



The ghost sorcerer Belcorra Haruvex is the primary villain of the Abomination Vaults Adventure Path. The story behind her spiteful rage is one of exile and loss.

Belcorra's History

The Haruvex family tree both sprawls and surges with sorcery. The family's strongest bloodlines have an aberrant strain, which provides family prestige as well as sorcerous power. Generations of Haruvexes married within the family to strengthen this lineage, and the most powerful Haruvexes lived in Absalom 500 years ago. These Absalom Haruvexes made secret obeisance to the Outer Gods for great wealth and greater power. But none in the family approached the power of their youngest scion, Belcorra Haruvex. Belcorra had been told, every day for as long as she could remember, that she was the harbinger of Nhimbaloth, the Eyes of Empty Death, and that she was her family's greatest hope for power and prosperity.

The Haruvexes enacted abhorrent rites in their worship, including bloody sacrifices, and the authorities eventually caught wind of their crimes. The Haruvexes were finally driven from the Isle of Kortos in 4219 AR, forced to leave their estates and luxuries behind. Belcorra was only 6 years old at the time, but as she grew, her rage at losing her home solidified into an overwhelming hatred of Absalom and everyone in it.

Most of the exiled Haruvexes died in poverty, but Belcorra grew strong and proud. At 17, she interpreted visions from Nhimbaloth that led her back to the Isle of Kortos to plan her revenge. Far above a subterranean shrine to Nhimbaloth called the Empty Vault, in a lonely stretch of wooded coast a few dozen miles from Absalom, Belcorra erected a magical lighthouse and called it *Gauntlight*. She dug deep beneath it to reach the shrine she had seen in her visions, and while she worked, she began to plan her revenge. She would draw subterranean monsters and

violent beasts into her secret dungeons—which she called the Abomination Vaults—and use *Gauntlight*'s magic to send them into Absalom to wreak havoc. She enacted the first part of her plan, expanding the Abomination Vaults and raising a defensible keep around the lighthouse. She leveraged family acquaintances to acquire powerful retainers and champions to lead her monstrous forces.

Belcorra was still stocking her Abomination Vaults with aberrations when rumors of her villainy reached Absalom. The Roseguard, a group of heroes headquartered in Absalom, set out from the city to confront and vanquish her. The Roseguard faced Belcorra within Gauntlight Keep and killed her there. One of the four members of the Roseguard, a rogue named Otari Ilvashti, died in this fight. Grieving their lost friend, the Roseguard left, sealed up the keep, founded what would become the town of Otari, and retired there. They never knew of the keep's lower levels or the many creatures still remaining within them.

A DUNGEON FULL OF MONSTERS

The horrors trapped in the Abomination Vaults developed some measure of ecosystem in the following centuries. While many monsters beneath the citadel died, others have prospered, and now several communities of morlocks, urdefhans, ghouls, and stranger creatures call the dungeons home. Only the longest-lived remember any life other than the dungeons. Belcorra had bound several devils to serve her as overseers and administrators, and many of these still maintain order. Apart from the regions maintained by these devils and a drow outpost in one of the lowest levels, the Abomination Vaults are lawless and dangerous.

The Abomination Vaults consist of 10 levels, including the ruins around *Gauntlight* on the surface. They are, from top to bottom, the ruins of Gauntlight Keep, the servant's quarters, the library, Belcorra's former living chambers, the arena, the laboratories, the

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prison, the farm caverns, the hunting cavern, and the temple level, which holds the Empty Vault. Each level has its own character, and the levels are progressively more dangerous the deeper the heroes venture.

BELCORRA'S RISE

Belcorra's spirit didn't rest peacefully. Consumed by rage and empowered by Nhimbaloth, she arose as a powerful ghost 500 years after her family's exile from Absalom, the event that so dramatically altered her life. Belcorra now lurks in the deepest levels of the Abomination Vaults, plotting her revenge

against Absalom and the heroes who vanquished her. The Roseguard are long dead, but the town they founded remains, and the icons representing their adventuring careers (page 88) now have the power to penetrate Belcorra's protections.

At first, no one in Otari realizes the danger Belcorra poses. Her machinations and her monsters are well out of sight. But before she moves against Absalom, she intends to use her *Gauntlight* against Otari—the town built by the adventurers who killed her five centuries before. Only Otari's newest heroes can prevent Belcorra's vengeance and put her spirit to rest.

Campaign Timeline

The following is a rough history of significant events relevant to this Adventure Path.

| Date Event | |
|-----------------|--|
| Age of Darkness | Serpentfolk construct the Empty Vault, a shrine to Nhimbaloth far beneath the surface of Golarion. When Aroden raises the Starstone Isles from the Inner Sea, the Empty Vault ascends with it, ending up several hundred feet below the Isle of Kortos. |
| Unknown | The neutral drow of a subterranean city construct an outpost closer to the surface called Yldaris. These drow are unconsciously drawn to the Empty Vault but don't know of its presence. |
| 4213 AR | Belcorra Haruvex is born to the wealthy Haruvex family in Absalom. Unknown to anyone outside the family, the Haruvexes have a strong aberrant bloodline and a familial devotion to the Outer God Nhimbaloth. |
| 4219 AR | The Haruvex family is ejected from Absalom when their secret sacrifices are discovered. They flee to Andoran, where they live in poverty. This is particularly hard on 6-year-old Belcorra, the family's youngest scion. The Haruvexes instill in Belcorra a hatred of Absalom and impress upon the child her role as Nhimbaloth's chosen one. |
| 4230 AR | Belcorra, the last exiled Haruvex, has become a powerful sorcerer. She secretly relocates to the Isle of Kortos, where she begins work on a magical lighthouse called <i>Gauntlight</i> , situated directly above the Empty Vault. She magically opens passages through the earth to reach the shrine and begins to collect an army of aberrations to attack Absalom. |
| 4234 AR | Belcorra completes <i>Gauntlight</i> and begins work on its dungeons, the Abomination Vaults. She uses will-o'-wisps and bound devils to enforce her will on the rapidly expanding hordes within. She meets the drow and urdefhans who dwell in the area and demands their fealty in exchange for their lives. |
| 4244 AR | One of Absalom's "hunting lodges" (a sanctioned group of adventurers) called the Roseguard hear of Belcorra's presence and come to investigate her lighthouse. They kill her but never learn of the existence of the expansive Abomination Vaults beneath <i>Gauntlight</i> ; Belcorra kills the rogue Otari Ilvashti in this battle. The victorious Roseguard construct a small port community and retire there, naming it Otari after their fallen friend. |
| 4290 AR | The last Roseguard passes away, and Otari begins to fall into decline. |
| 4294 AR | Otari is abandoned. |
| 4300 AR | Stonescale kobolds colonize Otari. |
| 4310 AR | Yarlaip seals his tribe's fate by luring ships to their doom; the Stonescale kobolds are soon thereafter defeated by adventurers. Maklanni Menhemes leads the resettlement of Otari. |
| 4323 AR | Construction of the Otari Mill and log flume is completed. |
| 4719 ar | Belcorra awakens as a ghost and begins work to reactivate <i>Gauntlight</i> . Its dungeons have been populated with generations of infighting creatures since her death, and she seeks to bring them under her control once more. |
| 4721 ar | The current year. <i>Gauntlight</i> becomes infested with a band of mitflits, who are displaced by morlocks pushing upwards at the urging of their "ghost queen." <i>Gauntlight</i> is ready for a test to demonstrate its power. |

