

Ice of Night

Session/Game: Savage Worlds

Session: #5 - Ice of Night

Date: 02/26/2017

Campaign Date: February 25th-28th, 1934

Characters:

Captain Hank Freemont (aka Captain Avalanche) - Dave Nelson

Friday Jones (aka American Fist) - Bob LaForge

Tony Farms (aka The Puma Man) - Jason Liebert

Rusty Keys - Tim Moyer

Judge: Andrew Smith

Briefing:

THE PROBLEM:

It has come to Mr. Cheavers' attention (much too late apparently) that a jury deliberation in the case of former Gotham Building Commissioner Sam Simons is rigged. Specifically, by Simons' right-hand man Walt Johnson. Find Johnson and track down anyone who might be helping him get Simons. The case starts today, and could end by Friday.

THE TASK:

GOAL 1: Find Walt Johnson, and figure out his plan to get Sam Simons off

GOAL 2: Make sure that Sam Simons gets the justice he deserves

GOAL 3: Be sure that anyone else involved in the conspiracy is punished as well

NEWS:

- There have been haunting reports about a tremendous monster who was seen wading through the deep waters of the Gotham River in the early morning hours
- Freezing cold temperatures have got Gotham leaving many victims with deadly killer blackened necrotic limbs from frostbite
- The Blanchaven Bridge connecting the East End with the island of Blanchaven has been closed following revelations that it is not structurally sound

Log

Sunday February 25th, 1934

Mr Cheavers assembles Team C for a meeting to brief them on an emergent situation at headquarters. There is a judge and jury assembled to convict former Building Commissioner Sam Simons of graft. Sam Simons is accused of giving out no-bid construction contracts to his brother who get rich. Simon's right hand man for the past three years has been Walt Johnson. Kip Simons has disappeared with money, but Sam has not eluded justice. Mr Cheavers says "I have reason to believe that there is a conspiracy to rig the verdict." "A jury is picked and deliberations start tomorrow" he continues, "It could be through by Friday."

After the meeting, Dr. Valiant appears and is cordial to the team for a change. He admits "I know we've gotten off on the wrong foot" and offers to help Team C with the investigation "if you need me." Although he doesn't like it, Pierre has repaired The Beast with a few permanent flaws. Eugene prepares a meal and Rufus arrives with more equipment just as the team rushes out the door on a tip that Walt Johnson is in a East Ender's garage.

The heroes roll up on the garage of The Miscreants, a crew of East Enders who have their headquarters in a functional garage. It is painfully cold, and their breath swirls in the biting wind. They discuss the fact that the Gotham River froze last night it was so spectacularly cold.

There are at least a dozen of these mustachioed goons are inside the garage. The heroes pounce, but are opposed by the gang members with fists, barrels, clubs, and tools. The Puma Man is caught in a crude net trap after crashing through a plate glass window. Rusty and Captain Avalanche plow through gang members while Friday Jones goes toe-to-toe with several members in the garage, and is knocked out just as he sees an Elder Sigil traced on the floor of the garage in chalk. Eventually the spirit of the goons are broken and the heroes collect a few of the goons for questioning.



Monday February 26th, 1934

Puma Man sneaks into jail to meet with Sam Simons. He introduces himself as "Mr Poo-mah-men", but is unsure what to ask the disgraced Building Commissioner. Sam Simons admits that he's scared to go to jail. He knows that he's wronged the East Siders gang and will certainly die in prison. However, he's not scared because he knows he has a great defense team and because "everything is arranged". He dismisses Tony Farm's assertion that Walt is dead, saying "Unless you have a body, I'm not going to worry."

Rusty and Friday question the East Siders gang. They learn that the East Siders were tipped off about their hated enemy Walt and were happy to kill him. They found him all beaten and his arm blackened and necrotic. They hate him for his past work squeezing them for money and for helping Sam Simons give the no-bid contracts to build the terrible buildings in East End - some

of which were flawed with deadly consequences such as an apartment that burned down recently.

Captain Avalanche locates Walt's body frozen in the Gotham river. His right arm is completely decayed and necrotic - faster than the rest of him. He was also shot three times and stabbed deeply in multiple areas. He was also severely beaten and drowned in the icy waters of the Gotham river, before becoming a human popsicle. He recovers Walt's keys, a scrap of paper with a phone number and an address before Walt's body is lost beneath the frozen ice.

The characters sleep for a bit before Friday Jones asks the East Siders about the Elder Sigil he found inscribed in chalk around the gangster's garage. The Miscreants are unable to help Jones identify who was responsible for them. Friday Jones' experience with the sigil is significant enough that he remembers it as a way for demonic sorcerers to channel energy or eavesdrop on rooms marked with it.

Captain Freemont visits the florist on Market Street in Old Gotham named "Violet Tulips Flower Shop" and meets the rough and burly clerk Chip Cinnamon. Freemont realizes that Chip is not guilty but instead suspicious of Freemont's activities so he keeps his threats to a minimum before leaving with a dogwood tree. Freemont surmises that Chip is not Walt's friend.

