

# The Brighthelm Babblers

19/09/1313 – Quality reporting for a fraction of the price!

## Lab of Horrors Unlocked!

Shortly after sun rise on Saturday morning, a terrible secret was revealed. A lab, previously believed by most of the alchemist guild to be "closed for refurbishment" was discovered to be the scene of terrible murder and monstrous experiments. The heavily mutilated body of female soldier was discovered when cleaning staff noticed the normally seal lab door had been left ajar - eye witnesses report that the poor woman had clearly been experimented on and severely mutated.

The City Watch were immediately called to the scene. Investigators stated that there had been some kind of violent struggle which led to the death of the poor "test subject". Several sets of dirty foot prints were also discovered, though trackers were unable to follow the trail. The body has now been identified, though the authorities have not released a name out of respect for the victim's family.

Unbelievably, yet more horrific discoveries were to be made. Countless jars containing preserved organs and human body parts were found all over the lab. The exact number of victims is difficult to determine, though estimates put the death toll in the hundreds. Some sick, twisted, degenerate excuse for a man had clearly been hacking up innocent people for months, right under the very nose of the Alchemist Guild. It is now certain that the recent Homunculus plague originated here, and the guild has some very serious questions to answer. How could they let this happen? How did no one notice what was going on? Or did they know and do nothing? Most important of all, who did this sickening thing?

No arrests have yet been made, although at least one senior alchemist, a transmuter named Cuthbert Krone, has gone missing. Several other novices, believed to have been working with Krone, have also disappeared. The watch has begun a city wide manhunt for Krone and his underlings, though officially they are only wanted for questioning at this time. If any one should see any of them, we urge you to report it to the watch immediately.

## Second Priest of Aten Murdered!

29<sup>th</sup> August, 1313, the Temple of Aten lost one of its most active members. Finn Jaeger, though often unorthodox in his methods and at best questionable in his reading habits, was killed in the line of duty in the Wessex Arms. Following the brave apprehension of a criminal, Finn was brought to trial over a technicality. Finn faced the same judge (Edward Gallows) in the same location (the Sussex Arms) as the criminal Warlock Sarinya, who trafficked with demons and assassinated the beloved Geoffrey Brightlace shortly before he was due to be elected mayor. However, unlike Sarinya, who was allowed to leave the city with a warning, Finn was found guilty of murder and summarily sentenced to execution – court reports then describe a blinding flash of light as Finn was taken bodily to Aten, who would not let him meet such a treacherous fate. It is understood that meagre minutes later the inhabitants of the Sussex Arms were driven from it by demons, having no priest skilled in their dispatch. These demons were then apparently left alone with full ritual circle access for several minutes until backup could be summoned. Who knows what foul magics they wrought in the intervening time?

How long must the good people of this city suffer under the boot of corruption? When good people seek to take power by honourable means, they are struck down by assassins who are let run free, and when the good intervene to protect the innocent they are killed for accidents which occur along the way!

What is next for this city? Will innocent people be rounded up and killed for stepping on spiders, as the law now states they should be? Who is left to fight for the sanctity of this city!

# Wanted: Marcus Ryder

for the crimes of:

## -Multiple Counts of Murder -Worship of Vivamort

Marcus was last seen being escorted by two Watchmen to an alleged hideout in the sewers.

Last seen wearing a long black coat. Short brown hair, "scrappy" looking youth. May have the unholy symbol of Vivamort branded upon his chest.

He is likely a spiritually awakened priest and should be regarded as extremely dangerous.

30Sh. Reward for his capture and delivery to the Temple of Astalon.

## Demon Dog Plagues the Night!

Reports have been coming in of a strange beast roaming the south downs. A number of sheep have been found devoid of their entrails; cows have been spooked so that their milk has turned sour, and roosters have turned to crowing at midnight rather than daybreak. It has been said that a huge black dog, as big as a horse, has been seen bounding across moonlight hillsides in the night by hitherto uninspired bards. One farmhand claims to have been mauled by the creature when he tried to scare it off, though his friends claim he isn't called "Drunken Toby" for nothing.

Some say it's the result of a curse, others simply a dog infected by mutagenic agents, others say that it is a stranger being still, a creature of Luca wrought from the deepest nightmares. One thing is certain, the countryside is yet again no safe place for travellers, especially by night when the beast awakes.

If only Finn Jaeger, renowned scout and fearless foiler of the supernatural, were still with us, he would sort it out.

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## More Murder!

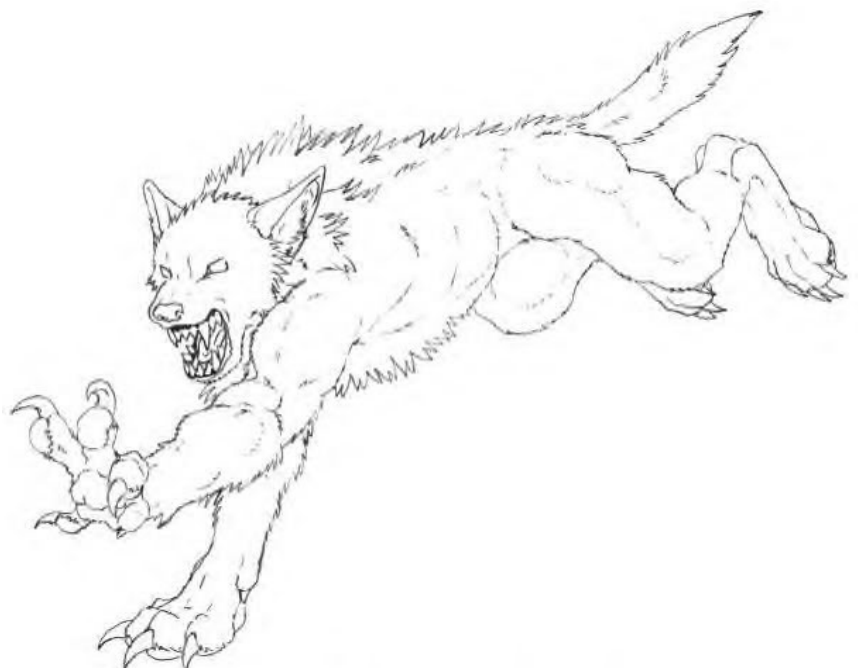
In our third such article this edition (just one month since Drow Eudora Kendall became mayor,) we bring you more tragic news of murder most foul on the streets of our fair city.

Local philanthropist Judy Holloway was found by a Watch patrol near Forrester's Avenue in the early hours of the morning. She had been stabbed several times in the back, and all her valuables had been taken. What Lady Holloway was doing in this area of the city at the time is unknown. The timing of the attack seems to correlate with rumours of a masked man seen leaping across rooftops in the vicinity. The Watch is urging all citizens to be on the lookout for this man, who has shown he has no qualms about launching cowardly attacks on vulnerable individuals in the night. Citizens are also recommended to avoid travelling the streets alone at night if it can be avoided, and to keep any expensive jewellery or clothing hidden when out and about.

Is the mayor's office doing anything to stem the tide of these criminals? Indeed, death in suspicious circumstances has risen dramatically in the six weeks since drow Mayor Kendall took office...

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## Kender Colouring Korners



*An artist's impression of the demon dog of the Downs.*