

The Diary of the Fiendish Four

The Cast of Characters

Torsur, Priest of Amoraꝥ

by Jean le Bleu, talking to his friend Jaques



So how do you feel about that Torsur guy? I know, you share his heathen faith, worshipping that false god of pleasure and pain! But as a dwarf? I mean, you know how much we Dwarves love order and honest work... hey, why are you laughing? Not *my* fault that I just don't find the time for working at the smithery of my beloved father. And you have to admit, he looks strange for one of our kind - that wire-like beard with red streaks, the long claws, and the poisonous bite - I mean, even for a gray dwarf that is quite outlandish, don't you think, *cher ami*? No arguing with his taste though, that leather amour is awesome. I should get one like that as well...

Belzaraꝥ Zelkaꝥn

by Manfred Pansen, Halfling Innkeeper in Necropolis, muttering to himself

Yes, we likes the Zelkaꝥn, he is our precious. We likes the dark robes, the necromantic magic, and the zombie servants. We likes his arrogant attitude and his struggles to avoid physical

conflicts. We bets he is biding his time to take over, hehehe.

Belzaran, he is up to something, we knows he is. We don't want to be there when he reaches the heart of the Nexus, now, does we? Massive death there will be, massive, massive. And others will pay for leaving Manfred alone, alone in the dark and dead city. All others will die, muah, muah, muah... ah customers, time to make a very *special* meal for them.

Jhin Wei and Hitomi

by Jean le Bleu in a letter to his mom

Dear Mom,

I hope the hearth warm at home and my brother Bartolomé is doing well in his apprenticeship. I believe you wil lnever get this letter, as I am prisoner in a dimension of death, but I have to tell you about one of the most beautiful women I have met - Jhin Wei. Ok, she looks a bit elfish, but she has the rusty charme of a true dwarf. She is an excellent fighter and champion of the light. However, currently she has resigned adventouring and is scouting the dead wastelands together with her bodyguard, the dragon-blooded samurai Hitomi. I hope to get back to you soon.

Take Care,

Jean

Doriaꝥn

by Manfred Pansen, muttering to the skull of a long-dead customer resting in the corner of his inn

Dorian, you say? I like him. Good customer and a very good eater. He tells many intersting stories to Manfred. He likes us, too, Manfred thinks. We will make him a special meal, he will not forget any time soon.

Seems a bit of a fencer, doesn't he? We do not like his rapier, though. It radiates of life. Life stings us, tries to suck in our soul. We hate the life!

Whisper

by Jaques le Flamme to Yô'sh the Dark Fey Acolyte of Amorax

Yô'sh, can we have a word? I know that you don't like me and I sure don't like you, you twisted pervert, but there is something I have to tell you. This woman-assassin, Whisper, she will spell trouble. Have you noticed how she acts and talks? I believe she is an agent of the forces of Law and she only poses as a bodyguard to that Dorian Guy. At the moment there is no problem, but soon she will grasp what you and your twisted master are setting out to do - setting up a theocracy devoted to blessed Amorax.

Yes, I worship Amorax and He knows I have suffered for it under the harsh whip of the Inquisition of the Red Cardinal, but I cannot join you. Torsur and you are going too far, misinterpreting the holy writings! Nevertheless, I would rather see you people win than the Law and thus I warn you about Whisper. Do not take her lightly....

Prelude

Unfortunate circumstances have brought together four very different people and a vile deed by a common enemy has made it impossible for them to part company, lest their lives end due to dark magic. These four have a common goal - find the heart of the Nexus, a magical complex of corridors that links different worlds and ages. However, each has a different motivation for finding that heart and there is no telling what will happen once the diamond hall has been found.

Site: Necropolis

by Konrad, in a letter to his long dead mother

Dear mom,

I know I should more often but ever since you died my life has become quite

busy. I have signed up with a powerful wizard who has promised me eternal life and we have travelled through a magical maze of corridors.

One of the worlds we have found is Necropolis. Konrad does not like this place very much. It is cold and everybody is dead. Some evil magic has destroyed all people here, and Konrad is not sure we should be here. There is one survivor, a half-crazed halfling, hehe, sounds funny, called Herr Pansen. We are staying at his house and his food is really good. He says, he has a secret ingredient but he will not tell Konrad what it is.

Bye Mom,

Konrad

Case File 1: The Mines of Banack Dûm

by Jean le Bleu, told in an empty bar in the world of Necropolis in exchange for free drinks

Pansen, my friend, I tell you, me and my partner Jaques have been to that dreadful place, called Banack Dûm. Yes, I know, there is a powerful curse, and yes, nobody has ever returned. But do you see that anvil there? That's the evil artefact that we wrested from the cold hands of the lich king!

