

Zeitgeist Journal, Chapter 3: “Digging for Lies”

Episode 3-1

Since the events of chapter 2, “The Dying Skyseer,” the party has been on relegated to menial tasks by the Chief Inspectress, Margaret Saxby, until the completion of the audit by Viscount Inspector Nigel Price-Hill. It is now the 1st of Autumn, the opening day of the Kaybeau Arms Fair and expo in Flint. With unspent funds in A-Teams account totaling 8,000 GP, Inspectress Saxby tasks the party with scouring the fair for unique purchases to ensure their account is 0 balance before the end of the fiscal year. At least the team is finally getting out of the office for the first time since the Macbannin case.

The fair brings with it ample distraction as the party splits to explore what wonders Midgard has to offer from international vendors showing of their wares and inventions, some for the first time in Flint. The Ninja antes 1,000 GP (health and resurrection insurance) to try his luck in Grimtooth's “Fun” home security system challenge before a massive audience of spectators. To the disappointment of the crowd, the Ninja makes it through the danger rooms without injury, regaining his ante and the prize: a Portal slinging crossbow. Furious, the Orcish mage packs up his sales booth and leaves town, unable to impress anyone with his failed traps. The party also linked up with Mourn, a 7' 6” half-dragon adopted son of Berian Ambassador Brakken. Mourn, being a friend of the party Cleric, decided to enjoy the fair in the company of the party after watching the ninja's performance through Grimtooth's fun house.

The Rookie Gnome gets taken in by a enchanting snake oil saleswoman, who convinces him to buy a bottle of her “world famous cure-all” for 100 GP after witnessing its miraculous effects on a crippled audience member who was healed instantly on stage!

As the party continued to move through the crowds, one of the more perceptive noticed they were being tailed by Viscount Price-Hill's director of Infiltration, Lauryn Cynburg.



Almost as soon as she was spotted, she turned and disappeared into the crowd. Before the Rookie could try to pursue, someone bumped into him as the throngs of fairgoers edged past him.

Touching his weapon belt, the Gnome suddenly realized someone had taken his weapon! In hot pursuit, he chased down a 10 year old street rat who had nicked his weapon in a pickpocket.

The orphan human, “Tip,” agreed to return the stolen item, and bragged that he would be an excellent guide and informant, for a price. The party agreed to pay him to canvas the fair for any gossip, and from that point, kept a eye out for him or any other thieves that may be trying to steal their loot.

Shortly thereafter, the party shopped around the fair, test firing the Nock Gun (the gnome rolled a negative number on his attack roll and nearly kill himself), the steamsuit armor, the Bader Gun (the gnome got chased around the shooting range by a very upset badger after he teased it following another player's test fire), as well as other unique firearms and weapons.

Mourn noticed a suspicious looking dwarf with a sniper rifle, who he then cordially confronted.



The Military dress, and fine craftsmanship of the dwarf's rifle suggested that he was a Drakrian, and he responded with transparent friendliness to the Morun, even offering to let him hold and examine the masterwork weapon. Convinced that the Dwarf was just a typical fair goer, Mourn diverted his attention elsewhere, as music started playing, and Rock Rackus made his entrance.



(Theme song plays: Cage the Elephant “Ain't no rest for the wicked” which is a proxy for “Too Poor to be Lazy.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKtsdZs9LJo>)

Apparently Rock Rackus has an overt fetish for gnomes, as he was a relentless flirt with the gnome rookie while she showboated with his diamond encrusted piece on the shooting range.

The braggart barely had enough time to tell of his sexual prowess in song forum, recounting a the story of how he cuckolded the Fey King (without permission), when a shriek pieced the conversation.



A giant eldrich abomination lifted a bystander and swallowed him whole, yet the creature was merely a gaping maw that did not even touch his body when he passed through one side and out the other, and yet the poor victim could do no more than lay twitching on the ground.

