

---

---

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



# Rumors

*What the City Whispers*

*Tavern talk, market gossip, and Red Guard hearsay — a roll table  
for what the company overhears between assignments.*

---

KORMOR KIRAK · VIDEK · ANNO 1793

---

FORMAT	ROLL	VOICE
<i>Table · A5</i>	<i>D66 · D100</i>	<i>Street</i>

---

## CAPITULUM

# HOW TO USE THE RUMOR

This supplement provides a collection of rumors, whispers, and overheard conversations that players may encounter throughout Kormor Kirak. These rumors serve multiple purposes:

- **ATMOSPHERE & FLAVOR:** Rumors ground players in the city's Gothic atmosphere, revealing the fear, ambition, and intrigue that permeate the streets.
- **INVESTIGATION HOOKS:** Many rumors connect to cases in Olivia's Investigation Framework, providing leads that prompt further inquiry.
- **PLOT ADVANCEMENT:** Several rumors advance the main conspiracy surrounding the Comet Chamber, Queen Kiraline's ambitions, and the Lich Cult's influence.
- **MISDIRECTION:** False and partially true rumors create uncertainty, forcing players to verify information and distrust convenient answers.

**ROLLING & IMPLEMENTATION:** When players enter a location and interact with locals, roll d20 to determine which rumor they overhear. You may roll openly or select rumors that suit the narrative moment. Not every rumor should be presented in a single session -- space them out to maintain mystery and encourage players to revisit locations.

**TRUTH VALUE:** Each rumor is labeled TRUE, PARTIALLY TRUE, FALSE, or RED HERRING. Use these to track what actually happened vs. what the city *believes* happened. This distinction is crucial for creating a gaslighting atmosphere where reality is slippery.

**ADAPTATION:** Feel free to modify rumors to suit your table's interests or to incorporate character backstories. Rumors work best when players have reason to care about the people mentioned.

## CAPITULUM

## EPY'S PUB

The warm glow of gaslight and the smell of ale and tobacco. Loose tongues, drunken philosophy, and the bitter complaints of the working poor. This is where the groundswell of discontent gathers.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 
- 1 "The Queen's been buying up grain shipments from Albion -- *paying* for 'em too, not just commandeering. That's not like Her Majesty. My cousin works the docks and swears the boxes are lead-lined. What's she building that needs so much weight?"
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen is indeed securing resources for the Comet Chamber, but not specifically grain. However, mysterious materials ARE arriving at Castle Torony Piros. Albion shipments are legitimate (the political tension is real, but not yet open conflict). The lead-lined boxes rumor is exaggerated gossip.
- The price of bread has risen; people notice the Queen's activity. This rumor reflects genuine anxiety about resource scarcity.
- 
- 2 "Istvan the Jailer hasn't been seen in three days. His sister came by asking if anyone knew where he'd gone. They found blood on his cell block door this morning."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Istvan is missing, but he hasn't been killed -- he's been conscripted by General Markos to oversee a secret project beneath the castle. The blood isn't his; it's from a prisoner. His absence will eventually prompt investigation.
- This is an **OLIVIA CASE HOOK.** Istvan's disappearance can trigger the "Missing Persons" thread.
- 
- 3 "I heard the Red Guard rounded up six people from Riverside last week for *nothing* -- no crime, no hearing, just gone. One was a scholar. They're building something, mark
- TRUE.** The Queen's forces are quietly imprisoning scholars, laborers, and people with specific skills needed for the Comet Chamber construction. This is not officially acknowledged.
- Connects to the main conspiracy. Players investigating may discover forced conscription.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- my words, and they need labor.”
- 
- 4     ”They’re saying Princess Szeret refused the Queen’s dinner invitation last month. Refused it! Can you imagine? Word is the Princess wants nothing to do with the castle’s new ’projects.”
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Character tension within the vampire aristocracy. Szeret might be an unlikely ally if approached carefully. Szeret has grown distant from her mother, but the refusal was more subtle than folklore suggests. She’s concerned about her mother’s increasingly erratic behavior and the resources being poured into the Comet Chamber.
- 
- 5     ”My mate’s daughter works as a maid in the castle kitchens. She says every night after midnight, the Queen goes down into the cellars alone, and there’s a light that ain’t gaslight -- something blue and cold. No servant’s ever seen what’s down there and lived to tell.”
- FALSE.** A maid DID mention unusual activity, but the ”cold blue light” is an embellishment born of fear and gossip. The Queen does visit the lower castle at odd hours, but for strategic planning, not mystical rituals. Pure atmospheric rumor. Creates dread. Could mislead players about the Comet Chamber’s purpose.
- 
- 6     ”Barron Whitehallow was spotted in the Kereskedo Marketplace last Tuesday, bold as you please. Three days later, five Red Guard soldiers went missing. Co-
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Whitehallow WAS in the marketplace, and Red Guard soldiers ARE being lost, but not to the Resistance -- they’re being reassigned and

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|   | incidence? The Resistance is moving, friends.”   | conscripted to the Comet Chamber project. Whitehall is gathering intelligence, not executing raids (yet).   | resistance is possible.   |
| 7 | ”The Lich Cult broke into Brother Aldric’s monastery last month and stole something from the crypt. The Brother won’t say what. They’re getting bolder.”   | <b>TRUE.</b> The Cult did steal something -- a scroll fragment that may relate to undead resurrection rituals. Brother Aldric is keeping quiet because he’s afraid of repercussions against the monastery.  | Connects to the Lich Cult subplot. Brother Aldric would share details with trustworthy adventurers.       |
| 8 | ”General Markos has been meeting with that Albion ambassador at the docks, away from official channels. Could be trouble between our Queen and the foreign powers. Could be a deal is being made.” | <b>RED HERRING.</b> Markos meets with Ambassador Harken occasionally, but only to maintain the tense diplomatic equilibrium and gather intelligence. It’s routine (if covert) statecraft, not a conspiracy.   | Encourages paranoia about Albion’s involvement. Actually, Albion is largely unaware of the Comet Chamber. |
| 9 | ”They say Jack Winbow the smuggler’s been seen near the castle’s north gate, loading things in the dead of night. He’s in on it -- whatever <i>it</i> is. The Queen’s bought him.”                 | <b>PARTIALLY TRUE.</b> Winbow IS secretly working with the Queen (he’s been threatened/bribed), but he’s been <i>unloading</i> materials into the castle, not loading things out. He’s complicit in resource acquisition for the Comet Chamber, though he | Jack Winbow is a complex NPC -- potentially redeemable if pressured or if the players of-                 |