Our first encounter with Jhin Wei and her servants was not so pleasant. You see, due to some *bad judgement* on behalf of that pointy-eared scoundrel over there - yes Jaques, I am talking to you - we hired out to some nasty orcs who were out to plunder that place. Anyway, we soon realised our mistake and helped Miss Wei to defeat those ruffians.

With our help, the party managed to enter the subterranean palace of the dwarven king. Me and the beautiful lady had to do most of the fighting, though. I think she likes me - she made me some

compliments about my well-manicured nails. She sure has style! I wonder what that Torsur guy I up to, though. Must be her former lover. A strange guy - I think he is a grey dwarf, but his claws!?

With some nifty spells on behalf of Zelkarn, we finally kicked some serious lich ass and rescued the evil artefact... so, can I get another free drink now?

Site: Vivine

by Jean le Bleu pulling off a monologue on Konrad

My home? The sweet city of Vivine! No place is more lively, has better women and better wine! We of the royal guard protect it from the vile Dark Fey. Yes, the men of the Red Cardinal, too, but it is us who regularly save the day!

Your master would not like it, though. The evil art of sorcery is forbidden there, as is the worship of false gods. We praise Dieunne, master of order and eternal judge. But that does not mean that we would not enjoy good food and drink, no, no. We know how to live my friend, you will see....

Case File 2: Into the Sargusa

by Konrad, the trusted Sidekick in his personal diary

Dear Diary. After my master single-handedly defeated the undead dwarven king, he used his wisdom and powerful magic to find out where we had to go next. He is so clever with words - the others came along and thought it was their idea. Hehe, the master, he is one scoundrel.

We travelled through a dark and smelly place which scared me a little, but the others did not notice. We came out in a strange city. My master said that the people there were evil and hated magic so I was not supposed to tell anybody how cool and powerful he is. However,

they had really nice clothing and did not seem evil at all. We also found a speaking statue with some guy inside - puh, he is a smelly one! We talked to many people and broke into a house which was fun. However, this Torsur guy is getting on my nerves - I wonder why the master has not killed that little pest yet...

My master read many books we took from the house and used his magic to find out where to go. We went through the dark place again and came out under the sea. It was dark and cold but my master protected us and we swam to some ship graveyard. There was so much stuff and we decided to kill all people there, my master always has such great ideas!

We started with a ship full of smelly undead. The yellow girl almost got killed by some demon but I was able to kill two guys with horns - so much fun! He also rescued some guy, a wizard. he is really friendly and is very nice. But the master does not like him - but they will be friends after Konrad's birthday party in two months.

The master has also found out where the friends of the Wizard were (by going back to the city) and rescued them from their ship. Then some evil pointy-ears came to hurt us but my master cast fear into their hearts and we kept one as prisoner. I hope we will make him into a zombie, those guys are just hilarious - "Brains!", "Brains!", hehehe.

After this we went back to the Island of the mages. A boring place with many books and things At least I had some time to do some knitting - I want to have a nice hat to wear on my birthday.

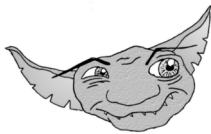
Interlude

A report by <censored> to <censored>.
Ah, my lord, you called me? How does the corruption of the mortal called Zelkarn progress, you ask? Very well, of

course! Already, he has caused the demon-spawn heavy losses in the Sargusa, and he will lead us to the heart of the Nexus soon enough. Yes, yes, all is arranged for the take-over of course. The soul of one of his companions is weak and ready to be subverted - his body shall be your vessel, my liege.

After the recovery of the second book, he has been working on establishing a base in Necropolis, as you anticipated. He has found out about the others living there and about our old friend, the lich Red Hand. He went to the former island of the sorcerers and found the empty grave of the Red Hand and one of his henchmen, the fat dwarf, saw the flying ship. He also knows that there are still humans living in Necropolis, maybe he will find their city soon.

He also spent more quality time in the library with the sage I have been telling you about. Apparently, this Pableu knows more about the Nexus than I thought. In the meantime Torsur keeps wasting his time with that girl. I like sin as much as the next devil, but this sex and depravity thing - too 'chaotic evil' for my taste! I guess he will keep her as a mistress. Or maybe he will let her stay in the hut which he built for the group just outside of Vivine.



Speaking of Torsur... Ouch, forgive me, I shall never address you in such a direct way again, my lord.... ouch, ouch, please not the barbed whip, no....

