

THE ELDER SCROLLS/BBFRPG PLAY REPORT # 17

Dominion: Starblood, MORNDAS 24th of Midyear – Morndas 1st of Sun's Height
4E 206

Date: 122013, 4 hours.

Players:

Brian: **Jo'Rak**, Khajiit Thief

Amanda: **Filbyn**, Wood Elf Scout/sneak

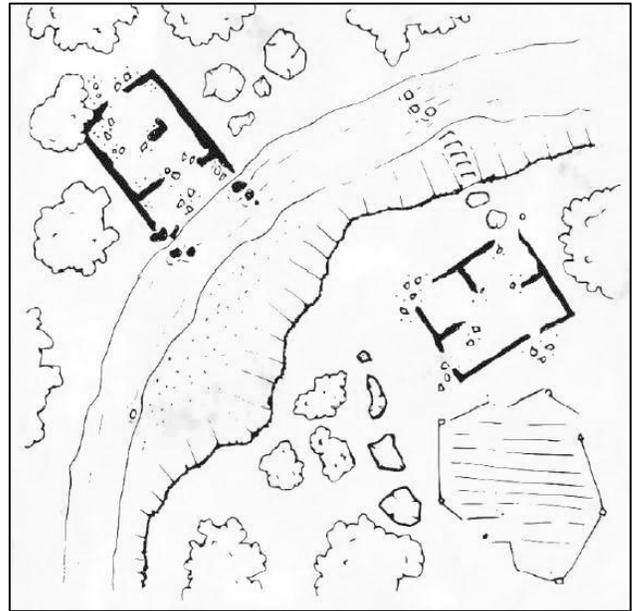
Tina: **Riala**, Breton Mage

Logan: **Yngvar**, Nord Warrior (former Stormcloak Rebel)

Tony: **Talan**, Redguard Warrior/leader

George: **Cocius Mantedi**, Imperial Legionnaire

Reid: **Kalarus**, Dunmer Illusionist and Enchanter



MORNDAS 24th of Midyear

The party crept forward through the forest to the edge of the abandoned farmstead that marked the Dark Brotherhood's outer watch. Shabhi's plans of advance scouting and sniping were quashed when Cocius ordered her to stay close. She tried to coyly suggest it was just because he liked her but he wasn't in a playing mood.

Filbyn noticed that the woods in the area looked sick, tainted even. Jo'Rak flitted up ahead staying under cover. Kalarus turned invisible and flew up into the air to have a better view of the battlefield.

The party advanced cautiously and was soon engaged with several vampire thralls. Two vampires were identified in the ruins of a farm house and then the battle field erupted in a field of black tentacles which inhibited movement of all and silenced the battlefield. This was a new bomb, created by Kalarus, which opened a temporary portal to Oblivion. There didn't seem to be any plan on the part of the players at this point, they just threw what they had at the enemy. The new bomb spread much further than Kalarus thought it would hindering nearly the entire battlefield. No one knew who had caused this chaos but Cocius used Dispel to remove the effect. Talan meanwhile set fire to the house where the vampires where hiding. Cocius followed

this up with Repel to drive them out of the house. Jo'Rak was out in front firing his bow, taking out target after target when two more vampires came up from the nearby river. Shabhi sniped thralls next to Cocius and managed to paralyze one vampire.

Cocius's repel field worked better than he hoped and it killed several of the fledgling vampires when it came in contact with them. When all the enemies were defeated Kalarus was able to put out the fire burning the old farmhouse.

The party now had a good view of their destination, an old water mill down by the river. Jo'Rak, Filbyn and Riala took positions on the overlooking cliff. Cocius, Yngvar and Shabhi cautiously advanced. Talan guarded the stepping stone path across the river.



Using his repel field, Cocius advanced on the abandoned water mill. Jo'Rak then blinked to a spot on the other side of the mill. Cocius's spell killed several giant rats and forced the two blooded vampires out of hiding. Jo'Rak was there to put a fletched end to both of them.

At this point Shabhi went ahead to safely open the door to the Dark Brotherhood Sanctuary while the rest of the party assembled.

In the Sanctuary, Shabhi lead them safely past several traps and explored several rooms. Their steps were muffled buy an underground waterfall in a central cavern. All of the rooms were in disarray. Shabhi found many of her dark brothers and sisters slain, all but two left were unaccounted for. As they neared the Sanctuary of the Night Mother proper they overheard some voices.

<Cut Scene>

Dion (Imperial Male Blacksmith of Kvatch): I've tried your potions and your scrolls. Nothing drives that guardian off for long. And with all the material you supplied I was only able to make one weapon! One!

Hirrus (Vampire Dark Brotherhood Leader): And did it meet our expectations?

Dion: It far surpassed them! The Starblood Forge is a place of great power. I have barely scratched the surface of what could be produced. It is incredible! But I will not try again. The guardian is too powerful. Not with several strong warriors and mages could I do this. I thought you were going to pry the secrets of the guardian out of them?

