

Session/Game: 5 Hacks Deep #22 **Date:** March 14, 2021

Episode 22: What Could Be Dangerous in Kingston?

Campaign Date: September 12-30, 1130 AD

Characters:

Tariq, Moorish, Venturer-3 (Quinton L)
Welshie, Welsh, Ranger-3 (Jason L)
Raoul, Frankish, Occultist-2 (Andrew S)
Lady Osouf, Norman, knight-1 (Marlon K.)
Cai, Welsh, Assassin-2 (Toby M)
Sean the Irish Bastard, Irish, Templar-3 (Bob L)

Judge: Dave N.

LOG

September 12-14: The Road

Sean, Tariq, Welshie, Raoul, Osouf, Cai, Wulfric, Calen, Angus and Calen set out from Worm's Ferry to Kingston to do some recruiting and shopping.

September 15-22: Kingston

They recruit a number of retainers

September 19, Kingston

Cai is hit in the head with an alchemical grenade thrown by careless apprentices, he is wounded and flees the scene. Raoul is lured into a cottage by a man calling himself Brother Charles, where he is ambushed by street thugs, narrowly escaping the attack.

September 20, Kingston

Sean is accosted by a drunken soldier named Bluto, who accuses him of stealing his girl. With the help of 2 of his sergeants, Raymond and Pierre, Sean beats and robs Bluto. Bluto did try to poison Sean with a packet of powder during the fight. Lady Osouf and her nun attendant are rushed by a pair of rabid dogs. Osouf kills both dogs and traces them to Pop's Pub, where Pop sends her to Ernie the Dog-Handler. Osouf threatens Ernie who hands over all his money, cooking equipment and one trained dog, named Stinky, in exchange for his life. He reveals he was paid to loose the dogs on her by a man named Herr Shandor.

September 21, Kingston

Welshie is rushed by 3 thugs who were all hopped-up on Essence of Krangor. He kills 2 and captures a third, who reveals he was hired to kill him by Herr Shandor at Pop's Pub. Tariq, meanwhile, finds a money bag in the street and investigates it. A loud-mouth little bastard calling himself "Lord Lemwick" appears and calls him a thief, making the "hue and cry" to which the neighborhood militiamen rush out. Tariq claims to never have touched the bag (while he didn't pick it up, I don't know how you investigate without touching something) and convinces the militia that he hasn't stolen anything. In fact, the militia realize that they've never heard of a "Lord" Lemwick and disperse. When they are gone, Tariq whacks Lemwick over the head with the money bag (filled with coppers and a few silvers), knocking him out. He then discovers that Lemwick's clothes are cheap costume, not noble clothes and that he was carrying 20gp in

newly-minted marks. Suspecting Lemwick of counterfeiting, Tariq dragged him to the town reeve, but the mark were in fact good.

September 22, Kingston

Tariq, Welshie, Sean, Cai, Osouf and Raoul met back up at their lodgings and compared stories. It seems that many of their assailants were carrying newly-minted marks and that at least 2 of them were hired by a Herr Shandor at Pop's Pub. They went down to Pop's Pub and Pop told them that Shandor was in the place for a about a week of evenings, talking to the shadiest people in the area. He refers the team to Cormac O'Toole, a fellow he remembered who had talked to Shandor and who was in the bar at that moment.

Cormac and Sean had a lively discussion. Cormac revealed that Shandor offered him some violent work he didn't care for, so Cormac took the up-front money (20 newly minted marks) and ran off. He gave directions to Shandor's House, near the Quarter-Mile Market.

September 23, Kingston

Their recruiting being complete, Welshie, Sean, Tariq, Raoul, Cai and Osouf decided to raid the house of Shandor. Breaking in the front door, they found the entry hall waxed and polished. Cai discovered and removed a series of spark-igniters on the bottoms of all the doorways that would have ignited the alchemical death wax on the floor.

