A Web Enhancement for the Forgotten Realms® Dragons of Faerûn Accessory

City of Wyrmshadows

"Once this was a drow trade city, openly obedient to the priestesses. Now, it is a blank slate, and even as we speak it is being transformed."
Patron Father Tomphael
Year of Wild Magic (3372 DR)

Chaulssin, the City of Wyrmshadows, is home to progeny of centuries of unions between drow and shadow dragons and serves as the secret base for the assassins of the Jazred Chaulssin. This chapter details the city, its shadowy rulers, and their magic, as well as presenting a full-length adventure set in a Jazred foreshadow in the drow city of Karsoluthyl.

Chaulssin

(Middle Northdark)
Nearly ten miles beneath the northern tip of the Rauvin Mountains lie the shadowy remnants of the ancient drow city of Chaulssin. The remote location and little known history of the City of Wyrmshadows make it largely unknown to most Underdark dwellers, let alone inhabitants of the Realms Above, but a secret brotherhood of master assassins (the Jazred Chaulssin) uses the place as its hidden stronghold for launching strikes on followers of the Spider Queen.

Chaulssin (small city) Magical; AL CE; 15,000 gp limit; Assets 8,493,750 gp; Population 7,105; Isolated (zar‘ishta [shadow draconic drow] 57%, zekyl [half-shadow dragon drow] 44%, drow-zekyl [drow-dragon*] 1%), 4,220 slaves (dark bear [shadow quaggoth] 48%, shadar-kai* 59%, drow 10%, spectral” shadow dragon 1%, other 2%).

Authority Figure: Patron Grandfather Mauzzyl Jazred (see below).

Important Characters: Patron Fathers of the Jazred Chaulssin (see below), Nimor Imphractel (see sidebar).

Centuries after its fall, the City of Wyrmshadows is but a faint shadow of its former self. Large sections of the city stand empty, patrolled intermittently by tribes of dark bears or claimed by small bands of shadar-kai.

Additional Credits

Design: Eric L. Boyd
Editing: Robert Wiese
Typesetting: Nancy Walker
Cartography: Kyle Hunter
Web Production: Bart Carroll
Web Development: Mark A. Jindra
Graphic Design: Robert Campell, Cynthia Fliege, Dee Barnett, Jeni Page, & Robert Raper.

Items in the text marked with * come from Dragons of Faerûn.
A key to the other titles indicated by superscripts can be found at <http://www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/lists/feats>.

Based on the original Dungeons & Dragons® game by E. Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson and on the new edition of the Dungeons & Dragons game designed by Jonathan Tweet, Monte Cook, Skip Williams, Richard Baker, and Peter Adkison.

D&D, Dungeons & Dragons, Forgotten Realms, and Dungeon Master are registered trademarks owned by Wizards of the Coast, Inc. The d20 and d20 logo are trademarks owned by Wizards of the Coast, Inc. All Wizards characters, character names, and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks owned by Wizards of the Coast, Inc. This material is protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America. Any reproduction or unauthorized use of the material or artwork contained herein is prohibited without the express written permission of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. This product is a work of fiction. Any similarity to actual people, organizations, places, or events is purely coincidental. This Wizards of the Coast game product contains no Open Game Content. No portion of this work may be reproduced in any form without written permission. To learn more about the Open Gaming License and the d20 System License, please visit www.wizards.com/d20.

©2007 Wizards of the Coast, Inc. All rights reserved. Made in the U.S.A.

Visit our website at www.wizards.com/forgottenrealms
Most of the zeiklyn (plural of zeikyl) live alone, claiming
perches in the shadowy upper reaches of the city’s great galleries
when they are not training under the watchful eyes of the Patron
Fathers. The zar’ithvar’in (plural of zar’ithvar) includes all females
not selected for the ilbaren’quartben [harem] and all males) claim
the city’s lesser tunnels for their own, hunting interlopers from the
Plane of Shadow and the surrounding Underdark in wolfpacks,
each dominated by the strongest male and organized in a strict
pecking order.

The ilbaren’quartben (female concubines of the Patron Fathers
of the Jaerzed Chaussin) dwell in the heart of the City of
Wyrmshadows, in lavish apartments surrounding the great lair of
Patron Grandfather Mauzzkyl. The other Patron Fathers visit their
concubines in Chaussin regularly, for each can afford to keep only
a handful of female zar’ithvar’in with them in their respective cities.

**Brief History**

The City of Wyrmshadows acquired its name in the Year of
Shambling Shadows (−221 DR), when the shadow dragons of Clan
Jaerzed conquered the drow city of Chaussin and enslaved the
population. In the centuries that followed, the dragons slowly eradicated
the drow population, twisting them into creatures of shadow and
uprooting them with their own wyrmspawned offspring, all the
while drawing the city further and further into the Plane of Shadow.

In the Year of the Darkspawn (634 DR), the shadow dragons of Clan
Jaerzed were overthrown by their own half-drow/half-shadow dragon
progeny, known as the zeiklyn, who had mastered powerful planar magic
in secret while purporting to serve their masters Haernvynsvem, a great
shadow wyrm better known as “Shimmergloom.” The dragon escaped the carnage
through the Shadow Plane, but the rest of his clan were slain and reanimated
as spectral creatures. (Shimmergloom was later slain by Brancor
Battlehammer, King of Mithral Hall, and the Companions of the Hall.)

In the century that followed, the newly emancipated scions of
Clan Jaerzed began to rebuild their city using wealth plundered
from their forefathers’ hoards. During this period, drow missionaries
from Ched Nasad, Jhulalkyn, and Menzoberranzan arrived to preach the word of Lolth to the Chaussin but were repeatedly rebuffed by the ruling patriarchy.

In the Year of Visions (734 DR), Vhlaeraun appeared to Chaussin’s leaders in a shared dream and revealed to them that the
Spider Queen had decided to punish them for their defiance. In
accordance with Lolth’s will, the ruling council of Menzoberranzan
had dispatched a massive army to conquer the City of
Wyrmshadows. After hurried debate, Chaussin’s patriarchs chose to
withdraw rather than make a suicidal stand. Drawing on their studies
of planar lore, the Chaussin opened portals throughout the city
to the Plane of Shadow through which to flee.

Menzoberranzan’s army arrived a few days later to find an abandoned
city wrapped in the coils of the Shadow Fringe. After suffering
grievous losses to monsters from the Plane of Shadow with little
to show for their expedition, the Menzoberranzan’s army
preached a victory and retreated, crediting the flight of the Chaussin to the
might of the Spider Queen.

On the Plane of Shadow, the Chaussin encountered all manner of
dangerous creatures, but, at least initially, no hostile armies
intended on their destruction. After a forced march through miles of
shadowy caverns, they reached the abandoned lairs of their draconic
cousins and claimed them for their own. The Shadow City of Chaull’mur’ssin struggled for many years before the Chaussin
established a foothold on the Plane of Shadow, and in so doing
its populace grew up a large measure of its extraplanar Prime nature.
(For more information, see the **Shadow Crusade** template.) Once the Chaussin population stabilized,
the city began to thrive and the inhabitants became a threat to other
planar interlopers, including the scions of Clan Malaug and, to a
lesser extent, the Shadow of Thultanstar.
In the Year of the Crimson Thorn (792 DR), the priesthood of Vhaeraun revealed that the ranks of the Chaullin lur had been heavily infiltrated by the malaugrym. After a day of bloody battles, the shapechangers were unmasked and put to sword, but only at the cost of many lives and the collapse of the city's patriarchy. In response, the Church of Vhaeraun assumed power and founded House Jaerzred, an elite brotherhood of assassins trained to ferret out and kill shapechanging interlopers.

