

Chapter 014 – Good Riddance

12 Calistril 4708
Korvosa, Varisia

Scene #1 – The Old Fishery – Gaedren's Playground: Confrontation

As Hutton moved, Gaedren launched into action himself, pointing his crossbow towards the gap in the water and firing. "Wake-up Gobblegut!! I've got some dinner for ya! And this time they're not runt sized Lambs!!"

A moment later, an incensed Crocodile thrashed out of water, ready to attack anything and everything nearby!...

Thrashing around wildly, Gobblegut turned around in its watery home before landing on its first target: the wiry elf Mazour! Charging forward, the crocodile opened its jaws and latched onto the lower body of the cleric before thrashing its head about violently.

Brack muttered a terse dwarven curse under his breath as he watches Hutton charge forward, then gives a resigned shout of encouragement, **"Yeh better 'it 'im after all that grandstanding!"**

Letting himself grin at his own clever little jab, his expression turns sour as he watches Mazour get swept into the jaws of the ravenous crocodile. Without missing a beat, he again misses the beat to the haunting hymn that he belts out once more, **"Dahn shOLL YEH!"**

Gobblegut roared momentarily in pain as its mind was assaulted by the power of Brack's chant, though it refused to let go of the cleric's body!

No one doubted the old geezer had some tricks up his sleeve, but a pet crocodile mere yards away from a jigsaw shark?? What other half-baked machinations has this kodger got waiting for them?

Pausing his charge in a moment of bafflement and briefly checking his torso to make sure there were no crossbow bolts going unnoticed, Hutton sneers and closes the gap between himself and his quarry.

"Of all the questionable decisions you've made, this may have been both your dumbest and last," the teeming, barely-controlled rage monster snarls before reaching for Gaedren.

Meanwhile, just as it appeared that Gaedren would be swallowed up by Hutton, he moved with surprising deftness and avoided his grasp. **"I didn't live this long by being slow,"** he taunted before pulling out a gleaming Dagger and ramming it into Hutton's side. He then extricated himself from Hutton's vicinity and limped South away from him and towards Gobblegut

*This sick f*ck!* Redii thought as she watched Gobblegut emerge from the water. Gaedren's words combined with the small manacles hanging over the croc's lair crystalised the situation for her. Her rage boiling, she started to charge straight towards Gaedren before getting caught off-guard when Gobblegut made a beeline straight for Mazour, causing her to halt in her tracks. She was about to continue forward before seeing pain flash on Mazour's face as the crocodile chomped down on him. Cursing, she turned around and stabbed her sai straight down into the side of the croc's head with all her might! **"Being around you all is making me soft!"** she shouted as she pulled out her dagger and ineffectively attempted to force Gobblegut to release Mazour with punches and kicks.

Mazour audibly gasped when the crocodile bit down on him. With a grunt, he twisted his lithe frame with the weight of the crocodile and used the momentum to spin away. As far away as he could

get. *And they said learning to dance was frivolous.* Darting past Reddi, he turned the corner and followed up the path. As he passed her, he smiled, **"I am glad you've gone... soft."**

Taking a deep breath, he surveyed the situation. *I don't have many spells left, but I can't let this chance pass.* His side screamed at him as he moved. He could feel the wet warmth spreading down his side. *And I have to not die. Not before it's over.* His sapphire eyes watched Hutton's assault and Gaedren dance away.

Gobblegut trashed around looking for either the one that had wriggled out of its maw or the one that had hurt it, before oddly, stopping momentarily in place; its face in the direction of Gaedren. It was impossible to read the animal's expression as it stared at its master. Perhaps, years of mistreatment had finally come to a boil. Or perhaps Brack's magic disoriented the Croc to mistake Gaedren as someone else. Or perhaps, he was simply a wild animal. Whatever the reason, everyone jumped in surprise as Gobblegut charged forward and attempted to chomp Gaedren Lamm in two! Fortunately for Gaedren, even on a gimpy leg, he managed to just dodge out of the way.

"Bloody useless!" Gaedren scowled as he righted himself.

Brack brings his palm up to his face as he sees Gaedren deftly avoid Hutton's grapple, despite his brash but honest words of encouragement. His grimace eases as he sees Mazour make similar moves away from Gobblegut, and his expression almost turns jovial as the beast lunges at its master.