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- |    |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
|    |  | doesn't fully understand the project's scope.  | fer him protection.  |
| 10 | "My grandmother used to tell stories about the last comet that came through Kormor Kirak, back in her youth. She said terrible things happened -- people went mad, the streets flooded with blood. She said it wasn't natural. She said the Queen knows this." | <b>PARTIALLY TRUE.</b> A comet DID appear in the region centuries ago (the timeline is vague in folklore). It's unclear what actually happened, but the Queen has researched old records obsessively. She believes the comet's power can be <i>harnessed</i> , not feared. This rumor reflects genuine historical dread. | Atmospheric and suggests the Queen's knowledge comes from historical study.                                      |
| 11 | "Devorlen Koss is selling things in his shop that shouldn't exist. Clockwork spiders that move on their own. Books written in languages that make your head ache. The Watch knows but doesn't intervene. That's protection, innit?"                            | <b>PARTIALLY TRUE.</b> Koss DOES deal in unusual and occult items, and the Watch does tolerate it because he's useful to powerful people (including the Queen). However, the items are strange but explicable within the setting's magical/technological framework.  | Koss is a useful information broker and supplier. His tolerance by authorities is real, though the reasons vary. |
| 12 | "A Bone Sentinel was seen wandering the Riverside slums last night. Just <i>walking</i> there, bold as daylight, and the Red Guard didn't stop it. That's not  | <b>TRUE.</b> A Bone Sentinel was indeed deployed in a show of force/intimidation, though the Red Guard didn't intervene because the Queen wanted the populace to see   | Demonstrates the Queen's use of fear as a control mechanism.   |

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- natural. That's the Queen sending a *message*." the skeleton's power and remember their place.
- 
- 13 "Tomas the Stablehand heard two castle courtiers arguing in the stables -- one said the Comet Chamber would be the Queen's *tomb*, not her throne. He couldn't hear more before they noticed him, but whatever they meant, it sounded like treason."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Two officials WERE arguing about the Comet Chamber's purpose, but the conversation was about risk (the project is dangerous and might fail catastrophically, potentially destroying the castle). "Tomb" was metaphorical, not literal treason. This spreads fear that the project might go wrong. The Queen herself has calculated these risks.
- 
- 14 "Eppy Flinder herself says she's been watering down the ale ever since the prices went up. Says she's barely keeping the pub open because of what the Queen's doing to the economy. She's sympathetic to Whitehallow's cause, I reckon. Maybe more than sympathetic."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The economy IS struggling, and Eppy IS affected. However, she's been careful about what she says and to whom. She provides safe harbor for dissenters but isn't an active member of the Resistance. Eppy is a useful contact for getting information about who passes through and what they talk about.
- 
- 15 "A witch-woman came through last week -- had a familiar made of living shadow, and an eye that wept black tears. She asked questions about the
- FALSE.** No such person came through recently. This is pure fabrication, born from fear and the human Atmospheric and shows how fear fills gaps in knowledge.

## D 20 RUMOR

- Comet Chamber and where it was being built. Nobody would tell her. The Red Guard came for her that very night. Nobody's seen her since."
- 16 "Lady Mireva's been sick for weeks. The court physicians say it's nothing, but I heard it from a maid who heard it from a guard that she's wasting away. Some say it's a curse from the Lich Cult. Some say the Queen did it to silence her." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Mireva IS ill, but it's from poison (not magical curse), and it's not the Queen's doing. A rival at court attempted to eliminate Mireva because of her influence over the Queen. This could become a sub-plot for investigation. Character drama within the aristocracy. If discovered, it implicates other nobles and creates power vacuums.
- 17 "The beer's tasted like copper for three weeks. Eppy says it's the water from the well -- something's wrong with it. Some folks won't drink it anymore. The ones who do complain of strange dreams and aches in their bones." **RED HERRING.** The water is fine; it's the fear talking. However, if players investigate, they might discover that the Red Guard have been adding a mild sedative to certain water supplies in working-class neighborhoods to reduce unrest. Could reveal a conspiracy within a conspiracy. Adds layers.
- 18 "They're building something new at the castle, and it's *tall*. You can see scaffolding from the Hal- **TRUE.** The Comet Chamber IS being constructed, and it's indeed built above historically significant Connects the Comet Chamber to the cemetery and

## D 20 RUMOR

- laset Fields. One of the gravediggers there says it's being built directly above the oldest part of the cemetery, where the ancient burials are."
- ground, including very old graves. The Queen chose this location for its supposed occult properties.
- necromantic themes. Players can investigate from the cemetery side.
- 
- 19 "Captain Ashford got drunk here last month and said something about 'cleaning up the Queen's messes.' He mentioned the Underground and things that shouldn't exist. He's been stationed at the castle barracks ever since. Someone got to him, bought him or scared him."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Ashford IS aware of unusual activity at the castle and has been reassigned to reduce his contact with the general guard. However, he wasn't drunk-talking -- he was approached directly by agents of the Queen and offered a choice: service or silence. He chose the former.
- Ashford knows things and might be approached for information (at risk).
- 
- 20 "The Queen's been seen at the castle parapets at dawn, just *staring* eastward toward Albion. Motionless for hours. Her guards won't interrupt her. My sister's boyfriend is a palace guard and swears something's changed in Her Majesty. She's not quite... there... anymore."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen IS often distracted and sometimes seems almost possessed by her project's momentum. She's not *literally* somewhere else, but her focus has narrowed to the exclusion of normal court business. This reflects the psychological toll of the Comet Chamber obsession.
- Shows the Queen's character degradation. Could be an avenue for challenging her if the party discovers her vulnerability.