In the years that followed, the conflict between the Chaullin lur and Clan Malagra waxed and waned, with neither gaining permanent advantage. Over time, however, by carefully studying their foes and stealing what secrets they could, the zeylehs learned to split their dual natures into two alternate forms, one drow and the other draconic, creating the first drow-dragons. With this new power at their disposal, the Chaullin lur were finally able to hold their own against the malaugrym and other shadowy threats as well.

Responsibility for stealing Clan Malagra's secrets fell to House Jaerzred, and their successes thrust the patriarchs of the brotherhood into a position of increasing respect and leadership among the Chaullin lur that threatened to eclipse the authority of the ruling Vhaeraunite priesthood. To avoid civil strife and to fulfill the Chaullin lur's debt to the Masked Lord, the patriarchs of House Jaerzred agreed to return to Faerûn, where they would work to undermine the rule of the Spider Queen. In so doing, they reduced the chance of fratricidal warfare with the Church of Vhaeraun and gave hope to the long-nurtured dream of the Chaullin lur of returning to the Material Plane. However, they also began to distance themselves from the Masked Lord and his followers.

In the Year of the Shadowkins Return (1136 DR), House Jaerzred returned to the City of Wyrmshadows and established the House of Hidden Masters in the heart of ruined Chaullin lur. Enmeshed in the Shadow Fringe, the abandoned city was a perfect base for the leadership of the Jaerzred Chaullin lur, as they tooled to calling themselves, but it was too dangerous a locale in which to raise the next generation of assassins. The patron fathers of the Jaerzred Chaullin lur agreed to establish forges in the guise of minor noble houses in seven drow cities ruled by the Spider Queen's followers Chad Nasad, Eryndyn, Karsoluthyel, Jhachalklyn, Mairymied, Menzoberranzan, and Sichindrylyn. Of the seven, only Menzoberranzan proved resistant to infiltration, so the more distant city of Dusklyth was chosen instead as the site of the seventh forge. In addition, a half dozen or so additional smaller forges were established in Underdark settlements in which Lolth's followers were a minor power but drow could walk openly, such as Skullport and Shasath.

Word of House Jaerzred's return to the Material Plane reached Clan Malagra during the Harprat Wars (1182 to 1222 DR), thanks to the chance capture of a Harper spy who had previously explored the City of Wyrmshadows, but the losses of the malaugrym during that conflict prevented them from attacking their long-standing foes while the Chaullin lur were divided. By the Year of the Lost Lady (1241 DR), Clan Malagra had regrouped enough to mount a daring raid on Chaullin lur's illaharin (harem) and managed to kidnap a pregnant zar'thira'rin of the Patron Grandfather's ilharquartan for further study. The Jaerzred Chaullin lur managed to track and kill the interlopers before they returned to Castle Malagra, but the zar'thira'rin vanished in the fighting. The Patron Fathers only discovered the fate of Maurzky's missing offspring in the Year of Shadows (1378 DR), when word reached their ears of a female "drow-dragon" named Nurvureum (see Dragons of Faerûn) luring male adventurers to the ruins of Rundeth Manor north of Amphil. For now the Jaerzred Chaullin lur are content to observe the errant drow-dragon, the only one of her gender not slain at birth, watching...
to see if she becomes a threat and waiting to see who else might be interested in her origins.

In the Year of Wild Magic (1372 DR), Lolth's Silence undermined the rule of her priesthood in cities throughout the Underdark. After years of plotting, the Jæzed Chaulsivin saw their opportunity and struck several Lolth-ruled cities at once. Stonefire bombs burned the calcified webs of Ched Nasad, destroying the city and leaving the ruins to the rule of the Jæzed Chaulsivin. In Eryndyl, Jæzed Chaulsivin provocateurs incited the followers of Ghunadaur and Vhaerun to work in concert against the church of Lolth, quickly decimating the ranks of the Spider Queen's followers. Smaller strikes in Dusklyngh, Jhachalkyn, and Karsuluthyl weakened the hold of the ruling Matron Mothers, allowing male-dominated merchant houses to gain in influence. The plots of the Jæzed Chaulsivin backfired in Maerimyl, as Kiaransalee's followers claimed the city for their own, and failed in Menzoberanzan when an invasion by the duergar armies of Grackstugg and the tanarukk hordes of Khaanyr Vhok's Sceptered Legion faltered upon the Spider Queen's return.

Since the end of Lolth's Silence, the Patron Fathers have moved to cement their control of the ruins of Ched Nasad and their position of influence amongst the factions of Eryndyl. Coins have streamed into the coffers of the Jæzed Chaulsivin from merchant houses under their control in Dusklyngh, Karsuluthyl, and Jhachalkyn, and the Patron Fathers have begun to plot the next step in their efforts to free the drow race from Lolth's all-encompassing web.

Important sites

The City of Wyrms shadows is a deserted ruin that overhangs a tremendous abyss through which cold wind perpetually screams. The city rests on a monolithic spur of stone that juts out into the emptiness, and its ramparts and galleries overlook a terrifying void.

---

**Half-shadow dragon drow characters**

Half-shadow dragon drow possess the following racial traits:
- Type: Dragon
- +8 Strength; +2 Dexterity, +4 Intelligence, +4 Charisma
- Medium: As Medium creatures, half-shadow dragon drow have no special bonuses or penalties due to their size.
- A half-shadow dragon drow's base land speed is 30 feet. (An unusual feature of the half-shadow dragon Chaulsivin drow bloodline is that wings manifest in half-dragons of Medium size or larger, instead of Large size or larger. Chaulsivin half-shadow dragons can fly at twice their base land speed with average maneuverability.)
- Darkvision out to 120 feet
- Low-light vision
- Spell resistance equal to 11 + class levels
- +2 racial bonus on Will saves against spells and spell-like abilities
- Immunity to energy drain, sleep effects, and paralysis
- +2 racial saving throw bonus against enchantment spells or effects
- +2 racial bonus on Intimidate and Spot checks
- +4 natural armor bonus
- Natural Weapons: 2 claws (1d6), bite (1d4)
- Special Attacks: 1/day—breath weapon (30-foot cone of shadows, bestows 1 negative level, Reflex save [DC 10 + half-dragon's Con modifier] avoids negative level)
- Automatic Languages: Common, Elven, Undercommon
- Bonus Languages: Abyssal, Aquan, Draconic, Drow Sign Language, Gnome, Goblin, Kuo-toan
- Light Blindness: Abrupt exposure to bright light (such as sunlight or daylight spell) blinds drow for 1 round. On subsequent rounds, they are dazzled as long as they remain in the affected area.
- Favored Class: Rogue
- Level Adjustment: +5

---

**GALLERIES OF SHADOW**

The Galleries of Shadow encompass all the lesser halls and chambers of Chaulsivin linked by tunnels within the city and not considered part of the House of Hidden Masters. These areas are home to packs of zaritelvërin, companies of dark bears, and small bands of shadar-kai. Interlopers from the Plane of Shadow are not uncommon in areas where the Shadow Fringe is close.