As a hedge mage with a golden staff charged into the fray, but every casting of magic missile from his staff summoned another and another creature from the ether... Realizing after several volleys that the wand was also summoning the monsters with the magic missile, the RHC constables shouted for him to stop using the staff, and the embarrassed mage complied. The Monsters stopped appearing.

Tip was even lifted off of the ground by what could only be described as a giant mosquito like monster.

Racing into action, the A-Team fought back the monsters as they attacked the crowds, saving Tip, but arriving too late to stop several others from being carried off or swallowed. Rock Rackus sprung into action until covering fire from Kvarti Gorbatiy, but in the dock hero's haste, he blasted away an innocent bystander in the process of felling several of the horrors as they attacked the crowd.

By the time the smoke cleared, two of the flying monsters fled the scene, and many civilians laid convulsing on the ground. Rock Rackus stood triumphant over his quarry as the local police promptly bashed his face in to arrest him for manslaughter. He claimed self-defense and the necessity of the moment to respond, even if it put the public at risk, but the cops would hear none of it as they accused

the star of resisting arrest and began beating as he screamed “police brutality!”

At this point, a crowd had gathered, and began booing the RHC as the gnome herself cuffed Rock Rackus and took him away to the RHC HQ in Flint. Just before a mob can gather, Kvarti fires his rifle into the ground, and claims to have witness Rock Rackus shooting the innocent bystander as he was attempting to protect the crowd. The police extract a gold bullet from the body, matching Rackus' signature slugs. The crowds disperse thanks to the dwarf's intervention, and Rackus is taken away.

Meanwhile, the rest of the A-team questioned the hedge mage who had been weilding the golden staff, which was now transmuted back into wood.

Completely cooperative with the Constables, the hedge mage admitted that he did not have a license to practice magic or buy magical devices, as he was a self-taught librarian by trade. He had come to the fair hoping to get his hands on a couple of wands without having to complete a background check. While he was snooping around the trinket stand hoping to find an unscrupulous vendor, he was told to meet a trench coated lady a couple of blocks from the fair, and he was sold the staff, no questions asked.

After confiscating the staff in question, the A-team began exiting the fair to report back to the RHC HQ, when none other than Assistant Chief Inspector Delft met them on their way out, holding poor Tip by a twist of his ear, as he followed behind the limping constable hunched over in an open steamsuit armor that he had tried to make off with in the confusion. It seems like the party's suspended boss was back to his old self and in good form. As a show of confidence, Luxen (the ninja) handed Delft back his revolver. Their old boss smiled. “I'll be back on duty in no time. Just you guys wait.” He was in good spirits.

Episode 3-2

The next day, the A-Team returned back to the Fairgrounds to search for the fence who had sold the unlicensed mage the mysterious staff.

Linking up with Thomas Kellion esq, the A-Team gained access to a private party hosted by Pemberton Industries. After calling a favor from Morgan Cippiano, who was brought to a truce meeting with Lorcan Kell by Benedict Pemberton (did not end well, MC's body guard walked away short an ear), the party managed to coordinate a sting operation to conduct an undercover buy of some more magical contraband from the seller who had fenced the mysterious staff.

While Thomas Kellion stalled Kaja Stewart with an inspection of the merchandise, Luxen attempted to backstab her with poison... and flubbed both the surprise round attack and the initiative attack. She quickly retreated, and opened up with a volley from a giant cannon she summoned from a magical portal... nearly killing the ninja in a single blow!

After a desperate battle, the A-team managed to wrestle Kaja to the ground and make the arrest. Now it is time to question her as to where she got these three items...

But wait, where did the amulet go?

Thomas Kellion, the Conservator's hideout...

Examining the strange amulet, Thomas decided to activate its magical ability, accidentally summoning a giant maw like creature from the void! Alone, he struggled desperately from the creatures clutches, slowly going insane as he barely managed to break the tentacle's grapple and flee for his life! Having flash backs of his near death in the buried coffin, his personality fragmented... making him a whole other person for a time...