## CAPITULUM

# REGES REGES MARET PACE



The roar of commerce, the calls of street merchants, the tension of people from different walks of life brushing shoulders. Marketplace rumors are transactional -- information traded like goods. Accuracy varies wildly.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 
- 1     "The butcher's prices have gone mad -- he's getting supplies from somewhere else now, not the usual vendors. Someone said he's getting stock from the *catacombs*. Fresh meat that shouldn't be fresh."
- FALSE.** The Marketplace Butcher has new suppliers from the rural estates, not the catacombs. His prices are high because the Queen is commandeering agricultural resources. The "fresh" meat rumor is slander from competing merchants. Shows how capitalism breeds conspiracy theories. The truth is mundane but also damning (resource hoarding).
- 
- 2     "Rozito Vallikozo's been hiring people for 'discrete work.' No questions asked, good coin. Three people who took jobs with him haven't come back, and their families are quiet about it. Too quiet."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Rozito IS hiring people for work that's kept deliberately vague, but it's smuggling and resource acquisition for the Comet Chamber project (via the Queen's agents). Those who disappeared didn't die -- they were reassigned and can't communicate. Rozito himself doesn't know the full scope. Rozito is an information hub and fixer. Direct confrontation would be dangerous; negotiation is better.
- 
- 3     "The Red Guard's recruiting. Posters going up offering gold to anyone who'll sign up as a 'castle auxiliary.' No military experience needed. They're desperate for bodies. Nobody I know who
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Recruitment is real, but "auxiliary" is a euphemism for conscripted labor. Those who sign up ARE kept at the castle and DO return home eventually, but they're under Watch and Shows how the Queen is building forces for her project.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- joined came back to tell us how it is.” very careful about what they say. Recruitment is coercive (soldiers make the option clear).
- 
- 4 ”A scholar from the university was looking to buy old books from the catacombs. Specific texts about astronomy and the movement of celestial bodies. He had a Queen’s warrant. Nobody knew the university was commissioning this research.” **TRUE.** The Queen IS funding occult astronomical research through intermediaries. The scholar is real, the warrant is real, and this is part of understanding what the Comet Chamber is supposed to do. Direct evidence of the Queen’s planning. Could be investigated at the university or by confronting the scholar.
- 
- 5 ”Jack Winbow’s been seen arguing with General Markos near the docks -- really shouting, red-faced. Winbow looked scared. The General walked away and Jack went pale. Someone’s got leverage on the smuggler.” **TRUE.** The confrontation happened. Markos is ”encouraging” Winbow’s compliance with resource smuggling through implied threats. Winbow is afraid because he knows the Red Guard can make people disappear. Shows how the Queen consolidates her supply chain through coercion.
- 
- 6 ”They say the Lich Cultists have a hideout in the catacombs -- not just the bones in the ground, but actual people in robes doing *things*. The Watch won’t go down there. The” **PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Lich Cult DOES have influence in the catacombs, but the Watch avoids the area for practical reasons (it’s dangerous, poorly mapped, and maintaining

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- Queen won't order them to. Conspiracy." order there costs more than it's worth). The Queen is aware but unconcerned because the Cult isn't directly threatening her authority.
- 
- 7 "The Marketplace Butcher told my husband that metal prices have tripled. Copper, steel, brass -- all going to the castle by order of the Queen's agents. Something big's being built, and it's not just decoration." **TRUE.** Materials ARE being hoarded for the Comet Chamber's clockwork and mechanical systems. The prices reflect real scarcity and the Queen's buying power. Economic evidence of the Comet Chamber project.
- 
- 8 "A woman came to the market asking after Devorlen Koss with very specific questions about occult apparatus. Didn't seem like a customer. Seemed like *inspection*. She wore an Albion fashion and had the accent." **FALSE.** No such woman came through. However, this rumor WILL worry Koss if the party mentions it, potentially making him jumpy or more guarded. Could be used to pressure Koss into talking by suggesting Albion is investigating him.
- 
- 9 "The university's closing off a whole wing of the library. Nobody allowed in. They're saying renovations, but scholars who worked there have been..." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen HAS requisitioned certain academic resources and texts, and the university is complying. The "closing" is real but framed Shows institutional collaboration with the Queen's agenda.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- encouraged... to take 'sabbaticals.'" as maintenance. Some scholars were asked (not forced) to step back from certain research.
- 
- 10 "I saw a Bone Sentinel being *repaired* in an alley behind a blacksmith's shop. Its arm was falling off, and a man in red and gold was fitting a new one made of brass and crystal. It wasn't decay -- it was *construction*." **TRUE.** The Queen's agents DO maintain and upgrade the Bone Sentinels using both necromantic and mechanical techniques. The observed repair is real and suggests the Sentinels are being prepared for some purpose. Shows the blending of magic and machinery in the setting.
- 
- 11 "The Queen's been making pilgrimages to Hallaset Fields at night. A groundskeeper swears she stands in the oldest section and just *listens*. Listens to the dead, maybe. Or speaks to them." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen HAS visited the cemetery multiple times, and she does spend time near the oldest graves. However, she's not listening to the dead -- she's studying the ground, the placement of ancient burials, and geographical features. This is practical research, not mysticism. Suggests the cemetery is important to understanding the Queen's plan.
- 
- 12 "There's a shortage of candles now. *Candles*. Of all things. They're going somewhere in bulk. The wax merchant says he **TRUE.** The Comet Chamber project requires vast quantities of candles (for light during construction, for rituals, for observation Reflects real scarcity and the hidden scope of

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- can't keep up with demand, and he's not even sure who the buyer is -- it's handled through intermediaries." of the comet's arrival). The Queen is consolidating supply through the market. the Comet Chamber.
- 
- 13 "A child was sick with a fever that wouldn't break. The physicians couldn't help. She was taken to *someone* in the Underground -- a woman who knows old magic. The fever broke within a day. The mother won't say anything else, but you can bet the Queen's people know." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Color and atmosphere. Shows the Underground as a living, complex space.
- 
- 14 "Merchants from out of town have stopped coming to Kormor Kirak. The caravans are taking other routes. Something's scared them off -- bandits, maybe, or the Queen's agents taking what they want." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Reflects the economic stranglehold the Queen's project is creating. Merchants ARE becoming cautious. The Queen IS requisitioning goods more aggressively, which cuts into profit margins. However, there aren't bandits attacking caravans (yet). The reduction in trade is economic -- Kormor Kirak is becoming a less attractive market.
- 
- 15 "They say if you want something, anything, **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows the inter-connected Rozito IS an information

## D 20 RUMOR

- Rozito Vallikozo can get it. But the price isn't always coin. Sometimes it's *silence*. Sometimes it's *service*. He's got leverage on half the city, and the Queen's got leverage on him. We're all caught in a web."
- broker and uses blackmail/ leverage as currency. However, the Queen doesn't have direct leverage on him -- rather, they work in mutual understanding. He provides services; she provides protection and opportunity.
- nature of power in Kormor Kirak.
- 
- 16 "The Marketplace Butcher's daughter asked me for work in the castle. I turned her down -- told her to stay away. Anyone who goes up that hill these days doesn't quite come back the same. They're drained somehow."
- RED HERRING.** The butcher's daughter did ask, and some people might refuse, but no one is literally "drained." The rumor reflects the eerie atmosphere and the knowledge that castle work changes people (they're exposed to strange things, they're threatened with silence, they see things the common folk don't).
- Atmosphere and creates unease about what goes on at the castle.
- 
- 17 "A scholar came through asking about the 'Architecture of Light' -- some old text supposedly in the cathedral archives. They were willing to pay *gold* for information about it. The cardinal's people shut
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Someone WAS asking about such texts (which relate to optics and light reflection -- potentially relevant to the Comet Chamber). The cathedral HAS old archives, and the clergy IS protective of them. However, the car-
- Suggests connections between the church and the Queen's agenda.