**HOWLING ABYSS**

The City of Wyrms shadows extends out into a great chasm in the earth. The Howling Abyss, as it is known, extends at least three miles above Chaulsivin and falls more than seventeen miles into the depths.

Hurricane-force winds buffet the City of Wyrms shadows relentlessly, threatening to sweep away any creature that dares show his face on the abandoned city's battlements or attempts to fly through the chasm. See page 95 in the *Dungeon Master's Guide* for details of wind effects.

Despite the endless gale, the Howling Abyss is hardly absent of dangerous creatures. Belkers and voidwraths—revel in the endless gale force winds, while spectral shadow dragons, undead remnants of the shadow dragons of Clan Jæzed, flit about the city they once ruled, defending it against interlopers.

**HOUSE OF HIDDEN MASTERS**

At the heart of ruined Chaulsivin lies the House of Hidden Masters, chapterhouse of the Jæzed Chaulsivin, in what was once the city's largest temple to Lolth.

In the center of the desecrated temple lies the opulent lair of Patron Grandfather Maazzikyl. The walls are hung with tapestries of woven shadowstuff that depict distorted images of scenes long forgotten. The floor is piled high with tarnished coins of varying
mintage and design. The arched ceilings of the chamber are built of glistening onyx and embedded with beljurs.

Mauzzkyl's Lair is surrounded by lavish apartments of the *ilharen'quarthem*, which resemble the Patron Grandfather's lair in miniature. Each suite is heavily guarded, for the Patron Fathers do not trust each other not to steal a rival's favored concubine. The *zar'ithbravin* of each harem largely govern themselves between visits by their master, but worship of other gods is closely watched for and ruthlessly stomped out when unearthed.

**Shadow Fringe**

Chaulssin exists partially in the Plane of Shadow, so tendrils of shadowstuff constantly wind through the ruined city, ebbing and flowing with the pull of some erratic, unseen moon. Deadly creatures from the Shadow Fringe haunt the city's streets, and from time to time whole quarters of the city vanish into the gloom entirely, not to reappear for years.

Areas within the Shadow Fringe are treated as extensions of the Plane of Shadow and exhibit the planar traits of that place.

**Power Groups**

The City of Wyrmsheals is dominated by the Jaezred Chaulssin (detailed separately below), but factions within the brotherhood and among the lower status races living in the city exert influence on life in the City of Wyrmsheals.

**Church of Vhaeraun:** Given their hatred for the Spider Queen, most Chaulssinny give at least token obeisance to the Masked Lord. Led by Patron Father Xorthaol of Jhachalklyn, clerics of Vhaeraun hold many influential positions among the Jaezred Chaulssin, but the other Patron Fathers subtly discourage all efforts to make the brotherhood into the swordarm of the church. In the wake of Loth's return, the Patron Fathers have moved to further distance themselves from the hierarchy of the Masked Lord, seeking to sidestep the possibility of open warfare between the Spider Queen and her son.

**Dark Bears:** The Deepbear Battles (1803 to 1370 DR) pitted the quaggoths of Urosdunthar (deep beneath the Spine of the World) against the duergar of the Deepkingdom of Gracklstugh and ended with the collapse of the deep bear civilization. The quaggoths of the Northdark reverted to a barbaric tribal society, but continued skirmishing with the gray dwarves, subtly encouraged by the drow. As the Deepkingdom declined, many quaggoth tribes fell under the domination of more powerful races, including the drow of Chaulssin. When the Chaulssinny fled to the Plane of Shadow, they brought tribes of deep bear mercenaries with them. When the Jaezred Chaulssin returned to the Material Plane, the descendants of these "lost tribes" returned as well, transformed into creatures of shadow, known as dark bears. The dark bears of the City of Wyrmsheals are organized into large tribes that function as mercenary companies. They serve as front line defenders of the City of Wyrmsheals and patrol the surrounding Underdark.

**Ilharen’quarthem:** The *ilharen’quarthem* literally "commanded mothers," collectively make up the Patron Fathers' harems. Unlike the jhasin and jhasina of a Calishite pasha's harem, the *ilharen’quar them* are exclusively female and expected to breed regularly. Most members of this group are *zar'ithbravin* (singular *zar'ithbra*) but one in five is a female drow slave from another city. The *ilharen’quar them* rank above the rest of Chaulssin's slave population but below the Jaezred Chaulssin. There is a clear division of status within this class, placing those of dragon blood above their full-blooded counterparts.

Most members of the *ilharen’quarthem* give birth to males, known as *zekylo* (singular *zekyl*) the rare female, known as a *zebeyl* (plural: *zebeyls*) invariably slain at birth.

**Shadar-kai:** Small clans of shadar-kai are found in cities across Faerûn, trying to fend off being drawn into the Plane of Shadow. In the past century, many members of this cursed fey race have gravitated to the City of Wyrmsheals, willingly exchanging their immediate freedom for exchange for magical aid in delaying their fate. Elite shadar-kai serve the Jaezred Chaulssin as spies, observing the activities of Loth worshipers throughout the Northdark. Most serve in teams of three or more under the command of an individual *seloe* (see the discussion of the Jaezred Chaulssin hierarchy below).

**Spider-Kissers:** "Spider kisser" is an epithet reserved among the Chaulssinny for those suspected of worshiping Loth, including drow slaves and pure-blooded drow members of the *ilharen’quarthem*. Although the slave population encompasses most of the secret clerics of the Spider Queen residing in the City of Wyrmsheals, Loth is said to have a handful of devotees among the *zar'ithbravin* as well.

**Jaezred Chaulssin**

The Jaezred Chaulssin are a secretive, hidden order of assassins who claim descent from the ruling House of the ancient city of Chaulssin and the shadow dragons who once enslaved the City of Wyrmsheals. After years of exile on the Plane of Shadow, the surviving lords of
Jaeck Grazdul, reduced to a mere handful of dragon-blooded sorcerers and assassins, have returned to the city of their forefathers and founded minor Houses and secret guilds of assassins in other drow cities.

Members of the Jaeck Grazdul believe that in order to “save” the dark elves from the madness and tyranny of Lolth, drow society must be shattered. If cities fall and thousands of drow die, then it must be borne, since misery and disaster will turn the drow away from Lolth and to other drow deities. They are willing to risk centuries of weakness, enslavement, and untold suffering for the drow in order to root out Lolth’s power over the race and raise the Jaeck Grazdul as the secret masters of a drow society shaped to their liking.

The Jaeck Grazdul is ruled by an eight-member patriarchal ruling council, composed of eight senior drow-dragons. The founder of the Jaeck Grazdul and leader of the ruling council is Patron Grandfather Mauzzylk Jaeckr. He is joined by seven other Patron Fathers, each of whom commands a minor house in a Lolth-ruled city that serves as fosterage for the order.

The Patron Fathers are served by the Veloes (Blades), made up of zeklykyn, zarit’ravin, and a handful of other races. The Veloes are organized in a strict hierarchy that requires the Veloe to defeat a higher-ranking rival to advance. The seniormost Veloe holds the rank of Orthael Veloe (Anointed Blade). There are three Us Veloes (First Blades), five Draid Veloes (Second Blades), and so on.

Jaeck Grazdul (Expansive Criminal): AL CE, NE; 100,000 gp resource limit; Membership 807; Isolated (zeklykyn [half-shadow dragon]®drow) 775, zarit’ravin [shadow dragon]®drow 17, draid zeklykyn [drow-dragon]®7, other 7; Dues 100 gp/month (300 gp to join).


