

## **King Lorcan Finn Background**

You've chosen to give yourself an unusual gift for your 50th birthday: you intend to abdicate.

As the Monarch of Risur, you've ruled for over 20 years in a time of great turmoil. The nation is deeply divided between nobles and commoners, and your power has steadily declined as the divide between the two widens.

Over the past several decades the King's power has waned, and Risur's noble parliament moved from being an over glorified bureaucracy to essentially running the nation.

Five years ago, your wife and Queen, was murdered and you started a war against the godless yet technologically superior nation of Danor, ruled by the cursed Tieflings, believing them to be responsible. You started the Third Yerasol war over the act, which saw your power rapidly strengthen. You were the first Monarch in decades truly able to rule, with both commoners and nobles following you.

You quickly learned the Danorans had nothing to do with the assassination... she was killed by a powerful noble family - the Fitzgarden's. Members of the House of Nobles and one of the six most powerful families in Risur. You've been forced to keep their perfidy secret to justify the war.

The war has been a long, brutal slog, and the Danorians have even seized a major Risuri city.

You're now certain your Queen was assassinated as the noble's assumed an un-prepared Danor would be easy pickings... but they quickly ramped up war efforts and have been producing increasingly powerful war machines. After taking vast swathes of the neutral Yerasol archipelago, the Danorian's have now seized the city of Shale.

You've been forced to sign an armistice with the Danorians, and it's disastrous for Risur's future. You will reclaim Shale, but there are strict construction limits placed on your major cities for the next 25 years.

Your people's trust is waning causing the power granted by Risur's Rites of Rulership to weaken, and you've decided to abdicate the throne on your 50th birthday. Risuri Monarchs pass the crown on merit, not blood, which is good because your children are obnoxious brats.

You intend to name your chief bodyguard, the Green Knight Melissa Gahlot, your successor. But the rites are only strong if the monarch is beloved by the masses and approved by the nobility, so Melissa needs to be seen as a hero.

You've seized a tragedy to make Dame Melissa a hero by destroying a coven of witches in one of your less-important cities. The witches have terrorized the city, and they've recently abducted dozens of hostages. While you had planned to help, a sky seer named Rachel Lang (a Risuri folk prophet) warned you not to move yet. She told you tonight, the night of a lunar eclipse (an ill omen) was the time their power would be weakest.

Tomorrow is your birthday - a much better time in your eyes.

You've gathered trusted allies to help you take down the coven at dawn. Your hope is that Dame Melissa will see that the nation is nothing if its people do not have faith in their monarch.

### **Character Goal:**

No one knows you intend to abdicate; you fear the news may unsettle the nation.

It would be best to keep quiet that you're considering Dame Melissa as your successor. You think she suspects as she has grown haughty and overconfident. Make sure that you do not die before passing the crown on. You could declare anyone to be your successor, but not Mayor Stanfield (the rites demand the monarch be 'mortal', and as a deva Stanfield perpetually reincarnates) nor Minister Harkover Lee (the rites disqualify another nation's ruler from taking Risur's Crown).