## D 20 RUMOR

- that conversation down dinal doesn't know the full  
real quick." purpose of the inquiry.
- 
- 18 "The Price of copper wire TRUE. The Comet Cham- Confirms the  
has gone through the ber's design includes elec- technological  
roof. You can't get it for tical components (the sophistation  
love nor coin. It's all tting blends gas-lit occult of the Comet  
being purchased through machinery with magical ele- Chamber.  
standing orders. ments). Copper wire IS be-  
Someone's building some- ing hoarded. This rumor re-  
thing electric -- and I flects real scarcity and genu-  
don't know what that ine fear of unknown techno-  
means, but it doesn't logy.  
sound natural."
- 
- 19 "The street workers who RED HERRING. The Suggests the  
fixed the road near Castle workers WERE exposed to Comet  
Torony Piros three something unusual -- the Chamber has  
months ago have all got- residual effects of construc- already begun  
ten sick. Same sickness -- tion near occult apparatus to affect the  
weakness, nosebleeds, bad and magical energies. How- physical world.  
dreams. The physician ever, they're not actually  
says it's coincidence, but *is* sick; they're just unwell  
it? What were they from the metaphysical dis-  
exposed to?" turbance. They'll recover  
with time and distance.
- 
- 20 "My uncle works on the PARTIALLY TRUE. Shows the res-  
docks. He says shipments Northern shipments ARE stance move-  
from the north have unreliable, but not because ment gain-  
stopped. The northern of Queen's control. Rather, ing  
pass is blocked or danger- the Resistance HAS begun capability.  
ous. There's talk the disrupting supply lines to

## D 20 RUMOR

Queen's people control the roads now -- taxation or tribute to use them." apply pressure. The Queen's people are *attempting* to control the roads but haven't fully succeeded yet.

## CAPITULUM

**DDRG & ELFFR RDND**

Salt spray and the screams of gulls. Danger and opportunity mix at the water's edge. Dock workers and sailors hear things from travelers and from each other. Rumors here are volatile, mixing truth with superstition and fear.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 
- 1     ”They’re building a *tower* at the castle -- stone and metal, going higher every week. You can see it from the cliff road on clear days. It’s pointing *up*. Pointing at the sky. Whatever it’s for, it ain’t natural.”
- TRUE.** The Comet Chamber’s primary structure is indeed a tall tower designed to observe and potentially interact with the incoming comet. The visible construction is real and the height is deliberate.
- Direct evidence visible from a distance. Players can observe and investigate.
- 
- 2     ”A ship came in from the coastal trade routes saying they spotted something in the water -- something *large* and luminescent, moving beneath the surface. They wouldn’t dock at Kormor Kirak after that. Said the waters were wrong here.”
- FALSE.** No such creature exists. However, rumors of such things are common in maritime folklore, and this particular version may have been fabricated by the ship’s captain to avoid docking (perhaps they wanted to avoid scrutiny from the Queen’s agents, or the Captain has Albion sympathies).
- Atmosphere and shows how fear shapes perception.
- 
- 3     ”A prisoner transport came through yesterday with Red Guard escort, guarded like they were carrying the Queen herself. The prisoner was hooded, but you could tell from the way he moved -- cultured, angry, powerful. One of the guards let slip the
- FALSE.** Devorlen Koss is NOT imprisoned. However, Koss might be questioned or briefly detained by the Red Guard for selling prohibited materials. This rumor is someone’s misheard conversation badly garbled.
- Could worry Koss if he hears it, making him paranoid and potentially more helpful to the party.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- name 'Koss' before getting shut down.”
- 
- 4     ”The cliff road’s becoming dangerous at night. Travelers who’ve used it after dark report being stalked. No bandits found, no bodies, but *something’s* out there, and it’s not human. The Red Guard won’t patrol it.”
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The cliff road IS becoming unsafe, but not from a supernatural creature. The Resistance has begun operating there, ambushing Red Guard patrols and requisitioning supplies. No civilians have been killed (Whitehallow is disciplined), but the appearance of a threat is real.
- Shows the Resistance becoming active and bold.
- 
- 5     ”Jack Winbow’s ship came into harbor with the stern broken -- looked like it’d hit rocks or been in a collision. Winbow himself looked haggard, not like his usual confident self. He was shouting at dock workers to repair it *immediately* and that someone would pay. Sounded like someone already had.”
- TRUE.** Winbow’s ship WAS damaged during a run from Albion (rough seas, not sabotage). He’s stressed because he’s obligated to run goods for the Queen and a delay costs him money and reputation. His behavior reflects genuine duress.
- Shows Winbow under pressure. Could be leveraged if the party approaches him correctly.
- 
- 6     ”There’s an Automatic Assassin been spotted near the docks -- a mechanical thing made of brass and clockwork, moving faster
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** An Automatic Assassin HAS been observed in the area, but it hasn’t killed anyone. It’s hunting specific targets on
- Introduces a dangerous foe. Shows the Queen’s apparatus for

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- than anything natural should. It killed a dockworker two weeks ago, and nobody reported it because everybody's afraid of what that *means*." the Queen's behalf (likely people she wants eliminated quietly). The dockworker story is an exaggeration born from fear, but a dockworker WAS found dead of mysterious causes (poisoning, not the assassin). eliminating threats.
- 
- 7 "Sailors from the north say the Queen's sent ships up the coast to... they wouldn't say to what. Some kind of expedition or salvage operation. One sailor swore he saw strange apparatus being loaded -- mirrors and lenses bigger than houses." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen HAS sent expeditions to research the northern territories for magical or occult artifacts that might aid the Comet Chamber. The mirrors and lenses are real -- they're being collected for the Chamber's optical systems. The sailor is describing something true but doesn't understand what he's seeing. Suggests the Queen's resource-gathering extends beyond Kor-mor Kirak.
- 
- 8 "There's been an increase in missing persons from among the dock workers. Three in the last month, all strong, all healthy, all just... gone. The Queen's people are recruiting or conscripting. Stay away if you want to stay free." **TRUE.** The Queen's agents ARE selectively recruiting dock workers for the Comet Chamber project (they need strong laborers). The "missing" are actually conscripted and quartered near the castle, but communication with their families is restricted. Their Motivates the party to investigate. Players might rescue conscripted workers.

## D 20 RUMOR

absence appears to be disappearance.

