stag of the Dark Star 1 weight. This stagskull mask with long antlers has eye sockets which reflect light as if green gems were embedded in them; however, if you stick your fingers in them, you'll find them empty. When you look in the dark with the mask on, roll+WIS. On a hit you can see in the dark and summon green will-o-wisps. On a 7-9 you hear the whispers of Yend in your mind. Instinct: to give tribute to the Stag of the Dark Star (**GM**: Tempt them with XP)
- + Yend's Darkwood 1 weight. This wand is made of a twisted black branch, the handle bound in silver tinsel and an emerald embedded in the tip. Summon green will-o-wisps.

- + Her Majesty's Locket This valuable golden locket contains a portrait of the royal family together, smiling, embracing each other.
- Princesses Tears 1 use. A strange irridescent ectoplasm was found around the locket. Spouting Lore reveals that it can be wiped on the eyes of the dying to cheat death.

Green Will-o-Wisp	Solitary, Tiny, Magical, Body of Light
Ray (w[2d8-2] damage) _{Near}	12 HP

You were looking for the source of the green light, then this it appeared. The glowing green orb is moving. Will it take you out of this damed forest? Instinct: To misguide.

- Lead someone astray
- Clear a path to the worst place possible
- Take the shape of those in memory

Murder of Crows Horde, Tiny, Flying, Hoarder, Cautious Beaks and Talons (d4 damage) 3 HP Hand

These black birds are ubiquitous in Yend's forest and are mostly harmless. But when they are angered, they will form a horde that acts with a solitary purpose. Instinct: To murder.

- Swallow them up in a black whirlwind
- Peck out their eyes

Choking Ivy Solitary, Stealthy, Amorphous, Plant Thorns (d10 damage, 1 piercing) 15 HP 1 Armor Close, Reach, Messy

The only living plantlife in this forest would appear to be these vines. Instinct: To grow.

- Shoot forth new growth
- Attack the unwary

Druidic Cultist of Yend Solitary, Magical, Intelligent, Terrifying

Darkwood Staff (d8 damage) Hand Agressive Thicket (d10 damage)

16 HP 2 Armor

Wrapped heavily in ivy vines, they wear a crow-feathered cloak and a stagskull mask. Their large darkwood staff has an obsidian point. Instinct: To pay tribute.

- Participate in ghostly echos of past tributes
- Tear apart crows

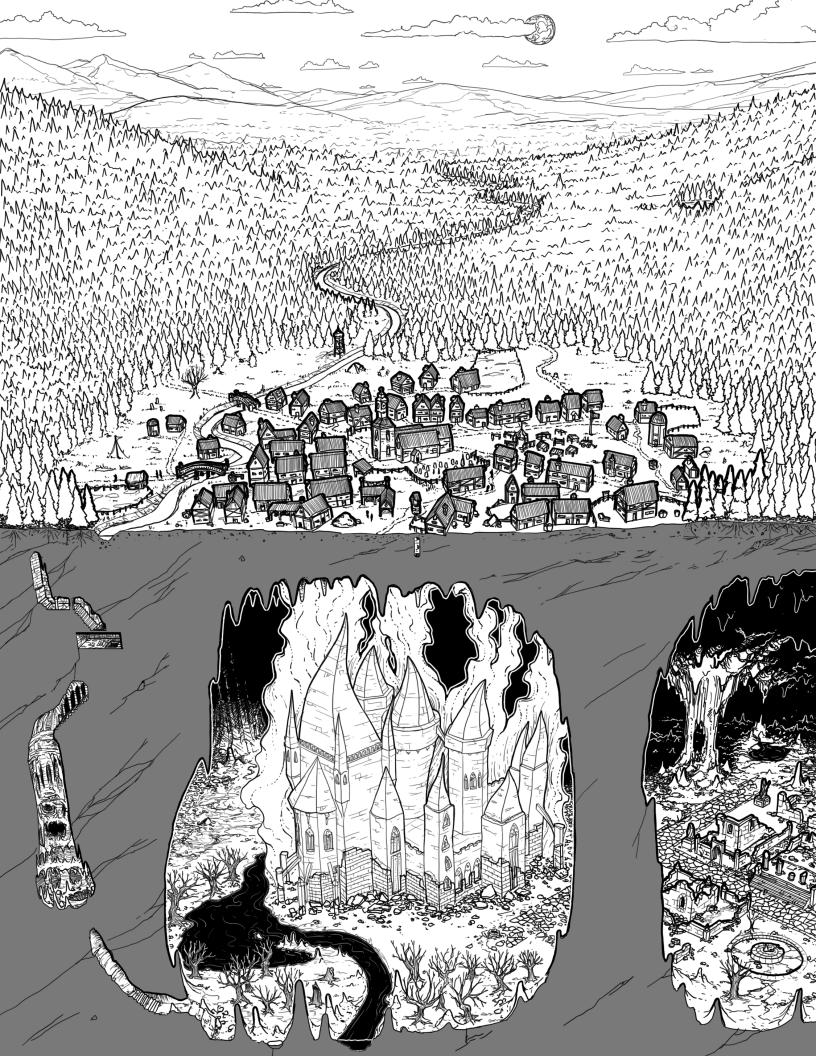
Near

Barbaric Cultist of Yend R

Barbaric Cultist of Yend	Group, Terrifying
Beat & Claw At (b[2d6+4] damage) Hand, Messy	10 HP

Aside from their stagskull masks, these cultists only wear tar and crow feathers. Instinct: To pay tribute.

- Revel in messy violence and debauchery
- Participate in ghostly echos of past tributes
- Protect druidic cultists



The Light Under Bellhome

-PHILLIP WESSELS & MICHAEL G. BARFORD

Underneath the village of Bellhome lies the ruins of the ancient elven city Bellethiel that was destroyed a thousand years ago. Access to the ruins has mostly been sealed off, though chasms, caves, crypts and cellars may yet lead the way. The villagers are hesitant to talk about ruins. If you press them, they will tell you there are spirits in the ruins and that they are best left alone. But... those other adventurers in town don't seem to care about that and want to raid the "dungeon."

DANGER: VENGEFUL SPIRITS OVERTAKE BELLHOME.

Grim Portent: A group of adventurers interrogates Bellhome seeking to raid the ruins (see The Rival Adventurers).

- Grim Portent: The ground shakes and splits open somewhere in Bellhome.
- Grim Portent: Golden-lit spirits float through the streets of Bellhome, sobbing for help.