A summary of the Adventure Path's adventures follows.

RUINS OF GAUNTLIGHT

By James Jacobs

Pathfinder Adventure Path #163, Levels 1-4

When the mysterious *Gauntlight*, an eerie lighthouse located inland from Otari, glows with baleful light, the people of Otari suspect trouble. The town's newest heroes must venture into the ruins around the lighthouse—and delve into the dungeon levels far beneath it—to discover the evil that *Gauntlight* holds. Hideous monsters, deadly traps, and mysterious ghosts await the heroes.

HANDS OF THE DEVIL

By Vanessa Hoskins

Pathfinder Adventure Path #164, Levels 5-7

The Abomination Vaults sprawl far beneath Gauntlight, and it's time to take weapons, torches,

and wits into the deeper dungeons. Here, vile fleshwarpers labor to create perfect specimens for their long-dead leader, and a powerful devil still labors to raise an army of the dungeons' feral and fractious monsters. An unlikely ally can reveal the secrets of the Abomination Vaults, but his price is steep and must be paid in blood.

EYES OF EMPTY DEATH

By Stephen Radney-MacFarland Pathfinder Adventure Path #165, Levels 8–10

The deepest levels of the Abomination Vaults contain massive caverns and a relic left behind by one of the Outer Gods. The heroes must negotiate the ruthless politics of insular drow, undead gnomes, vampiric urdefhans, and stranger creatures to gain the tools they need to vanquish Belcorra Haruvex. Yet the undead sorcerer grows in power, and the heroes must put her to rest before she claims the full might of her malevolent patron.

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Artifacts and Items

The following new items appear in "Ruins of Gauntlight" and impact the entire Adventure Path.

GAUNTLIGHT

ITEM 20

UNIQUE ARTIFACT MAGICAL NECROMANCY

Gauntlight is much more than a 115-foot-tall lighthouse rising from the heart of an old ruin in Fogfen—its pale stone walls extend far below the ruins, passing through eight different dungeon levels and finally terminating at the ninth level below the surface, where its deep foundation centers on an ominous chamber where, long ago, Nhimbaloth herself once physically brushed against this world. Once she finished its physical construction, the sorcerer Belcorra Haruvex used this spot as a source of power to infuse the walls, floors, and ceilings of each of Gauntlight's levels with eldritch power. The lens at the apex of the lighthouse would have, in time, been able to focus this lingering eldritch energy into a powerful beam, but Belcorra's plans were cut short before she could replace the mundane lenses with dangerous magical ones.

As an artifact, *Gauntlight* can't be damaged by normal means. Its walls are impenetrable and impervious to any attempt to breach them by anybody except for followers of Nhimbaloth. They block effects that allow temporary passage, such as *passwall*, and also create a barrier against dimensional travel. The walls attempt to counteract teleportation effects and planar travel into or out of areas within *Gauntlight* and efforts to summon creatures into

the area (using a +37 counteract modifier); this effect does not stop a summoned creature from departing when the summoning ends.

In *Gauntlight*'s current state of diminished functionality, it can be activated only in the two ways below. By swapping in a series of magical lighthouse lenses that focus Nhimbaloth's baleful gaze—lenses so powerful that even Belcorra takes special care with them—the artifact gains significantly greater power, including the ability to reach all the way to Absalom and to activate its effects every minute. These lenses are described in "Eyes of Empty Death," the third adventure in the Abomination Vaults Adventure Path.

To activate *Gauntlight*, a creature must be in the deepest portion of the artifact (this chamber is in the Temple level and is presented in "Eyes of Empty Death"). From this point, a creature can observe the world outside remotely through *Gauntlight*'s lens, including any area *Gauntlight*'s beam can reach.

Activate >>> Interact; Frequency once per month; Effect
A pale blue beam shines from Gauntlight's lens and
illuminates a 30-foot-radius burst centered on any point
within 1 mile. The light saturates the region, causing
any corpses in the area or within 10 feet of the surface
of the illuminated area to animate as level -1 undead
(typically as skeleton guards or zombie shamblers). Once
animated, the undead remain active until slain. Until
then, they remain uncontrolled and are driven only by
the desire to slaughter the living. If Gauntlight is fully

restored, the undead instead animate as any Common undead of 15th level or less, as the user wishes.

Activate >>> Interact; Frequency once per month; Effect A pale blue beam shines from Gauntlight's lens and illuminates a 30-foot-radius burst centered on any point within 1 mile. The user chooses one creature of 4th level or less that is physically located within Gauntlight; this creature is then is teleported to any point within this illumination radius. If Gauntlight is fully restored, any number of creatures within Gauntlight of 15th level or lower can be transported. This is a teleportation effect.

Destruction If Belcorra's ghost is permanently destroyed, Gauntlight loses all of its magical properties and collapses in on itself all the way down to its base, leaving an incredibly deep pit in the Fogfen.

LANTERN OF EMPTY LIGHT

RARE ENCHANTMENT MAGICAL

Price 240 gp

Usage held in 1 hand; Bulk 1

It's said that the pale blue light of this eldritch lantern shines from another dimension or even is linked, somehow, to the glow of a ghost when it is consumed by the Outer Goddess Nhimbaloth. A lantern of empty light is not intrinsically an evil item, though it remains a favored tool of those who would manipulate the minds of others for sinister reasons. It can be used as a normal bull's-eye lantern, but prolonged use tends to instill in the user a vague sense of being watched by unseen eyes.