- 9 "A plague ship from Albion tried to dock here. The captain said they had a *passenger* -- some kind of noble or official -- who needed to reach the castle urgently. The harbormaster turned them away, but not before the passenger was *seen* leaving the ship in a small boat."
- RED HERRING.** No plague ship docked. However, there HAVE been discreet visits by Albion agents (perhaps even Ambassador Harken's surrogates) trying to understand what the Queen is doing. The party might discover evidence of such visits and misinterpret them as plague-related.
- Encourages paranoia about Albion involvement.
- 10 "The Captain of the Harbor -- Captain Ashford -- he's been meeting with suspicious sorts at night. Traders who don't usually dock here, merchants with covered cargo. He's being paid to look away, or he's working with them. Either way, something's wrong with the chain of command."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Ashford HAS met with agents of the Queen and with supply smugglers, but he's enforcing her will, not circumventing it. He's part of the apparatus now. "Suspicious" is accurate from the perspective of ordinary dock workers who don't know Ashford's loyalties have shifted.
- Shows the Queen's reach into official structures.
- 11 "There's talk of building a *bridge* somewhere on the coast, connecting Kormor Kirak to the smaller islands. The Queen's com-
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen IS researching the islands as potential sites for secondary research stations or resource gathering. A bridge
- Suggests the Comet Chamber's influence ex-

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- |    |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
|    | <p>missioned surveys. Whatever's on those islands, she wants better access."</p>   | <p>is not yet planned, but infrastructure improvements are under consideration. The islands may have occult significance related to the comet's arrival.</p>   | <p>tends beyond the city.</p>  |
| 12 | <p>"I saw a Necrotic Bulk dragged through the docks in chains, contained in a iron cage that was <i>glowing</i>. It was being taken up toward the castle. The Queen's collecting creatures now, not just soldiers."</p>  | <p><b>TRUE.</b> The Queen IS acquiring and containing dangerous creatures for study and/or for ritual purposes. The Necrotic Bulk is real, the cage is real, and this represents an escalation in her resource gathering.</p>  | <p>Shows the scope and strangeness of the Comet Chamber project.</p> |
| 13 | <p>"A lighthouse keeper on the north point went mad last month. Started talking about 'the light above' and drew strange symbols all over the walls. They've locked him up now. The Queen's people came and took all his notes and instruments. What was he seeing?"</p> | <p><b>PARTIALLY TRUE.</b> The lighthouse keeper DID experience some kind of episode (exposure to residual magical effects from early Comet Chamber work, perhaps, or simply mental illness). The Queen's people took his notes because he may have documented unusual astronomical phenomena. He's not mad in a permanent sense but experienced a temporary disturbance.</p> | <p>Shows the Comet Chamber's effects spreading across the city.</p>  |

## D 20 RUMOR

- 14 "A merchant came through from the interior of the land saying the roads south of Kormor Kirak are becoming harder to use -- rocks moved, new ravines opened. Like the *earth itself* is changing. Could it be the comet? Is it pulling on the world?" **FALSE.** The roads are fine. However, this rumor reflects genuine fear that celestial bodies can affect the earth (which is true in some magical systems). The merchant may be exaggerating normal seasonal changes or may be spreading fear deliberately. Atmosphere. Shows how the comet's approach is infiltrating the populace's consciousness.
- 15 "A trader from Albion said that out in their territories, they're seeing *changes* in the night sky -- the constellations aren't where they should be. He said it like it was a warning about something coming. He wouldn't say more before he sailed away." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** An Albion trader MAY have noted astronomical anomalies (the comet IS approaching, after all). Albion IS aware of the celestial activity. However, Albion doesn't know about the Comet Chamber yet and is simply observing natural phenomena. Shows the comet's effects are becoming obvious to multiple nations.
- 16 "The supply ships from Albion have been smaller. Less cargo. Less grain, less cloth, less of everything. Someone's cutting us off, or can't spare the goods. Trade between the kingdoms is dying." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Albion trade HAS decreased because of the geopolitical tension and because they're shifting resources to their own concerns (they've noticed the astronomical anomalies and are preparing). The Queen's increased demands on mer- Reflects the economic pressure on the city and hints at larger forces at work.

## D 20 RUMOR

chants also discourage foreign trade.

- 17 "A diver went down to inspect the harbor pilings and came up babbling about 'crystalline structures' in the water, reflecting light in ways that shouldn't be possible. He was sedated by the Queen's physicians. Nobody's seen him since."
- FALSE.** No diver found anything unusual. However, this rumor will worry anyone who knows about the Queen's occult research. It WILL prompt paranoid investigation.
- Could be used to prompt the party into exploring the harbor.
- 
- 18 "Jack Winbow hired a crew of rough sorts -- mercenaries or privateers, not sailors. They were loaded with weapons and supplies for a long journey. The ship sailed north, toward the restricted waters. Nobody came back."
- FALSE.** Winbow did hire unusual crew members, but they were sent on a supply run for the Queen (coercively), not a privateering expedition. The ship returned (though Winbow himself was not aboard for some legs). The "nobody came back" is false.
- Creates drama around Winbow. Could lead to party investigation of his activities.
- 
- 19 "The Ancient is *awake*. I've heard stories from the old-timers -- they say there's something in the deepest parts of the catacombs, something that was sleeping and shouldn't be disturbed. There's been activity down there -- move-
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Lich Cult IS active in the deep catacombs and may be aware of (or attempting to contact) ancient entities. The "Ancient" might exist, or it might be folklore. Either way, the catacombs are becoming
- Foreshadows deeper mysteries. Suggests the Lich Cult and Queen are competing

## D 20 RUMOR

- ment, strange sounds. Someone's poking at something they shouldn't." more active, and there's real danger there. for power/knowledge.
- 20 "A Resistance fighter was captured at the cliff road and brought to the castle. They said she was *interrogated* by someone who asked specifically about Barron Whitehallow's location and the size of his forces. She didn't break, or if she did, they kept her alive. She might still be imprisoned."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** A Resistance member WAS captured, but the interrogation revealed nothing (the fighter was trained to resist). She IS still imprisoned in the castle dungeons, a potential rescue mission for the party. General Markos is pressuring her, knowing Whitehallow's location is valuable. Olivia Case/ Hook: Prisoner in the Castle.

