

Felina's scrawls 13

We collect the valuables from the gnolls. At least their stuff is not so smelly as the things we got from the orcs. Now we can equip a small army (18 men) with a shield, battle-axe, leather armour and a bow.

Although we are tired from the battle and had travelled a night and day already, I decide it is not a good idea to stay here at the battleground. There are at least some opponents left from the fourth quarter of the gnolls' trap. We proceed our trail for at least another two hours before we make camp. Here we stay for an extended rest. Alas, this is not as restful as it supposed to be. Some of us have a troubled sleep, for they are turning and kicking and talking in demonic languages. Worst of all Robin is scared by it and she wakes me up frequently by extending her nails in my skin. The weather does not contribute to a good mood either, as it started raining after the last battle and it still is.

The next day rest is even worse. Jay almost kills Louis with a single blow while he is sleeping. I wonder if I am more impressed by Jay's performance or disappointed in Louis' capability. (Probably the latter) and that is not all. He starts to move around, flailing and kicking randomly at things and persons. And he is not alone in this behaviour. Cuura collects her hammer and horse and starts a wild charge.

Kendalan breaks Cuura's charge and Nethander secures her hammer. Also Grimwalds attention goes to Cuura. Bruno tries to knock Jay unconscious while Reed tries to talk sense into him. Jay seems to be more of a problem so I'll help there and I try to tie him up with a rope. Some rounds later Jay and Bruno are staggering from their suffered damage. Reed gives jay a little kiss and he snaps out of his possessed-like state.

Reed breaks down in tears. Poor girl. I try to comfort her but I am not sure what bothers her most. Maybe it is the exhaustion of the trip or the inability to fight an enemy within or the influence of the book... Yeah, the book. What we have learned so far is that the book is a compendium with a collection of the most vile, hideous and disgusting aspects of evil that exists. It used to be bound by three forces of which now only two are present.

The third was provided by the elves of Myth Drannor in the form of an artefact somehow connected to dragons. Louis is still a bit vague about this topic. Now the book is expanding it's influence and the assault of the demon might have weakened the power of the two artefacts shielding it.

Obviously Cuura and Jay are influenced most by the books evil emanation. Nethander and Grimwald are only slightly less influenced. (Maybe that was why they were shouting and cursing at each other). Rebecca and Goya only have a faint tainting in their auras.

I still think it was best not to tell everybody about the nature of our cargo. Had we reached Candle Keep with only mundane problems it is better not to know the book even exists. When I learned about it we were on our way and it was too late already to take precautionary measures. (If there were any) Now we have to find a way to cope with it and stop killing each other.

The next thing we will do is share our knowledge and find a solution to break the evil enchantments. After Reed has finished her ritual to attune with nature.....