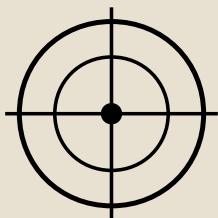

THE ETERNAL COURT
FILE · EC · CLUEEV · EDITION I · MDCCXCIII



Clue & Evidence

Handouts for the Table

*Sealed letters, ledger leaves, and chalk-smudged sketches – to pass
across the table when the company finds them.*

KORMOR KIRAK · VIDEK · ANNO 1793

FORMAT
Handouts · A5

USE
Print & Pass

VOICE
In-World

A Supplement for The Eternal Court: Gothic Gaslamp Fantasy TTRPG

CAPITULUM

INTRODUCTION: HOW TO USE THESE HANDOUTS

The handouts in this supplement are designed to be *printed, cut, and physically handed to your players* during their investigations. Rather than describing what Olivia and her companions find, you can instead place an actual document into their hands -- immersing them in the discovery process.

Each handout is written as an authentic artifact from 1793 Kormor Kirak: a letter, receipt, decree, coded message, or journal entry. The text itself appears as the characters would encounter it, complete with period-appropriate language and formatting quirks.

TO PREPARE THESE HANDOUTS: 1. Print the handout text on appropriate paper (cream or aged paper adds atmosphere). 2. Optional: Stain with tea or coffee, singe edges, crumple, or tear strategically to match the handout's "condition." 3. Use different handwriting styles or scripts if printing in-character documents. 4. Cut each handout from the page and store separately. 5. Hand to players at the moment their investigation uncovers that piece of evidence.

FOR EACH HANDOUT, a GM Note explains what information it conveys, how it connects to broader conspiracies, and what players might reasonably deduce. The cipher keys for coded messages appear in these notes, not in the handouts themselves -- preserving the puzzle for your table.

CAPITULUM

SHANDON #1: THE
INTERCEPTED
LETTER

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 3 -- "The Torony Piros Visitor"

CAPITULUM

HANNON'S LETTER:

[*Sealed with red wax bearing a crescent moon sigil*]

Dearest Cousin,

Our mutual friend informs me that the preparations proceed on schedule. The scaffolding within the Chamber rises daily -- the workers do not comprehend what they construct, which is precisely as intended. By Autumn's End, when the comet draws near, the great work shall be complete.

The Queen has begun to show signs of her impatience. She demands weekly reports and grows suspicious of delays. I have assured her that the astronomical calculations cannot be rushed, lest we botch the alignment entirely. A miscalibration could render the whole affair worthless -- or worse, dangerous to Her Majesty herself. This gives us time, though not much.

The Albion question remains delicate. If those dogs across the Channel discover what we are truly building, they will move against us. Maintain vigilance. I have certain assets positioned to intercept any official correspondence from their Embassy, but be cautious in your own communications.

The specimen you sent has been delivered safely. It thrashes still, though the chains hold. Devorlen assures me that three more of sufficient quality can be procured before the Season closes. I shudder to think of the pain involved, but the ritual demands *sacrifice* -- both material and living.

Burn this after reading.

Your devoted servant,

[*Signature illegible*]

CAPITULUM

GM NSE:

This letter reveals three critical facts: (1) the Comet Chamber is genuinely under construction, (2) a conspiracy reaches high into Kormor Kirak's hierarchy involving the Queen, and (3) some kind of occult ritual is planned that requires human sacrifice. The cryptic reference to "specimens" and Devorlen's involvement suggests dark alchemy or necromancy.

Players may wonder who the correspondent is. Clues point toward someone close to the Queen with scientific or astronomical knowledge -- perhaps General Markos, or a court official. The mention of "weekly reports" and decision-making authority suggests someone in power.

If players show this to allies, Barron Whitehallow will recognize the crescent moon sigil as belonging to an obscure cult faction. The warning about Albion suggests the Queen fears international interference.

