

Thrush's Departure from the Xterminators

How Thrush came to leave the Xterminators and Nathaniel Moonwayne joined the group.

On the 20th of Novius, 1008

Background: The Paladin was summoned to the Manor two days ago. He was just concluding some training at 'The Beacon', when an acolyte invited him to visit with 'Mariah Perselen' a Cleric of Mystra. She told him that the Temple of Mystra is very interested in learning first hand, about any magic items recovered from Shraevyn's Tomb. She went on to explain that he could learn more from a man called 'X', who lives in a manor just east of the city.

At the manor, he met with X, who told him about the Xterminators, and their adventures. Most recently they had undertaken a secretive mission to recover some magic items and assist the freedom loving peoples of the Dales. He learned about the Zhentarim, Randal Morn, and the mystery of his kidnapping and the history of Shraevyn the weapons mage. As he and his church are very interested in all things magical, and keeping powerful magic items from the clutches of evil, he volunteered to deliver this message, and possibly assist the Xterminators in their latest quest.

Setting: It was late in the day when these events transpired, the party is resting Just inside Shraevyn's Tomb, having recently completed an arduous day of adventuring. Solving puzzles and fighting undead inhabitants of the haunted tomb.

As the party emerged to breath the fresh air of freedom, and get a little daylight, they noted the presence of someone unfamiliar to them. A man in armor who seemed out of place, alone in the country-side, tending a campfire, preparing a meal of rabbit and greens.

Encounter: After introductions and an offer to share some food - Elven elderberry wine, and herb roasted rabbit - and a warm fire, the party settled down to hear his story.

He was sent by 'X' (*Party Knowledge: the Party's sponsor - and all-around great guy*), to convey a personal message; and his church is interested in any treasures retrieved from Shraevyn's Tomb.

According to this stranger, he conveys a message from Thrush's mother... (*Character (Thrush) Knowledge: Unless revealed by Thrush. Thrush's mother (Bale'phon) lives in Coin as a 'Security Consultant' to a large merchant house*) The personal message was passed along

to X by a business associate in the city of Coin. Lest the party think that the message isn't genuine, the Paladin produces a plush toy, which he immediately hands to Thrush.

The plush toy is a stuffed animal in the shape of a cute and cuddly Owlbear, wearing pants with suspenders and little wooden shoes. According to Thrush - Only his mother would know the significance of this stuffed toy (*Character (Thrush) Knowledge - Unless revealed to the party: 'Smarty Pants the Owlbear', a childhood totem of safety and security, who inspired and comforted the young Thrush when life seemed scary and strange*).

The Paladin's message is memorized, not written down - All that he knows, is that Thrush's mother - Bale'phon needs his assistance. Thrush's Father's final acts have been revealed, and the survival of his family depends upon his return to Coin*. Bale'phon bids him to return as soon as possible.

To affect his return, X has arranged for a cover identity; as Garron Seybee, a diamond merchant from Ordulin, on his way to the city of Coin. The Paladin hands Thrush a satchel that makes a soft sifting noise - Could be diamonds?

Thrush's mother has paid for passage (through an intermediary) on the flying ship Artarius, captained by a male Kzinti (by the name of Huzzach'ta Veyatar (*Party Knowledge: The party knows that the Artarius is one of the flying ships that operate out of Whillip. The line is owned by 'J.F.K. Inc.' they've never heard of this captain Veyatar: <<https://www.robsworld.org/3ewhoswho.html#veyatar>>*). The Artarius is already on its way to Coin...

X has produced a scroll of teleport (*The Paladin produces a parchment sealed with wax embossed with X's signet ring, and tied with a red cord. He then hands the scroll to Thrush*). According to the Paladin, Thrush need only open the scroll and say the name of the Owlbear. According to the Paladin, X told him that the scroll is only good for 24 hours after its delivered to Thrush...

* FYI: For those who aren't entirely familiar with the city of Coin. It's also - better - known as 'Athkatla', the capital of the nation of Amn (where Thrush grew up).