

Intro

BARON

Welcome to *Brawlhalla: Underworld*, a fan-made serial audio drama produced by Baron Dipitous, inspired by the video game *Brawlhalla* by Blue Mammoth Games, as well as original setting and character concepts by Akiko Sama.

Episode 5: A Chip in the Wall

Scene 1: Volkov Manor Ballroom

Sounds of gathering crowd, soon hushed by the clinking of a glass for their attention.

CASPIAN

(clears throat)

Gangsters, fangsters, and furry-stroking skellies, knock me your lobes!

AZOTH

(CASPIAN has deliberately pressed a button on a sensitive subject to him)

I'll have your head, Caspian!

CASPIAN

(to AZOTH)

You speak as if I cared, ol' Dry Bones.

Audience chuckle.

CASPIAN

(to everyone else)

In any case, I have been asked, and I have admittedly reluctantly accepted, to provide a few words of welcome to all of you, and a few more words of introduction for our gracious host. You might know him as Das Vampyr, Wampierz, or Upyri, but I have the privilege of calling him the lofty title of "Gramps."

Friends in the family, I present to you your host, the Vampire
King, Volkov of Batavia!

Applause.

VOLKOV

Thank you everyone, and thank you my boy, though we may need to
have a little chat about the blunt nature of your welcome
speeches.

Ripple of crowd laughter.

VOLKOV

Regardless, it is good to see you all here again. Welcome to
Sidra of the Corsairs. Greetings to Val of RainCloud.
Salutations to Dusk of the Fangwilds. Good evening to Petra of
the Darkhearts. And, of course, to the man himself, Lord Vraxx
of the Zhaktarian Empire, I am most pleased to welcome you and
yours into my humble home once again. Finally, Orion of the
Enigmatics, as well as Hattori and Jiro of the Yakuza, are
welcome as always. Thank you for your attendance this evening.

These extravagant events occur throughout the year, but tonight
we celebrate a special occasion and achievement. We have always
had our differences, some more than others, isn't that right,
Lord Vraxx?

VRAXX

(groan, growing impatient)
Get on with it.

VOLKOV

But in the end, we all live under the same roof, as it were. We
all belong to the family that is the Valhallan Underworld.
Rising from more troubled and turbulent times, tonight we
celebrate 50 years of peace among our own blood. Those turf wars
of the past are long behind us, and we look forward to a
brilliant, unified future.

In recognition of this long period of peace in the Underworld, it seems only fitting to announce a moment of alliance among the two largest factions in the family. I speak, of course, of unprecedented cooperation between the Batavian and Zhaktarian Empires. Lord Vraxx, if you would be so kind as to join me here on the stage.

VRAXX

With pleasure.

Applause as he walks up.

VRAXX

(to audience)

Yes, you all know what's up. Keep it coming for your great Lord.

VOLKOV

Relax, Vraxx.

Pats hand on shoulder.

VRAXX

(to **VOLKOV**, through bared teeth)

That's Lord Vraxx to you, and get your filthy pale hands off me.

VOLKOV

(to **VRAXX**)

Very well. (to audience) Delicious friends and beloved family, Lord Vraxx and I have seen fit to coordinate our efforts and combine our resources to ensure the acquisition and protection of a precious artifact from within the Valhallan Archives itself. Even now, I have a servant on the way to fetch this artifact from the most secure location in this manor. The artifact has now become the property of the Zhaktarian Empire, but circumstances have required the use of Batavian resources for its protection.

Loud knock on the ballroom door.

VOLKOV

And there is my servant's cue. You may come in, and present the artifact!

ONYX *barges in.*

ONYX
Volkov!

VOLKOV
Onyx!? What is the meaning of this?

ONYX
Something is amiss. The Scythe of Horus has been taken by your second guest.

VRAXX
(getting very annoyed)
What's going on, Volkov? Where. Is. The Scythe?

VOLKOV
(to **VRAXX**)
I'll handle this. (to **ONYX**) Second guest? What are you on about? Who else could have entered that room tonight under your watch?