Activate >> Interact (emotion, visual); Frequency once per day; Effect You direct the lantern's light upon a single living creature within 60 feet. That creature must attempt a DC 20 Will save to resist the light's effects.

Critical Success The creature is unaffected and realizes that you attempted to mentally influence them with the light.

Success The creature is unaffected but thinks the light was harmless, unless it knows the true nature of the lantern already.

Failure The creature becomes fascinated by the lantern's light, and remains fascinated as long as you Sustain the Activation, up to 10 minutes.

Critical Failure As failure, but you can Sustain the Activation for up to 1 hour. When the effect ends, the fascinated

creature remembers any events that took place while fascinated only as indistinct, dream-like memories.

Activate >> Interact; Frequency once per day; Effect You direct the lantern's light upon a single incorporeal undead creature within 60 feet to siphon away some of the creature's essence, dealing 4d8 positive damage to the creature (DC 20 basic Will save).

SKEPTIC'S ELIXIR

ITEM 1+

UNCOMMON ALCHEMICAL CONSUMABLE ELIXIR

Usage held in 1 hand; Bulk L

Activate • Interact

This elixir sharpens your mind and allows you to see through lies, falsehoods, and magical trickery. You gain an item bonus to Perception checks and Perception DCs to notice falsehoods, whether they're spoken lies or written deceit. You gain this same item bonus to Will saves.

Type lesser; Level 1; Price 4 gp The bonus is +1, and the duration is 1 minute.

Type moderate; Level 6; Price 50 gp The bonus is +2, and the duration is 10 minutes.

Type greater; Level 11; Price 300 gp The bonus is +3, and the duration is 1 hour.

THE WHISPERING REEDS

ITEM 10

Skeptic's Elixir

ITEM 6

RARE ARTIFACT DIVINATION OCCULT Usage held in 2 hands; Bulk 2

This hefty tome was compiled centuries ago by an anonymous author who sought to collect all parables, myths, stories, and encounters with the Outer Goddess Nhimbaloth. According to the introduction, the author's original intent was to create a work that foes of the Empty Death could use to fight against her influence, but as

one reads through the book, it becomes apparent that the opposite effect has been achieved-by compiling these stories, the author inadvertently generated a work that made it easier for Nhimbaloth to influence the world. Those who venerate the Empty Death seek copies of this book to use as a guide and religious text, while those who don't know better and peruse the book as though it were merely an anthology of stories find themselves unwittingly falling prey to Nhimbaloth's cult or agents of the entity herself. Those who study from The

Whispering Reeds for too long are often cursed to rise as ghosts after deaththough their existence never lasts for long, as they are inevitably consumed

by Nhimbaloth.

If a character understands the dangers of this book, however, moderated use can stall or even prevent such a fate from befalling them. If a character takes special

Lantern of Empty Light

care, they can even potentially use *The Whispering Reeds* for its original purpose—as a weapon against the cult of Nhimbaloth. Using the text too often or leveraging some of its more powerful effects, however, causes the user to feel an ominous chill. In these cases, the user is exposed to the tome's curse, Empty Death (see below).

The anonymous compiler wanted to produce an enormous print run of *The Whispering Reeds*, but after the initial run they realized the danger and scuttled those plans, instead attempting to destroy those copies already created. This crusade caught the attention of Nhimbaloth's cult, who swiftly assassinated the compiler. Fewer than two dozen copies of this rare tome are

believed to still exist. The book's sinister nature causes all attempts to transcribe it to fail, resulting in bodies of gibberish, nonsense text.

The Whispering Reeds provides several abilities, but you can't activate any of them while you are stupefied unless you are a follower of Nhimbaloth.

Activate 10 minutes (Investigate); Effect You gain a +2 item bonus to skill checks to Recall Knowledge about Nhimbaloth, her faith, or creatures associated with

her (such as incorporeal undead, vampiric mists, wisps, and other incorporeal creatures associated with death). Each time you use this ability after the first in a 24-hour period, you are exposed to the Empty Death.

Activate \ command, Interact; Frequency once per hour; Effect You read aloud a phrase from the book and target a single incorporeal undead creature within 30 feet. That undead creature takes 5d6 positive damage (DC 27 basic Will save) as portions of their incorporeal being are consumed in patches of seven equally spaced holes. Each time you use this ability after the first in a 24-hour period, you are exposed to the Empty Death.

Activate >> command, Interact; Frequency once per day; Effect You invoke a tale from The Whispering Reeds that parallels the situation, environment, or creatures nearby. Eerie mists and indistinct whispers rise in a 20-foot emanation around you, and clusters of seven perfectly spaced divots manifest in the ground, vegetation, and flesh of creatures in the emanation other than yourself and up to three creatures you designate at the time of activation. Creatures afflicted with these divots suffer from agonizing mental anguish in the form of crippling despair and take 4d6 mental damage (DC 27 basic Will save). The mists, whispers, and strange divots fade away at the end of the round, but any creature that takes mental damage from the

effect also takes a -1 penalty to saving throws against effects with the emotion trait for 1 minute. You are exposed to the Empty Death each time you use this ability.

Activate Cast a Spell; Frequency three times per day; Effect You cast one of the following spells at the lowest level possible (unless otherwise specified): crushing despair (one target within 30 feet only), fear (3rd), paranoia, or phantasmal killer. You are exposed to the Empty Death each time you use this ability.

Empty Death (curse, necromancy, occult) Saving Throw DC 27 Will; Effect If you activate The Whispering Reeds and are not a worshipper of Nhimbaloth, you become stupefied 2 for 24 hours as your thoughts fill with paranoia that something is watching you from the other side of death. If you die while affected by the Empty Death, you immediately become a chaotic evil

ghost. Every 7 days that pass after you become a ghost, you must succeed at a DC 2 flat check—failure indicates that you are consumed by Nhimbaloth. A creature whose ghost is consumed in this way does

not travel to the River of Souls and is utterly annihilated; this creature can estored to life via a 10th-level spell effect

only be restored to life via a 10th-level spell effect or ritual like wish.

Destruction Copies of *The Whispering Reeds* have no special protections and can be destroyed like any regular book, but doing so exposes the one who destroyed the book to the Empty Death.

Rituals and Spells

The heroes may find the following new ritual and spell useful in the Abomination Vaults.