## CAPITULUM

## EMBASSY DISTRICT

Refined conversation, but with an edge of diplomacy. Rumors here are more carefully constructed, often weaponized. Overhearing information in the embassy district is like finding pieces of a complex puzzle.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 1 "Ambassador Harken has been confined to the embassy for weeks now. No official functions, no outings. His staff is worried. Some say the Queen has *forbidden* him from leaving. Some say he tried to leave and was *stopped*." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows the Harken HAS been restricted, Queen's presence on foreign relations. Harken might be an ally or obstacle depending on context. The Queen has expressed displeasure with Albion's lack of cooperation in certain matters. Harken is technically free to leave but believes staying and negotiating is safer than returning to Albion with nothing to show.
- 2 "A delegation from Albion came and left without ceremony. No official announcement. They met with the Queen in private, and when they departed, they looked *defeated*. Albion must be negotiating for something the Queen won't give." **TRUE.** Albion DID send a delegation seeking knowledge about the Comet Chamber or attempting to prevent the Queen from proceeding. The Queen refused them. Relations are deteriorating. Suggests the Queen is acting unilaterally, not accountable to other powers.
- 3 "The Queen sent a gift to the Albion Embassy -- a box of what they said were 'ceremonial mirrors.' Albion accepted them but the Ambassador seemed *troubled*. Within days, the mirrors" **PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen DID send mirrors (possibly enchanted or designed for the Comet Chamber's optical systems) as a gesture (or a taunt). Albion accepted them diplomatically but is studying them carefully. Suggests the Queen is openly toying with Albion.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- were packed away and sealed. They're afraid of them."
- They may be trying to determine if they pose a threat.
- 
- 4 "An Albion scholar arrived at the embassy with crates of books and instruments. They're studying something about the sky. The Queen's people asked what they were doing, and Albion refused to say. There's a *war of information* happening."
- TRUE.** Albion IS researching the astronomical anomalies and the comet's approach. They're withholding information from the Queen while attempting to gather it from her. This is genuine espionage disguised as diplomatic presence. Shows the comet is a matter of international concern.
- 
- 5 "Ambassador Harken drinks alone in the embassy garden at night. A servant said he heard the Ambassador muttering to himself about 'stopping her before it's too late.' The Queen's plans frighten him, or he *knows* what they are."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Harken IS anxious about the Queen's activities and genuinely believes the Comet Chamber could be catastrophic. He's attempting to understand the project without direct information. His muttering reflects real concern, not knowledge. Shows Albion sees the Queen as a genuine threat.
- 
- 6 "The Queen attended a diplomatic dinner last month and made cryptic remarks about 'the future belonging to those who seize it' and 'celesti-
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen DID make such remarks (she's becoming more openly about her ambitions). However, it's not a threat directed at Albion specifically -- Character color. Shows the Queen's growing boldness.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- al gifts for the worthy.’ She was staring at the Albion delegation the whole time. It sounded like a *threat*.”
- it’s general confidence in her plans. Albion interprets it as threatening because they sense something is wrong.
- 
- 7 ”A courier came from Albion with sealed documents. The Queen’s people *demand*ed to know the contents, claiming they contained information about trade. Albion refused, citing diplomatic immunity. The documents were allowed through, but the Queen was *furios*.”
- TRUE.** This happened. The documents contained information about the astronomical anomalies and Albion’s assessment of their danger. The Queen is frustrated by Albion’s independence and lack of cooperation.
- Shows diplomatic tension escalating.
- 
- 8 ”There’s a hidden room in the Albion Embassy -- I know someone who works there and swears it exists, behind the ambassador’s private study. It’s locked, it’s guarded, and nobody official admits it exists. They’re hiding something.”
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** There IS a secure room (standard for diplomatic missions), but it’s not hidden -- it’s a normal secured archive for sensitive documents. Albion is indeed protecting information about the comet and their observations of Kormor Kirak.
- Reflects paranoia about diplomatic secrets.
- 
- 9 ”General Markos has been seen meeting with Albion agents away from
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Markos HAS met with Albion representatives (intelligence
- Shows the complexity of the Queen’s intelli-

## D 20 RUMOR

- official channels. They talk for an hour or more, then part ways. Is Markos *selling out* the Queen? Or is he negotiating for her?"
- gathering and understanding their capabilities). He's not selling out the Queen; he's serving her by gathering information and maintaining a channel of communication. These meetings are with her knowledge, though not advertised.
- 
- 10 "A woman arrived at the embassy claiming to have information about the Queen's projects. She was brought inside and hasn't been seen in weeks. The ambassador won't discuss her. She could be dead, imprisoned, or negotiating a defection."
- RED HERRING.** No such person arrived. However, Albion WISHES they had an insider in the Queen's circle. This rumor reflects their frustration and desperation.
- Shows Albion's intelligence gaps.
- 
- 11 "The Queen invited Ambassador Harken to view the castle's 'new architectural developments.' He went, came back pale, and said nothing about what he saw. The next day, he sent a strongly-worded diplo-
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Such an invitation could have occurred, and Harken WOULD be shocked by the Comet Chamber's scale and strangeness. However, if it happened, Albion would immediately escalate the diplomatic crisis. This is likely rumor/exaggera-
- Suggests the party might trigger diplomatic crisis by revealing the Comet Chamber.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- matic note about 'concerning developments.'" tion, but the threat is real if it comes to pass.
- 
- 12 "A locksmith was brought to the embassy and spent three days working on something in the secure room. When he left, he was paid *gold* -- far more than the work should have cost. The locksmith was then visited by the Red Guard. He left the city." **FALSE.** No such locksmith existed. However, this rumor suggests Albion is desperate to secure something or someone. It could be a psychological operation by the Queen's agents to create paranoia within the embassy. Shows information warfare at play.
- 
- 13 "The Queen's scholars have been in contact with Albion's university -- asking about *old texts*, historical records. If the Queen is looking in Albion's archives for something, it must be powerful knowledge she's missing." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen HAS instructed intermediaries to research Albion's historical records (especially anything about previous comets or celestial events). Albion is aware and is sharing minimal information while observing what the Queen is interested in. Shows the Queen is methodically researching her project.
- 
- 14 "Ambassador Harken was seen at a merchant's house in the city, not at the embassy. Late at night, no guards. He was meeting with someone" **TRUE.** Harken HAS had a secret meeting with a contact in the city (possibly a spy, possibly a sympathizer). He's gathering intelligence on the Queen's plans through unoffi- Shows Harken as a more complex character. Could be approached.

## D 20 RUMOR

- the merchant wouldn't name. That's not official diplomacy -- that's *espionage*."
- cial channels. The Queen's agents are aware and are allowing it (partly to monitor Harken, partly because it suits the Queen to have Albion confused about her intentions).
- 
- 15 "The embassy's been flying an unusual flag for the past week. It's Albion's standard, but with a *change* -- a symbol added to it. Diplomats from other nations have noticed. It's a signal, or a warning."
- RED HERRING.** No flag change occurred. However, if the party notices and mentions this, it will create diplomatic tension as the Queen investigates the "signal."
- Could be used to create complications through miscommunication.
- 
- 16 "Harken met with the Queen's chief physician at a neutral location and gave him a *package*. Medicines? Poison? Information encoded? Nobody knows, but the physician was paid *heavily* and asked to keep it secret."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows Albion trying to understand if the Queen is stable or compromised. There WAS a meeting, and Harken may have provided information about health/poisons (Albion is concerned about the Queen's mental state and is gathering data). The payment is a translation of diplomatic courtesy into merchantable form.
- 
- 17 "The Albion Embassy received a shipment of supplies from home -- more than usual, despite
- FALSE.** The supplies are routine, perhaps slightly increased due to the embassy's extended isolation. Albion is
- Reflects paranoia about Al-