Impending Doom: Adventurers reach the ghost princess's quarters and shatter her illusion of life. The players get a vision of the cataclysm. Yend's shadow begins to spread over Bellhome; his bonds have been broken.

? Stake: Will they disrespect the ruins?

Stake: Will they play along with the ghosts?

DANGER: YEND'S SHADOW SPREADS OVER BELLHOME.

- Grim Portent: At noon in the market square all business stops. If one blinks they see long shadows on peoples faces and a crow headed figure standing at the village center. The figure slowly spreads its wings and the vision is gone. Business continues in the square. -GREG GELDER
- Grim Portent: A hawthorn thicket outside of town has remained mysteriously snow free all winter. The crows gather here. -GREG GELDER
- Grim Portent: Pickled vegetables, canned not two months ago, have already turned sour and rotten. A single crows beak is discovered in every jar. -GREG GELDER
- Grim Portent: No-one can hear each other speak in the streets of Bellhome over the sounds of crows cawing... but the crows all lie dead in the gutters. -JAMES MULLEN

Impending Doom: The dark sorceror Yend resurrects himself, and is finally immortal. Bellhome's citizens become cultists.

Stake: Will they ask the ghosts for help?

Stake: Will they seek Yend's magical power?

NAVIGATING BELLETHIEL BASED ON THE LABYRINTH MOVE BY JASON CORDOVA

When you **attempt to navigate between the illusory Bellethiel of the ancient past and its ruined present**, say which you want, push on and roll+WIS.

On a 12+, the party holds 2.

On a 10+, the party holds 1.

On a 7-9, the party holds 1, but encounters a dangerous obstacle or opposition (can include Yend's cultists).

At any time, 2+ in present company may agree to spend 1 hold to slip into a scene in the illusory Bellethiel and meet a ghost.

At any time, the entire present party may agree to spend 3 hold to reach a specific destination, such as the royal palace, Yend's place of power in it, the princess's quarters, or wherever a specific ghost will be.

The Ghost Knight	Solitary, Intelligent, Magical,	Terrifying,
-		Planar
Dual Sword Cross Charg	16 HP	
Near, Far, Ignores armor		4 Armor

A nameless older relative of the ghost princess, they stand tall in a golden light and are obscured behind an ornate, bulky set of armor. A cape hangs from their shoulders with the family insignia of a bell.

- Watch from somewhere unreachable
- Charge a magic-user or into a place of power
- Repeat themself in re-enactments of history (bending down and giving a necklace to no-one, reading books over a table, banging against a large door)

The Dark Sorceror Yend	Solitary, Huge, Magical, Planar, Devious, Terrifying
Shadow Talons (d8 damage)	16 HP
Reach, Near, Ignores Armor	4 Armor

After learning the secret to immortal godhood from the Stag of the Dark Star, Yend set his life and afterlife towards harvesting enough misery and terror to finally fulfill the ritual. He was close in ancient times, but Bellethiel's agents sabotaged his plans. Alas, the city was destroyed in the uncontrolled explosion of energy.

- Minimize the effect of light sources
- Cackle at their torment
- Lure them to dark side with spells & items

Some of My Favorite Things - When you **describe one of your fondest memories in Yend's presence**, reduce his armor by 1 to a minimum of 0.

SERVANTS OF THE PRINCESS

The deeper you go into Bellethiel, the more you find the ghosts pretending the city is still alive, yet many still have a tear in their eye. If anyone disrespects the ruins or treats the spirits as if they are dead, they will come softly crying, and plead for you to please play along, "for her."

You will learn that the royal family was beloved by the people of Bellhome. Then, one fateful day, a sorcerer came to the castle, something went wrong and the city was eaten by the earth. Of the royal family, only the ghost of the princess remained on this plane. Her many servants, of course, did not leave her.

- When the princess went to war, Lord Cazriel carried her shield. When she plotted in times of peace, he was her spy. Each time her lovers were assassinated, he hunted the graves of the mortal world to find the lover's lost soul. He's still hunting to return the last of them to her. -RICHARD RUANE
 - Theobold the Steward lovingly brings the princess her breakfast each morning - although it is a job far below his lofty station. His gnarled old hands shake and the crockery tinkles and rattles as he makes his way slooowlly down the hall... - LU QUADE
- * Audouille "the Daring" earned her title by volunteering to maintain the menacing gargoyles poised beneath the corbels of the castle. She used to need ropes and rigging to support her task, but now she can float as lightly as a feather. -MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- Salloreon was the Princess' music teacher, schooling her in the fine arts of the harp and flute. Every morning, he fills the palace with a song of rising hope; every sunset is accompanied by an echoing dirge that rolls through the empty streets like a breeze. -JAMES MULLEN
- Miirphys was the princess' dance instructor. He can be seen practicing in front of the large silvered mirror that no longer reflects his flourished jumps and intricate steps. When he tires he half limps to his cane and strolls the halls at a leisurely pace. -GREG GELDER

If you enlist the aid of a servant or any other ghost, gain them as a follower. In addition to haveing a point in Tracker, they have 2 points in another skill area (Adept, Burglar, Minstrel, Priest, Protector, Warrior).

4 HP

2

Ghost of Bellethiel1 LoyaltySkills: Tracker 1, _

These golden-lit spirits were once denizens of the ancient city buried beneath the village of Bellhome. Even in undeath they have continued their service to their beloved queen. The only reward they can offer is gratitude. The only threat they can bring to bear is a nuisance. *Cost:* Maintain the princess's delusion of Bellethiel being alive and well.

Spirit Guide - When a ghost leads the way in the ruins beneath Bellhome, you automatically succeed on any Perilous Journey.

HELPING THE PRINCESS MOVE ON

The princess's locket can be found in THE DARKNESS UNDER BELLHOME. When you give the locket to the ghost princess, she will look at the picture and the Black Gate will open behind her, revealing the spirits of her family waiting for her. She will go peacefully, content to rejoin her loved ones.