ONYX
Forgive me. Circumstances led me to assume...

VRAXX
STOP PONTIFICATING AND TELL US WHO TOOK THE SCYTHER, NOW!!!

ONYX
Of course, sir. The intruder's name...was Sabiq Price.

VRAXX
Tequila who???

VOLKOV
Ladies and gentlemen, please accept my profound apologies for cutting this moment short, and allow me to beg your pardon while

I sort out this little affair. Please, enjoy tonight's festivities. A new round of refreshment will be provided presently.

Background conversation noise.

VOLKOV

Vraxx...

VRAXX

Lord Vraxx!

VOLKOV

Don't sass me. You had the gall to lie to me about your confidence in my entrusting Onyx with the scythe!

VRAXX

I have done nothing of the sort, Bat! You're the one who lost it!

VOLKOV

It was taken by one of your own subordinates, you imbecile! Explain *that*, if you please!

VRAXX

Oh, so now *I'm* the one to blame, eh?

VOLKOV

Don't tell me you don't keep track of your own Empire?

VRAXX

Again, I have no idea what you're talking about!

VOLKOV

Quite obviously, I speak of Sabiq Price, you dim-witted cycloplan autocrat!

VRAXX

I've never heard of that name before in my life, you lying leech!

VOLKOV

Don't tick me off, Vraxx. We could all hear the names as they were announced, and it was made abundantly clear that Sabiq Price was a constabulary correspondent for Nai, who--if memory serves--is under the jurisdiction of *your* empire! Furthermore, she was wearing one of your detestable dog tags.

VRAXX

They're *pins*, you freeloading freak! But, what's all this about Nai having a contact in law enforcement?

VOLKOV

You seem surprised.

VRAXX

I *am* surprised! This is the first time I've heard anything like this!

VOLKOV

Sounds like there are a few holes in your sovereignty, Vraxx. It would be a shame if someone were to take advantage of these sudden...vulnerabilities.

VRAXX

Don't tell me what to do! I'll get to the bottom of this at once! Azoth! Get over here! Stop bothering that she-ninja with your scruffy tabby! And call for Barraza!

AZOTH

Oh come on, boss, address Dander with some respect, will you?

VRAXX

I'll say who does the respecting around here! Hattori, this doesn't concern you, so leave!

HATTORI

(annoyed)

If you insist. (to **AZOTH**) I think Dander wants to return to your
comfy skeletal embrace anyway.

Hands cat over, walks away.

Scene 2: Volkov Manor Grounds

*Sounds of footsteps outside; footsteps approach someone who's
impatiently tapping their foot.*

PETRA

Finally.

DUSK

We last spoke ten minutes ago. Not sure why this secretive
rendezvous is necessary.

PETRA

It's completely necessary, and it's urgent!

DUSK

Then let's get this over with. You said you had a proposition?

PETRA

Only if I can trust you to keep it between us.

DUSK

Don't you?

PETRA

Now's not the time to be cute with me.

DUSK

It never is, Petra.

PETRA

And don't you forget it!

DUSK

I'm becoming less convinced of your propositions' urgency by the second.

PETRA

Just shut up, knife-ears, and listen to me!

DUSK

My "knife-ears" are yours at present.

PETRA

Good. Now listen, I—

DUSK and PETRA, simultaneously

—want to climb the syndicate ladder.

PETRA

Ladder...(grunt of frustration) How did you know that?

DUSK

You wear your ambitions on your sleeve.

PETRA

Oh, and you don't?

DUSK

You've got me there. However, there's one crucial difference between you and I.

PETRA

And what, pray tell, might that be?

DUSK

I am capable of that rare virtue known as patience.

PETRA

"Patience" is just an idiot's way of admitting they're—

DUSK

Apathetic? Complacent? Resigned?

PETRA

Grrrrrr...

DUSK

To each their own, I suppose. So what could a rabble-rouser like yourself want with a "dullard" like me?

PETRA

Because, long-ears, as much as I hate to admit it, I can't move up in the Underworld alone. I have the will, the ambition, even the charisma.

DUSK

You keep telling yourself that.