Interlude

Jaques de Flamme discussing matters with his partner Jean le Blue

Listen Jean, this is madness. I do not know why they have killed us yet. I know you are madly in love with

Mademoiselle Wei but I do not trust that necromancer at all. Not to speak of Torsur, that guy is mad, and I can sense that he clearly enjoys the favour of blessed Amorax. We have to find a way out of here. Maybe those people who arrived yesterday, yes the assassin and her talkative friend, can help us out of here. What are you saying? Please, don't try and make a move on *her*! Jhin Wei at least was harmless, but that women can probably snap your spine with one hand. Jean, I am serious, *Jean*.... oh well, better keep that dagger handy.

Case File 2 - Addendum: The Cleansing of the Sargusa

Konrad and Dexter discuss recent events while their master is working on plans for his castle.

Konrad: Ah, there you are, you little pest! Is the master done with his plans, yet?

Dexter: Hihihihihhi

Konrad: Haven't seen Torsur for a bit. Didn't fit him to well that I had to save his life while he was fighting against that Dark Fey pirate and his crew. Well, the master sure believed that the runt could handle things. Now he knows that Konrad is the one to trust. Soon, we will get rid of Torsur and the master will rely on me again.

Dexter: Hihihihihhi

Konrad: At least now these wicked creatures are killed. They deserved death for defying our master and for all the atrocities they committed. There is only one more left now, sucking up to Torsur that fool. He will turn on him eventually! I should let him, but that would be too easy. Torsur would always be remembered fondly - and that I cannot have! When the situation arises, I will 'fix' this problem.

Dexter: Hihihihihhi

Case File 3 – Fun in Inshabiv

*by Forgemaster Satchgrimm, writing to
the Red Cardinal*

Your Eminence,

I know we have not had personal contact every since the Fall of Banack Dûm and my self-imposed exile and I am still aware of our theological difference about the one you call Dieunne and whom we revere as the Forgemaster.

First, I want to thank you for the continuing support of our monastery and the Fortress of Ironheart. We are still able to hold the demonic forces at bay but there is a thing that troubles us. You know that demons often slip through the gates and that we can only detect those who come close enough to our castle. Now, it seems, that the vile hordes of D'Stradi have set up a base with a brood pool in our world. I need not tell you about the dangers of being back stabbed by the foul teleporters we call Abductors.

Yesterday, a motley crew of undisciplined renegades arrived at our castle. They are not the lot we would usually associate with but these are desperate times. They have offered to help us in return for the broken staff we sent you last year for examination and if you do not have any objections, I would ask you to send the staff to me as soon as possible.

May the Forgefather steel you,
Satchgrimm

Case File 3 (cont.) – Raid on the Flesh Fortress

*Lytha do Ult to the first spawn of her
vampiric clan*

Ah, I am glad you have recovered. Your blood tasted good! Now listen up, slave! You are the first of my children, my dark army that rule over the high lands. Stop

whimpering, you are beyond the limits of mere humanity now. You disgust me! Yet, I know how it feels to be dominated by others. Abdul al Rasha, the twisted necromancer from the South has done that to me for far too long. Did you know that he created me as a *diversion* to escape those he betrayed when he started his foolish quest for his dead wife?

Yes, I betrayed him and his henchman Yabba. I betrayed them when they came upon the Flesh Fortress, a cesspool of evil and advance point of the armies of the Abyss. He was put into the brood pools, but Yabba escaped, betraying the site to the mighty half-fiend Torsur and his henchmen. They fell upon the fortress together with a new ally - some magically created creature tainted by abyssal magics - and they killed the demons and their mortal servants. They even slew the Surgeon himself, a fiendish creator of twisted life. Where they are now, I cannot tell but I know that they are a dangerous lot and if you see any of them, report to me at once! That is all, Zelorn, my dark paladin. You may go now and lure the others from the fortress into my grasp...

Interlude: The Founding of Zelkarnia

*by Yô'sh, torturing his former master,
the dark fey pirate captain Noran*

Ah, how much time is it now that I brought you here? Half a year already? And you are still not dead? Well, I am a lenient master and you know how much I loathe bloodshed. Yes, call me a hypocrite if you will. *Sizzle, sizzle...* the sound of burning flesh! How much I like it...

Too bad you do not have eyes any more, otherwise I would have liked to show you the city of Zelkarnia! Granted, it is but a collection of shabby huts, but there

is potential and the powers of Chaos are strong there. You would like it, I am sure.

In the middle of the city lies the castle - not finished yet but already looking intimidating. It is surrounded by the houses of some craftsmen who have cast their lot with Dorian the Deceiver.