Upon preventing another cataclysm and helping the ghost princess move beyond the Black Gate without breaking her heart, the wizard and/or cleric gain the following spell:

SPELL: SUMMON THE GHOST KNIGHT

Summoning, Ongoing

In a flash of golden light, the Black Gate appears, swinging open for the Ghost Knight. They aid you as best they can. Treat them as your character, but with access to only the basic moves. They have +1 modifier for all stats, 1 HP, and use your damage dice (*Ignores armor*). The Ghost Knight also gets your choice of 1d6 of these traits (if you have Perfect Summons, they gain all of them):

- + They have +2 instead of +1 to one stat
- 🔶 They do 1d8 damage
- Their bond to your plane is strong: +2 HP for each level you have
- + They can spook away other ghosts
- 🔶 They can light the way ahead
- Upon being defeated, they distract an enemy (the next to Hack & Slash takes +2 forward)

The Ghost Knight remains on this plane until they are defeated or you dismiss them. While the spell is ongoing you take -1 to cast a spell.

COMPENDIUM CLASS: FOLLOWER OF THE DARK STAR

You don't have to take the path of light. Yend will ofer plenty of reward for joining the dark side. There are many things to be gained from looking in the shadows to the Stag of the Dark Star. If you do, you may gain Yend's Darkwood and take any number of the following moves; for each you do, Yend's shadow spreads further over Bellhome and a grim portent passes.

- Summon ______ Yend can teach you to summon any normally hostile creature that you have defeated, or any of the demons from his notebook (see A STOP AT SNOWDRIFT INN). This is regardless of whether you are normally a magic user (adapt the summon move above).
- Cultivate Cultists Just as he tempts you, he has tempted many before. Yend can show you how to gain your own cultists. When you seek to recruit someone into your cult, roll+CHA; on a hit, they'll follow you even past their death. On a 7-9, ask the GM what tribute is demanded by the Stag of the Dark Star.
- Mind Whisper You can remotely send thoughts to others. When you whisper an instinct into someone's head, roll+WIS. On a hit, they gain that instinct (GM: tempt target players with XP). On a 7-9, ask the GM what tribute is demanded by the Stag of the Dark Star.
- Misery Vampire You can harvest misery to evade death. Ask the GM what must come to pass. If it does, take +3 forward for your next use of Last Breath.

A Tale of Two Willages

A Two-Way Tunnel Starter for for Horld Tunnel Fund

A Tale of Two Hillages

A Two-Way Funnel Starter for Funnel World By Michael G Barford, art by Lu Quade



This funnel is designed to be run at a holiday party, one where you and several of your comrades have gathered for a celebration of friendship and gaming! You'll need two GMs and two tables: one filled with cheerful elves and one filled with grumpy goblins. After you've made up your characters and drawn your maps, trade your completed maps with the other table. When you've finished playing, sit back with a nice cup of cocoa and swap stories of your adventures with your friends until you doze off in front of the crackling hearthfire.

Elizas

NAMES

Female: Sugarplum, Goldenlocks, Marzipan, Applebutter, Cranblat, Tiptaptwo

Male: Bottlebright, Gadberry, Whistlewit, Ruddergum, Barleybay, Chuck

OCCUPATIONS/GEAR

Baker: Rolling pin (close, awkward, 1 wt), sack of flour (2 wt) **Cobbler:** Tack hammer (hand, 0 wt), 1d4 pairs of shoes or boots (1 wt ea.)

Stable hand: Pitchfork (close, reach, 1 wt), bale of hay (2 wt) Crank-tinker: 1d4 Wind-up toys (1 wt ea.)

Coal miner: Pick (close, +1 damage, 2 wt), lantern (0 wt), flask of oil (0 wt), flint & steel (0 wt)

Intelligent reindeer: Antlers (close, +1 damage, 0 wt) Candy-maker: 2d4 candies (0 wt)

Doll-maker: Sewing needle and thread (0 wt), 1d4 dolls (1 wt ea.)

Bell-jingler: Bell-stick (close, awkard, loud, 1 wt), 1d4 jingle bells (0 wt)

Marble-maker: bag of marbles (1 wt)

Carpenter: Knife (hand, 0 wt), hand saw (1 wt)

Tree-trimmer: Ladder (2 wt), 2d4 glass ornaments (0 wt)

TRAITS Physical: Personality: Red and green frock Brave Festive hat Cheerful Jingle bell boots Courteous Rosy cheeks Earnest Striped socks Efficient Gleaming smile Enthusiastic Cinnamon aroma Friendly High-pitched giggle Helpful Deep chuckle Neat Lively chortle Optimistic Freckles Patient Dimples Vivacious

BONDS

Fill in the name of a character of the player to your left. _____ and I are inseparable. _____ owes me a hot cocoa. I am envious of _____'s work ethic. _____ can always make me smile. _____ covered a shift for me. _____ has never lied to me. _____'s singing raises my spirits. _____'s handiwork is inspiring. I hide my true feelings from _____. I am secretly in love with _____. I look up to _____

_____ is my apprentice.

Goblins

NAMES

Female: Sourplum, Scablocks, Toejam, Wormtrail, Bogblush, Tiptoetooth Male: Beetlebuck, Bagfly, Shrieklip, Rumpscut, Crackercrumb, Punk

OCCUPATIONS/GEAR

Rat catcher: Club (close, 2 wt), burlap sack (0 wt), 2d4 dead rats (1 wt)

Burglar: Prybar (close, awkward, 1 wt), burlap sack (0 wt) Hawker: 1d4 worthless baubles

Dung miner: Pick (close, +1 damage, 2 wt), pushcart full of dung

Footpad: Sap (hand, stun, 0 wt), burlap sack (0 wt) Gravedigger: Shovel (close, awkward, 2 wt)

Hedge wizard: Belt pouch (0 wt), Prestidigitation cantrip Tanner: Knife (hand, 0 wt), 2d4 animal hides (2 wt)

Sack-weaver: Sewing needle and thread (0 wt), 2d4 burlap sacks (0 wt)

Mutant abomination: Big club (close, messy, +1 damage, 3 wt)

Bug-hunter: Net (reach, thrown), glass jar with 2d4 beetles (0 wt)

Chandler: 2d4 earwax candles (0 wt)

1 100119
Personality:
Arrogant
Cantankerous
Covetous
Crude
Deceitful
Fiery
Greedy
Gullible
Lazy
Nihilistic
Paranoid
Superstitious

BONDS

Fill in the name of a character of the player to your left. _____ and I are inseparable. _____ owes me a fried rat. I am envious of _____'s good fortune. _____ pisses me right off. _____ got me whipped. I lied to ____ ____'s snoring keeps me up all night. _____'s cunning is inspiring. I hide my true feelings from _____ I'm plotting to kill _____ I just hate _____ is my stooge.