CAPITULUM

SHARDON #2: THE RED GUARD DECREE

CASE CONNECTION: General Use

CAPITULUM

SMONDUS EXE:

[*Official seal of the Red Guard, the Queen's military arm*]

CAPITULUM

PROCLAMATION OF THE RED GUARD

By Order of General Markos, Commander of Her Majesty's Forces

Let it be known throughout the districts of Kormor Kirak:

Effective immediately, all travel to and from the Northern Causeway is RESTRICTED. Entry requires written authorization from Red Guard headquarters. No exceptions shall be granted without explicit approval from the office of the General himself.

Furthermore, any person or persons found loitering near the construction site at Castle Torony Piros shall be subject to arrest and imprisonment for espionage. The Queen's current projects are matters of national security.

Citizens are encouraged to report suspicious activity via their District Magistrates. Rewards of 50 korma will be paid for information leading to the arrest of saboteurs or foreign agents.

A violator of these terms faces imprisonment from no less than three years.

By Her Majesty's authority,

General Markos



17th day of April, Year of the Crimson Comet

CAPITULUM

GM NSE:

This decree serves multiple purposes: (1) it establishes that the Red Guard is actively protecting construction at Castle Torony Piros, making investigation of that site extremely dangerous; (2) it indicates paranoia at the top levels of government -- someone fears sabotage or espionage; (3) it provides a mechanical barrier to players investigating the Northern Causeway without proper cover.

Players may attempt to forge authorization papers, bribe Red Guard checkpoints, or find alternate routes. This handout makes clear that direct access is being actively denied.

CAPITULUM

HANDOUT #3: LETTER
PAGE FROM
DEBORAH'S ROSE

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 1 -- "The Curiosity Shop"

CAPITULUM

HANDS OF THE:

[A page torn from a leather-bound ledger, stained with ink and unknown substances]

CAPITULUM

DEBORGEN'S ACADEMY'S MARKS ENTRIES

==

12 March -- Glass vials (amber, 2 dozen) -- acquired from Merchant Corvus --
 15 korma 14 March -- Mandrake root, fresh harvest -- [MARK: Rare speci-
 men] -- 40 korma 18 March -- Iron chains (heavy gauge, 6 lengths) --
 Blacksmith Torven -- 60 korma 20 March -- **HUMAN HAIR, LONG,
 DARK** -- [source unknown, marked PRIVATE] -- 35 korma 23 March --
 Philosopher's sulfur (crystallized) -- Alchemist Willem -- 55 korma 25 March --
TWO CORPSES (QUALITY POOR, RECENTLY INTERRED) -- [grave robber,
 name withheld] -- 120 korma 28 March -- Lead caskets (small, 4 total) --
 Metalworker's Guild -- 80 korma 31 March -- **COMMISSION FROM
 CASTLE: THREE SPECIMENS, LIVE, CONDITION UNSPECIFIED** -- payment DE-
 FERRED

[The handwriting becomes erratic at the bottom of the page]

Must not speak of this. The chains alone could see me hanged. But the
 payment -- gods, the payment is too much to refuse. By Summer's End, it will
 be done.

CAPITULUM

GM NSE:

This ledger page directly implicates Devorlen Koss in grave robbing, trafficking in human remains, and acquiring materials for dark magical practice. The vague entry for "three specimens, live" suggests he is procuring living subjects for experimentation or ritual.

Players who question Devorlen about this ledger should trigger a tense scene. He will likely deny everything, claim the ledger is falsified, or attempt to buy silence. If confronted with undeniable evidence, he may admit to dealing in "medical specimens" for unnamed patrons, but will refuse to name his employer (fear of the Queen's power).

The Easter reference date system anchors this to early spring, placing the events in motion several months before the presumed campaign present day.