Dorian, that pig, has created his own secret army he calls the Galvanites. He uses them to terrorise the population consisting of human rabble and goblins. There are about 30 of them and they wear cool capes.

What is really creeping me out though, is that guy from El Daga - Rodriguez. That necromancer apprentice is really messed up in the head. He is working with Dorian on something, but what - I don't know.

The high priest Torsur, however, will not let these heathen agents run the place of course. Therefore, he has assembled a guard of flesh hooks, mostly discontent half elves from that stinking city of Vivine. There are also some whores, about 15 I guess, but they are too disease-ridden to be really a boon for the temple. The real hot attraction is that new woman hanging out with the high ups. Man, she *is* hot - and there are glowing patterns on her skin, too. Apparently, she is a pupil of some bizarre wizard called Michèle de Barbe-Rouge and plans to become one of them Amber Mages in the near future. What else is new...? Oh yeah, see that pale light out there? That's a ghost. Master Zelkarn has found the bodies of a group of cursed ones and now they serve him. Maybe, you want to meet one? You shake your head? Well, then maybe the rack is more to your taste....

Interlude: Quest of the Tomb of Frozen Dreams

Rodriguez the Necromancer-Apprentice to the other Apprentices.

Listen up you scum bags! This is our chance to learn the dark secrets from Zelkarn, the vile necromancer. I will not tolerate your whoring around and drinking any more. For we search for knowledge not fleshly pleasures!

Hear that the time is near when Zelkarn will lead us all to glory. Have you seen the skull that he holds in his hands? I looked into his personal notes - it is the top of a staff of power that will allow free access to the heart of the Nexus! Ever since he came back from his last trip to the Tomb of Frozen Dreams, he seems to have gained new insights for he has attached it to a piece of bone. Only two more parts does he need - then he will hold the complete staff and will rule supreme.

But we must be vigilant for there are other forces that covet this treasure. A demon from the Abyss called Firewhip is questing for this item but has not shown his face yet. Let us hope that the master has not unwittingly brought its cultists to this world. Grugan, the mysterious, is also looking for this precious. Little is known of his powers but apparently, the orcs of the Eye serve him and travel through the Nexus to find the pieces for him. The master already fought against them at the gates of Banack Dûm, then unaware of their allegiance!

The last competitor is Prince Lendir, the elven aristocrat and servant of all that is Good, who wants to close the Nexus for such marauders as Zelkarn, Grugan, and Firewhip. The prince has already humiliated our beloved Zelkarn in the past and is likely to try so in the future. So be vigilant all of you! Dismissed!

Interlude: Mayhem in Zelkarnia

Konrad reporting to his master:

Master, you have to come! They are ruining the whole place! Dorian's Galvanites and Torsur's Flesh Hooks are battling it out in the streets again. I cannot find Dorian anywhere and Torsur is even more insane than he normally is! Sorry, master, I know, no disturbing during spell research.... no, I do not know where Dorian is, but I have heard he is gone to capture some people to add to this town. Torsur on the other hand is out to kill.... oh, ok, I will come back in a week. As you wish, master.

Konrad returns after a week:

Master, master, something terrible has happened. Murder and mayhem. Dorian and Torsur have made an uneasy peace and no even more violence has erupted. The Iron Maiden, one of Torsur's Flesh Hooks, has rebelled and is no dead - from what I have heard at Torsur's hands! Dorian has brought more hookers and some weird sleepy guy and no sooner have they arrived that some strange demonic beast starts killing people. Master, you got to do something, the place is coming apart! Torsur has invited me to a beer... can you imagine the insanity? Oh,... ok, no disturbing during spell research. Sorry, master. Yes, master. No more loud yelling in the hall - ok, master.

Case File 4: Eyeball and Dragon

Grand Sensualist Pierre Malcompte describes his plight to Pansonne, his uneasy ally.

Incredible, my friend! The elves came out of nothing, have they not, and they are besieging us now for almost 4 month. Not enough that they have excellent archers, towering treemen and

snake-tailed maidens of chaos, they have also brought a dragon! AmOrax be me witness, a holy dragon to boot. Who can say what will happen to us? The elves, they make fools of us! Yes, do not laugh, your strong ties to our invisible king, Gurgan, will not help you, now that he is displeased with us. The elves have invaded our city with their infiltrators and have burned down a house which seems to have been important to our lord. For what reasons, though, I cannot say. Let's hope that someone will help us, otherwise we are doomed and the dragon will kill us with his breath of searing light. AMOrax help us!