Hirrus: Yes, that did not prove fruitful. The guardian you see is a family member. Her loyalty is to her own blood.

Dion: I'd like to try a crack at them. I've got tools I've made special for such things.

Hirrus: I assure you our methods work. We've had them here for a year to work on. They have even given their consent to release the guardian.

Dion: But if they are willing then the guardian should be gone!

Hirrus: Obviously there is another family member. Maybe a bastard child somewhere. No, this will take some time to puzzle out. You will not try the forge again?

Dion: I've done all I can. But I must say I did my finest work.

Hirrus: May I see it?

Dion: Certainly! Here, look at that, Starblood Steel! I'm sure I could...

Hirrus: I thought we agreed you would make darksteel with the recipe I gave to you.

Dion: Well yes, but I wanted to see...

Hirrus: You fool! I told you to make a weapon of darksteel. This is useless to me! You hear a weapon clatter on the floor.

Dion: Well if your scrolls had worked...

Hirrus: This failure...this failure is upon you!

Dion: Surely it isn't as bad as all that.

Hirrus: No! Ja'Dar failed to find the weakened veil under Kvatch. Shabhi failed to kidnap all of the Starblood family. And now you failed to provide me with the one thing I asked you to do! Without it the veil cannot be torn. Without it Cold Harbor is inaccessible! And I...AM...TIRED...OF FAILURES!

At that point Hirus attacked Dion and the party engaged Hirus and two blooded vampires. The fight was over nearly before it began. Jo'Rak killed Hirus and one of his vampires. The second was quickly felled and Talan captured Dion by manifesting a strange golden scimitar.

Cocius asked about the captives and Shabhi said she could show him where they were. Cocius went with Shabhi and she showed him the dungeon where they kept the prisoners. The prisoners were what was left of the Starblood family. They had become thralls. Cocius asked if they could be cured, Shabhi did not know.

It was then that Shabhi gave a new proposal to Cocius, she would walk free, and the party could have what they found in the sanctuary. When he hesitated she offered seven lives that the Dark Brotherhood could take in return for her freedom.

Cocius told her to wait in the dungeon while he returned to the group to inform them of this new development. The group was very divided. Talan wanted to take the deal stating that using the Dark Brotherhood against the Thalmor would be a great weapon. Riala was against stooping to such lows as consorting with assassins. Jo'Rak was ok with the deal, not seeing a difference in slaying monsters or using assassins. Cocius wanted to bring Shabhi back to face The Empire's justice. Filbyn thought the use of assassins against the Dominion would be a good weapon for her people. Yngvar (I don't remember what Ynvar said.) Kalarus argued both sides of the issue.

In the end Cocius thanked the group for their input but said that Shabhi had surrendered to him so it was his responsibility to deal with. But, if Brahnlor could come up with the names of seven Thalmor... With that he and Talan headed back to the dungeon. Shabhi was nowhere to be found.

The Starblood thralls asked after their master, sensing something new had happened. Kalarus quickly created an illusion of Hirus with such skill as to fool the thralls. The group recovered the Starblood steel dagger and looted the Dark Sanctuary. Talan discovered a secret door in one of the dungeon cells. After opening it he found a hastily scribbled note.

This way is dangerous.

-S

So ended the mystery of how Shabhi escaped.

The group gathered gold from the Sanctuary and headed back to Kvatch. On their way Jo'Rak stopped by Shabhi's stash at the abandoned shack. The group found more gold and a book: [Ahzirr Traajjazeri](#).

TIRDAS 25th – MIDDAS 26th of Midyear

The party travelled back to Kvatch with Dion as a captive and the Starblood thralls in tow.

TURDAS 27th – MORNDAS 1st of Sun's Height

The Starblood family is taken in by Romana of the Temple of Kvatch. It is learned that several of the families' neighbors were also thralls which is how the incident of their capture and signing over of their forge and house deed went unnoticed. They were all brought to Romana. She and her acolytes performed a cleansing ritual for five days and they were all cured.

Cocius handed Dion over to Brahnlor, who promptly handed him over to the visiting Vigilant of Stendarr. That seemed to mollify them but they still seemed a bit preoccupied with Kalarus.

In the afternoon of Loredas the 26th the group received a summons from the Duke and Duchess of Kvatch County (see invitation below).

Let it be known!
Your names and deeds for the good people of
Kvatch County have been Noticed!

His Lordship, Gregor Sapillus, Duke of the
County of Kvatch & Lady Narina Sapillus, Duchess of
the county of Kvatch request your attendance to a
gathering in your honor to be held at Wolf Palace on
the first day of Sun's Height at 8:00pm.

Lord Gregor Sapillus

Lady Narina Sapillus



Official Seal of the Duke and Duchess of Kvatch

*Attire yourselves as if you were going on an adventure
and by all means, please don't wash the bloodstains off!
- Emelin, Steward of The Wolf Palace*