## D 20 RUMOR

- the trade tensions. Weapons components? Magical apparatus? Something for a *war*?”
- not preparing for war, only for a diplomatic crisis.
- bion’s intentions.
- 
- 18 “An Albion astrologer arrived at the embassy claiming to possess charts of the coming comet’s trajectory. The Queen’s people learned of this and demanded the charts. Albion refused. The astrologer has since disappeared.”
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** An astrologer DID arrive (Albion is serious about understanding the comet). The Queen DID attempt to acquire the charts through diplomatic pressure. The astrologer hasn’t disappeared but has been kept in protective custody at the embassy for safety.
- Suggests the comet is the central issue, not just politics.
- 
- 19 “General Markos received a gift from Albion -- something sealed and formal. He opened it in private and looked *shocked*. He showed it to no one. It’s still in his quarters, locked away.”
- RED HERRING.** Markos did receive a formal gift (diplomatic courtesy), but it’s nothing extraordinary. The “shock” is projection and misreading of a simple diplomatic gesture.
- Could prompt the party to investigate Markos’ quarters.
- 
- 20 “There’s going to be a negotiation between the Queen and Albion next month -- a summit or a formal meeting to discuss the ‘celestial situation.’ That’s the word on the diplomatic circuit.
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Discussions ARE happening (via diplomatic channels) about a possible formal meeting. If one occurs, it will be tense, and the Queen might use it to consolidate international acceptance of the Comet Cham-
- Foreshadows a potential dramatic scene.

## D 20 RUMOR

Something big is about to be revealed, or something big is about to happen.”

## CAPITULUM

MONASTERY  
CEMETERY

&amp;

Stone and silence, the weight of history and death. Rumors here are whispered, careful, haunted by what the listeners believe lingers in these places. The living share these grounds reluctantly with what they fear is unliving.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 1 "The monks have been digging in the oldest part of the cemetery -- digging *up* graves. Brother Aldric says it's consecration, but gravediggers don't consecrate. They *exhume*. What was in those graves that the Queen wanted removed?" **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows the Queen is preparing the ground for the Comet Chamber and gathering materials. The Queen's agents DID have the monks exhume certain graves (those containing powerful or notable dead whose remains might have occult value). Brother Aldric framed it as consecration/relocation to prevent accusations of desecration. The exhumed remains are gone -- taken to the castle for study or ritual use.
- 2 "A light has been seen in the cemetery at night -- not gaslight, not a torch. A *blue* light, moving between the graves. It manifests once a month, always on the same night. The monks won't discuss it." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Atmosphere and suggests the undead or magic is active at the cemetery. There IS unusual luminescence in the cemetery (magical residue from the Comet Chamber work and/or Lich Cult activities). The monks HAVE seen it and fear it's a sign of the dead stirring. The monthly pattern might be coincidence or perception bias.
- 3 "A grave was *opened* from the inside. The stone lid was pushed *up*, not dug out. A gravedigger swears it's true, and he won't" **FALSE.** No such phenomenon occurred. However, the gravedigger may have misinterpreted an exhumation (the Queen's Excellent atmospheric rumor. Creates dread.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- work that section anymore. Whatever was in that grave, it wasn't content to stay buried."
- agents opened a grave) or may be spreading fear deliberately. The rumor reflects deep anxiety about the cemetery becoming a site of wrongness.
- 
- 4 "Brother Aldric has been speaking about 'the city's sins' and 'the price of ambition.' He's worried about something happening, something that might be stopped through prayer but will *be* if we're not careful. He seems to know something."
- TRUE.** Aldric IS aware of the Comet Chamber project (perhaps through confession, perhaps through observation). He's deeply concerned that the Queen's ambitions will bring disaster. He's hoping prayer or faith might mitigate the worst outcomes, though he's pragmatic enough to help the party if they ask.
- Aldric is a potential ally and source of information.
- 
- 5 "The bones -- the *displayed* bones in the monastery catacombs -- they've been moved. New arrangements. Someone's been in there organizing them, and it wasn't the monks. The monks are frightened."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows the Lich Cult's infiltration. The catacombs are a site of conflict between Cult, Church, and Crown.
- The Lich Cult HAS been active in the monastery catacombs, using the ossuary for their own rituals. The monks discovered evidence of this (bones moved, symbols drawn, items placed) and are terrified. They haven't reported it because they fear retaliation or skepticism.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 6 "A pilgrim came to the monastery seeking refuge and *collapsed* upon entering the cemetery. The monks brought him inside, but he kept muttering about 'the weight of the dead' and 'voices pulling him down.' He died that night without waking. Some places aren't meant for the living anymore."
- RED HERRING.** The pilgrim was simply very sick (disease, poison, or magical curse). The monastery is not literally cursed, though the Queen's activities are making people vulnerable to real and perceived supernatural threats.
- Atmosphere. Suggests the cemetery is becoming dangerous or spiritually corrupted.
- 
- 7 "The cathedral and the monastery are *not* on good terms. A deacon mentioned that the cathedral's archives are being 'secured' because of 'irregularities.' The monastery's asking to borrow certain texts, and the cathedral's *refusing*. There's a schism forming."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The church leadership IS divided about how to respond to the Queen's activities. The cathedral is more complicit or cooperative; the monastery is more independent and critical. Resources and knowledge are being restricted as factions vie for control.
- Shows institutional conflict. The church is not unified.
- 
- 8 "A scholar was found *dead* in the monastery library -- no wounds, no signs of struggle, just... dead. He'd been researching something in the oldest texts. The cause was never offi-
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** A scholar WAS found dead (possibly from magical backlash, possible from poison, possibly from natural causes -- it's genuinely unclear). He WAS research-
- Suggests dangerous knowledge in the monastery. Could motivate the party to investigate.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- cially determined. The books he was reading are now kept under lock.”
- ing occult texts related to celestial events and resurrection. The death is suspicious enough that the texts are now restricted.
- 
- 9      ”The cemetery’s groundskeeper quit, and nobody’s replaced him. The graves aren’t being maintained. The grass is growing wild. It’s like the Queen’s abandoned the place, or she’s *preserving* it for something.”
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows the cemetery’s transition from place of rest to site of power/project.
- The groundskeeper DID leave (spooked by the exhumations and strange activity). The Queen HAS deliberately reduced maintenance because the cemetery is being integrated into the Comet Chamber’s infrastructure. The ground itself is becoming important.
- 
- 10     ”Brother Aldric’s been making *copies* of certain monastery texts and hiding them. A young monk who’s sympathetic to learning mentioned it. Aldric’s preserving knowledge for someone, or against someone.”
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** Aldric is actively resisting in quiet ways. Could become a resource.
- Aldric HAS been copying and preserving texts (out of fear they might be lost or destroyed if the Queen’s agents raid the monastery, or if the Lich Cult gains influence). He’s not hiding them for a specific person but for posterity and safety. If approached, he might share them with the party.
-