AWAKEN PORTAL

RITUAL 3

RARE CONJURATION

The Whispering Reeds

Cast 1 hour; Secondary Casters up to 5

Primary Check Arcana or Occultism (trained); **Secondary Checks** Arcana or Occultism (whichever is used for the primary check)

Range 10 feet; Target 1 portal

You attempt to reactivate a dormant gate, portal, or teleportation circle (Advanced Player's Guide 244) by infusing it with magical energies. This ritual must be successfully performed twice, once at each location the portal connects. While the teleportation circles and portals found in the Abomination Vaults require no additional cost to awaken, other portals might require rare items or specific materials as a cost for this ritual

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at the GM's discretion—some portals might even be so powerful that this ritual cannot awaken them at all.

The DC required to successfully awaken a portal varies based on the strength and distance between its end points. For the portals found in the Abomination Vaults Adventure Path, the DC varies according to the dungeon level on which it is located. Use the DCs by Spell Level section of Table 10–5 on page 503 of the *Core Rulebook* to determine the DC for a portal, using the dungeon level in place of spell level. Thus, activating the portal on the first level of the Abomination Vaults requires a successful DC 15 check, while activating the portal on the fourth level requires a successful DC 23 check.

Critical Success You awaken the portal. If its other side is awakened, the portal can be used normally and won't

deactivate naturally. If its other side is not awakened, this side remains awakened for 1 year, possibly allowing you enough time to find and awaken the connecting portal.

Success As critical success, but if the portal's other side is not awakened, this side remains awakened for only 1d6 days before it fades and falls dormant again.

Failure You fail to activate the portal, and magical backlash leaves you stupefied 1 for 24 hours.

Critical Failure As failure, but in addition, a hostile creature is drawn through the portal and immediately attacks anyone present. The creature drawn through the portal varies, according to the portal's nature; in the Abomination Vaults, the creature conjured depends on the dungeon level where the ritual was attempted, as listed below.

First Level vampiric mist (*Pathfinder* Bestiary 2 278)

Second Level scalathrax (page 86)
Third Level gibbering mouther (Pathfinder
Bestiary 176)

Fourth Level will-o'-wisp (Bestiary 333) **Fifth Level** soul eater (Bestiary 2 247)

Sixth Level voidglutton (page 87)

Seventh Level dread wraith (Bestiary 2 298)

Eighth Level ghost mage (Bestiary 167)

Ninth Level gosreg (Bestiary 2 133)

Tenth Level shining child (Bestiary 292)

WORM'S REPAST

SPELL 2

RARE NECROMANCY

Traditions occult, primal Cast ❖➤ somatic, verbal

Range 30 feet; Targets 1 corporeal creature

Saving Throw Fortitude; Duration see below

Gnawing worms materialize within the flesh of the target creature, dealing 4d6 piercing damage and 1d6 persistent piercing damage. If the target is a non-skeletal corporeal undead creature, you deal an extra 2d6 persistent piercing damage. The target must attempt a Fortitude save.

Critical Success The worms writhe away harmlessly and the target takes no damage.

Success The target takes full initial damage but no persistent damage, and the spell ends immediately.

Failure The target takes full initial and persistent damage and is flat-footed due to the pain for as long as it takes persistent damage.

Critical Failure As failure, but the target takes double the initial damage and is also slowed 1 by the pain for as long as it takes persistent damage.

Heightened (+2): The initial and persistent damage increase by 2d6 and 1d6, respectively.

Ghosts have a wide range of capabilities and features—no two ghosts are exactly alike, as the nature of their abilities depends as much upon who they were in life as on how they died. Haunts, the spectral phenomena remaining in a site of death or powerful emotions, are related to but distinct from ghosts.

The ghost hunter knows that ghosts and haunts share many features. By focusing on these similarities, they can track down, confront, and defeat all manner of unquiet souls, helping them to find peace and move on to the afterlife.

GHOST HUNTER DEDICATION

FEAT 2

UNCOMMON ARCHETYPE DEDICATION

Prerequisites Trained in Occultism or Religion

You have focused your training on hunting and defeating ghosts, spirits, and all manner of haunts. Pick Spirit Lore or Haunt Lore; you become trained in this skill. If you were already trained in both skills, you become trained in a new Lore skill of your choice.

Choose two cantrips from the occult spell list. Each cantrip must have the divination, enchantment, or necromancy trait. You can cast these spells as innate occult spells. You gain access to the Cast a Spell activity if you didn't have it already. You're trained in occult spell attack rolls and spell DCs. You can usually replace material components with somatic components, so you don't need a spell component pouch. Your key spellcasting ability for these spells is Charisma.

Special You can't select another dedication feat until you have gained two other feats from the ghost hunter archetype.

GRAVE'S VOICE

FEAT 4

ARCHETYPE

Prerequisites Ghost Hunter Dedication
You can use your choice of Spirit Lore
or Haunt Lore to Make an Impression
or Request things of incorporeal
creatures. At the GM's discretion, an
incorporeal spirit might be willing to
hear you out.

INVESTIGATE HAUNTING FEAT 4

ARCHETYPE

Prerequisites Ghost Hunter Dedication

You are skilled at noticing the telltale signs of ghosts and hauntings. Even when you aren't Investigating in exploration mode, you get a check to Recall Knowledge about incorporeal undead and haunts active in the area. You also gain a +2 circumstance bonus to skill checks to disable haunts.

SPIRIT SPELLS

FEAT 4

ARCHETYPE

Prerequisites Ghost Hunter Dedication

Your ability to confront incorporeal menaces develops into full-fledged spellcasting. Choose a 1st-level occult spell. You can Cast this Spell as an innate occult spell. At 6th level, you gain a 2nd-level occult spell, and at 8th level, you gain a 3rd-level occult spell. Each of these spells must have the divination, enchantment, or necromancy trait. You can cast each of these spells once per day.

GHOST STRIKE ◆◆◆

FEAT 6

ARCHETYPE

Prerequisites Ghost Hunter Dedication

Once per day, you can infuse a weapon you are carrying with magical energies that allow it to strike true against incorporeal undead. The weapon gains the effects of the *ghost touch* property rune for 10 minutes.

At 10th level, you can apply this effect to two weapons instead of one.

PEER BEYOND

FEAT 8

ARCHETYPE

Prerequisites Ghost Hunter Dedication

You have uncanny insight into the way ghosts and haunts manifest, manipulate the mind, and rejuvenate. You gain a +2 circumstance bonus to saving throws against mental effects caused by incorporeal undead and haunts, and you can roll a Spirit Lore or Haunt Lore check for initiative if you know that an incorporeal undead or a haunt is present.