TRAITS

Elina

Throughout the year our village crafts high-quality goods for the nearby kingdom. At the height of winter, our envoy, the Red Man, transports our crafts to their castle. In exchange, they maintain peace in our village so that we may continue our merry work in safety and seclusion.

Draw the Elven village:

OOO One of your villager's workspaces.

000 A decorated landmark.

- O The Red Man's home.
- O The village well.
- O A place you hold dear.
- O A vulnerable entryway.
- O The alarm bell.
- O A road from where help will arrive.

Name these things:

OOO A mundane object that Goblins would consider decorative.

OOO A precious object that Goblins would ignorantly destroy.

OOO A sacred display that Goblins would deface.

OOO An incidentally dangerous thing for Goblins to touch.

Name the village:

Prefix:	Suffix:			
1. Sugar	1. Glade			
2. Plum	2. Hold			
3. Snow	3. Ham			
4. Bell	4. Home			
5. Jingle	5. Bough			
6. Red	6. Brook			

Player Intro: The Red Man has been kidnapped by the vile Goblins on the eve of the solstice! They have taken him to their horrible keep, for nefarious reasons, probably! If we don't rescue him tonight, he won't be able to make his delivery to the kingdom. If that were to happen, we would have to face the wrath of their crying children and angry soldiers.

Questions:

- Can you recall a time where the Red Man showed you a kindness?
- What terrible fate does your fealty to the kingdom prevent?
- What cruel trick did a Goblin play on you?
- What heroic deed did your perform in your dream last night?
- What prevents you from summoning the knights to deal with this?

Goblins

Our village is our only refuge. We've gathered here because everyone else has either kicked us out of their steadings or stuck our wee heads on pikes. We've chosen this place because nobody else will come here. We'll work to make this place a home for outcast goblins, but it needs some sprucing up.

Draw the Goblin village:

OO One of your villager's workspaces.

OOO A landmark in sore need of decoration.

OO One of your villager's haunts.

- OO Something despicable.
- O The abandoned wizard's tower.
- O The wizard-juice pond.
- O A trail leading to the Elven village.

Name these things:

- O The material the walls are built from.
- O The mutant freak who guards the gates.
- O The guardian's improvised weapon.

OOOO Something that reminds the Elves of their good fortune.

O What dwells in the pond.

- OOO A trap you've set in the wizard's tower.
- O A material to bind the Red Man with.

Name the village:	
Prefix:	Suffix:
1. Sour	1. Den
2. Pickle	2. Hole
3. Pork	3. Burg
4. Scab	4. Moor
5. Scrap	5. Hollow
6. Green	6. Bladder

Player Intro: Those Elves think they're so great. So what if they have impressive hand-eye coordination and a water source that doesn't make you grow extra limbs. We have spirit! We have guts! And we deserve to have a festive holiday just like those chumps. We've been making due with stuff from the junk pile long enough; it's time we got some of the genuine articles.

Questions

- What gift have you been hoping the Red Man would bring, but have never received?
- Who's in charge of the village?
- How will decorating the village benefit your people?
- What mischievous trick did you play on an Elf?
- How have you managed to delay the arrival of the knights?

Elves

Stakes:

- Can you rescue the Red Man in time for his delivery?
- What will your attempt cost you?
- Will you plead for the absolution or the destruction of the Goblins?

Gate Guardian

Improvised Weapon (d6 damage) close, messy	8 HP	1 armor
A horrible, ugly, mutated abominat guard the gates.	tion. Ins	stinct: To
Drive away non-GoblinsUtilize mutation		

Goblin	Group, Small, Intelligent, Organized
Weaponized Decorations (d4 damage) <i>close</i>	3 HP
Still ugly. Instinct: Thwart rescue	e attempts.

- Ambush
- Call more Goblins

When **something is dragged kicking and screaming into the wizard-juice pond**, the hunger of the beast that dwells within is satisfied for the day.

When you **tinker with a Goblin trap**, roll+INT. On a 10+, choose 2. On a 7-9, choose 1: You don't make too much noise. You don't take 1d4 damage. You salvage something useful or valuable.

Stakes:

Solitary, Dumb

• Can you acquire enough decorations to have a proper holiday festival?

Goblins

- What will your attempt cost you?
- Will you try to earn the respect of the Elves or make them suffer?

Workshop Elf	Group, Small, Inte Ore	elligent, ganized
Workshop Tools (d4 damage) close		3 HP
Stinking know-it-alls. Instinct: I handiwork.	Protect their	
Weaponize a toyCall more elves		
Intelligent Reindeer Hooves and Antlers (d6	Solitary, Large, Int	telligent
damage) close, forceful	8 HP 1	armor
Still stinks. Instinct: To stomp.		
Crush underfootFling with antlers		

When you **ignorantly destroy something precious or valuable**, take +1 forward.

When you **stumble into a comfort of civilization**, roll+INT. On a 10+, choose 2. On a 7-9, choose 1: You don't make too much noise. You don't take 1d4 damage. You salvage something useful or valuable.



Monsterhearts 2: The Holiday Special

SATURDAY			
FRIDAY			
THURSDAY			
WEDNESDAY			
TUESDAY			
MONDAY			
SUNDAY			

12 Days of Holiday Hell

Take these and add them to a blank December calendar. Players: Who do you know will be at what? Who do you hope stays home?

Secret Santa Gift Exchange

You give a gift. Maybe it's a hate-gift, maybe it's a love gift, maybe you just don't give a damn. It's the thought that counts, so what exactly are you thinking? (Give or take a string!) - PHILLIP WESSELS

The Christmas Play

A mishmash of scenes and musical numbers from secular stories. Plus the birth of Baby Jesus. No one's going to be sticking to any of their scripts and everyone's going to be vying for the best roles. - PHILLIP WESSELS

A Matinée at the Movies

You're probably not going to be paying much attention to what's on the screen, considering your company. - PHILLIP WESSELS

Soup Kitchen

How effective at feeding the poor y'know, promoting peace and good will, does anyone really expect you to be when a) you're with terrible people and b) some of them are monsters? - PHILLIP WESSELS

Christmas in the Park

In the middle of town they've dragged all these animatronics out and there are dozens of decorated trees from dozens of organizations. Maybe you just enjoy a nice walk through. Maybe you do whatever it takes to get some of that amazing hot cocoa. Maybe you see who's got a tree out that you can fuck with. - PHILLIP WESSELS

The Indoor Mall

The indoor mall is hot and muggy, but at least you're not freezing cold anymore. There are way too many people here and there are carolers near the food court. It's great people watching, and even though there are more 3 times the normal amount of employees... there are 10 times the customers... lots of opportunity to get away with holiday mischief. - YOSHI CREELMAN

Door-to-Door Caroling

You feel so foolish singing children's songs out here in the bitter cold. Your lips are chapped and snot keeps running out of your nose. But at least that one special someone is here to make it fun. Cross your fingers that you don't end up knocking on the door of the house where the cool kids are throwing their own party - you know, that one you weren't invited to.