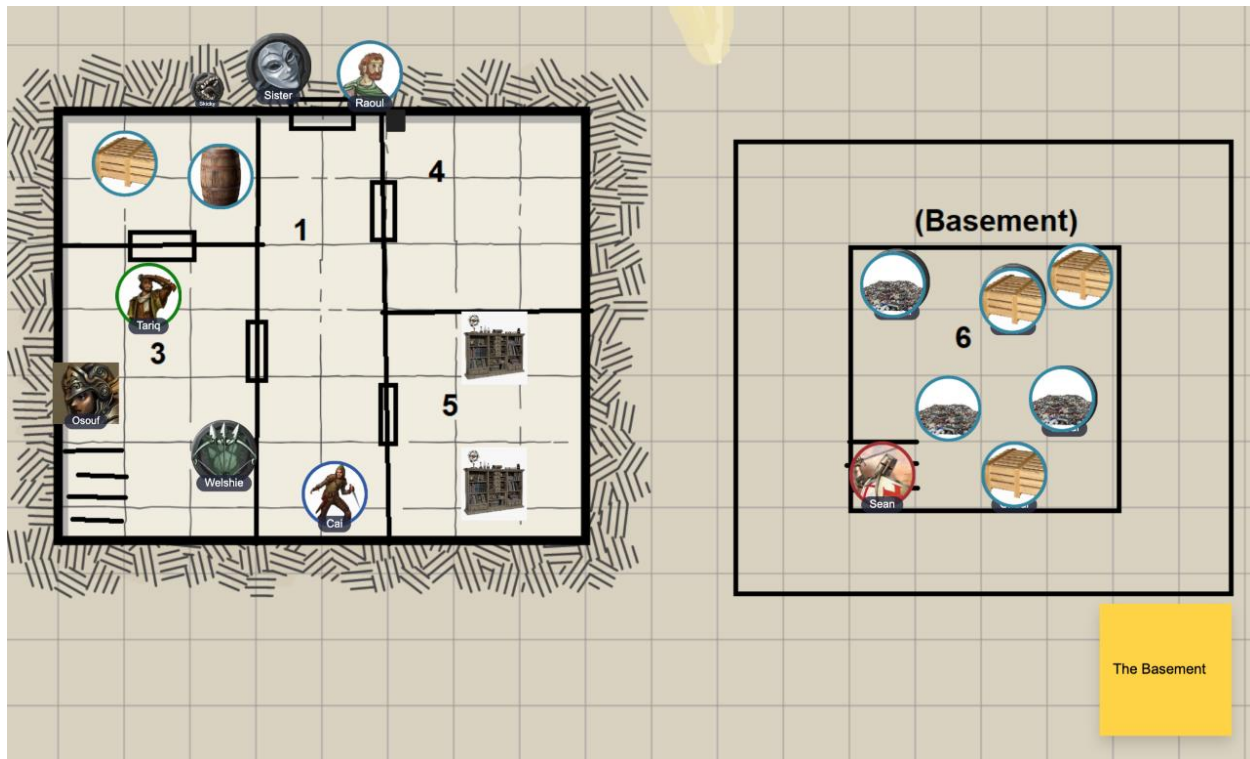
Tariq opened a door off the hallway, to be greeted by a room jammed-packed with Guardian Corpses. They wounded him severely and he backed off. Then they dragged Sean into the room and brutally swarmed him, nearly killing him before he got to his feet and the team killed all of the abominations.

Next, they found Shandor's record-room, where Raoul entered alone and was nearly overcome with some sort of curse that he managed to shake off. Sean remained outside eating an awesome pie and waiting for Osouf's healer retainer to arrive from their lodgings, Raoul found records that indicated that Shandor had an out of town hideout, maybe 2 miles outside the walls.

After fighting and killing a swarm of razor-bats, they discovered Shandor's closet. It contained all the grossest stuff you might imagine.

Climbing down the stairs, they were then ambushed by 4 ghouls in the basement. Osouf and Welshie were stunned, and Osouf swooned into unconsciousness from wounds. The rest of the team managed to defeat the ghouls and save Osouf's life, but she lost a foot due to her wounds.

Realizing that this house was left as nothing but a trap, the team decided to heal up and hunt down their enemy in his hideout.



September 25, North of Kingston

Cai, Tariq, Welshie, Raoul, Sean and Osouf arrive at Shandor's hideout. It was the basement level of a burned-out manor house. Climbing down the stairs, Tariq was brutally shocked and injured by a lightning-trap powered by Atlantean Orbs in the wall. Sean pried the orbs loose, but was also shocked in the process.