CAPITULUM

HANDOUT #4: CODED MESSAGE ON TOWER WALL

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 5 -- "The Smuggler's Route"

CAPITULUM

SHANDOE TEE:

[Carved into the wooden beam of the Kraken's Rest tavern, below the bar]

SEVEN BELLS MEET THE WOLF

SILVER FLOWS WHERE IRON BENDS

DOCTOR'S LADDER COUNTS TO FOUR

LOCK THE DOOR WHERE STARS COME DOWN

[Beneath this, in different handwriting, a hasty scrawl:] ANSWER BY FULL
MOON OR ALL IS LOST

CAPITULUM

SMNSE:

This is a simple substitution cipher used by smugglers and resistance operatives. The decryption key:

- SEVEN BELLS = 7 (north district checkpoint)
- WOLF = Jack Winbow (the Smuggler)
- SILVER FLOWS WHERE IRON BENDS = The Aqueduct (a metal-and-water junction point used for smuggling runs)
- DOCTOR'S LADDER = Istvan the Jailer (who has medical knowledge and controls access to the prison -- "ladder" to escape)
- COUNTS TO FOUR = fourth level of the prison, below the main cells, where political prisoners are held
- LOCK THE DOOR WHERE STARS COME DOWN = Castle Torony Piros (highest point in the city, closest to the sky)

Fully decoded: "On the seventh bell, meet Jack Winbow at the Aqueduct. Contact Istvan the Jailer to reach the fourth level of the prison to rescue prisoners at Castle Torony Piros. Answer by the Full Moon or all is lost."

This message reveals the existence of a rescue plan within the resistance, and that there are political prisoners being held beneath Castle Torony Piros. Players who decode it gain critical intelligence about resistance operations and may be approached for aid.

If shown to Barron Whitehallow, he will immediately recognize it as genuine resistance communication and will confirm the urgency of the Full Moon deadline.

CAPITULUM

SHANDON'S #5:
PRINCESS EZEKIEL'S
JOURNAL ENTRY

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 8 -- "The Heir's Concern"

CAPITULUM

SHANDOU SHER:

[Written in small, hurried script on fine paper, water-stained and wrinkled]

Mother grows stranger each day. I find her in the high chamber at odd hours, gazing at the sky as if entranced. The physicians claim she is well, but I see the fever in her eyes.

She speaks of transformation. Of becoming eternal. Of drinking the comet's light itself.

When I asked her what this meant, she laughed -- a sound I have not heard in years -- but then her expression turned cold. She said, "You are too young to understand ambition, Szeret. You wish to rule as your mother rules -- a mortal Queen, bound by flesh and time. But I shall transcend. I shall become a *force*."

I fear she is mad. Yet no one dares voice such concerns. The Red Guard obeys her absolutely. General Markos hangs upon her every word.

Is there anyone I can trust? Anyone who might counsel her, turn her from this madness? If she proceeds with whatever ritual or magic the Comet Chamber contains, will she be my mother still?

[The entry ends abruptly, as if the writer was interrupted]

CAPITULUM

GM NSE:

This journal entry provides Princess Szeret's perspective on the Queen's growing obsession with the Comet Chamber and suggests she may be experiencing psychological decline or magical corruption. The entry is clearly torn from a private journal, suggesting it was either discovered during an investigation or given to the party by someone close to the Princess.

Players may use this to: 1. Sympathize with Szeret as someone trapped in a dangerous situation 2. Understand that the Queen's agenda extends beyond mere political power -- she seeks literal transcendence 3. Identify Szeret as a potential ally or informant, though she is heavily guarded

If players show this to Szeret herself, she will either confirm her fears in a private moment, or deny everything if she suspects the message might reach her mother. Her response depends on whether she has developed trust with the party.

CAPITULUM

SHADOWS #6: WANTED PAGES == UNSEEN

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 2 -- "The Investigator's Shadow"

CAPITULUM

HANDSOME TEXE:

[A Red Guard wanted poster, but the face and description have been scratched out and replaced with new text]

--WANTED: Female, age 35-40, Albion accent, dark hair--

CAPITULUM

WANTED:
FUGITIVE

DESPERATE

CHARGES: Espionage, Sabotage, Unlawful Entry to Crown Properties

REWARD: 500 forma == ALIVE ONLY

[Below the official text, someone has written in charcoal:]

Also wanted by:

- The Lich Cult (for interference in their sacred work)
- Jack Winbow (for stealing from his operation)
- Lord Hadrian of Albion (for abandoning her post)
- Barron Whitehallow's faction (they claim she is a double agent)

Status: EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. Armed. Skilled in close quarters combat and subterfuge. Assumes false identities.

