

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citizens are advised to remain in their homes until the threat to the city has been dealt with, by order of Watch Cmdr. Sovechsky of the Averport Quarterhouse.

Lord Ivarr Vostrovich is reported to have died while fighting reavers at the islands to the south of Bosk.

Lady Katrina Vostrovich was killed in the Crimson Keep, reportedly by an assassin's knife. Her attacker was pursued by several members of The Brotherhood of the Shallows and was killed when she fell from the Rose Gate.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, the city is under the command of Watch Cmdr. Sovechsky.

OMENS

Unnatural night has fallen over the region of Vastengrad, with no end in sight.

Einworms, Rötterclaws, and Barrow Chigs have been seen throughout the Brachenvauld, especially in the southeast and in the region of Buristovok.

MOVEMENT IN THE STARS

The stars appear fixed in the night sky; the Voleids and Einvars burn brightest.

WAKEFUL
KRAENARS

WATCHFUL
SINEIDS
GOLEINS

SLUMBERING

DAEVOLS
VOLEIDS
ATOLS
EINVARs

CRIMES

Extensive looting has been reported throughout the city; citizens are advised to bar their doors and shutter their windows until order is restored.

UNNATURAL NIGHT

The shadow that has settled over the city of Vastengrad was preceded by a crackdown on a group of religious zealots and worshippers of the old gods. There is little information on their goals or motives, but a ritual of some sort was interrupted in the home of Solana Ivankov, one of the most respected judges in the city and a close friend of Lord Ivarr himself.

Also notable among those taken into custody were Pyotr Volzsnak, heir to the Volzsnak fortune, famous for his adventures in Treppania and the lands beyond, Samael Krienetsov, the proprietor of The House of Barbed Cherries, and the renowned chef Maksim Egorikhin.

Members of the secretive cult were even said to have infiltrated the city watch; Yura Petrov and Piotr Sovechka were both implicated in the death of Lady Vostrovich.

In all, more than forty people were taken into custody; officers credit Theobald Skyline with disabling the bulk of the cultists and preventing the ritual from being completed.

Despite the apparent victory, the skies above Vastengrad remain blocked by perpetual night; strange shapes can be seen stirring in the darkness. Worse yet, many citizens have made reported that living shadows stalk the streets.

With so many having fled, it is difficult to tell whether people rumored to have disappeared are simply seeking refuge elsewhere, or have been abducted.

One credible witness reported seeing a pair of the shadows near Strevinsky Square, dragging a woman and her child toward the Old Common Archive. According to the witness several of the recently freed political prisoners from Kraelock Island made an attempt to rescue the woman, but were killed.

THE DEATH OF LORD IVARR

Early reports have come to us from the south that Lord Ivarr has died at sea, in combat with the reavers harassing the area.

Lord Hasturmark is said to have put the reavers to flight and has pledged to return to Vastengrad to restore order and find a way to lift the unnatural night.

THE HUNT FOR SIMON

BARROWS

Konstantin Ivaschenkov is a sober, cold-eyed man with a long face and a gray disposition, and there is only one thing that drives him: the need to find out what happened to Simon Barrows.

With the unrest in Helsgrad, reavers in Bosk, and of course brutal street

violence in our own Vastengrad, all seem to have forgotten the bandit who terrorized the eastern pass and the towns in the Brachenvauld these past two years—but Simon Barrows left wounds that do not heal, orphan children, widows, and memories of nights spent in terror.

Konstantin Ivaschenkov was first assigned to investigate Barrows after the incident with Oren, Katya, and little Alina Avolsitch, in which such awful cruelty and sadism was displayed that I cannot bring myself to recount the particulars of the horror that befell them.

I will let it suffice to remind readers that little Alina’s grandmother could not identify her remains; Oren was left mutilated, but alive, and Katya’s eyelids were cut away to ensure she watched the entire affair.

Barrows was captured and bound for Ostergrad; ten good men left with the wagon to guard him on the way to his trial, and none of them ever arrived.

Officer Ivaschenkov believes that Barrows escaped; he tracked him to the Eichenvauld, but lost his prey in the foothills there.

I spent an evening with him at a tavern in Kursk. He was on his way to a farmstead in the foothills near Sprevtich, where he believed the Barrows gang may have attempted to shelter overnight.

I am reminded that it is men like this who forged our cities from the cold dark terror of night, who are the bulwark against the predations of monstrous creatures who lurk in the dark places of our world.

SHELTER OFFERED

Citizens without a safe place to stay are offered free room at The Pigboy, such as it is available.

A similar offer is made by the The Cat & Sparrow, and Saints Prospekt Hotel.

PROVISIONS

Shipments of food, grain, and other goods to Vastengrad have slowed to a trickle, if not a complete stop.

There are reports of food riots and looting throughout GD. Citizens are advised that criminal action will be punished severely.

Cmdr. Soveschsky has ordered that the castle’s stores be opened; those who registered for the most recent census are entitled to a small daily ration which can be obtained at The Import Office, or Foreign Registry.

Citizens are also reminded that the city’s supply of locally sourced fish is not impacted; there is no need for panic.

A TEMPORARY HIATUS

The people of Vastengrad are a proud and hardy folk, and I, your humble scrivener, am proud to count myself among your number despite growing up in Volgstadt.

So it is with sadness that I must report on recent events in my own life which will prevent me from staying in Vastengrad to endure this latest hardship; I am called to take care of a sick relative in Volgstadt, and will return as soon as I am able.

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OPEN LETTERS

TO THE LADY who liked my beard; dinner was nice, but it looks like the world is coming to an end. If we live, let’s meet in Ostergrad.

K – sorry to hear about the trouble in the garden; you’ve done good work, and will be remembered.

NOTICES

A CURFEW IS IN EFFECT, no public drunkenness is permitted, all taverns and public houses must close their taps at tenth bell. Fines shall be imposed on violators.

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Travelers entering the Brachenvauld are advised to wear long gloves and several layers of clothes. Einworms and barrow chigs are active.

*

WORSHIP OF THE OLD GODS, under the sight of the stars, shall not be tolerated.

Violators will be set to hard labor, or executed as appropriate.