Caroling door to door has to be about the lamest thing you can imagine. Your lips are chapped and your nose is running, but they expect you to put on a big smile anyway and sing Jingle Fucking Bells for the fourteenth time. There's one perk to this though - while your off-key choir is singing their hearts out, you have a brief chance to peer through the open door of your audience and get a glimpse at the nature of their home. - MICHAEL G. BARFORD

- What do you see that lets you know this family is dysfunctional? - MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- + How can you tell that this family has recently suffered a loss? MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- Their eyes scream a message at you as they force a shallow smile out...what are the signs that they need your help but can't ask? - JAMES MULLEN
- They are kind, and smile at your carol, but never open the door more than a small crack. What do you glimpse though the side window that tells you this family doesn't pay their mortgage with honest money? - GREG GELDER
- What about the oldest child's voice tells you she isn't really alive? What about the mother's movements tells you she expects to be obeyed? What do you remember about this house from prior years that suggests that these people are not who they once were? - RICHARD RUANE

The Tree Lot

You're just here with you're fam, picking out one of the last ugly trees, and look who you run into? -PHILLIP WESSELS

The Annual Community Snowball Fight

The Annual Community Snowball Fight is going down. The real game is getting alone with someone special, or getting a jump on whoever needs to be brought down. Hopefully snowballs are the worst of it. - PHILLIP WESSELS

Places to hang out:

- It's not a pleasant place to camp out, but when they come out of the portable toilet they won't know what hit them (and with everyone in line watching). - PHILLIP WESSELS
- Nobody ever looks up. There is a second-floor eating area of the Chinese restaurant, outdoor balcony included. Perfect to sneak away with someone or ambush with a flurry of snowballs.
 YOSHI CREELMAN
- There's a small abandonned house—almost a shack—in the woods next to the field where the snowball fight is going down. Sure, it's rumored to be haunted but that just makes it an even better spot to make-out—seclusion plus a sense of danger. And anyway you don't really believe those rumors, right? - LARRY S
- This year's snow was especially heavy and the neighborhood kids have been busy crafting tunnels into the ten foot snow drifts in the center of every cul-de-sac. One could get a lot of privacy there, or run into a lot of well armed kids. - GREG GELDER
- Terry Nelson has had a rough time moving units at Perryton Place, the new luxury condo development. They're mostly empty, and the model units are comfortably furnished. There's a lockbox with the key so that realtors can show the place, but Terry never changed the combination from 1-2-3-4. - RICHARD RUANE
- The Old Covered Bridge: a rickety wooden construction, condemned years ago but never actually pulled down. Hazard tape closes off both ends but everyone knows that it's where all the teens come and the cops just occasionally shine a torch in to scare people off. - JAMES MULLEN

Party Time

Someone's parents are off at their work's holiday soirée and it's time to get the party started. Who's bringing the beer? What's it like being both drunk and your darkest self? - PHILLIP WESSELS

The Winter Ball

A festive, cheesy, chaperoned dance that everyone's parents are shoveling them off to, and which only matters because you absolutely must have a date. People who care are all buzzing about who will be declared the "Belle of the Ball". - PHILLIP WESSELS & MICHAL G. BARFORD

Themes:

- "A Snowy Solstice" Due to some scheduling SNAFU on the part of administration this year the Winter Ball was scheduled late and on the winter solstice. Decorations include golden stars and silver moons and a lighting rig that encircles the dance floor casting long shadows across the dancers. Picture backdrop: Stonehenge! - GREG GELDER
- Some geek managed to push through a Narnia-theme, so the walls are decorated with snow-covered pines with stuffed animal heads peeking out here and there. It's not the whimsical fantasy the committee were aiming for, but a dark, brooding waking nightmare and why does it feel so cold in there? - JAMES MULLEN
- This year's theme is "Ski Lodge" who the hell thought that was a good idea? Boys and girls are dressed up in flannel and fur, at least until things start to heat up on the dance floor. Oh, and by the way? The punch bowl is filled with hot cocoa. - MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- Someone thought it would be cute if the theme was "holiday fantasy" as if someone mashed together high fantasy and holiday postcard art. The art club has painted some messy ice dragons and elves and little snow covered houses. - PHILLIP WESSELS
- No one is sure why Bryan Howard insisted on "Yule" as one of this year's themes. No one knows where he found the gigantic Yule Log he donated. No one knows why, when anyone asks him about it, he and his friends just laugh about "burning the old year away." - RICHARD RUANE

Extra Content

Backstory from Last Winter Break

It's winter break. Maybe this is your hometown, maybe you're visiting relatives. Either way, the holidays this year are likely to drudge up whatever from the holidays last year. You may use one of these instead of your playbook's normal backstory:

- You got this brilliant scarf in the secret santa last year, just perfect for you and you were certain you knew who gave it to you, so you ended up asking them out and you've been dating since last winter. Then, for this winter you put on your special scarf for the first time in almost a year and your date asked you "Where did you get that?" Oops... - JAMES MULLEN Ask who you're dating; gain 1 string on them. Ask who gave you the gift; give them 1 string.
- Gah. What a stupid gift. You were hard up for cash and didn't have much to give last year, just one of those stupid coupon books. At least things have turned around financially. Surely he's forgotten about that stupid coupon book.
 - GREG GELDER

Ask who you gave the gift; give them 1 string.

- When my parents were going through their "rough patch" last year, your parents had me over for dinner on Shabbat. My parents worked things out and are promising we'll have Christmas together, but I kind of want to go back to your place this year... - MICHAEL G. BARFORD Ask who had you over; give them 1 string.
- During that storm, it was cold outside, and I stayed over longer than I should have. We definitely stayed warm, for better or worse.
 PHILLIP WESSELS

Ask who had you over; give them 1 string.