Last seen: Near the Market District, three days past.

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This poster serves as a mechanical reality check: Olivia Faren is now a wanted person across multiple factions. It can be found posted in city districts, guard stations, or taverns. If players are traveling with Olivia or claiming to know her, this handout immediately escalates the stakes.

The scratched-out original description and hasty additions suggest the wanted poster is being constantly updated as new information arrives. The multiple factions wanting her for different reasons reveals that Olivia is not simply hunted by the Queen -- she has made enemies and allies in nearly equal measure.

For players unfamiliar with Olivia, this poster establishes her as a central figure in the conspiracy and a magnet for conflict.

CAPITULUM

SHARDON #7: MEDICAL NOTES FROM THESE FORGOTTEN PAGES

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 4 -- "The Queen's Malady"

CAPITULUM

HANDOUT TEXT:

[Written in clinical script, signed by an illegible physician's mark]

SUBJECT: Her Majesty, Queen Kiraline

DATE: 16 April, Year of the Crimson Comet

PHYSICIAN: [name redacted]

Her Majesty presents with increasingly erratic vital signs. Pulse ranges from 40 to 140 beats within a single hour. Temperature fluctuates similarly. She reports no pain, yet her behavior suggests significant distress.

She has begun consuming blood -- initially sheep's blood, brought to her in silver vessels. Three days past, she demanded human blood. I refused to procure such materials. She became enraged, destroyed two chairs, and demanded I be removed from her presence.

A replacement physician has been assigned.

Further observations: Her Majesty appears to glow faintly in dim light. The castle servants whisper that she does not sleep. I observed her standing at the highest tower at four in the morning, perfectly still, arms outstretched toward the stars.

Her transformation, if it can be called such, is accelerating.

I have been instructed to document these changes but report nothing to anyone outside the castle walls. To do so would be treason.

May whatever gods still listen forgive me for my silence.

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This medical document confirms that the Queen is undergoing a supernatural transformation linked to the Comet Chamber. The references to glowing skin, changed appetite for blood, and astronomical obsession all suggest she is becoming something other than human -- possibly a vampire, or something unique to the world of The Eternal Court.

The note about the replacement physician suggests that the previous doctor was deemed unreliable and removed. This reinforces that the Queen and her inner circle are actively suppressing information about what is happening.

If this document reaches the party, they should realize: 1. The Queen's transformation is real and progressing rapidly. 2. Time is running short -- the comet's arrival may be the final catalyst. 3. The Queen may no longer be fully rational or human by the time the climax arrives.

CAPITULUM

SHANDON #8: RECEIPT
FROM MERCHANTS
CORPUS

CASE CONNECTION: General Use

CAPITULUM

HANDQUE TEXE:

[A torn receipt on thin paper, the ink partially faded]

CAPITULUM

MERCHANT CORBUS == FINE GLASS AND INSTRUMENTS

Sold to: [name scratched out]

Date: 12 April

Items:

- Lens, ground crystal, 8-inch diameter, precise to 1/100th inch -- 75 korma
- Lens, ground crystal, 4-inch diameter -- 30 korma
- Brass mounting frame, adjustable -- 25 korma
- Copper wire, finest gauge, 100 yards -- 40 korma
- Unknown substance (client supplied), refined and sealed in glass -- 15 korma

TOTAL: 185 korma

DELIVERY: Castle Torony Piros, via Red Guard escort

NOTES: Client requests all work remain confidential. Threatens severe consequences for loose tongues. Payment includes 50 korma discretion fee.