Important Characters: Anointed Blade Antryun Barriath (see below), Former Anointed Blade Nimor Imprazael (see sidebar).

Associated Class: Rogue, sorcerer, assassin.

Associated Skills: Bluff, Concentration, Disguise, Hide, Knowledge (religion), Move Silently, Sensitive, Spellcraft.

Requirements: You may not divulge secrets of the guild to outsiders. You must gain the consent of your superiors before attempting an assassination or other high profile crime. You must take 20% of your profits from performing assassinations or spying to the guild. You must adhere loosely to the tenets of Vhureaun’s faith.

Favored in Guild Benefits: Thanks to your training with the Jaeck Grazdul, you gain a +4 bonus to the Fortitude DC required to avoid the kill effect of your death attack.

Special: The Patron Fathers of the Jaeck Grazdul require a demonstration of skill and commitment in the war against the Spider Queen (usually killing a drow cleric of Lolth and sacrificing her heart on an altar of Vhureaun).

Members of the Jaeck Grazdul usually take the assassin prestige class as soon as they are able.

Antryun Barriath: Antryun Barriath (CE male half-shadow dragon druid 10/assassin 9) is a powerfully-built drow male with a nasty temper and a penchant for sadism. He favors blood red robes devoid of ornamentation. He keeps his body shorn of all hair, and his dark-scaled skin is heavily scarred with arcane runes (the result of regular scarification).

Antryun holds the rank of Anointed Blade of the Jaeck Grazdul for many years, and was murdered by an ambush rival, Nimor Imprazael. Patron Father Xorthaul of Jhathaklyn secretly raised his favorite son, but kept his return to life a secret from the rest of the Jaeck Grazdul. Following Nimor Imprazael’s demotion, Antryun emerged from the shadows to reclaim the rank of Anointed Blade of the Jaeck Grazdul, much to Nimor’s dismay. The two rivals continue to seek advantage over the other, and battle between the two is inevitable.

Mauzzylk Jaeckr: Patron Grandfather Mauzzylk of Chaulssin (CE male male wyrm dragoon”) sorcerer 13/assassin 8) is a hale old drow elf with broad shoulders and a deep chest, his hair thinning to a sharp widow’s peak. The leader of the Jaeck Grazdul was born in the Year of Shadowed Blades (27 DR) during the reign of the shadow dragons of Clan Jaeckr, making him the oldest member of House Jaeckr and one of the oldest surviving Chaulssinians.

Mauzzylk instinctively rebels against all forms of authority, refusing to accept any situation in which his power is not absolute. This rebellious streak formed the basis of his hatred for the shadow dragons of Clan Jaeckr, accounts for his differences with the patriarchs of the Church of Vhureaun, and forms the core of his hatred of the Spider Queen. The Patron Grandfather is wholly committed to the ideals of the Jaeck Grazdul, and he views House Jaeckr as the living extension of his will.

Magic of the Wyrmshadows

The Jaeck Grazdul favor magic tied to the Plane of Shadow, including Shadow Weave spells and items. Favored spells include drow eyes”, project image, shades, shadow conjuration, shadow evocation, shadow illusion”, shadow plane”, shadow walk, simulacrum and spectral dragon”. Favored magic items include armor with the shadow and silent moves properties, dragonsbreath flutes”, and rings of shadow”. As assassins, they also employ weapons of the murder-for-hire trade, including assassin’s daggers, boots of elvenkind, dimensional shackles, pinwafur” (greater and lesser), rapiers of puncturing, and trollok ropes”.

New feat: Create spectral spawn

You have the ability to create undead spawn with ties to the Plane of Shadow with your energy drain ability.

Prerequisite: Energy drain special ability.

Benefits: Creatures slain with your energy drain ability arise as spawn under your control with the spectral creature+4 template. They remain under your control until your death.
Nimor 

Nimor is the most talented and deadly assassin of the Jaezed Chaulsin. Ere the failure of his plans to overrun Menzoberranzan with armies of duergar and tanaruk, Nimor was accorded the rank of Orthae'evole (Anointed Blade) of the Jaezed Chaulsin, the highest rank to which a half-shadow dragon drow could aspire before becoming a drow Dragon and one of the Patron Fathers. Now Nimor seeks to regain his former rank by impressing the Patron Fathers with a great and unexpected victory.

Nimor uses a variety of guises, most magical in origin. He most often appears as a slender, almost boyish drow male of striking good looks, with the easy grace and blinding speed of a professional dwasist. He favors the role of a noble rake, and can pass himself off as a highborn lad of a great House with ease. He also cultivates practical identities, including that of a gem merchant, in order to move freely and elude observation. Nimor is far stronger than he appears (a result of his draconic heritage) and has mastered many of the dark spells of the assassin’s deadly trade.

### Nimor Impphraezel CR 19

Male half-shadow dragon drow rogue 3/fighter 4/assassin 9
CE Medium dragon

Init +9; Senses darkvision 120 ft., low-light vision; Listen +12, Spot +18

Languages Abyssal, Common, Draconic, Drow Sign Language, Elven, Undercommon

AC 22, touch 15, flat-footed 17; improved uncanny dodge (+5 Dex, +7 armor)

hp 96 (16 HD)

Immune sleep, paralysis, energy drain

Resist fire 5 (greater piwafwi), evasion, +4 bonus to saves vs. poison, +2 racial bonus to saves vs. enchantment spells and effects; SR 27

Fort +9, Ref +15, Will +6 (+8 vs. spells and spell-like abilities)

Spd 30 ft. (6 squares), fly 60 ft. (average)

Melee +2 wounding rapier +20/+15/+10 (1d6+11/18–20 plus 1 Constitution) and +2 dagger +19/+14 (1d5/19–20) or +2 wounding rapier +22/+17/+12 (1d6+11/18–20 plus 1 Constitution) or 2 claws +21/+16/+11 (1d4+7) and bite +16 (1d6+3)

Base Atk +12; Grp +19

Atk Options breath weapon, death attack, sneak attack +7d6, poison use

### Assassin Spells Known (4/4/4/3, CL 9th):

- 4th—freedom of movement (DC 18), greater invisibility (DC 18), poison (DC 18)
- 3rd—deep slumber, false life, misdirection (DC 17), nondetection (DC 17)
- 2nd—alter self, darkness, invisibility (DC 16), pass without trace (DC 16)
- 1st—disguise self, ghost sound (DC 15), obscuring mist, true strike

### Spell-Like Abilities (CL 16th):

1/day—dancing lights, darkness, faerie fire

### Abilities

Str 24, Dex 20, Con 15, Int 19, Wis 13, Cha 14

SQ drow traits, half-dragon traits, hide in plain sight

### Feats

- Blind-Fight
- Combat Reflexes, Favored in Guild
- Improved Critical (rapier)
- Improved Initiative
- Improved Two-Weapon Fighting
- Weapon Focus (rapier)
- Weapon Specialization (rapier)

### Skills

Balance +13, Bluff +17, Climb +17, Diplomacy +21, Disable Device +7, Disguise +11 (+13 when acting), Hide +25, Intimidate +8, Jump +17, Listen +12, Move Silently +25, Open Lock +18, Ride +12, Search +21, Sense Motive +10, Spot +18, Swim +11, Tumble +16

### Possessions

- assassin’s dagger
- boots of elvenkind
- greater piwafwi
- +3 mithral shirt of improved shadow and improved silent moves
- rapier of puncturing (+2 wounding rapier)
- ring of shadows
- drow house insignia (ebon eyes 1/day)

### Breath Weapon

Once per day, Nimor can breathe a 30-foot cone that bestows 1 negative level. A successful DC 12 Reflex avoids this effect. A DC 12 Fortitude save removes the negative level after 24 hours.