If you are present when a spirit or haunt is defeated, you instantly gain a flash of insight into how it can be permanently put to rest. Typically, this flash manifests as a vision that presents a quick scene closely linked to the source of the spirit or haunt's creation. Attempt a Spirit Lore or Haunt Lore check, respectively, with a DC appropriate for the spirit or haunt's level. On a success, you gain a hint about how to put the spirit to rest or permanently disable the haunt; on a critical success, you learn the exact method of doing so.

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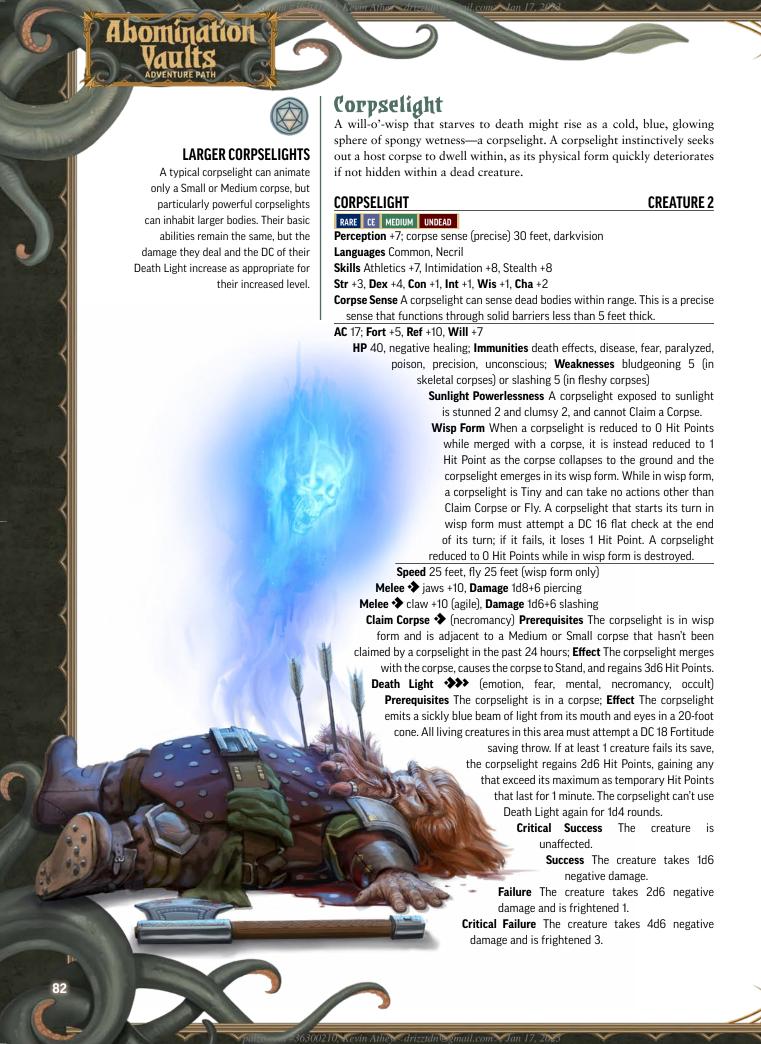
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The dancing, twisting flickerwisp is a less powerful but no less malevolent type of will-o'-wisp. Like their more dangerous kin, flickerwisps prefer to haunt lonely swamps or stretches of lonely rivers or creeks, particularly near the shorelines where they can pass themselves off as nothing more than a small gathering of fireflies. A flickerwisp's body is a 3-foot-long length of hair-like fibers that flashes and pulses with ribbons and points of eerie yellow light as the creature flits through the air.

While a flickerwisp can taste fear, and finds the flavor delectable, it does not feed on this emotion. Instead, flickerwisps subsist on confusion and doubt. The sense of unease a traveler exudes when they become lost in the woods is flickerwisps' favorite repast. They can sip from this sense of disorientation without betraying their presence or harming their prey. Eventually, the flickerwisps grow too hungry and are compelled to flit closer, confuse their prey, and glut on the raw emotions. Flickerwisps do their best to swoop away before death occurs, and the most skilled of these tormentors can keep a chosen meal alive for days, sipping from confusion in small doses.

FLICKERWISP

CREATURE 2

UNCOMMON CE SMALL ABERRATION AIR

Perception +9; darkvision

Languages Aklo, Common

Skills Acrobatics +8, Deception +7, Intimidation +5, Stealth +8

Str -5, Dex +4, Con +0, Int +0, Wis +3, Cha +1

AC 20; Fort +6, Ref +10, Will +7

HP 18; Immunities magic

Glow (aura, light) 5 feet. A flickerwisp is itself naturally invisible, but glows with pale yellow light, casting bright light in the aura and making it visible.

Innocuous A flickerwisp's appearance registers strangely in the minds of creatures who are confused. A creature with the confused condition never targets a flickerwisp with attacks unless the creature has been damaged by the flickerwisp's shock ability within the last 24 hours.

Magic Immunity A flickerwisp is immune to all spells except faerie fire, gust of wind, magic missile, and maze.

Speed fly 25 feet

Melee ◆ shock +11 (magical), Damage 1d8+2 electricity

Consume Confusion ◆ (concentrate) Frequency once per round; Requirement A creature within 15 feet of the flickerwisp is confused; Effect The flickerwisp feeds on the creature's confusion, even as its flashing body and disjointed gyrations cause existing confusion effects to persist. It regains 1d4 Hit Points, and if the creature's confused condition has a limited duration, it lasts 1 additional round.

Flicker (emotion, enchantment, mental, visual) The flickerwisp churns and flits in the air around an adjacent creature's head, and its length flashes and sparkles in a bewildering array of distracting pulsations. The creature must succeed at a DC 18 Will save or become confused for 1 round (2 rounds on a critical failure). On a critical success, the creature is temporarily immune to Flicker for 24 hours.



EMPTY CARESSES

Just as the cult of Nhimbaloth regards will-o'-wisps as their goddess's eyes, their teachings hold that flickerwisps are the gentle caress of her touch. To them, the confusion imposed by a flickerwisp is akin to opening the mind to the goddess's presence, and many cultists of the faith keep flickerwisps around to use in much the same way other faiths use incense or intoxicants to achieve deeper religious ecstasies.