CAPITULUM

GM NSE:

This receipt suggests that sophisticated optical instruments are being constructed or assembled for use in the Comet Chamber. The lenses and frame could be part of a telescope or a more complex astronomical device. The mysterious "unknown substance" hint at alchemy or occult ingredients.

The scratched-out name on the receipt and the "discretion fee" indicate that whoever commissioned this work wanted to remain anonymous -- though the delivery to Castle Torony Piros makes the true destination obvious.

Players might track down Merchant Corvus to ask questions. He will initially deny involvement, but can be bribed or intimidated into confirming the basic details. He will refuse to name the commissioner, citing fear for his life.

CAPITULUM

SHADOWS #9: LETTER
FROM THE ALBION
EMBASSY

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 6 -- "The Diplomatic Crisis"

CAPITULUM

MANDATE LETTER:

[Sealed with the official Albion Crown seal, but the seal has been broken and the letter appears to have been intercepted]

To His Excellency, Ambassador Harken

From the Office of the Lord Chancellor, Whitehall, Albion

Dated: 15 March, Year of the Crimson Comet

Dear Ambassador Harken,

Your previous dispatches regarding the unusual construction at Castle Torony Piros have not gone unnoticed by the Crown. We have become increasingly concerned about Queen Kiraline's intentions and the nature of the work being conducted behind closed doors.

It is our assessment that she may be developing weapons or magical artifacts intended to augment her military power. This directly threatens the balance established by the Treaty of Sullen Crowns.

You are hereby authorized to make discreet inquiries into the matter. Do not be overt -- a formal diplomatic challenge would be premature and could prove dangerous. However, we require intelligence.

Should the Queen be preparing for war or international aggression, we must know immediately. The Albion Navy stands ready to enforce our interests.

Keep this correspondence confidential. Destroy it after reading.

[Signed by official hand]

CAPITULUM

GM NSE:

This intercepted letter reveals that Albion intelligence services suspect the Comet Chamber is a weapon or magical device, and that there may be military tensions between two nations. It explains why the Queen is paranoid about foreign spies and why checkpoint security is so tight.

If players show this letter to Ambassador Harken, he will first attempt to deny it, then may admit that yes, Albion is watching the situation -- but insist that he means no harm to the Queen. His position is delicate: he is a diplomat in a foreign power, with limited resources, trying to prevent a war.

This letter also suggests that destroying it was ordered but someone failed to do so, perhaps intentionally leaving it behind for Olivia or her allies to find.

CAPITULUM

SHARDON #10: DONN
PAGE FROM THE LGS
CULT'S REGULAR
LEADER

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 7 -- "The Cult's Work"

CAPITULUM

SHANDOUZ TEXT:

[A page torn from a bound ledger, burn-marked at the edges, written in a strange cipher overlaid with hastily scrawled notes in normal script]

[CIPHER TEXT: largely illegible, appears to be ancient]

[In the margins, in modern handwriting:]

The ritual cannot proceed without the CELESTIAL ALIGNMENT. The comet provides the necessary harmonic frequency. Without it, the spell fails and the host body dies -- I have seen this. Three failures already.

The Queen does not understand what she is truly offering herself to. She believes she will achieve transcendence and eternal rule. In truth, if the ritual succeeds, something *else* will wear her skin.

The old masters would call it possession. Ascension. The merging of divine will with mortal flesh.

But the Cult knows better. We know what feeds upon ambition.

The summoning requires a sacrifice of the bloodline. The heir -- the Princess -- must be present when the comet passes. Blood calls to blood. Without her, the gateway does not open.

[The page ends abruptly, as if torn mid-thought]

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This page from a Lich Cult ledger provides critical information: (1) the ritual being performed in the Comet Chamber may not elevate the Queen to godhood but rather invite possession by an otherworldly entity; (2) Princess Szeret is essential to the ritual and in grave danger; (3) the comet's arrival is tied to an astrological/magical requirement, not just symbolic timing; (4) the Lich Cult understands one dimension of what is happening and may be manipulating events at the margins of the Queen's ritual.

