

"They say a swaying noose on a windless day warns the hangman is soon to take an innocent soul."

AT AN ABANDONED GALLOWES...



THE PARTY MEETS...

{Carrie Tallquill} An skittish human scholar inspecting the old bones scattered beneath the gallows; They have a theory the bones hold clues as to how evil corrupts the soul; Tends to poke their nose where it doesn't belong

{Willip Copperbud} A shady gnome poking at and turning over various skeletons; Looking for the remains of their great grandfather who is believed to have swallowed the key to their treasure vault shortly before they were caught and hung; Claims to know where the vault is, they just need the key {a blatant lie}

{Parsnaz Maneweaver} The rotting skeleton of a half-orc merchant hanging motionless from their noose; Claims they were framed for murder by one of the hero's relatives {may or may not still be alive}; Can't rest until their innocence {or possible guilt} is proven

THE PARTY FIGHTS...

{Giant Hangtail} An orc-sized chimp whose extra long and hairless tail looks eerily similar to an empty noose when hanging limp; The hangtail waits for prey to walk beneath it and then uses its tail to lift the creature by its neck and strangle it; The chimp's tail is remarkable strong, but the beast itself is weak and defenseless while on the forest floor

{Skeletons} Dozens of headless skeletons wielding frayed nooses; Use the nooses to trip up creatures who are swarmed by skeletons wielding rusty shivs; The skeletons' lost skulls omit deafening screams from the forest floor {breaking a skull destroys its skeleton}; **{Shadow Jesters}** The shadows of jesters put to death after assassinating a noble; Each plays a shrill flute that controls nearby nooses; Jesters dance atop the gallows while their nooses strangle anyone who dares get too close

THE PARTY DISCOVERS...

{Guilt} Any who are guilty of a crime feel short of breath and their throats tightening; Linger in the area causes skeletal hands to rise from the dirt clutching damning evidence of their crimes; Empty nooses sway towards guilty creatures who pass them by

{Secret Message} The nooses are hanging at strange and irregular heights; When lined up at a specific angle, the nooses spell out a message; Message leads to the hideout of the thieves guild members who were hung here

{Failed Cult} All of the skeletons have fallen from their nooses to form a strange pentagram shape; One noose is empty with no bones beneath it {missing section of the pentagram}; The bones belonged to cultist who hung themselves to summon a demon {1 cultist fled at the last moment causing the ritual to fail}

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