### Death Attack

If Nimor studies an opponent for 3 rounds and then makes a successful sneak attack with a melee weapon, he can kill or paralyze his foe unless the victim succeeds at a DC 27 (28 with assassin’s dagger) Fortitude save; even if this save is successful, the victim still suffers sneak attack damage.

### Hide in Plain Sight

Nimor can use the Hide skill even while being observed.

### Poison Use

Nimor is skilled in the use of poison and never risks accidentally poisoning himself when applying poison to a blade.

### Roleplaying Hook

During the War of the Spider Queen, Nimor fought well, schemed his best, and nearly—with a rothee’s hair—conquered the most powerful drow city in the Underdark. The trophy of Ched Nasad would have paled in comparison to the jewel of a conquered Menzoberranzan. Of course, he knows that nearly was insufficient, almost a paltry substitute for success, both for him and for the Jaezed Chaulsin. Nearly won him nothing. Nearly had lost him his place of honor as the Anointed Blade of the Jaezed Chaulsin.

### Ring of Shadows

This slim ebony hand is made of a strange form of black platinum infused with shadow essence. In the hands of any character other than an assassin or shadowdancer, it functions as a ring of see invisibility. When worn by an assassin or shadowdancer, the ring of shadows also allows its wearer to shadow walk twice per day and cast ethereal jaunt once per day.

Strong transmutation and illusion; CL 13th, Forge Ring, ethereal jaunt, see invisibility, shadow walk, Price 90,000 gp.
Extraction from Jacezred Fosterage

Lady Nael Irlingstar of Waterdeep has been kidnapped by drow raiders traveling through the Plane of Shadow. The PCs must follow their trail to recover the missing noblewoman and learn the reasons behind her abduction.

"Jacezred Fosterage is a D&D adventure for four 5th-level characters. It begins in Waterdeep, City of Splendors, and quickly moves to Karsoluthyl, a little known drow city located in the Underdark beneath the Sea of Swords west of Baldur’s Gate.

Adventure Background

The Jacezred Chaulsin have long battled the Blood of Malaug, a race of shape-shifting monsters from the Plane of Shadow. In a recent conflict with a powerful malaugrym sorcerer on the Plane of Shadow, Patron Father Quidan Oussghym fell victim to a powerful spell that caused him to rapidly oscillate between drow and dragon forms.

Although his followers managed to bring him back to the stronghold of House Oussghym in the drow city of Karsoluthyl, they have not yet managed to relieve his condition. Two of the Patron Father’s most trusted concubines have been sent back to the City of Wyrmshadows for help, but, in the meantime, the Jacezred fosterage in Karsoluthyl is vulnerable to attack by both the Blood of Malaug and rival Loth-worshiping drow noble houses.

Lacking the counsel of their leader, the zekyl conceived of and executed a backup plan, in case aid from the City of Wyrmshadows was not forthcoming quickly enough. The Jacezred Chaulsin have long been observing one of the Blood of Malaug named Amarune, who dwells quietly in the City of Splendors in the form of Lady Nael Irlingstar, in hopes that such observation might eventually lead them to some advantage over their hated foes. In the wake of Quidan’s affliction, a zekyl and two zar’ibra’in from the Jacezred fosterage in Karsoluthyl journeyed to Waterdeep to abduct Amarune and bring her back to Karsoluthyl. They hope she might be able to supply them with enough information to reverse the Patron Father’s affliction. However, as Amarune has no idea as to the nature of the spell, she has been forced to string her captors along, in hopes of escaping before her captors realize how little she knows and summarily kill her.

Adapting the Adventure

Although this adventure is set in Waterdeep and Karsoluthyl, it is easily adapted to a variety of settings. The role of Lady Nael Irlingstar works best if she is the consort of an existing noble patron of the PCs. Lady Irlingstar and Waterdeep can be replaced by a noble in any large city important to the campaign. If the DM is running an Underdark campaign, consider replacing Lady Irlingstar with the male consort of a Loth-worshiping matron of a drow house in a city such as Dusklyng, Jhchalklyn, Karsoluthyl, Menzoberranzan, or Scindlyryn. This works particularly well if the PCs are members of or in the employ of the targeted house.

Likewise, the Jacezred Fosterage can be set in Dusklyng, Jhchalklyn, or Scindlyryn as easily as Karsoluthyl. The fosterage could be set in Ched Nasad, Muterimydra, or Erynly’yn, but the damaged inflicted on such locales during Loth’s Silence changes the environment surrounding the fosterage significantly.
Adventuresynopsis

The PCs are hired by Lord Huilraven Irlingstar to track down the trio of draconic drow kidnappers who abducted his wife, Lady Nael Irlingstar, and fled with her to the Plane of Shadow.

If the PCs agree, they are transported to the Plane of Shadow by Mistymr Iroan where they meet a bounty hunter named Canumbrux. The canonorm leads them to the Jacezrd foresterage in Karsoluthyi, a drow city under the Sea of Swords off the coast of Baldur's Gate.

Once the PCs reach Karsoluthyi, they must decide how to penetrate the fortress of House Ousghym. Available alternatives they might choose include a portal from the Plane of Shadow, a cave-mouth used as a supply entrance, a grand entrance used for aerial approaches, or one of several secret doors into the complex.

Once inside the Jacezrd forestersage, the PCs must hunt for “Lady Irlingstar” without raising the alarm. Unbeknownst to them, Canumbrux plans to create a “helpful distraction” by getting a rival drow house to attack House Ousghym and thereby provide a cloak of confusion under which the mission can unfold.

The PCs have the opportunity to learn a great deal about the Jacezrd Chauelisn that is largely unknown to the Realms Above. They also have the opportunity to rescue “Lady Irlingstar,” although it is an open question as to whether Lord Irlingstar will want her back if the PCs discover her true nature, which motivated the abduction.

Adventure Hooks

Although the PCs can simply be well-known adventurers who happen to be available in Lord Irlingstar’s time of need, this adventure works best if the PCs have an existing working relationship and/or debt to Lord Irlingstar.

Alternatively, the PCs may have already discovered a few tantalizing secrets of the Jacezrd Chauelisn, so when rumors of draconic drow kidnappers abducting a noblewoman spread through the City of Splendors, the PCs might offer their services and expertise to Lord Irlingstar unsolicited.

Irlingstar Villa

Irlingstar Villa (#37 on the map in City of Splendors: Waterdeep) is a typical noble villa in one of Waterdeep’s most exclusive neighborhoods. Assuming the PCs arrive in time for their appointment with the despairing lord, they are immediately ushered into his private study by an attentive butler and greeted warmly.

Creature: Lord Huilraven Irlingstar waits for the PCs in company with a regular business associate, Mistymr Iroan. Lord Huilraven explains that his wife was kidnapped less than 24 hours ago by a trio of dark elves with the claws and features of dragons. He immediately asked his old friend Mistymr for counsel, and the sorcerer has since deduced that the kidnappers came and went by way of the Plane of Shadow using plane shift spells.

