

Vintage Flayings

Session/Game: Savage Worlds

Session: #16 - Vintage Flayings

Date: 06/11/2017

Campaign Date: August 6th, 1934

Characters:

Captain Hank Freemont (aka Captain Avalanche) - Dave Nelson

Two Chains - Bob LaForge

Stefan Malju (aka Evil Eye) - Marlon Kirton

Professor Elemental - Jason Libert

Harrison Jenkins (aha Corporeal Punishment) - Dave Hanley

Judge: Andrew Smith

Briefing:

THE PROBLEM: Strange ritualistic murders across Gotham has captured the imagination of the population. Some sort of force of arcane soldiers is terrorizing the town with uncanny accuracy. It is as if they can see into the future.

THE TASK:

GOAL 1: Put a stop to the crime wave that Mr. Cheavers has somehow just gotten tips for

GOAL 2: Try to find how all these bizarre and unrelated crimes are linked

GOAL 3: Put an end to the perpetrators' schemes

NEWS:

- Several people have been found dead, their flesh flayed from their bodies over the past two weeks. Police are baffled as to the motive behind these strange slayings. The victims include:
 - Mark Elliott – A bank manager at Elliott and Cobblepot Ltd.
 - Patrolman Keith Baxter – A beat cop hailing from the Old Gotham district
 - Meg Stevens – A housewife from the affluent Gotham Heights area
 - Dan Drysden – A day laborer and deadbeat father
- Several vats of ink and newsprint were stolen from the Daily Bugle last week
- Three fire hose pumps were stolen from a ship in the harbor in broad daylight, authorities suspect graft because none remember the huge devices being lifted
- Pesky vandals broke into the Arkham chain and die company overnight, making off with several hundred yards of their sturdiest maritime chains.

Log

Monday August 6th, 1934

The heroes all attend a memorial service at Team C headquarters for the Ramrod. In the hall of memories, portraits hang of fallen team members Maria Cobblepot, Rusty Keys, and The Puma Man. Mr Cheavers asks the assembled Team C to share an anecdote about the Ramrod including Harrison Jenkins - the Ramrod's older brother.

Dr. Valiant is the last to speak. He's with his new flunky Space Cop who has joined his operation. He gives grudging respect to the dead. "I guess they didn't suck as bad as I originally thought."

Mr. Cheavers explains that he believes that the "Secret Circle" is making their move after laying low for so long. So far, they've stolen a series of fire pumping equipment from a firehouse, ink and paper from a newsroom, as well as chains. They are also to blame for the mysterious flayings.

Captain Freemont later meets up with his old buddy Earl Donahue at the Brentwood room. Earl had just emerged from anonymity recently by sending a telegram with his phone number to Captain Freemont last Friday. Donahue is a fancy financier these days. Donahue explains how he saw Puma Man take a grenade for him in that very restaurant. He offers to help Team C, if only Freemont lets him in on the deal.

That night, Mr. Cheavers calls the team to action. He warns them that they might be headed into a trap, and the heroes rush to a bank robbery in progress in Gotham Proper. They find that several uniformed goons are emptying the Gotham Mercantile Bank in the dead of night. Only the light of a full moon allows the heroes to see the dark grey uniforms on the villains. They all wear armbands featuring a blood-red circle, and employ a number of apparently innocent bystanders to empty the institution.

Bizarre metal automatons emerge from the bank. Their heavy gatling cannons are formidable, and Evil Eye is cut to ribbons. These automatons remind Professor Elemental of technologies built by one of his arch enemies from the past known only as "Mister B." He once used these jumping cannon platforms in a battle that resulted in the destruction of a perfectly good tea set, which makes the professor very angry.

Just then, a giant version of the automaton emerges. Mister B's voice emerges from it, identifying that it has targeted all the members of Team C for some sort of super-weapon just as

Professor Elemental hits it with his “noisy cricket” pocket cannon. The oversized robot takes some damage and systems fail. A stream of energy emerges from the automaton, striking each and every targeted member of Team C, and everything goes black for the heroes.

Tuesday, September 10th, 1968

The heroes awaken in the same place, but in the future. They have been transported to the fall of 1968. It is pretty oppressive, and crime has won the day. The secret circle now have riot police who hunt them down, along with more of Mr. B's drones.