PETRA

Shut up, you! In order to get any higher, I'd have to get over that huge metaphorical wall of power and authority.

DUSK

Despite their differences and foibles, the Empires are, indeed, aptly named.

PETRA

But you saw it just moments ago, right? They've become vulnerable

DUSK

If you're referring to the bickering between Volkov and Vraxx, I hope for your sake you have better proof than that of this "vulnerability" you speak of. The two of them have been begrudging partners for decades. I've been around the block long enough to know how this works. The status quo won't change once everything settles down within the week. Maybe a month if it's really that bad.

PETRA

You see??? This is the problem with you "patient" people, especially elves and dwarves and gods! You are resigned to let things play out and you just...*let it happen!* You have all this power, and for what? To twiddle your thumbs? No. Not this time. Tonight, you will hear what I have to say, and I say we can be the walls those pompous *idiots* have to climb over!

DUSK

You certainly are eager, and I admire that enough to want to hear more. But first, you'll need to convince me of a few things.

PETRA

...Ugh. Fine. Let's get your questions over with.

DUSK

And I'd appreciate not being ridiculed for my caution, Petra. Thank you. Now, assuming that you will be proposing a plan to combine our forces, I first need to know this: Why me? You seem more than capable of handling yourself, as well as several of the more ferocious characters in the Underworld. You have also made clear your disdain for the measured, calculated way I run my own affairs. Why not approach Val or Sidra for help?

PETRA

Well, first of all, neither of them are as high up the ranks as you are.

DUSK

Why should that matter? You and the Darkhearts are higher still than all three of us.

PETRA

But Val and Sidra have no ambition! Sidra is more than happy to stay where she is, the worst of the best, because she knows the competition is less fierce down there. Plus, her businesses are more publicly visible than most others from the Underworld, and she likes it that way. As for Val, well, she tends to remain aloof of criminal politics. Like Sidra, she is content in her

own element. The life she leads is familiar to her since before she even came to Valhalla! But you, Dusk, and I...we have our differences, yes, but we are both anxious to rise above the rest. You can't deny that, can you?

DUSK

No. I cannot. You know well my desires to extend my influence in Valhalla and further into other realms.

PETRA

And you see we have a chance now to chip away at the Empires that prevent our progress! Are you with me?

DUSK

A few more questions, if you please, Miss Petra.

PETRA

More? Grrrrr...*fine*. Ask away, and it's *Petra* to you! No "Miss"!

DUSK

Certainly. Even with our two gangs combined, we won't have the numbers we need to take on the two Empires.

PETRA

Then we recruit others to our cause.

DUSK

Do you really think Val and Sidra would be willing to let us borrow their help?

PETRA

No, not them! I'm talking about the independent agents scattered throughout the city.

DUSK

Ah. So you are using more brains than brawn this time...

PETRA

Do *not* make me regret our alliance!

DUSK

You know I jest. Simmer down. Yes, that does make a lot of sense. Neither Volkov nor Vraxx would ever expect such widespread cooperation among the well-known figures of the city. Who did you have in mind? Perhaps I could use my connections to recruit a few others.

PETRA

I have six in mind right now, in addition to the three in the Yakuza. Here is a list.

DUSK

(consulting **PETRA'S** list)

Hmm...it won't be hard to convince him. (Lucien) She would certainly be willing, for the right price. (Nix) Not sure about those two (Ada & Scarlet), or him (Ulgrim) for that matter. She (Mirage) has direct connections with the police force, though I could see ways to encourage her involvement. The Yakuza's willingness would depend on their availability, and the potential benefits for them (Koji, Jiro, Hattori). In addition to all these, I have a couple more in mind. I'll need to coerce Ragnir a bit for one of them (Ember), but the other (Wu Shang)...not sure. He might need something extra to be convinced to come out of retirement.

PETRA

Excellent. We need *all* the help we can get! It's been too long since we had a proper turf war, and with the already shaky trust between the Empires eroding even further, now's the perfect time to set things in motion. So, for the last time, are you in?