Lord Huilraven is too old to go adventuring anymore, so he seeks a skilled band of adventurers (the PCs) to track down his wife’s abductors and either bring her back alive or exact his vengeance for her death. Mistymr still casts spells for hire for old clients like Lord Huilraven, but he adamantly refuses to go adventuring himself for any reason.

The plan conceived by Huilraven and Mistymr is not well thought out (e.g., little thought has been given as to how the PCs get home), but both insist that time is of the essence and the PCs must be willing to adapt the plan on the fly as facts unfold. In short, Mistymr plans to cast shadow walk on the party, travel with them to the Plane of Shadow just long enough to introduce them to a bounty hunter he hired with Lord Irlingstar’s coins. The bounty hunter is to follow the kidnapper’s trail, leading the PCs to wherever Lady Irlingstar is being held. After that, Lady Irlingstar’s liberation is up to the PCs to engineer.

Both Lord Huilraven Irlingstar and Mistymr Iroan are predisposed to be friendly to the PCs, unless the PCs are particularly greedy in negotiating their fee. See below for additional information that can be obtained by using the Diplomacy skill to improve their reactions to helpful. Lord Huilraven is willing to pay the PCs as much as 4,000 gp for the safe return of his wife or as much as 2,000 gp for the return of her body and the promise that she was avenged.

Lord Huilraven Irlingstar

Lord Huilraven Irlingstar (CG old male Illuskan human aristocrat 14) is the powerful patriarch of House Irlingstar, whose fortune was built building ships and running caravans. Although his mind and wit are still sharp, Lord Huilraven is getting on in years and is no longer as fit as he once was. The patriarch of House Irlingstar has thick mane of graying black hair, and fair skin weathered from many days at sea and in the hot sun. He favors simple, well-tailored talarums and leggings, eschewing voluminous cloaks and other affectations that will “only get caught in the rigging.”

Lord Huilraven genuinely loves his younger wife, “Lady Nael” (see below), and he has no inkling that she is anything other than she seems.

Mistymr Iroan

Mistymr (NG male Tethyrian human sorcerer 10) is a healthy, albeit skinny, sorcerer and tavern keeper with amber eyes and thinning hair slicked back and tied in a pony tail. He favors either rumpled shirt and breeches or equally rumpled wizard’s robes, and he talks very loudly, especially if nervous or excited. After more than a decade of earning a living by casting spells for hire and raising himself up from bitter poverty, Mistymr inherited the Crow’s Nest tavern from a friend and renamed it Azuth’s Mug (#C77 on the City of Splendors: Waterdeep map). He still casts spells and tutors lesse mages in his spare time, but he has permanently retired from adventuring to run his tavern. Mistymr still keeps his old room at the Splintered Stair (#D8 on the City of Splendors: Waterdeep map), but spends most of his waking hours at the Mug.

Trek through Shadow

Unless the PCs have other means of finding Lady Irlingstar, they must track her abductors through the Plane of Shadow. Likewise, unless the PCs have their own means of reaching the Plane of Shadow, they must allow Mistymr to cast shadow walk on them and then follow a guide hired by Lord Irlingstar in the path of their quarry.
**VILLA'S SHADOW**

As Mistmyr completes his spell, you find yourself in a shadowy world of black and gray. You stand within an abandoned version of the Irlingstar manse, looking out over a bleak wasteland that looks vaguely like a shattered City of Splendors. Before you stands a barrel-chested human male with inky, blue-black skin, no hair, and cold white eyes. He is garbed in traveling clothes and a dark, silvery chain shirt. A pair of scabbards swings from his belt, and he holds two fine swords in his hands. He regards you warily with the canine cunning of a great wolf.

**Creature:** By prior arrangement, the bounty hunter Canumbrax waits here for the PCs. Canumbrax makes his living tracking those who flee crimes on the Material Plane through the Plane of Shadow. He also escorts travelers through the Plane of Shadow for a steep fee. Canumbrax's initial reaction to the PCs is indifferent.

**Canumbrax**

Shadurakul (*Fiend Folio* 27) ranger 3/horizon walker 1, Humanoid Form

NE Medium outsider (evil, extraplanar, shapechanger)
canumbrax

Shadarakul ranger 3/horizon walker 1, Shadow Mastiff Form

AC 16, touch 13, flat-footed 13; Dodge, Mobility, shadow blend (+3 Dex, +3 natural)

Spd 50 ft. (8 squares)

Melee bite +13 (1d6+7)

Atk Options bay, favored enemy elves +2, trip

Trip (Ex) If Canumbrax hits with his bite attack, he can attempt to trip his opponents as a free action without making a touch attack or provoking an attack of opportunity. If the attack fails, the opponent cannot react to trip Canumbrax.

Development: As payment, Mistym gives Canumbrax a black sapphire (worth 1,000 gp) from the Irlingstar vault and promises him a matching stone of similar value if he brings the PCs and Lady Irlingstar (assuming she is found) back home safely. Mistym then returns to the Irlingstar villa on the Material Plane.

A successful Sense Motive check either before (DC 25) or after (DC 20) the trip to the Plane of Shadow suggests that the terms of Canumbrax's employment are something of a negotiated compromise. Neither Canumbrax, Mistym, nor Lord Irlingstar gives details about their negotiations (or their suspicions) unless the PCs raise their reaction to helpful, requiring a successful Diplomacy check (DC 30 for Canumbrax, DC 17 for Mistym or Lord Irlingstar).

Mistym knows Canumbrax only by reputation, and neither the guild mage nor Lord Irlingstar particularly trusts the bounty hunter. Nevertheless, Canumbrax is the only tracker skilled in the terrain of the Plane of Shadow that Lord Irlingstar can find in short order. After hearing a description of the abductors, Canumbrax refused a much larger bounty to recover Lady Irlingstar himself, leading Lord Irlingstar to conclude that the shadarakul suspects who is behind the abduction and does not want to get too involved.

Based on the description of the abductors, the shadarakul suspects the Jazuul Chaulsin are behind the abduction, but he is puzzled by the kidnapping (as opposed to an assassination) and the intended target (Lady Irlingstar does not appear to be a worshiper of the Spider Queen, making her an unlikely target). He is inclined to keep these thoughts to himself unless the PCs succeed on their Diplomacy check.

A successful Sense Motive check (DC 20) reveals that Canumbrax has something in mind to further profit from the situation. If directly confronted on this point, he promises only to assist the PCs by creating a distraction, should that prove necessary (see below).

**PLANE OF SHADOWS**

The Plane of Shadow is a shadowy, alien landscape, as detailed in the *Dungeon Master's Guide*, page 172, and the *Player's Guide to Faerûn*, page 162. There is an 8% chance of an encounter per hour. Roll 1d6 and consult the table below to determine the nature of any such encounter.

**PLANE OF SHADOW ENCOUNTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll</th>
<th>Encounter</th>
<th>Avg. EL</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1d4+1 shadows</td>
<td>6–7</td>
<td><em>MM</em> 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2d4 shadow asps</td>
<td>7</td>
<td><em>FF</em> 142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 malaugrym</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>MM</em> 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 umbral displacer beast</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>LM</em> 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 shadow choker</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><em>LM</em> 167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1d12 shadar-kai</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>FF</em> 190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Predators:** Predators such as shadows, shadow asps, umbral displacer beasts, and shadow chokers lay in wait for travelers in the Plane of Shadow, making passage through this treacherous realm particularly difficult.