RUINS OF GAUNTLIGHT

> Chapter 1: A Light in the Fog

Chapter 2: The Forgotten Dungeon

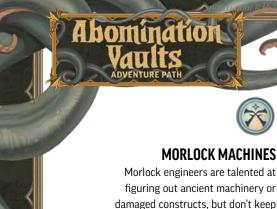
> Chapter 3: Cult of the Canker

Chapter 4: Long Dream the Dead

> Otari Gazetteer

Adventure Toolbox





notes or record their techniques. As

mechanical hazards or constructs that

none of the morlocks can say who built

treat morlocks as allies, even though

the machines they use.

a result, a morlock enclave might well be defended by strange, ancient



Morlocks originate from humans long lost to the surface world. They have an affinity for machinery, scavenging, and strange occult behaviors.

MORLOCK SCAVENGER

The morlock scavenger is a lankier, smaller version of a typical morlock. Their stature allows them to wriggle into areas other morlocks can't access.

MORLOCK SCAVENGER

CREATURE 1

CE SMALL HUMANOID MORLOCK

Perception +6; darkvision

Languages Undercommon

Skills Acrobatics +7, Athletics +5 (+7 Climbing), Stealth +7

Str +2, Dex +4, Con +1, Int -2, Wis +3, Cha +1

Items dagger

Light Blindness

AC 16; Fort +4, Ref +9, Will+ 6; +2 status to all saves vs. disease and poison

HP 20

Speed 30 feet, climb 20 feet

Melee ◆ dagger +9 (agile, finesse, versatile S), Damage 1d4+2 piercing

Melee ◆ jaws +7 (agile), Damage 1d4+2 piercing

Ranged ◆ dagger +9 (agile, thrown 10 ft., versatile S), Damage 1d4+2 piercing

Scuttling Attack >> The morlock scavenger Strides twice, ignoring difficult terrain caused by natural cavern features like rubble or stalagmites. At any point during its movement, the morlock can make a melee Strike against an enemy in its reach.

Sneak Attack The morlock deals an extra 1d6 precision damage to flat-footed creatures.

Swarming Stance A morlock can share the same space as another morlock, but no more than two morlocks can occupy the same space. When morlocks share the same space, they gain a +1 circumstance bonus to attack rolls.

MORLOCK ENGINEER

Most morlocks have little talent for crafting, but a rare few have an uncanny knack for tinkering.

MORLOCK ENGINEER

UNCOMMON CE MEDIUM HUMANOID MORLOCK

CREATURE 3

Perception +8; darkvision

Languages Undercommon

Skills Acrobatics +8, Athletics +9 (+11 Climbing), Crafting +10, Stealth +10

Str +4, Dex +3, Con +2, Int +1, Wis +3, Cha +0

Items projectile launcher (5 handfuls of junk), warhammer

Light Blindness

AC 18; Fort +7, Ref +12, Will+ 10; +2 status to all saves vs. disease and poison

Speed 30 feet, climb 20 feet

Melee ◆ warhammer +11 (shove), Damage 1d8+6 bludgeoning

Melee ◆ jaws +11 (agile), Damage 1d4+6 piercing

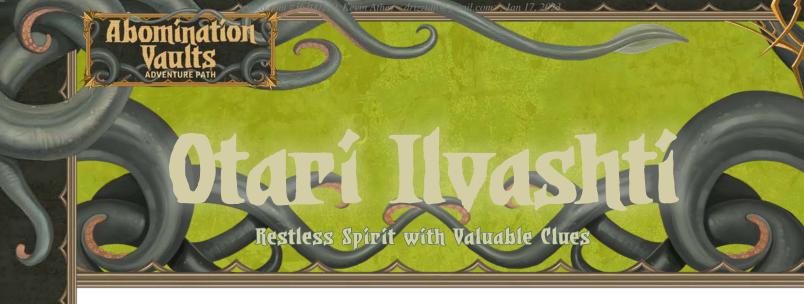
Ranged projectile launcher +10 (deadly d8, range increment 50 feet, versatile P), Damage 1d6+6 bludgeoning

Improvised Projectile The morlock engineer quickly crafts an improvised

projectile from objects it carries or that are readily accessible in adjacent squares. Where unusual materials are available, an improvised projectile RUINS might deal damage other than bludgeoning or piercing-for example, a MORLOCK CULTS **OF** morlock engineer by a campfire could build a projectile that deals fire damage. GAUNTLIGHT Sneak Attack The morlock deals an extra 1d6 precision damage to flat-footed Morlocks led by cultists don't always follow an established religion, in part Swarming Stance As morlock scavenger. because their insular background Chapter 1: A Light in **Uncanny Tinker** The morlock engineer tinkers with an adjacent construct or limits contact with the rest of the the Fog mechanical hazard. They attempt a Crafting check against the construct's or world. In many cases, a morlock hazard's Fortitude DC. The morlock can't get an outcome better than failure if cult worships some figure from the Chapter 2: the target's level is more than double the morlock's. This ability reflects hasty group's past, be it a revered (or more The Forgotten battlefield repairs; once a construct or hazard regains Hit Points from this often, feared) ancestor, or even the Dungeon ability, it can't do so again until it's been Repaired. strange machines or statues left Chapter 3: Critical Success The target regains 8d6 Hit Points and a +1 circumstance behind from a mysterious civilization **Cult of** bonus to attack rolls for 1 minute. Alternately, the morlock can deal 8d6 that once ruled the place where the the Canker damage (bludgeoning, piercing, or slashing, as chosen morlocks now live. Chapter 4: by the morlock engineer) to the construct or hazard. **Long Dream** Success As critical success, but the target regains 4d6 Hit the Dead Points or the morlock deals 4d6 damage. Critical Failure The morlock injures themself, taking **Otari** 3d6 damage (typically bludgeoning, piercing, or Gazetteer slashing, but potentially a different type at the Adventure GM's discretion). Toolbox MORLOCK CULTIST Morlocks who serve as priests in their conclaves usually dabble in eerie occult magic. MORLOCK CULTIST **CREATURE 4** UNCOMMON CE MEDIUM HUMANOID Perception +11; darkvision Languages Aklo, Undercommon Skills Acrobatics +10, Athletics +11 (+13 Climbing), Crafting +11 (Repair only), Occultism +13, Stealth +11 Str +3, Dex +3, Con +1, Int +5, Wis +3, Cha +0 Items club **Light Blindness** AC 21; Fort +9, Ref +11, Will +11; +2 status to all saves vs. disease and poison **HP** 58 Speed 30 feet, climb 20 feet Melee ◆ club +11, Damage 1d6+5 bludgeoning Melee ◆ jaws +11 (agile), Damage 1d4+5 piercing Ranged ◆ club +13 (range increment 10 feet), Damage 1d6+5 bludgeoning Occult Innate Spells DC 21, attack +13; 2nd mirror image, phantom pain, telekinetic maneuver; 1st bane, grim tendrils, ray of enfeeblement; Cantrips daze, ghost sound, shield, telekinetic projectile Occult Attack >> The morlock cultist Strides up to half its speed, ignoring difficult terrain caused by natural cavern features like rubble or stalagmites. At any point during its movement, the morlock cultist can Cast a Spell that normally takes two actions or fewer to cast. Sneak Attack The morlock deals an extra 1d6 precision damage to flat-footed creatures.