This handout can inspire paranoia and investigation. Players may realize that multiple factions are vying for control of the Comet Chamber's power: the Queen, the Lich Cult, the Resistance, and Albion's intelligence services.

If players show this to a Lich Cult contact, the response will depend on the cult member's role and knowledge. Some might confirm the contents, others deny it, others attempt to recruit the party to their cause.

CAPITULUM

CHAPTER #11: EXERCISES AND NOTES

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 5 -- "The Smuggler's Route"

CAPITULUM

SHANDON'S RECEIT:

[*A crumpled tavern bill, with hastily written notes on the back*]

THE MARRIAGE RECEIT == Bill of Fare

Three ales -- 3 korma

Bread and cheese -- 2 korma

Private room (one hour) -- 5 korma

TOTAL: 10 korma

PAID IN COIN -- [illegible scrawl]

[*On the back, in different handwriting:*]

You were followed from the docks. Red Guard, three of them. I lost them in the Market, but they know you're in the city.

Jack wants to move up the timeline. The next run is in THREE DAYS, not two weeks. The route through the Aqueduct is being watched, so we'll go north -- the old Catacombs beneath the Merchant's Guild.

Bring rope. Bring light. Bring courage.

If you're in, leave a chalk mark on the eastern doorpost of the Guild. Three marks for yes.

Burn this.

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This tavern bill suggests a clandestine meeting occurred, likely between a resistance operative and an informant or recruit. The hastily written notes reveal time pressure -- someone is accelerating the timeline of smuggling operations or rescue attempts, likely because Red Guard scrutiny is increasing.

The reference to three days creates urgency for the players: if they want to participate in or intercept this smuggling run, they must act quickly. The Catacombs route provides an alternative investigation path that avoids the heavily guarded Aqueduct.

If players are trying to infiltrate the resistance, finding this bill could serve as their entry point. Responding with chalk marks on the Guild doorpost sets up the next scene.

CAPITULUM

SHANDON
WARRING
UNGENED

#12:
NDG
==

CASE CONNECTION: General Use

CAPITULUM

SMUGGLE LETTER:

[A folded piece of cheap paper, water-damaged, written in shaky handwriting]

If you're reading this, you were meant to.

They have eyes everywhere. The Red Guard, the Cult, the Castle itself seems to watch. But there are still a few of us who remember what Kormor Kirak was before the Queen's madness.

DO NOT TRUST THE MAGISTRATE. Voron answers to the Queen now, not the law. Any evidence you bring to him will be used against you.

The smuggler is your best path, but he demands payment. 500 korma minimum. He knows routes that bypass the Guard.

One more thing -- the prisoner beneath the Castle. The one they call the Prophet. If she lives, she knows the truth about the Comet. She knows what it will do. But she is guarded by the Jailer, and he is loyal to the Queen.

I cannot help further. I have already said too much.

May you find better fortune than I.

[Unsigned, no identifying marks]

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This unsigned warning serves as a plot hook and early game intel. It confirms several facts the party may have already discovered, while introducing new elements: a mysterious prisoner beneath the Castle called "the Prophet," and the revelation that Magistrate Voron has been compromised.

The mention of the Prophet creates a rescue mission hook. The warning about Jack Winbow's payment requirements suggests the party will need funds to proceed. The paranoia expressed about surveillance and watching adds atmosphere and should make players feel hunted.

If players track the handwriting or fingerprints, they will find no leads. The note was clearly designed to be disposable. However, it may have been written by someone close to the party, or by someone who knows Olivia Faren -- potentially Barron Whitehallow, or another resistance operative.

CAPITULUM

SHARDON #13: EYEWITNESS NOTE FROM GENERAL MARRS

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 9 -- "The General's Doubt"

CAPITULUM

MANDATE DEFE:

[A small, tightly folded piece of parchment, written in tight, military script]

To the Commander of the Northern Garrison:

By order of General Markos, you are to detail five soldiers to the Comet Chamber daily for rotation. Their duty: guard the Queen and prevent any unauthorized entry.