But, the dwarf remains steadfast as the combat continues. He belts out the next discordant verse, this time at Gaedren himself, **"RHAh yaeh!"**

Then, seeing the fickle nature of the crocodile, Brack then makes a slight tactical retreat to step just outside the entranceway to make some space away from the beast.

"Not so fast, varmint," Hutton growls as he lunges for Gaedren. Both meaty hands grab once more for the deceptively agile old man.

"Oh shut it you!" Gaedren yelled in annoyance in Brack's direction as the magically-laced chant failed to take hold. Unfortunately for the old man, his momentary distraction allowed Hutton to grab him from behind; this time in a manner that made it very clear to Gaedren that he was going nowhere.

"You want to die so bad, fine. You go first." Gaedren rasped at the same moment that Gobblegut made another unexpected lunge in their direction. Using the distraction, Gaedren took out his dagger and stabbed it into the thigh of Hutton, drawing an unexpectedly heavy stream of blood.

"Gaedren's mine!" Redii shouted petulantly to Gobblegut - uncaring if the creature actually understood her. Charging around the walkway, she nimbly moved around Mazour without losing speed before taking one of her sai and stabbing down on the top Gobblegut's skull with full force; the weapon sinking down to the hilt. She prepared to stab it with another sai before it reared back and began thrashing about in agony, eventually going still and falling backwards into the water with a splash that covered everyone in brackish river water.

Not losing a beat, Redii took the sai she had already drawn and threw it at Gaedren; this time hitting her target in shoulder, though her attempt to not hurt Hutton caused the damage to be minimal. **"This is your last day breathing Gaedren!"** she shouted at him as she prepared to continue the assault.

Seeing the croc retreat back into the water, Mazour turned to Gaedren. He raised his hand, exposing the reliquary as he murmured the prayer. Wisps of smoke swirled above Gaedren's head as the funeral bell tolled.

"I wonder who he fears more, The Order of the Nail? Or the flaming pits waiting for him in the next world? Honestly I'm curious what the Hellknights would do to him."

"I fear nothing you nit!" Gaedren replied after resisting Maz's spell. **"It's you who'll be seeing your mistress soon."**

Seeing the croc slunk slowly into the stale water beneath the fishery, Brack catches a brief surge of adrenaline as the tides turn in favor of the crew. Again with the discordant verse, the dwarf steps out from the entranceway towards Lamm.

"DORRoooooh, yeh seem to be running out of tricks Gaedren. Look 'ere now, yeh little pet seems more a scuttlebutt than a gobblegut," a slight pause, **"Maybe it's time to give it up, eh?"**

Both the broken verse and biting words attempt to cut deep against the remaining willpower of the haggardly man.

Reinvigorated by the turn of events, Hutton breathes deeply and steels himself.

"He's right, you know. Those who live like this don't fear the law or any order. Their greatest danger is getting swept up in the torrent of their own sins. But hear me now, man: You may not fear justice, but you will fear me."

He squeezes Gaedren's shoulder where Redii's sai struck with one hand and draws back the other.

"Breathe deeply before the plunge," he all but whispers before ramming his fist into Gaedren's stomach and leaning him toward the water where Hutton assumed a young jigsaw shark smelled blood in the water.

While he felt no pain from Brack's magic, he certainly felt pain as Hutton squeezed his frail form before knocking the wind out of him with a punch straight to the gut. Gasping for breath, Gaedren attempted to wriggle his way free of Hutton's grasp to no avail. Stopping his attempts to break free, a wicked grin spread across Gaedren's face as he stated raspily, **"Only thing... I fear... is missing watching the life bleed out of you before I go!"**

Taking his dagger, he stabbed Hutton again, this time hitting him in his side, blood gushed from the wound as he ripped the blade free, cackling maniacally all the while.

Laser focused, Redii didn't hear a single word that Gaedren or the others had just said. Instead, she was trying to find a good angle to finish off Gaedren once and for all; she was having some difficulty doing so though as Gaedren wriggled within Hutton's grasp. Not wanting to hurt him, her first strike did little more than scratch Gaedren's arm. When Hutton brought Gaedren's head low towards the water, Redii used the shifting position to kick him in the head as one would a ball in a game. Gaedren's head rolled as his nose broke and gushing blood began to cover his face. He did not look good.