A Change in Scenery

In the dark and dreary winter months, stringing up Christmas lights can bring a fresh new look to an old home. Likewise, a makeover can change your perspective on someone you had overlooked or forgotten about:

- You've covered an old jacket and pair of jeans in dozens of strips of reflective, hi-vis tapes, in all colours. You look like a neon jester or the Pied Piper on acid: no one is going to overlook you this winter! - JAMES MULLEN
- You have remarkable fashion this winter because it's not winter fashion at all. It's summer wear. You seems completely unaware of the biting cold wind in your flipflops, daisy dukes and halter top. Adults all mutter something about catching a cold. - GREG GELDER

Childhood Toys

You're not quite a kid anymore, and not quite an adult. There are relics of your earlier years, much of it from Christmas in the past. You may not pay it much attention, but it's there, and it is part of you:

- A badly made glass paperweight, with large bubbles of air trapped inside the glass. - LU QUADE
- A mini-projector with cartoon strips you slot into the side; you move the strip through one frame at a time and read the story like a comic book. You used to love putting on shows for your family and were as proud as if you had made them yourself. - JAMES MULLEN
- A teddy bear you used to dress up in doll clothes, feed with a bottle, sleep with and read to. You've kept it a secret for so long because boy's aren't supposed to play dress up with dolls. - GREG GELDER
- ★ After Bella bit that neighbor who kept grabbing you, Animal Control came and took her away. A week later, Bella's bean-bag likeness appeared at the foot of your bed. After six years, the stuffed animal is threadbare, but as long as you can see Bean-Bag Bella before you fall asleep, you know you'll be safe. - RICHARD RUANE

Gazing into the Abyss

Around this time of the year, the ways of the world are slightly skewed. The Abyss is muddled, confused, curious. It emerges from itself. It burns through the fabric of reality where reality burns. Who knows what may happen when you look in its flames?

- It's a standard myth around town that you can tell whether it's going to snow or not by looking into the crackling flames and watching how the sparks rise. It's less well known that you can change that vision by tossing a handful of salt into the fire... - JAMES MULLEN
- You're off in your own world, zoning out, when your longtime crush bumps into you. They apologize and throw you a quick grin before heading off. You didn't think they even knew your name! - MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- It's a tradition for the living to tell histories of ghosts around the winter fire. But if you ignore everyone else, stare into the glowing coals, and listen carefully to the crackling flames, you can hear the voices of ghosts telling the futures of the living. - RICHARD RUANE

Surviving the Hunt

Even though it's cold, there are still hunters. They hunt what you'd expect, like deer, but sometimes they hunt what you don't expect. Like you.

- The snow forms a deep quilt over the ground, concealing whatever lies beneath; an incautious hunter might easily be fooled into following your 'tracks' over the icy surface of a pond and fall through.. - JAMES MULLEN
- In the dark of the winter woods, hunters can't always see what they're hunting. Be on the lookout for anyone you could place between yourself and the hunt as a distraction. - RICHARD RUANE

Mistletoe

Around town, mistletoe is strategically hung in certain establishments. You'll definitely be caught under one or another.

- Somehow that shy, repressed dweeb Trevor Lange got himself elected Winterfest King this year. Superstar jock Byan Howard is a good sport about losing and is even making Trevor a mistletoe crown. Don't believe those geeks who say they saw Bryan naked in the old woods, harvesting the mistletoe with a silver scythe by moonlight. - RICHARD RUANE
- Some wag tied a piece of mistletoe to a shower head in the male changing rooms at the stadium! Everyone's joking about it and daring each other to go shower under it, but that cute goalie looked right into your eyes earlier and now he's walking into the shower... - JAMES MULLEN
- The river-walk is largely ignored this time of year but some enterprising park employee has placed mistletoe beneath one of the bridges, right above the small island below. It's impossible to just run into someone there, but the cute boy who works the hot chocolate cart nearby is said to never turn down a dare. - GREG GELDER

Festive Recreation

The town's local dealer gets surprisingly festive during the holiday and enjoys getting creative with their offerings.

- The holidays are a time of goodwill and trust. But does that really explain why everyone is suddenly so free with the secrets they promised to keep? - RICHARD RUANE
- The aftereffects of the drugs give the user a powerful sense of deja vu that lasts all day; it's not just that events feel familiar, but as if they had repeated them again and again and again... - JAMES MULLEN
- Abboud has returned from family vacation in the middle east. He got something past the drug dogs in the airport and it smells richly of cinnamon and caradmom. When used sublingual it makes the stars dance in the night sky and beckons the users out onto frozen lake beds, far from home. - GREG GELDER

Wingmen

Courting someone new is not always easy, especially when you're prone to howling at the moon or sucking blood on occasion. Having someone with you to boost your confidence and break the ice can be beneficial:

- You need someone to make you look good and watch your back, so who better than The Hollow? Able to feel comfortable anywhere without really understanding why, just follow their lead and hope they don't get overwhelmed by to situation... - JAMES MULLEN
- As long as you can steer the conversation away from blood rituals (which can be surprisingly hard) Ayisha is a fantastic wingman (or... winggirl?) always talking you up to the cute out-of-towners who don't know you yet. She's always telling you the next day that you owe her one. Surely shes only joking about those blood rituals. - GREG GELDER
- People aren't drawn to Lewis, they're drawn into his orbit. He's friendly and warm, literally warm, so after colliding with others circling around him, you never know who you might end up skin to skin with - RICHARD RUANE

Holly

Holly only arrived in town the day after Halloween, but already she seems to have spread her vines all over the place. She's stuck a thumb in every sugar plum pie, and said, "What a good girl am I!" - MICHAEL G. BARFORD

Ways Holly has established hold over town:

- + Holly is throwing a Winter Festival Meal & Dance, promising five courses, hot cider, music, dancing and entertainment. The tickets are in high demand and the buzz around town is that this is an event not to be missed, but if you can't afford the entry price, she has been known to offer a special deal... JAMES MULLEN
- Lately packages have been arriving in nearly everyone's mail boxes. Inside are cast pewter mistletoe ornaments. People have been quite exited by their gifts and have hung them in their living rooms and kitchens. You know, places where one expects to have privacy, where surely nobody can hear them. - GREG GELDER

- Whenever a stranger offends a local, Holly is always right there, whispering. "I'm sorry THEY did this..." she says. "I am here. I can keep you safe. Just do as I say." - RICHARD RUANE
- The locals have worked themselves up into a frenzy over the giant advent calendar Holly has fashioned in her front yard. Over time, the "gifts" she has revealed have become less cheerful and more...gruesome. - MICHAEL G. BARFORD
- Holly was behind in her schoolwork but somehow she's now a contender for top of the class. All of the teachers adore her in a really creepy way. - PHILLIP WESSELS

Later, Holly's plan is finally coming to fruition. She's somehow got everyone doing her bidding. It's gross. But it's not just that she's as popular as ever--this is some freaky mind control shit. You've got to shut her down before the town descends into chaos.