Otari Ilvashti recalls little of his life. His time as a child growing up in Absalom and his adventures with the other members of the Roseguard have dwindled to distant but pleasant memories. His fear of the devastation Belcorra plans to unleash upon Absalom is what keeps him shackled to this world as a ghost.

When the Roseguard fought Belcorra in Gauntlight Keep, she unleashed a powerful magical explosion that collapsed the room where the fight took place. Belcorra and three heroes avoided the collapse and fought on—to Belcorra's ultimate defeat—but the rogue Otari was caught beneath the collapse. His companions assumed he was pulverized, but Otari had fallen into a level beneath Gauntlight Keep that none of the Roseguard knew existed. Otari desperately wanted to escape to the surface and share his discovery, but Belcorra's minions forced him to flee ever deeper into the vaults, until finally he was cornered in a dead-end cave by an immense otyugh that left him trapped and suffering from filth fever. Otari died in that deep cave, but his ghost lingers on.

Campaign Role

Otari's role is to present the tasks necessary to reach the lower levels of the Abomination Vaults described in *Pathfinder Adventure Path #164: Hands of the Devil.* Once the heroes encounter Otari's ghost and drive off the wisps that torment him, he relates his tale of woe. He has difficulty remembering much of his life, but becomes very emotional if he learns that the Roseguard survived and named their town after him.

While Otari's information about the dungeon is centuries out of date, his supernatural link to the Abomination Vaults affords him glimpses into the inner workings of the dungeon and its key players. As Otari speaks to the heroes, make sure he conveys the following key points of information to them, either in the form of answers to questions or volunteered information.

• Belcorra harbored a grudge against Absalom and intended to use her sinister lighthouse,

Gauntlight, as a weapon against the city. The Roseguard never discovered its actual use, other than that it had something to do with the ability to transport creatures across significant distances and could animate the dead with its light. None of the other Roseguard members knew about the Abomination Vaults beneath Gauntlight. Otari learned about them only in his last few days alive.

- Some property of the Abomination Vaults increases
 the manifestation of ghosts, spectral undead,
 and haunts within their domain. Otari initially
 believed this was a side effect from *Gauntlight*,
 but has now come to suspect a link to a much
 more ancient and ominous source deep below this
 level. He knows nothing of Nhimbaloth, but if the
 heroes tell him of the Outer God, he suspects her
 influence is the source.
- Belcorra herself is now a ghost, although she cannot move far from the site to which she is anchored. Otari can sense her somewhere deep underground and is also aware that the range of her movements is slowly expanding.
- Otari suspects Belcorra intends to fully reactivate
 Gauntlight and use it to begin her long-delayed
 attack on Absalom. She must be put to rest before
 she can finish this task. Otari isn't sure how to
 stop her, but believes that clues await discovery in
 the deeper levels of the Abomination Vaults.
- Finally, Otari feels the barrier in area D12 blocking progress deeper into the Abomination Vaults. He understands that it is powered by the souls of Belcorra's defeated enemies. Fortunately, he also understands how to take the barrier down. The Roseguard were the adventurers who finally killed her, and their psychic resonance can drop the barrier. The heroes must find and place four icons the Roseguard once held dear onto the altar in area D13 to do this. Otari's thieves' tools are here with his bones and serve as his icon. The other icons are the brooch belonging

to the cleric Aesephna Menhemes (which bears the religious symbol of her god, Erastil), the spellbook belonging to the wizard Zarmavdian, and the trusty longsword of the fighter Vol Rajani.

Once the heroes take on the burden of facing and defeating Belcorra and open the way to the deeper levels of the Abomination Vaults, Otari's soul is free to travel to its final reward. You should ensure he has imparted all of the above information to the heroes before he fades away.

If you wish, though, you can put a darker spin on things—rather than have Otari's spirit achieve freedom, it could instead be captured by the temple of Nhimbaloth at the bottom of the Abomination Vaults. In this case, the heroes should learn about Otari's fate through a vision or nightmare, or perhaps even see his tormented ghost pulled downward against his will. Otari's ghost remains trapped until the heroes finally defeat Belcorra.

OTARI ILVASHTI

CREATURE 9

UNIQUE CG MEDIUM GHOST INCORPOREAL SPIRIT UNDEAD

Male ghost adventurer (Pathfinder Bestiary 166)

Perception +18; darkvision

Languages Common, Elven, Gnomish

Skills Acrobatics +18, Society +18, Stealth

+20, Thievery +20

Str -5, Dex +6, Con +0, Int +4, Wis +3, Cha +4

Site Bound (area D18)

AC 25; Fort +16, Ref +20, Will +17

HP 120, negative healing, rejuvenation; Immunities death effects, disease, paralyzed, poison, precision, unconscious; Resistance all damage 10 (except force, ghost touch, or positive; double resistance vs. non-magical)

Rejuvenation Securing the four icons of the Roseguard and placing them on the altar in area **D13** allows Otari to move on to the afterlife.

Speed fly 25 feet

Melee ◆ ghostly hand +19 (agile, finesse, magical),

Damage 3d6+6 negative

Filth Fever (disease) The sickened and unconscious conditions from filth fever don't improve on their own until the disease is cured. Saving Throw DC 25 Fortitude; Stage 1 carrier with no ill effect (1d4 hours); Stage 2 sickened 1 (1 day); Stage 3 sickened 1 and slowed 1 as long as the affected creature remains sickened (1 day); Stage 4 unconscious (1 day); Stage 5 dead

Infested Shadow (conjuration, divine, teleportation)
Otari fades away, momentarily emerges from the

shadow of another creature within 30 feet, and makes a ghostly hand Strike against a single target within reach of this creature (but not against the creature whose shadow he infests). On a successful Strike, the target is also flat-footed until the start of Otari's next turn. Otari then reappears at his starting point. The creature whose shadow Otari infests is exposed to filth fever.