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 11 "Bone Sentinels have been *seen* near the cemetery at night. The monks report them moving through the grounds as if on patrol or *inspection*. They never enter the monastery itself, but they're *watching*. The Queen's establishing a presence there."
- TRUE.** The Queen IS using Bone Sentinels to secure the cemetery and monitor activity. This is part of controlling the ground for the Comet Chamber and preventing interference from the Resistance or other parties. The monks are frightened but not openly defiant.
- Shows the Queen's military control extending even to sacred ground.
- 
- 12 "A child was brought to the monastery very ill. The monks tended her, prayed for her. She recovered. But after she left, Brother Aldric said something strange to the other monks: 'She was touched by them. She would have been taken.' The monks wouldn't explain."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** A child WAS healed at the monastery. However, the monks' cryptic comments might reflect a belief that the child was at spiritual risk (from the Comet Chamber's magic, from Lich Cult influence, from proximity to the cemetery's corruption). They may have performed protective rituals.
- Suggests the monastery provides spiritual protection against unknown forces.
- 
- 13 "A *procession* came through the cemetery at midnight -- robed figures carrying strange instruments, moving between graves in a pattern. It only lasted an
- TRUE.** The Lich Cult HAS been conducting rituals in the cemetery, marking graves and preparing the ground for their own purposes (possibly
- Direct evidence of Lich Cult activity. Investigating the symbols could un-

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- hour, then they vanished. competing with the cover their  
The next morning, certain Queen's plans, possibly at- plans.  
graves had *symbols* marked tempting to harness the  
on their stones." comet for their own ends).  
The symbols are real and  
might be deciphered.
- 
- 14 "The monastery's *bells* have **RED HERRING.** The Atmosphere and  
changed their sound. bells are fine. However, the suggests magic  
They're discordant now, monks' anxiety IS real and is affecting the  
like they're out of tune. might be causing them to sacred space.  
The monks say they *aren't*, misperceive sounds. Altern-  
but something's wrong atively, there IS residual  
with how the sound carries. magical disturbance mak-  
It's been like this since the ing the bells ring strangely  
Queen's work began." (metaphysically, not physic-  
ally).
- 
- 15 "The Hallaset Fields **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Shows the  
cemetery is *expanding* -- The cemetery IS being pre- cemetery's in-  
new graves being dug at a pared (exhumed graves be- tegration into  
rate that doesn't match the ing filled with other materi- the Comet  
city's death toll. als, new sections being Chamber pro-  
Someone's burying things opened). The Queen's ject.  
there that aren't... bodies." agents are creating space  
for the Comet Chamber's  
infrastructure, using the  
graveyard as a foundation  
and source of materials.
- 
- 16 "A group of pilgrims tried **TRUE.** The Queen HAS Shows the  
to enter the cemetery for placed restrictions on Queen's priorit-  
prayer and were *turned* cemetery access to prevent ization of her

## D 20 RUMOR

- away* by Red Guard. No explanation given. Sacred ground is being *restricted*. That's not something a Christian Queen should do."
- interference with her preparations and to keep witnesses away. The restriction will cause religious and political tension.
- project over religious tradition.
- 
- 17 "There are *more* graves than there were before. Not new deaths -- I mean graves that weren't here last year are now marked and settled. Someone's been doing a lot of *digging* in the old sections. The monastery won't answer questions about it."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** The Queen's agents (and possibly the Lich Cult) have been moving remains and creating new grave sites as part of their preparations. The monastery knows more than they're saying but won't discuss it.
- Shows both the Queen and Cult are using the cemetery as a resource.
- 
- 18 "The *Ancient* is in Hallaset Fields -- an old grave deeper than any other, older than the church itself. The Queen's people found it and they're *careful* around it. Brother Aldric warned someone about 'waking what should sleep.' That grave has a mark now -- a fresh mark, like something's been done to it."
- PARTIALLY TRUE.** There IS an ancient grave (or graves) in the cemetery's oldest section, possibly predating the church. The Queen's agents have discovered and marked it. The monks are concerned. Whether an "Ancient" (a creature or entity) actually exists is unclear, but the grave's significance is real.
- Foreshadows a deeper mystery. The cemetery might be concealing something older and more dangerous than current politics.

## D 2 0 RUMOR

- 19 "Brother Aldric has been *writing* -- long letters, sealed and hidden. A young monk who respects him says they're meant for someone important, for someone who might 'prevent what's coming.' Aldric's not just praying -- he's preparing for *war*." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Aldric as an active agent, not just a bystander. Aldric IS writing (journaling his concerns, possibly compiling evidence, possibly reaching out to contacts who might oppose the Queen). He's not preparing for literal war but for resistance through knowledge and community. If approached by the party, he might share these writings or reach out for help.
- 20 "The Queen came to the monastery and prayed alone in the sanctuary for an hour. Afterward, she met with Brother Aldric in private. Nobody knows what was said, but Aldric looked *devastated* -- as if he'd been given terrible knowledge or a worse choice. The Queen left smiling." **PARTIALLY TRUE.** Character development for Aldric. Shows the Queen's reach into all aspects of society, including the church. The Queen DID visit (establishing control and gathering information). She and Aldric DID speak privately (she was likely applying pressure or testing his loyalty). Aldric's distress reflects the genuine moral weight of his situation: Does he resist the Queen and risk the monastery, or does he cooperate and compromise his faith?

## CAPITULUM

# USING RUMORS IN PLAY

**INTEGRATION WITH INVESTIGATION:** Rumors from the marketplace often contain actionable leads. When players express interest in investigating a rumor, allow them to pursue it through interviews, observation, and research.

**CONNECTING TO OLIVIA'S CASES:** Several rumors align with investigation framework cases (missing persons, unexplained deaths, institutional conflicts). Use these as entry points to longer narratives.

**ESCALATING TENSION:** Early rumors are vague and easy to dismiss. Later rumors (if players delay or avoid investigation) should become more direct and threatening, building pressure.

**TRUTH REVEALED:** When players finally discover the truth behind a rumor, adjust your presentation based on what they learn. A partially true rumor might shift in meaning once the party understands the reality.

**MISDIRECTION:** Let false and red herring rumors send players on wild investigations that reveal other secrets. A chase for a non-existent sea creature might lead to discovery of smuggling operations or hidden facilities.

Remember: Kormor Kirak is a city of secrets, and the people living here are both victims of and complicit in those secrets. Rumors are the language of fear, hope, and survival.

EC · RUMORS · EDITION 01 · MDCCXCIII  
FILED · EC · RUMORS · FORMAT · A5 · STATUS · ACTIVE