- The town courthouse has been working overtime to hear all the divorce cases it has been suddenly receiving. People continue to claim strange improprieties of their spouse and can all provide video evidence. How they got the video is as hard to remember as the incident is for their spouse. - GREG GELDER
- The town Christmas tree, always a gathering place this close to the holiday, is strangely neglected and covered in ivy leaves. - GREG GELDER
- The last ten days have seen a winter wind shift and dense freezing fog cover the town. Anyone you ask has cancelled their travel plans this season. "I didn't even really want to leave." they all say, verbatim, every time. - GREG GELDER
- ★ All the stores are playing seasonal music, but for the last few hours they've all been stuck on the same tune on endless repeat: "The Holly & The Ivy." - JAMES MULLEN

The Fae on Winter Break

It is winter. The colors are shifting, and with that, the Fae shift as well. Winter is the time of cold resolve. We can feel the freeze coming, the time in which our magic is dormant, frozen. When spring comes, we will blossom. For now, we must prepare. - PHILLIP WESSELS

A desperate fae will make any promise to itself in the fallow, barren months of winter: I will not get drunk, I will not overeat, I will not sleep with everyone I meet. The substance hardly matters, because a Fae gains power from each promise to themselves that is broken, so this is no more than an a hibernating bear surviving off it's own fat stores. - JAMES MULLEN

You have made a promise to yourself:

- New Year's resolutions mean a lot more to a Fae than your average Joe. So when I say that I'm going to be Prom King next year, I mean it.
 MCIHAEL G. BARFORD
- I have been telling all my friends my incredibly complicated and situational new years resolutions for weeks now to the point of irritation. "I will never drink soda on a Tuesday if the next week will have a full moon!" I'll declare loudly in the middle of conversation. Everyone rolled their eyes in unison, but Chang scribbled something in his notebook. I'll find out what he's up to. - GREG GELDER

The Ghost on Winter Break

Sometimes death has its perks, and for the Ghost, it's this new move:

Spirit Guide - You can take people away into visions. Ask questions to paint what each is like, and towards what you want them to take away. Say what you want them to do. If they do it they gain an XP.

- The Ghost can carry you into your own past, visiting your childhood and youth to remind you of what you used to be and how you set out on the path that brought you to where you are. Perhaps what you see will renew your sense of purpose, but you might also see the folly in your current course of action. - JAMES MULLEN
- The Ghost's penchant for golden age musicals shows through their elaborate dream ballet sequences that they pull others into. The theatrics are always in high gear with saturated light and heavy fog effects and mostly serve to sum up recent events, not drive narrative. The dreamer often awakes with clarified purpose but a gut feeling they could have skipped the whole thing or just gone to the bathroom. The feeling quickly fades. - GREG GELDER
- Ghosts can take you into the Cold of Winters Yet to Come. There you can name an enemy and the ghost will show you the shadows of one future your enemy dreads. - RICHARD RUANE

The Ghoul on Winter Break

The Ghoul is dead. Their blood runs cold and they lie in wait to consume what warmth they can from those who come their way.

- Always pale anyway, the Ghoul's colours start to fade altogether: their hair, their eyes, even the veins under their skin turn a soft, almost glowing white. Even the clothes they wear start to bleach, fading, paling, turning everything the same shade as snow. - JAMES MULLEN
- "It was just weird Mrs. Patterson! I sat down in the same chair as them in the library but you know, instead of that lingering 'butt warmth' the chair was cold, like ICE cold, Mrs. Patterson! It's just weird, is all I'm saying, and I'd like a new project partner." - GREG GELDER
- It's not apathy, it's crueler: laughter, tears, a kiss, movies, music, sexual release... It doesn't matter. When the cold sets in, you stop asking anything except "what's in it for me?" - RICHARD RUANE

The Infernal on Winter Break

The Infernal has a deal with an enigmatic Dark Power. Let's make it a little less enigmatic.

- The Peaceful Family is one demon who manifests in the form of family members through to tell people what it thinks they want to hear: "Go where you want... Your mom never really misses you"; "What's the point in visiting your sick brother? You can't cure him..."; "Give Daddy a chance and maybe he won't get violent this year." - RICHARD RUANE
- Long ago, the Winter King ruled for a single day, the shortest of the year, before being sacrificed to make the sun return. The Dark Power was born from this ritual, but the sacrifices have dwindled over the centuries: this year, the Dark Power want's to collect on it's overdue bill, with interest. - JAMES MULLEN
- Zogomus might be a minor soul accountant in hell but he's one of the last people you want to owe a debt. His annual report is due and he needs the cook the books to come out clean this year for the first time ever. Quotas aren't personal, it's policy. - GREG GELDER

Part of the reason the Infernal has a dark power is because that dark power is locked down, somehow, and needs agents to do its bidding. But any lock can be removed with the right key or pick.

- At the bottom of the lake there is an old, heavy, pottery effigy of the angelic being who holds the Dark Power prisoner. If it could be brought to the surface and heated in a kiln until it shattered, the guard on the Dark Power's prison would be gone. - JAMES MULLEN
- The local radio tower had some very peculiar contractors show up right before commissioning. After showing some government credentials and clearing the site a single worker scaled the tower and installed a single black octagonal box at the very top. Candy, who scaled the structure on a dare, says it's covered in silver etchings. - GREG GELDER

The Mortal on Winter Break

It's winter break, which means whirlwind winter romance. The Mortal is, of course, involved. It's doomed from the start--but this time, it's not the Mortal's fault.

One of the Mortal's oldest, same-gender friends has been so helpful, so kind, always covering for them and providing a shoulder to cry on... there may be deeper feelings to explore, but how do you approach such delicate matters of sexual identity with them without damaging that special friendship? - JAMES MULLEN

The Queen on Winter Break

The Queen is so popular. The Queen could fall in shit and come out of it smelling like roses.