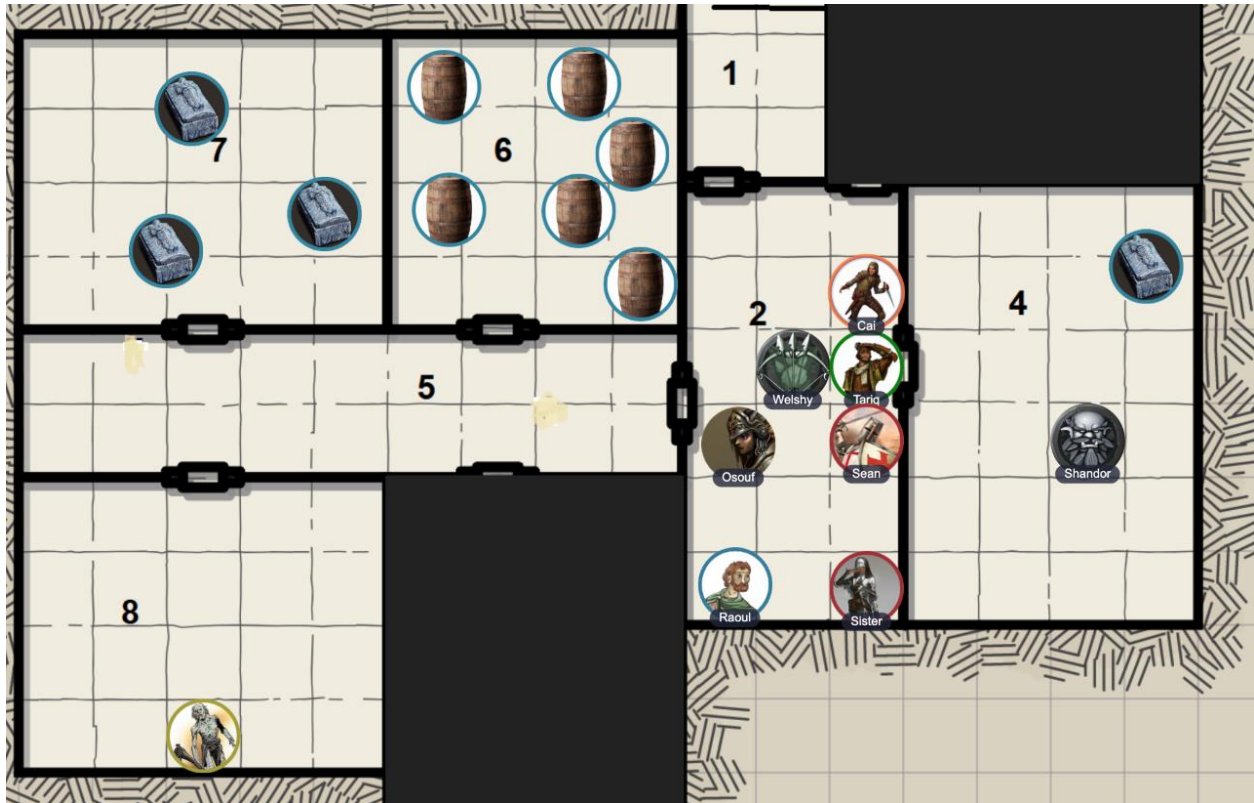
In the first chamber they were rushed by a Hell Hound. Cai was severely mauled by the beast, and Welshie shot Osouf in the back with a misplaced arrow before the creature could be killed.

They found three ghouls in a hallway to the west and killed them pretty quickly. Searching the west wing, they found a room filled with literal buckets of blood, another with the coffins of the three ghouls, a third with 6 chained up prisoners—mad with terror, and a fourth containing a Guardian Corpse, loaded with 6 Atlantean Orbs, sparking lightning. They shut the doors on the Corpse and the prisoners and headed to the two east rooms.

Finding Shandor in the first, he shouted at them "You have made enemies more powerful than you can imagine!" and attacked them. He was relatively quickly killed with only a few wounds inflicted on the party. In the second room they found Shandor's library, containing books, cash and Atlantean Orbs.

While the nerds were searching through the books, Sean went back to the prisoners. They were not possessed, but they were completely mad. Sean decided to kill them all to put them out of their misery and did so. The team then lined up against the Guardian Corpse and managed to kill it before it could unleash its lightning power.

Gathering up their loot, they dragged Shandor's corpse out into the sunlight and travelled back to their lodgings in Kingston.



September 29, Kingston

Raoul, Skule, Calen, and Cai attended the Kingston book auction and made some purchases:

Angus and a few others rode fast and hard to reach Jorvikburg before the Shire Moot.

September 30—The Road

The crew that had not left with Angus, filled carts and wagons with newly purchased goods and retainers and made a slower progress back home.