**Malaugrym:** These malaugrym are encountered in the guise of gloating 2nd-level rogues who are willing to join the PCs if asked and if they are promised the possibility of hunting drow. These malaugrym were sent to investigate the local area by a senior member of Clan Malaug after a hidden spelltrap announced the passage of an unknown malaugrym (Lady Nel Irlingstar) in the area. The junior malaugrym have not found any clues as of yet, but they continue to haunt the area in hopes of currying favor.

**Shadar-Kai:** These shadar-kai are bandits who succumbed to the Shadow Curse. Now they prey on unwary travelers on the Plane of Shadow.

**Trail of shadows**

Once Mistym returns to the Material Plane, the PCs may set off by themselves (for whatever reason) or follow Canumbrax. In the former case, they have a 50% chance of wandering into the depths of the Plane of Shadow and a 70% chance of stumbling back onto the Material Plane upon the spell's expiration. If the PCs follow
Canumbrax for a while but later part company, they have a 70% chance of wandering into the depths of the Plane of Shadow and a 70% chance of stumbling back onto the Material Plane 1d10x1000 feet in a random horizontal direction from wherever they think they are (which may be underwater or underground) upon the spell's expiration. If returning to the Material Plane would place any PC within a solid object, they are shunted 1d10x1000 feet further in the same direction that they were traveling.

Assuming the PCs have reached the Plane of Shadow by means of Mistymy's shadow walk spell, they can move at a rate of 50 miles per hour, moving normally on the borders of the Plane of Shadow but much more rapidly relative to the Material Plane. Mistymy's spell lasts 10 hours, so they only have 10 hours to track down their quarry before being shunted back to the Material Plane. Karsoluthyl lies some 420 miles south of Waterdeep, so it takes nearly eight and a half hours to reach the drow city, assuming one incurs the tracking penalty to move at normal speed. (Moving at half speed would not allow the PCs to reach Karsoluthyl.)

Development: The tracks pass over the Shadow Plane's equivalent of farm ground for most of the journey and hard ground (i.e., a subterranean landscape) for the last part of the journey. There are four individuals (one zekyl, two zar'thira, and Lady Irmlingstar) in the tracked party and it has been 24 hours since the trail was made. Tracking conditions on the Plane of Shadow are equivalent to a moonless night. As Canumbrax has already found the tracks, tracking the abductors and their captive requires 8 more Survival checks: one per hour of overland movement (DC 23, moving at normal speed) and one last one through the Shadow Plane's Underdark (DC 28, moving at normal speed). PCs with the Track feat are welcome to make their own attempts to track as well or to aid Canumbrax with "aid another" checks.

If Canumbrax follows the trail all the way to the Jaelred forage, he takes the PCs to the periphery of Orhimmurac's lair (#16) near the two-way portal to the Material Plane. If Canumbrax makes at least two successful Survival checks to Track after leaving Waterdeep, he correctly guesses their destination and leads the PCs into Karsoluthyl near the fortress, but he does not discover the portal to #16 so they shift back to the Prime when Mistymy's spell ends. If Canumbrax loses the trail entirely, the PCs must attempt to find Lady Irmlingstar another way (beyond the scope of this adventure) such as using magic to divine her location and conducting research to determine the nature of the place in which she is held.

Tactics: Canumbrax is as loyal to his employer (and hence the PCs) as one of his kind can be, and Lord Irmlingstar has paid him well. However, the canomorph has a unique perspective on loyalty. Once he gets the PCs near the manse of House Oussghym, he promises to wait in the vicinity on the Plane of Shadow for the next 24 hours. If the PCs recover Lady Irmlingstar and make their way out of the Oussghym stronghold, he promises to lead them home and fully intends to keep that promise. If they come back to the Plane of Shadow through the portal in #16, he leads them back to the Material Plane by way of a similar portal known to him on the first level of Undermountain. If the PCs flee from the Jaelred Chaulsin into the city of Karsoluthyl, Canumbrax employs a nearby planar breach in the Underdark, and catches up with them a short time later. He then leads them back to the Plane of Shadow via that same planar breach and from there back to Waterdeep via the above-mentioned portal in Undermountain.

Canumbrax has a little "helpful" surprise for the PCs that should also help him earn additional money, which he does not bother to mention unless they directly ask him to create a distraction. The canomorph is aware that the Matron Mother of House Lysaen has long been looking for an auspicious time to mount an all-out assault on what she perceives to be a rival house of Loth-worshiping drow. She has no idea that there is anything unusual about House Oussghym's ancestry or choice of divine patron. Canumbrax earns a large fee by describing to her the unusual nature of the kidnappers and revealing the PCs' attempt to infiltrate the Oussghym clan's tower. Enraged by House Oussghym's heresy and well aware of the benefit of attacking while interlopers have infiltrated the fortress, she orders an immediate assault. The Lysaen siege is discussed below.

Jaelred forage

The Jaelred forage is known to the inhabitants of Karsoluthyl as the well-fortified tower of House Oussghym, a minor noble house in the city's political structure, whose coffers have grown wealthy through their very successful mercantile activities. The forage lies on the periphery of the subterranean city, somewhat isolated from its nearest neighbors. (Karsoluthyl proper is beyond the scope of this adventure, but it resembles a smaller version of Menzoberranzan.)

House Oussghym Alert Status: Given the recent battle with the malaugrym and the Patron Father's current condition, the inhabitants of the Jaelred Forage are prepared for a follow-up attack by the Blood of Malaug, but they are not in high state of alert that would be unsustainable over a long period of time. As a result, non-sleeping inhabitants are found prepared for combat, but they are not exclusively focused on defending the tower from attack and continue to go about their regular duties. This attitude changes if and when intruders are detected or the Lysaen Siege begins (see below).

Intruder Alert: If an alarm is raised indicating that intruders are in the building, then double the normal number of guards are posted at all the exits, and the rest of the inhabitants begin sweeping the complex from top to bottom, hoping to flush out the interlopers. In effect, raising the alarm significantly increases the CR of almost any subsequent encounter, which therefore increases the likelihood that the PCs must rely on stealth rather than brute force.

1. Entrance Cave (EL 6 and EL 7)

This large, natural cave mouth opens into the base of the stalagmite beneath the Jaelred forage. The tunnel leads into a large, upward sloping tunnel that winds up into the heart of the stalagmite. This route serves as the main supply route into the fortress.

Lysean siege

Unless Canumbrax is deterred, the Lysaen Siege begins 4 hours after the canomorph has left the PCs to plan their infiltration. After Canumbrax's visit, House Lysean quickly raises troops for the assault. A corps of sixty drow warriors, twenty of whom are mounted on large fiendish monstrous spiders, begin an attack on the Entrance Cave (#1) and the Entrance Balcony (#3). House Lysean is led by a trio of drow captains, all of whom are clerics of Loth.

During the siege, House Lysean makes no special effort to kill the PCs, but its troops do not make a special effort to spare them either.

Drow Warriors (60): CR 1 each; HP 4 each; Monster Manual 102, Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 47/72).

Large Fiendish Monstrous Spiders (20): HP 22; Suggested Miniature: Spider of Loth (Underdark 57/60).