"Just Die!!" Redii shouted as she prepared one final kick to end him.

"Nothing you say? Well, let's... test that."

Mazour raised his hand and a lance of bright purple light lashed out, spearing Gaedren and enveloping his form. It blazed around the withered old bastard, lighting up the angry mountain that was Hutton.

The dwarf approaches Gaedren ominously, letting the flash of Mazour's purple illumination highlight his features much like Hutton's. As he walks towards the wounded figure, he begins to chant

again, though this time the chorus did not sound broken or dissonant. Instead, the song reverberated with an ancient tone steeped in both mystery and bronze-hued brightness.

"Dorrooooooh seh goh bahck doh rhah yaeh!"

Brack draws his clan dagger, his knuckles blazing white as he held his keepsake with an unnatural strong grip. He reaches the grappled man and pauses his chant, stray hairs from his beard tingling with static.

"It's over Gaedren. About time yeh faced some justice, eh?"

The dwarf backhands the blunt dagger across the temple of the broken man, though pulled his strike from inflicting lethal harm.

"Enough of this. If he's too stupid to know fear, he'll at least know death," Hutton rumbles as he grips Gaedren in a bear hug and lifts him off his feet. With a mighty squeeze and a shake, a pop can be heard as Gaedren goes limp.

Hutton drops the body to the floor, spits blood on it, and kicks it into the river below.

"Good Riddance." Reddi stated to no one in particular. Though her voice was calm, a few tears were falling down her face. She made no effort to hide them or wipe them away...

As the party watched Gaedren's body disappear below the water, whatever emotions each member of the party were feeling at that moment were mixed with satisfaction. Their shared goal – only put into motion a few hours ago – was to end Gaedren's "reign" once and for all. and that they did...

Scene #2 – The Old Fishery – Gaedren's Playground: Aftermath

Coming back together, the remaining party members tried to figure out what to do next. Above them, there were still the children upstairs waiting for the party to return victorious as well as the (hopefully) still unconscious body of Hookshanks. On the lower level, there was the locked room in the corner as well as the piles of "junk" on the far end of the room.

Redii, taking the initiative, started towards the locked door and pulled out her lockpicks, **"I've got this... Go see if there's anything useful in his junk pile..."**...

Out of Character

Congrats! We're level 2!! Everyone please send me a note with any updates/ changes/ new spells for your characters. I like to track it and sometimes amend things in campaigns to let new abilities/ spells/ etc. shine

Also, everyone roll me a d100!

Scene #1 – The Old Fishery – Gaedren's Playground: Confrontation

- Any immediate reactions to Gaedren's demise can go here...





Scene #2 – The Old Fishery – Gaedren's Playground: Aftermath



- Let me know what you'd like to do next...

Health Status

100% hitpoints: **Healthy**
 75% to 99% hitpoints: **Light Wounds**
 50% to 75% hitpoints: **Medium Wounds**
 25% to 50% hitpoints: **Serious Wounds**
 0% to 25% hitpoints: **Critical Wounds**

NEEDS TO BE UPDATED FOR LEVEL 2

Brack	Hutton	Mazour	Redii
			
10/10 hit points Inspiration	1/13 hit points	3/9 hit points Inspiration	10/10 hit points
1/1 hit dice; 1/4 Bardic Inspiration; 0/1 Joyful Verse; Spell Slots: 0/2 1 st ,	1/1 hit dice; 0/1 Second Wind; Service Tattoo: 0/1 Protect; 1/1 Heal; 1/1 Strike	1/1 hit dice; 3/4 Eyes of the Grave; 0/2 Blessing of Raven Queen; 1/1 Gifts of the Faithful; Spell Slots: 0/2 1 st ,	0/1 hit dice;
4/4 Harrow Points	4/4 Harrow Points	4/4 Harrow Points	5/5 Harrow Points
		20 Arrows	5 Sais

Gaedren Lamm AC = 14	Gobblegut AC = 12
	
Dead (Good Riddance!!)	Dead

<i>Items</i>	<i>Held By</i>