Sneak Attack Otari deals 2d6 extra precision damage to flat-footed creatures.



Chapter 1: A Light in the Fog

Chapter 2: The Forgotten Dungeon

Chapter 3: Cult of the Canker

Chapter 4: Long Dream the Dead





Wrin Sivinxi grew up in the small village of Glitterbough in Kyonin, but a traveler wouldn't find her hometown if they were to visit that nation today, for Glitterbough was destroyed 10 years ago by demons in the service of Treerazer. Despite the loss of her hometown, Wrin feels no sadness or despair about the event, for none perished in Glitterbough's fall. In the days before the demon army's attack, Wrin had a vision of the disaster. She warned her parents and neighbors, and their trust in her visions gave the town the time it needed to relocate everyone in the village to safety. When the demons came, they found Glitterbough deserted, and when they burned it in frustration, they suffered greatly from the magical traps the elves had left behind to greet them.

When she came of age a few years later, Wrin left her parents and friends, eager to find her own place in the world. As she traveled, she trusted in her visions and her unusual faith in a pantheon of deities associated with space and time she refers to as the Cosmic Caravan, looking to the nightly stars to make decisions for tomorrow. Her knack for finding lost things and gathering strange treasures made establishing her own curio shop an obvious choice, and it wasn't by chance that she decided to set up that shop in Otari—it was simply the port she'd arrived at when her capacity to carry her collection finally outweighed its portability.

She opened her shop, Wrin's Wonders, 4 years ago. In that time, she's become part of the community, even if many of its citizens regard her as a good-natured eccentric. Sales of the strange and bizarre aren't brisk in the small town, but that's no matter to Wrin—she's patient and has enjoyed her time in Otari so far. One day, she hopes to make enough money to fund a trip west, for she's heard tell of an abandoned observatory in the small town of Crookcove on Ravounel's southwestern coast that she hopes to purchase and transform into a temple devoted to the Cosmic Caravan. But for the time being, she's content to stay in Otari and sleep under the stars.

Wrin's tiefling ancestry is impossible to miss, and it's something she long ago decided to embrace. Eyes devoid of pupils, small ram horns curling around her elven ears, a thin tail, and fingertips that sparkle with motes of glittering lights leave no doubt that she is touched by supernatural forces. Yet her quick smile and welcoming attitude have always helped her to secure friendships during her travels.

Campaign Use

Wrin's primary purpose is to motivate the heroes' initial explorations and to give them a focal point to gather around. The *Abomination Vaults Player's Guide* assumes that Wrin is a contact the heroes share in common, so when she notices a strange buildup of eerie light atop distant *Gauntlight*, it's natural for her to confide her fears in the heroes.

As the campaign progresses, Wrin can help the heroes in other ways, such as by performing astrology readings for the heroes to aid them in their explorations. While she won't give her store's wares away for free, her establishment is the best place to buy and sell the odd magical treasures heroes tend to find and crave. Wrin can also introduce the heroes to the wonders of the spirit world—her tutelage unlocks the ghost hunter archetype (page 81). Despite the claustrophobia she suffers, if the heroes find themselves in over their head in the Abomination Vaults, you can have Wrin face her fears to brave the dungeon and mount a rescue. Of course, you shouldn't use Wrin in this capacity except as a last resort to keep the campaign from reaching an untimely end!

WRIN SIVINXI

CREATURE 5

UNIQUE CG MEDIUM ELF HUMANOID TIEFLING

Female tiefling elf oddities merchant (*Pathfinder Bestiary* 262)

Perception +12; low-light vision, spirit sight (precise) 30 feet

Languages Aklo, Common, Elven, Sylvan, Varisian

Skills Acrobatics +12, Astrology Lore +12, Nature +12, Occultism +12, Performance +10, Religion +13, Spirit Lore +16

Str +0, Dex +3, Con +0, Int +2, Wis +3, Cha +4

Claustrophobia Wrin becomes overwhelmed when she's underground, or when she's in an indoor space that's smaller than 10 feet in diameter. At these times, she is sickened 2 and cannot reduce her sickened condition until she's outside of the enclosed area.

Spirit Sight Wrin can see creatures with the spirit trait within 30 feet, regardless of whether they are visible to the naked eye. This ability sometimes allows Wrin to notice other supernatural auras, such as the buildup of spiritual energy atop *Gauntlight*.

Items harrow fortune-telling deck, silver religious symbol, +1 starknife, violin

AC 20; Fort +9, Ref +15, Will +12

HP 75

Speed 25 feet

Melee ❖ starknife +12 (agile, deadly d6, finesse, magical, versatile S), **Damage** 1d4 piercing

Melee ◆ tail +10 (agile, finesse, unarmed), Damage 1d4 bludgeoning

Ranged ◆ starknife +12 (agile, deadly d6, magical, thrown 20 feet, versatile S), Damage 1d4 piercing

Primal Spontaneous Spells DC 22, attack +14; 3rd (3 slots) enthrall, heal, remove disease; 2nd (4 slots) glitterdust, hideous laughter, restoration, web; 1st (4 slots) charm, feather fall, gust of wind, pest form; Cantrips (3rd) dancing lights, disrupt undead, ghost sound, ray of frost, stabilize

Bloodline Spells 1 Focus Point, DC 22; **3rd** faerie dust (Core Rulebook 404)

Blood Magic When Wrin casts *charm*, *enthrall*, *faerie dust*, *ghost sound*, or *hideous laughter*, fey glamours dance around Wrin or one target of the spell, causing them to be concealed for 1 round. Such obvious concealment can't be used to Hide.

Read the Stars (divination, exploration, prediction, primal) **Frequency** once per day; **Effect** Wrin attempts to read the future in the stars by spending an hour studying the night sky—she can't use this ability during the day, on an overcast night, or when she can't otherwise study the stars. Although Wrin usually performs this reading for an individual person or to answer a pressing question she has, for the purposes of this campaign she reads the stars for the party as a whole. She attempts an Astrology Lore check, using the DC appropriate for the heroes' current level (see Table 10–5: DCs by Level, *Core Rulebook* 503).

Critical Success The results of Wrin's astrological readings have the effects of *read omens*, and the

