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DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SHADOWS OF THE VAMPIRE

Part Four



ZUB • DANIEL

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The heroes of Baldur's Gate have been pulled into the Realm of Terror known as Ravenloft. The key to their salvation may be close at hand, a magical locket in their possession, but undead forces are hunting for it and danger looms around every darkened corner of this cursed land where the sun does not rise...

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LIFE IN BAROVIA IS HARSH AND UNFORGIVING. WITH UNDEAD FORCES CONSTANTLY LOOMING JUST OUT OF SIGHT AND BLEAK SKIES THAT NEVER SEE SUNLIGHT, IT CAN BE A STRUGGLE FOR THE PEASANTRY TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR LIVES.

FROM TIME TO TIME THE EERIE MISTS BRING STRANGERS BOASTING THAT THEY WILL DESTROY COUNT STRAHD AND FREE THE PEOPLE FROM THEIR STRIFE, BUT NONE HAVE SUCCEEDED. THE LOCALS NOW KNOW BETTER THAN TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE FOOLED BY WELL-MEANING, BUT ULTIMATELY POINTLESS, ATTEMPTS AT HEROISM.



I'M GETTING THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION WE'RE NOT WELCOME HERE...

SHADOWS OF THE VAMPIRE

Part Four: Parade of Pain



EXCUSE ME, SIR. WE'RE LOOKING FOR LODGINGS, SOMEWHERE WE CAN—

...HOW RUDE...

N'UH!

THIS PLACE MAKES THE LOWER CITY IN BALDUR'S GATE LOOK LIKE A SOCIAL CLUB.



GOOD DAY, FINE FOLK!

PERHAPS YOU COULD DIRECT MY HAMSTER AND I—

PERHAPS NOT...



FEAR, MISTRUST, DEPRESSION...

...THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DEATH LINGERS CLOSE BY FOR SO LONG WITHOUT ANY RELEASE.



THIS IS WHY WE MUST CRUSH THIS COUNT AND ALL HIS OTHER CRUSHABLE CRUSHLINGS, TO RETURN HOPE TO THESE PEOPLE AND ALSO FIND A GOOD INN WITH TASTY ALE.

LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES, MINSC.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DRAW EVEN MORE ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE CARRYING THE ENCHANTED NECKLACE THE WEREWOLVES WERE SEARCHING FOR.



GATHER 'ROUND, MY FRIENDS...



IT'S TIME FOR THIS WEEK'S FESTIVAL TO BEGIN!



"FESTIVAL?"

MORE LIKE "FUNERAL."

YEAH. THIS IS STARTING TO GET WEIRD...



HERE TO BEGIN THE FESTIVITIES, OUR BURGOMASTER, **BARON VARGAS!**

Abe



I SENSE THAT HE IS *NOT* A NICE MAN...



GREETINGS, FINE CITIZENS OF VALLAKI.

AS ALWAYS, WE MUST KEEP OUR SPIRITS WHOLE WITH THE POWER OF *CELEBRATION* AND *GOOD CHEER*.

LAST WEEK'S "MERRIMENT OF MUSIC" WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS AND SO IT IS MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE *THIS* WEEK'S NEW THEME...

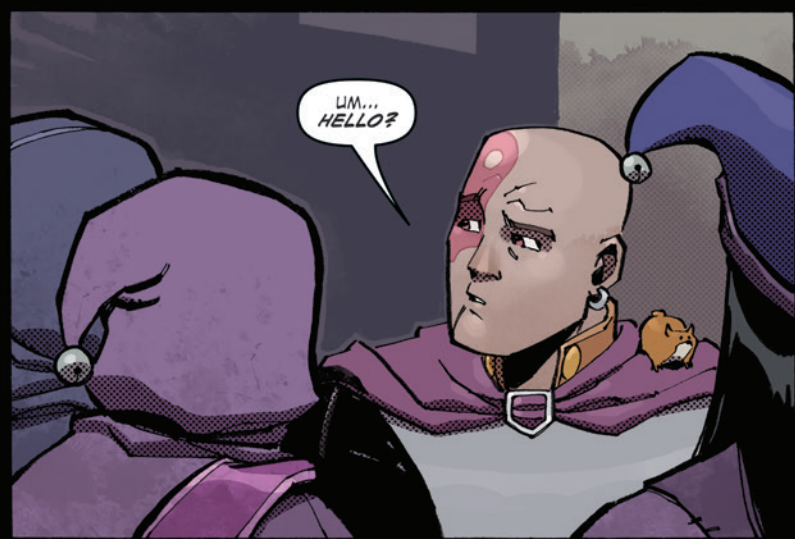


THE PARADE OF PURPLE!



PURPLE! PURPLE! PURPLE! PURPLE! PURPLE!

THIS COLORFUL CELEBRATION WILL WARM YOUR HEART AND PUSH BACK THE DREARY WORLD OUTSIDE.



UM... HELLO?



WELL NOW, LOOK THERE...

A VISITOR ALREADY IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR NEW HOLIDAY!

