

DARK OCULTIST'S GAMBIT

A ONE-SHOT MURDER MYSTERY ADVENTURE

1 The characters wake up with no knowledge of each other or the last few days. Roll to see who wakes up first—they get 1 action before the next character wakes up, etc. Searching the room reveals up to 4 *random finds*.

2 A woman of status (impeccable skin, hair, and nails) lies murdered on a bed fit for a queen. Her eyes gouged out, a surgically precise cut from under her rib cage into her heart. An oculist (eye sorcerer) lies dead too, eye gouging spoon in his hand, 2 of his 4 eye sockets empty. Turning him over indicates his cause of death as whatever the signature weapon or power is of the character who woke first.

3 Locked double doors, but can be broken or picked with some effort. Listening reveals hissing sounds of hot steam escaping beyond, and the panicked screams of terrorized spa goers.

4 A box with velvet inlay lies empty, the eyes it contained spilled. Replacing one's own eye with one of them grants a relevant power: 1) perceive heartbeats and blood pressure, 2) spot movement from afar, 3) see everything red, easily enraged, but bonus to strength, 4) perceive lingering signs of magic, 5) see through living matter, 6) petrification ray 1/day.

5 Wall-mounted or free-standing oil lamp. Oil runs out at dramatically appropriate moments only.

6 Bedside table with a bowl of clear water.

7 Fake, painted window behind a curtain, depicting a lush meadow.

8 Closet with several expensive gowns for a variety of ambassadorial functions. Stacked travel trunks with an extra 2 *random finds*.

wall, with pressure gauges and valves. Benches with towels. Clothes rail with a bathrobe, containing 1 *random find* in the pocket.

10 Room dominated by tropical rain shower, combined with pleasant plant fragrances. The walls are covered in colored shower curtains. In the top corner is a hidden shrine to the fallen angel Gaap, ruler or 66 legions of infernal spirits. He can be commanded through the skull on

the shrine by willpower alone, which has escaped the event organizers so far, who only thought it a morbid, therefore fitting ornament.

11 Main spa pool, surrounded by palm trees, a rockery with a waterfall, and several tables of soaps and perfumes. An angry macrostacean (giant lobster beast) lurks in the room, awaiting fresh prey to vent its frustration on. Floating in the pool are several people in golden togas, ostensibly cut in twain by the clawed demon. In actuality, these are common criminals (tanned skin, dirty fingernails, scars), dressed up, and purposefully cut in halves.

12 Pleasant multi-pool room, with pretty shrubberies and lovely fragrances. A couple of *random finds* dotted around the place.

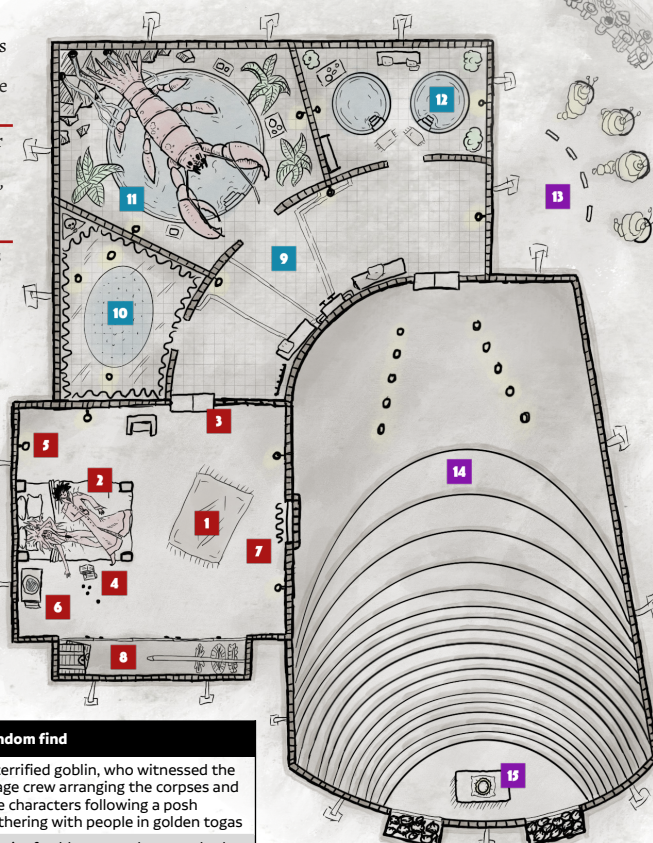
13 4 slug-people of Yoon-Suin, in golden togas, sit on swiveling stools, adding scathing running commentary on the proceedings to a large audience surrounding the whole enclosed structure. They witness the goings-on via a series of magical sensors.

Several squads of guards stand by—muscle and oiled warriors in golden cingulomilitaire, with shields and spears.

14 Stone altar with a golden crown atop a tall pyramid with many steep steps. Once any step is touched, the walls behind the altar disgorge spiked balls and bombs: spiked metal balls on the first round, random *bombs* on the second, and then back round to metal balls, ad infinitum. Roll a random bomb that explodes near each character on their turn during those rounds.

15 Once a character grasps or otherwise touches the crown, the game is over: the outer walls collapse, revealing the slug-people game show hosts and the audience (and guards) beyond. Much applause for the winner ensues. What do the characters do next? That is a story for another time!

Written and illustrated by Frank "Mottokrosh" Reding, released under a CC BY-SA 4.0 license.



#	Random find	#	Random find
1	A love-letter to one Lady Evanencia of the Hermetic Circle of Chaeronea by one Albrecht of the Enlightened Conclave of Oculists	7	A terrified goblin, who witnessed the stage crew arranging the corpses and the characters following a posh gathering with people in golden togas
2	A towel embroidered with the initials of 2 characters in a heart with the word "forever"	8	A pair of golden manacles, attached to something immobile, with a sawn off hand with perfect nails in one cuff
3	Silver necklace with locket that contains a portrait of one Lady Evanencia, the murdered lady	9	Cold, metal wand that produces powerful gusts of wind
4	Golden speedos	10	Spear tipped in silver
5	Shell-shaped box of expensive makeup	11	Leaking vial of extra-strong glue
6	The Dark Oculist's ring of invisibility to all sighted creatures	12	Soap whittled in the shape of 2 embracing lovers

#	Bomb of...	#	Bomb of...
1	Sneezing	5	Lava wasps
2	Snoozing	6	Water
3	Sticking	7	Overwhelming perfume
4	Burning	8	Premature explosion

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