The heroes are saved by a future version of a living Puma Man and Friday Jones. They are a bit different though. As well as being older, Friday sports a mean scar on his face and Puma Man has become a junkie. Scraps the dog is still alive in the future, but very old and slow. Johnson is the president, but Nixon is campaigning in Gotham. The heroes are spirited into the sub basements below what was once Team C headquarters in Crime Alley.

For some reason Tony Farms is still alive and did not jump on the grenade in the Brentwood room but they soon learn that Earl Donahue on the other hand is very much dead. Mister B knows that by removing Team C from the timeline, they can do what they want in the future.

The heroes don't have long to reminisce, though. Their hideout is soon invaded by more of Mister B's automatons led by none other than another version of the “Queen of Fate” whom the heroes met in the caves below Wayne Manor. The heroes flee to a safehouse in Blanchaven, nearly being caught during a routine traffic stop by the Gotham Secret Police.

The heroes take stock of their situation. Professor Elemental needs some RLGI to help build his time travelling trousers, all sewn together at the hips. The heroes soon learn that Dr. Valiant's old “Universal Rescue” has been expanded and is now one of the foremost research labs of the fascist secret circle controlled Gotham.

Meanwhile, Friday Jones learns that there is an occult bloodline that connects all the victims of the flayings -- including Donahue. The primordial Old Ones decided that they would encode their dark information for use in the future in the genetic material of humanity itself, so that at the appropriate time they could re-identify these unwitting carriers and harvest them to reclaim that information.

Using a secret channel of communications, Team C lures an aged and infirm Dr. Valiant to a rendez-vous. They learn that the good doctor is in fact open to helping with the cause, and can identify where the RLGI is located. Evil Eye sneaks into the building invisibly and retrieves the powerful substance, just as Professor Elemental finishes up the time traveling trousers.

Dr. Valiant reveals the fact that Mister B's automatons have a serious defect. They can be slowed and subsequently deactivated simply by getting them wet. Mister B is powerful, but that that great an engineer, apparently.

The team needs some guidance on to where to "jump" back in time. They have a marker in the timestream from where they came from, but they choose to shoot to an earlier time than they left, instead. Just as the team is about to activate their time traveling device, the "Queen of Fate" leads a cadre of secret circle stormtroopers. Future Puma Man and Friday Jones stay behind and fight, with Tony Farms throwing himself onto a stormtrooper's grenade and dying in the process - this time with purpose.

Wednesday August 1st, 1934

The heroes return to the past just a few days before they had left in an effort to put things right. One by one, the group finds the flayed victims and kidnap them in order to save them from their fate. Only Early Donahue remains, since the team can't find his location until Friday. They call and set up a meeting.

Friday August 3rd, 1934

The team waits at the restaurant for Donahue, only to find him arrive in the company of the "Queen of Fate" android. Soon, the Team hears Secret Circle hit squads sneaking outside and a fight breaks out. The team seems to hold its own, until more of Mister B's drones arrive. Professor Elemental gets shot up and Head Wound Harry goes toe-to-toe trading punches with the queen. Luckily, Rufus shows up in his armored truck and saves the day, taking the drones and launching two of them right at a fire hydrant, effectively crippling them. The "Queen of Fate" manages to escape, and Donahue himself was all a figment of their minds. Perhaps the mysterious Madame Osiris herself was there all along, disguised as Donahue?

Friday Jones later finds Donahue's now discarded flayed flesh in the Secret Circle's abandoned headquarters. The text grown into the inside of the poor soul's skin is strange. It is some sort of list of "turning points" in history. Some of the entries are clear, like names dates and addresses. One prominent entry marks the start of Team C founding in January of 1934 for example.

Another date and place provides details about President Roosevelt's speech in 1912 Milwaukee. In your timeline he was shot in the chest yet survived and delivered his speech anyway.

There is a lot of activity surrounding Gotham's Crime Alley in 1984. An entry for August 11th, 1968 suggests that an orphan named Selena Kyle should be kidnapped.

Other entries appear to be completely encoded. A few later entries start with the heading "https://" and then devolve into meaningless bits of text and encoding.

If a time traveller could appear at these times and places, they could affect history in a clear way – including perhaps bringing the world to the future dystopia the team just visited.