- There was an outbreak of shoplifting at the mall last year, to the point where many businesses announced they wouldn't let unaccompanied high schoolers through their doors any more. No-one ever actually caught The Queen doing anything, but they did get a lot more presents from admirers that year... - JAMES MULLEN
- Everyone got sick at last years Christmas party from some seriously under-cooked hors d'oeuvres. Of course the Queen was the one who picked the caterer and the menu but through some serpentine rumor-mill bullshit she managed to peg it all on the venue. Nearly everyone has forgotten that she "cooked" those pork shoulder sliders and told everyone at the party as much. - GREG GELDER

The Vampire on Winter Break

The Vampire is immortal and with that, they slip into life after life. Their true self only disrobes from these on occasion, to look at what they are gaining over the course of eternity:

- An old military uniform, reminding them of the time when they fought for a just cause (or in an unjust war); a lot of blood was spilled, providing a good cover for feeding. - JAMES MULLEN
- A strongly starched and ornate tri-corner hat. The inner brim has a oddly shaped brown stain. The attached feather belongs to the extinct passenger pigeon. - GREG GELDER

The Werewolf on Winter Break

It smelled delicious. You couldn't help yourself; like any werewolf, you are a predator. But having consumed this strange creature is having some effect on you:

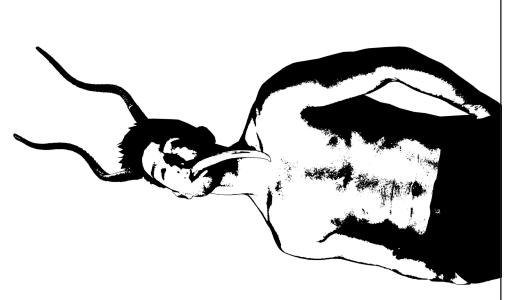
- The reindeer meat gives those who consume it strange visions: temporal and spatial distortions - real and imagined times and places, impossible to differentiate the real and the unreal. - LU QUADE
- Being able to fly is like, really cool, when you can control it; or choose when it happens; or choose when it stops. - GREG GELDER
- The reindeer meat gives those who consume it strange visions: temporal and spatial distortions - real and imagined times and places, impossible to differentiate the real and the unreal.. - LU QUADE

The Witch on Winter Break

It's the holidays, the time for sweets & treats! The Witch gains this hex:

Candy Connection - The Witch gains a string on whoever eats candy made in the Hex-Casting ritual, while the hexed loses a string on them. The Witch may spend the string on who ate it immediately to apply an effect per the candy's description. Eating a candy gives 1 XP per consumer per ritual.

- The witch's Chocolate Forget-Me-Nots will allow you to forget all the petty little cruelties of Bellehome life. Of course, now the witch will get to remember them for you, and put those memories to use. - RICHARD RUANE
- The Lemon Drops are sharp and sour, few can bear the taste for long, which gets stronger the longer you hold it in your mouth. As long as you keep a Lemon Drop in your mouth, you can neither use nor be effected by any supernatural power, but be warned: the temptation to spit it out grows with every moment! - JAMES MULLEN
- The witch's kettle corn sold at the farmer's market has been a top seller all week. What people aren't taking about is waking from a stupor in embarrassing situations with the witch holding some fresh polaroids. - GREG GELDER



The Krampus

They thought you did it. You didn't! But they don't like the look of you. You're what they call a "bad kid." Something fucked up happens in a small town and they point fingers at the likes of you. Now something's come over you... you're changing. Physically, into some kind of demon. People are noticing, but for some reason instead of freaking out they act like they've been completely unplugged... and that's how you'll get what you want.

> This is a Skin for Monsterhearts 2, available at buriedwithoutceremony.com This skin designed by the community for Happenings in Christmas Village

Credits

That's how you'll find the real monsters.

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Conditions + Forward	immediacy and conviction. They are generally capable of nothing else. You escape your darkest self when Darwinism takes its toll and the storm calms back down a bit.	Darkost Solf When you are around people, they drop all of their inhibitions and fulfill their impulses or desires with	Hot 2 Cold 1 Turn Someone On Shut Someone Down,	One person has been with you through everything. Give them 2 strings on you. Ditch yours on them.	People can't control themselves well around you. Gain 2 strings on everyone.	Your Backstory	Eyes angry eyes, bedroom eyes, wide eyes, manic eyes, penetrating eyes	Look disheveled, clean-cut, punk, lude, humble	Name Nick, Kris, Jes, Lane, Jonah, Harvey, Brad, Mona, Derrik	Identity
	00000	Harm Harm Harm	Lash	2 hem.	on	Strings	eyes,	burned down, your family's presents disappeared from under the tree, e, Why does everyone blame you for it?		
Solution Mount When you join others you initiate sex with solution of the set of the s	O Clop Clop This morning you woke up with hooves. When you sneak around someone. Roll+COLD. On a hit, all they observe is the sound of your steps; they gain the Condition <i>terrified</i> or <i>curious</i> .	one one of these chunks of coal and tell them they've been naughty. Then, roll+COLD. On a hit they gain the Condition <i>creeped out</i> ; gain a String on them.	 O Gift of Coal This morning you woke up on a bed of coals. You may smile, give some- 	what that gift is so you'll know what that gift was deserved.	glowing red eyes. You can ask some- one to give you the gift they intend to give someone else who doesn't deserve it or else you will hunt	O Morality Check This morning you woke up with	Add this option to Pulling Strings: + they must answer you truthfully and in sordid detail	character's impulse or desire?" If it's a player, offer an experience point to act on it in an irrevocable way. Non- player characters will just do so.	 Uninhibitor Ask at any time. "what is this 	Krampus Moves
When you join others in sex, gain a String on them. When you initiate sex with someone, lose all Strings on them; they are immune to you until you have sex with someone else.		and reveal your flesh, roll+HOT. On a hit, you gain the Condition <i>sex</i> <i>god</i> . You always get at least the 7-9 effects when you roll to turn some- one on. This all lasts only while you remain in the buff.	O Unchained This morning you woke up with discolored skin. When you strip	<i>aroused</i> . On a 7-9, they only have the condition while you maintain contact.	or coil your long slobbery tongue around someone, roll+HOT. On a hit, they do not even notice you vet inexplicably gain the Condition	your tongue hanging a foot out of your mouth. When you slither	clop clop or lash out with violence. O Lust Blessing This morning you woke up with	straps. You don't need to carry these items with you. When you want them, they just appear in your hands. Use them to take +1 to	next to a rusty iron chain with bells attached. Also, a long bundle of sticks bound tightly with leather	O Instruments

Blessing

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