The Puma Man and Rusty track the number fished from Walt's pocket to the Jade Tiger in Chinatown. There, they question the owner of the shop named "Uncle Job" about Walt only to get jumped by the machete-wielding shop owner and six chinese swordsmen. The heroes manage to subdue the swordsmen without a shot, and they grab Uncle Job and take him back to HQ unconscious.

Captain Avalanche returns to "Violet Tulips Flower Shop" dressed as a police officer and questions Chris Cinnamon, a slighter fellow with a lisp. Chris assumes that the "cop" wants a bribe, but Captain Freemont isn't going for it. Chip emerges from the back room, but doesn't recognize Freemont through the disguise. Chip eventually admits that they were tasked with sending flowers to the Special Prosecutor along with a note that threatened his wife. Freemont thanks them and leaves.

Later that day, Rusty goes to the hospital for his sword stab while the Puma Man sits in at the courthouse. From his training as a personal injury lawyer, Tony learns that the Special Prosecutor Nathan Nightly is actually quite good at his job, while Sam Simons' defense team is just doing the bare minimum to get him freed.

Captain Freemont does his best to learn more about Special Prosecutor Nightly, but all he learns about the special prosecutor is that he was called in especially for this case from Trenton.

Friday Jones gets Walt's address from the office of the Property Commission, a newer apartment in a complex on the East Side. The heroes arrive at Walt's apartment, only to find that the building had burned down. A neighbor directs them to Walt's mother in Blanchaven.

The heroes question Uncle Job that evening and with the exception of Rusty Keys all get some rest. Rusty is instead subjected to embarrassing fumbblings of a inept doctor at the hospital and is unable to return to action. Uncle Job admits that his hostess at the Jade Dragon has been carrying on an illicit affair with the judge and that she is persuading him to go easy on the defendant by tilting things in favor of the defense.

Tuesday February 27th, 1934

The Puma Man flies to the courthouse with a camera. He just happens to capture evidence of the judge in a compromising position with the Dragon Lady from the Jade Tiger. He returns to HQ to develop the film.

Captain Avalanche walks right into Walt's mother's row home in Blanchaven using Walt's keys. He searches Walt's room, but only finds smoke-smelling scraps and a boyhood that speaks to a love of hunting and dogs.

Sam Simons is presented with a fake occult tablet. He has no idea what it is about and dismisses it. On the other hand, Judge Jamison's reaction when is presented with pictures of his indiscretions is epic. He begins to rule against the defense team, in fear that his secret will be revealed.

Rusty finally leaves the hospital fully healed, and the heroes tail the defense team from the court. There is a chase and the lawyers make a stand at the ruined bridge. There the supposed lawyers demonstrate that they are instead cold blooded killers. Only the smooth flying of Captain Avalanche as he outflanks the villains on the bridge manage to knock them out. The heroes question the remaining defense team and learn that they were paid by Brick Moates, the current building commissioner.



That night, the heroes assault Brick Moat's townhouse in Old Gotham. What they expected to be a quick smash and grab turns out to be a huge undertaking as they realize that now Building Commissioner Brick Moats was also involved in the scheme to give out no-bid contracts, expanding the number of buildings affected from a dozen to just over a hundred. Also, they find strange, drugged cultists laying in wait for their attack. The purple flowers they consumed just before the battle left each and every cultist dead.

Dr Valiant delivers Walt's fancy sports car, that he happened to find parked on a back street in Old Gotham. It was wiped clean of all clues. Dr. Valiant tells them that he has reason to believe that Brick Moats used the other no-bid contracts to build other buildings with secret tunnels and listening rooms for eavesdropping and hiding places throughout the city. He goes on to explain that Kip Simons was killed, and all the money he had soaked from the city was now gone. Walt had been so enraged following the death of his dog in the fire that he had turned on Sam Simons, only to be killed once he instead revealed that Brick Moats and his mysterious cult was behind the scheme all along.

Epilog

Narrator: Beneath a dark, frozen warehouse somewhere in Gotham, cultists completely covered in purple robes are packed tightly shoulder to shoulder to witness an announcement from their masked leader. Candles illuminate the secret cinder-block construction, and the smell of smoke and rotten flesh permeates the room. A helpless gangster is tied to a chair in plain view of all. The cult leader speaks to the assembled throng in a gravelly English accent.

Cult Leader: My siblings! Listen as we celebrate the influx of new powers into our fold!

Narrator: The crowd cheers with a bloodlusting frenzy.

Cult Leader: First, the research of Dr. Manchester has begotten fruit! Behold the the necrotic monster he has created!

Narrator: The fleshy monster that was once Beatrice Lane emerges from the darkness, ridden like a pony by the diminutive parody of Jimmy Manchester. The fiendish doctor gestures with his staff, and the skin of the helpless gangster begins to blacken and die, falling off his flesh just as if it had been hit by frostbite and left to rot. The bound gang member screams in agony!

Cult Leader: Together, we will be unstoppable! Gotham's underworld will be ours! Go forth and make it happen my darling brothers and sisters!

Narrator: The crowd roars in ecstasy. There is screaming and cheering as the cultists stream out of the hidden underworld lair. The leader pauses and removes his hood revealing the face of Evil Donald Pleasance.

Cult Leader: Only one hurdle remains. Now is the time to kill the Pew-Ma man!