DUSK

Well, now that I see how this could work, you can rely on my cooperation and partnership, Petra. This certainly isn't my first war in Valhalla, but at least this time I am much more in control of the result. Shall we shake on it?

PETRA

Oh, certainly.

DUSK

With your *normal* hand, please. I don't want that...corruption touching me, thank you..

PETRA

My Darkheart hand can easily behave...most of the time.
Whatever. We have a deal, Dusk.

DUSK

Excellent. I'll reach out to my people, and look forward to our continued correspondence.

PETRA

Count on it.

DUSK

Oh, and Petra?

PETRA

What *now*???

DUSK

I'm rather impressed by your uncharacteristically feminine outfit this evening. That dress suits you very well. You almost look like a proper lady tonight.

PETRA

Flattery gets you nowhere with me. What I wear is none of your business.

DUSK

Oh, looking to *impress* someone tonight, are you?

PETRA

Get out of my sight, *now!!!*

DUSK

Very well, very well. Have a good evening, Miss Petra.

PETRA

Don't "Miss" me, knife-ears!

DUSK

I never do. Until our next meeting, then.

Footsteps fade.

Scene 3: Mirage's Office

MIRAGE

And that brings us to today, one week after I was asked by Sergeant Sentinel to retrieve that stupid scythe. I was paid a lofty sum to investigate a crime scene, interrogate a friend, party all night long under a shiny new persona, and meet a mysterious stranger I can't stop thinking about. There's something so very familiar about him, but of course I couldn't see his face. Maybe it was his voice, his particular way of speaking. His refreshing, gentle gaiety, perhaps? I'll probably never know. We may be in the same city, but our work will always keep us apart, and as long as there is nothing keeping me tied to the Underworld, I will have to be content to allow this Orion to remain a handsome, intriguing mystery.

Knock at the door.

MIRAGE

Oh! My goodness, you startled me! Is that you *again*, Sentinel?
What artifact did you lose this time?

ORION

(a bit muffled, behind the door)
Please let us in. It concerns an urgent matter.

MIRAGE

"Let us in"? Another "urgent matter"? Is it really so important that Odin sent more than one of...

Door opens.

MIRAGE

(dumbfounded, even a bit frightened)
...you?

ORION

Good evening, Sabiq. May we have a moment of thy time?

Credits

BARON

That concludes the fifth episode of *Brawlhalla: Underworld*, a fan-made serial audio drama produced and directed by Baron Dipitous, inspired by the video game *Brawlhalla* by Blue Mammoth Games, as well as original setting and character concepts by Akiko Sama, which are being used for this project with Akiko's consent.

It starred

Shwerpy as Caspian
AKnightsGambit as Azoth
Tilty as Volkov
InsanityIsHope as Vraxx
Tessriel as Onyx
TigerGamer as Hattori
Buchticky as Petra
Dough as Dusk
MirageBHH as Agent Mirage
And Mya as Orion

The script for this season was written by Baron Dipitous, with special thanks to Captain Moneybags and Pat Hyena for assistance with writing and characterizations, to Daevon971 for providing story assistance and for his role as art lead, and to Stephanafro and darthMIMI for assistance with audio clean-up and editing.

The artwork for this episode was a joint effort by
Buchticky (Petra design),
Cyanpetra (Volkov design, Scene 2),
Pat Hyena (Azoth & Vraxx design),
Smokeystitched (Scene 3),
Tataia Furquim (Dusk & Orion design), and
Tolsquish (Caspian design, Scenes 1 & 3)

The music playing during this episode's intro was "The Twilight Grove: VBI Discussion," arranged by LeBruskii. The music playing during these credits was composed by Catfoodinator.

For more information about material produced for this project, check out the project link in the description below. Cast & crew social media links, as well as additional music credits are also listed in the description. To conclude, please enjoy this teaser for the next episode.

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NAI

I *know* the consequences, Barraza. I understand everything I care for and work for is at stake. I think that's clear enough evidence that I'm taking this as seriously as you two are.

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Thank you very much for listening, and we'll see you next time...

...in the Valhallan Underworld.