Additionally, observe who enters and exits. Report all visitors to the General's office, not to the Red Guard hierarchy. The chain of command in this matter runs directly to me.

[In a different ink, a handwritten note added afterward:]

If the Queen completes whatever work she intends, will I still be General? Or will I be... something else?

Are we serving humanity? Or inviting our own extinction?

I am a soldier. I follow orders. But I must know: are my orders leading me toward honor, or damnation?

[No signature, no answer]

CAPITULUM

GM MDE:

This note, apparently from General Markos himself, reveals doubt within the military leadership. Someone -- presumably Markos -- is questioning whether the Comet Chamber work is justified. The handwritten addition suggests internal conflict and possible disillusionment with the Queen's agenda.

If players show this to General Markos himself, his reaction will be telling. He may: 1. Deny it entirely and accuse the party of forgery 2. Confirm it and reveal he is secretly working against the Queen 3. Acknowledge it but explain his loyalty to the Crown supersedes his doubts 4. Claim the Queen showed him a vision or granted him a gift that resolved his conflict

Players investigating the military chain of command can use this note to identify sympathetic soldiers or find cracks in Red Guard loyalty. It suggests that not all of the Queen's servants are content with her current path.

CAPITULUM

SHANDON
MERCHANT'S
JOURNALS
ALLEGMENTS
SUPPLES

#14:

==

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 1 -- "The Curiosity Shop"

CAPITULUM

MANDATE DEE:

[An official invoice from the Alchemist's Guild, stamped with formal seals]

CAPITULUM

ALCHEMIST
REGENCY

BLVD

Licensed Purveyor: Willem the Precise

Invoice to: Devorlen Koss, Curiosity Merchant

Date: 20 April

Items Supplied:

- Sulfur of Philosophers (crystallized) -- 2 lbs -- 55 korma
- Lunar Caustic (silver nitrate) -- 1 oz -- 30 korma
- Essence of Mandrake Root (distilled) -- 1 dram -- 40 korma
- Quicksilver, highest purity -- 3 lbs -- 75 korma
- Arsenic Sublimate -- 1 lb -- 20 korma
- Tincture of Nightshade -- 2 drams -- 45 korma
- Powdered Gold Leaf -- 1 oz -- 60 korma

TOTAL: 325 korma

PAYMENT STATUS: DEFERRED ==
Authorization Code [redacted]

CAPITULUM

SEAL OF OFFICER
EXAMINATION

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This invoice documents the purchase of high-quality alchemical materials, many of which are poisonous or can be used for dark rituals. The materials align with the previous journal entry from Devorlen's ledger. The "deferred payment" with a redacted authorization code suggests that someone powerful is underwriting these purchases and wants to remain anonymous.

Players can use this invoice as leverage against Devorlen Koss. If they confront him with evidence of these purchases, he cannot claim innocence -- the official Guild registry proves the transaction occurred. His only defense is to claim the materials were for legitimate alchemical work.

The Alchemist Willem can be tracked down. He will admit to the sale but claim that Guild rules prevent him from discussing clients or their purposes. However, he might be bribed or intimidated into revealing that the "authorization code" came from someone at Castle Torony Piros.

CAPITULUM

HANDBOOK #15:
 PERSONAL LETTERS
 FROM AMBASSADOR
 HARRIS TO OLIVIA
 HARRIS

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 6 -- "The Diplomatic Crisis"

CAPITULUM

HANDSOME LETTER:

[*A sealed letter, marked "PERSONAL -- OLIVIA FAREN ONLY"*]

My Dear Olivia,

I hope this letter finds you before the Red Guard does.

I have made inquiries about you through back channels. I know why you left Albion, and I know why you have embedded yourself in Kormor Kirak. The Home Office may brand you a traitor, but I understand the burden of conscience.

The Queen is dying. Or transforming. I am not certain which. But it is clear to me that she intends to use the Comet Chamber to achieve something irreversible. Once she does -- if she succeeds -- the balance between our nations will shatter.

