

# Scenario

## Background

Doctor Holtz Maroden discovered honeybees, long thought lost in the cataclysm, while conducting land surveys for a new rail line east of Sevrin in Severos. The Clelland noble family had commissioned the rail line to expand production of their mining interests in the Severosi mountains.

Maroden informed his patrons of the discovery. The Clelland family immediately saw the potential for a honey monopoly and poured resources into Severos to build a test apiary for mass honey production. Five months have passed since the initial discovery. Maroden has returned to Duskvol aboard the Clelland family leviathan hunting ship, the Hammer Gale, with the first batch of honey.

The Clelland family organized the Grand Imperial Honey Exposition to celebrate their success. They plan to use the exposition to introduce honey as a luxury food among the Duskvol elite.

## The Exposition

The Grand Imperial Honey Exposition opens tonight in the Spiregarden Theatre in Whitecrown. The honey itself is held in a gigantic glass cylinder in middle of the main stage. An elaborate valve near the bottom allows precise measurements of honey to be withdrawn from the cylinder. The cylinder is covered with a silk drapery connected by cable to a winch in the rafters. At an appropriately dramatic moment in Maroden's speech, a stagehand will activate the winch and lift the drapery.

Outside the theatre, the electroplasm streetlamps on Crossguard Avenue are decorated with banners depicting a honeybee. Clusters of Bluecoats stand at a remove from the entrance so as not to disturb the exposition goers. The Bluecoats hassle anyone who doesn't look like they belong, such as the few laborers and servants who walk along Swancrest Avenue. Lady Clelland privately contracted the Red Sashes to provide security inside the theatre.

The theatre has 5 main areas.

- The spacious **Main Entrance** where theatregoers gather before events and during intermissions. It has been converted into an entomology display room. Glass display cases show bees, larvae, pollen, and hives. Magnifying lenses allow visitors to inspect these in detail. Posters show anatomical drawings of bees, their hives, and the honey making process. Maestro Hellenen greets arrivals personally.
- The **Mezzanine Level** leads to private boxes and is normally accessed by only the most elite patrons. It has been converted into an exposition of the Clelland family's industrial ingenuity. Daguerreotype photos show Severosi workers tending the apiary and scenes from their everyday lives. Maps and architectural sketches show expanding rail works in Severos. A banner proclaims, *Industry is the Light of Empire which Civilizes the Dark Isle*.
- In the **Theatre Hall**, rows of plush velvet seats arc out from a raised main stage. Up on the main stage rests a 12-foot-high cylinder covered with a silk drapery. Glittering

chandeliers illuminated by electroplasm cast the entire hall in scintillating brilliance. Gilded lattice conceals an orchestra pit. The walls and pillars are carved to resemble leafy vines. Several dozen seated people await Maroden's presentation.

- **Backstage** is a hive of bustling activity. Chief stagehand Lepince yells at underlings to move props and position spotlights. Lady Clelland and Doctor Maroden argue about the purpose of the exposition in a dressing room. A large piece—three feet across—of raw honeycomb is kept in a silk lined display case. It is to be wheeled out on stage for a demonstration of the honey refining process.
- The theatre's **Undercroft** is used to store scenery, props, and costumes from prior productions. Maestro Hellenen and the most acclaimed performers worship a Daemon of Truth at a hidden alter. Passages lead out to underground canals.

## NPCs

**Sergeant Lard Gurner** (*contemptuous, lazy*) leads the Bluecoats guarding the exterior.

**Doctor Holtz Maroden** (*officious, vain*) expects to be rewarded far beyond his station.

**Lady Aufidine Clelland** (*contrarian, greedy*) heads the family honey business.

**Maestro Laudius Hellenen** (*imperious, dedicated*) believes the honey exposition brings a mere curiosity to Duskvol whereas the mission of the theatre is to bring Truth through art.

**Quess Lepince** (*hurried, cruel*) is chief stagehand of the theatre. Feared by her underlings.

**Begzadi Imajin Sethar** (*stern, meticulous*) leads the Red Sashes hired to guard the exposition. She knows the Red Sashes have fallen on hard times and need the money.

## Confounding Factors

*Use any or all of these to present obstacles and complications*

The Bluecoats will not let the bears approach the theatre from the street and alley entrances.

Theatregoers will generally flee from the bears screaming and alert the authorities.

The Red Sashes carry long pikes in addition to their curved swords. More than two Red Sashes are more than a match for a bear in a fight.

A rival gang of bears intends to steal the honey. They conduct reconnaissance and will attempt a smash and grab during Dr. Maroden's presentation.

### *Bear Handles*

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Thimble          | 2. Fleabag      |
| 3. Tic-Tac-Toe      | 4. Two-Baloo    |
| 5. Grumblestiltskin | 6. Mattie       |
| 7. Polly            | 8. Termite Mons |
| 9. Aces             | 10. Grubs       |

True Sight, the daemon in the Undercroft stirs. Bees come to life. Photographs change to show squalid labor camps. The polish of the display cases tarnishes and drips with blood. A ghost manifests in a private box. It was an aspiring actor in life. It attacks the bears as they are the largest source of warm life.

Sethar is a vampire. She can only feed on those who recently experienced new pleasures.