I cannot openly oppose her. I am a diplomat, bound by treaties and protocol. But you are not bound by such constraints.

If you can find a way to prevent the ritual, or to redirect its power, you will have saved not just Kormor Kirak, but Albion as well.

I am placing myself at risk by writing this. If it is discovered, I will be declared a traitor and my diplomatic immunity will be revoked. So I ask for caution -- on your behalf and on mine.

There is a safe house in the Scholar's District. The key is hidden beneath the fourth cobblestone from the eastern corner of the Fountain Plaza. Use it if you have nowhere else to go.

Trust carefully. The Lich Cult may approach you. They will offer knowledge and power in exchange for your cooperation. Consider their offer carefully before refusing or accepting.

Your former ally in the service of what is right,

A. Harken

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This letter from Ambassador Harken serves as both character development and a mechanism for providing the party with a safe house and additional mission clarity. If the party finds this letter, they learn that:

1. Olivia Faren and Ambassador Harken have a prior relationship based on shared moral convictions.
2. Harken believes the ritual must be stopped, even if he cannot openly act against the Queen.
3. A safe house exists in the Scholar's District with supplies and protection.
4. The Lich Cult is expected to make recruitment overtures.

The letter works mechanically as a "get out of jail free" card if the party is cornered by Red Guard -- they can flee to the safe house. It also suggests that Harken is a potential ally, though a cautious one due to his diplomatic position.

If players confront Ambassador Harken about this letter, he will initially deny it, then admit its authenticity if pressed. His condition for further help will likely be that the party never publicly reveal his involvement. He cannot be seen to actively oppose the Queen, but he can work in the shadows.

CAPITULUM

HANDWRITTEN NOTE #16:
THE PRISONER'S
MESSAGE ==

CASE CONNECTION: Olivia's Journal Case 10 -- "The Prophet in the Dark"

CAPITULUM

SMOULDERS HERE:

[*A scrap of parchment, the edges burnt and stained with blood and unknown fluids, handwriting nearly illegible due to injury or torture*]

They bring me water once daily. They call me Prophet, though I do not claim the gift.

I simply *know*.

The comet is not a thing of science. It is a *door*.

When it passes, if the ritual is complete, the Queen will not transcend -- she will be *replaced*. The thing that wears her body will command the Red Guard, command the castle, command the city.

It does not come from above. It rises from *within* -- from the deep places, the old bones of the earth. The Cult understands this. They have been preparing for centuries.

I was captured because I tried to warn her. The Queen. Before the transformation took hold.

She listened, for a moment. Then she laughed and imprisoned me here, deciding I am mad.

Perhaps I am.

But I *know* what is coming.

[*The note ends with a single line, written in what appears to be the prisoner's own blood:*]

STOP THE RITUAL BEFORE THE AUTUMN EQUINOX

CAPITULUM

GM NOTE:

This note from the mysterious prisoner provides cosmic-scale stakes: the ritual is not personal transcendence but a summoning or a replacement. The revelation that the entity comes from "within" and "from the deep places" suggests elder magic or cosmic horror elements appropriate to Gothic Gaslamp Fantasy.

The phrase "the old bones of the earth" hints at ancient powers predating human civilization in Kormor Kirak, which can inspire further investigation into the city's history.

The autumn equinox creates a hard deadline for the campaign. If the party does not stop the ritual by then, the Queen will be replaced and the horror begins.

Finding this note should inspire the party to attempt a rescue mission to free the Prophet and gain more information directly. The prisoner is clearly alive and has knowledge the party desperately needs. However, the prison beneath Castle Torony Piros is heavily guarded, requiring careful planning or a dramatic assault.

CAPITULUM

END OF HANDOUTS

These sixteen handouts provide the material foundation for investigations across Olivia's ten cases and general play. Print them on appropriate paper, age them as you see fit, and present them physically to your players. The tactile experience of holding evidence -- real ink on real paper -- deepens immersion and creates memorable moments of revelation.

May your players uncover the truth of the Comet Chamber before it is too late.

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