Great iron double doors, barred from the inside with an iron bar, block the tunnel at #1B. The doors swing inward. They can be opened by knocking on the doors, waiting for a guard to emerge from #2, and giving the proper password (known to any fortress inhabitant). The guard is suspicious if the knocker does not ask in Draconic.

Iron Doors with Iron Bar: 2 in. thick, hardness 10, 60 hp, Break DC 30.

Creature: Quiblan has created two undead guardians for the main supply entrance. He has instructed them not to attack anyone bearing the device of Houseouserghym.

**Hazard**: The long, sloping tunnel is trapped with carefully placed patches of shadow slime at the locations marked with an X. The drow warriors in #2 have memorized the locations of the shadow slime.

**Shadow Slime**: *Dragons of Faerûn* 105.

**Development**: A successful Survival check (DC 15) to check for tracks reveals a regular, zigzagging path up the sloping tunnel, suggesting that regular traffic is avoiding some sort of traps or hazards. This path avoids all the patches of shadow slime.

2. **guard post (el. 7)**

This guard post controls access to the Jaelrod fosterage via the long sloping entry tunnel. The outer chamber (#2A) is outfitted with 2 cots, a table, and 5 chairs. The inner chamber is outfitted with one cot, a small table, and another chair.

**Creature**: One zekyl and four drow warriors are posted here on guard duty at all times. The two drow stay #2A, while the zekyl relaxes in #2B.

**Drow Warrior (4)**: hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (*Giants of Legend* 45/72).

**zekyl (1)**: Suggested Miniature: Kapak Draconian (*Dragoneye* 34/60).

**Development**: The secret passage, labeled #2C, is only used in case of an attack on the stronghold. A company of guards can sneak through this passage and out around the base of the stalagmite, allowing them to attack a group trying to break down the doors from behind. A successful Search check (DC 30) is required to find either secret door.

**zekyl**

Male half-shadow dragon drow rogue 3

CE Medium dragon

Init +2; Senses darkvision 120 ft., low-light vision; Listen +7, Spot +7

Languages Draconic, Drow Sign Language, Elf, Undercommon

AC 21, touch 12, flat-footed 19

(+2 Dex, +5 armor, +4 natural)

hp 13 (3 HD)

Immune sleep, paralysis

Resist evasion, +2 vs. enchantment spells or effects; SR 14

Fort +2, Ref +5, Will +0 (+2 vs. spells and spell-like abilities)

Weakness light blindness

Spd 30 ft. (6 squares), fly 60 ft. (average)

Melee rapier +8 (1d6+4/18–20) and bite +1 (1d6+2) or 2 claws +1 (1d4+4) and bite +6 or

Ranged hand crossbow +4 (1d4/19–20)

Melee rapier +8 (1d6+4/18–20) and bite +1 (1d6+2) or hand crossbow +4 (1d4/19–20) or 2 claws +1 (1d4+4) and bite +6 (1d6+2)

Base Atk +2; Grp +6

Spell-Like Abilities (CL 3rd):

1/day—dancing lights, darkness, faerie fire

**Atk Options**: Flyby Attack, breath weapon (30-ft. cone; 1 negative level, Ref DC 11 negates), sneak attack +2d6

**Combat Gear** oil of magic weapon

**Abilities**: Str 19, Dex 15, Con 12, Int 14, Wis 9, Cha 12

**SQ** trapfinding, trap sense +1

**Feats**: Flyby Attack, Weapon Focus (rapier).

**Skills**: Bluff +7, Diplomacy +5, Disguise +7 (+9 in character), Gather Information +9, Hide +8, Intimidate +3, Listen +7, Knowledge (local—Underdark) +8, Move Silently +8, Search +9, Sense Motive +5, Spot +7.

**Possessions**: combat gear plus +1 mithral chain shirt, masterwork rapier, potion of cure light wounds

As you open the door, you see a great octagonal gallery stretching through the heart of the fortress. A quartet of iron double doors opens onto the shaft from each level, except for the bottom level which has just one set of double doors and the top level which has just two sets. The middle of the shaft bristles with arrow slits, allowing residents of the tower to defend themselves from invaders from above or below.

In the center of the Jaelrod fosterage is a long octagonal shaft linking levels 2 through 7 of the fortress. This shaft is a deliberate chokepoint, allowing the tower’s defenders to fight off invaders while strategically retreating up or down the tower.

At the bottom of the shaft, the long tunnel (#5) slopes up into the room. Surrounding the entrance on three sides is a low stone wall, providing cover (as a low obstacle) to anyone standing behind it (versus attacks from within 30 feet).

Levels 3 and 4 have a dozen arrow slits each opening onto the shaft.

With the exception of the doors to #10, all the iron double doors opening onto the shaft can be barred on the far side with iron bars and swing inward (from the shaft), allowing someone climbing the walls to push the doors inward (when not barred).

**Iron Doors with Iron Bar**: 2 in. thick, hardness 10, 60 hp, Break DC 30.

**Creatures**: Two drow warriors on riding lizards are posted here. They use the riding lizards to ferry drow warriors between levels 2, 3, and 4, and *zarîthvârin* between levels 2, 3, 4, and 5. (The zekyl can fly up and down the shaft.)

**Drow Warrior (2)**: hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature see next.

**Riding Lizards (2)**: hp 30 each; *Forgotten Realms Campaign Setting* 308. Suggested Miniature: Mounted Drow Patrol (*Underdark* 74/60).

There is a 10% chance per minute of encountering a group of 1d4 drow warriors coming waiting to be ferried up or down (25%) or in the process of being ferried up or down (75%).

**Drow Warrior (varies)**: CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (*Giants of Legend* 45/72).

**Development**: Any creature herein has a chance of hearing an alert from #10 with a successful Listen check (DC 15).

4. **lower circle (el. varies)**

This passageway loops around the central shaft of the tower.

**Creatures**: There is a 10% chance per minute of encountering a group of 1d4 drow warriors coming to or from the stables or storerooms.

**Drow Warrior (varies)**: CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (*Giants of Legend* 45/72).

5. **storerooms**

As you open the door, you reveal a large storeroom packed with all manner of supplies, exotic and mundane.
Each storeroom is filled with supplies from the mundane (food for the pack and riding lizards) to the exotic (rare spices from the Realms Above).

**Treasure:** Each storeroom contains goods worth 2,000 gp total in the markets of Karsolarthyl. This value drops to 800 in the Realms Above, as many of the objects have value because someone has paid to ship them down from the surface.

6. **Stables** *(el 6 each)*

As you open the door, the odorous reek of the room is nearly overpowering. The room itself is littered with fungus-covered hay. Several large lizards look at you hungrily.

These chambers serve as stables for the beasts of burden (pack lizards) and mounts (riding lizards) used by the stronghold's inhabitants.

**Creatures:** #6A and #6C contain 3 pack lizards each, #6B and #6D contain 4 riding lizards each. (There are a total of 6 pack lizards and 12 riding lizards in the service of the Jæfred fosterage.)

**Pack Lizards** *(3)* hp 76 each; Forgotten Realms Campaign Setting 308 Suggested Miniature: Basilisk (Giants of Legend 13/72).

**Riding Lizards** *(4)* hp 30 each; Forgotten Realms Campaign Setting 308 Suggested Miniature: Monitor Lizard (Underdark 29/60) when unmounted or Mounted Drow Patrol (Underdark 54/60) when mounted.

7. **North and South Galleries** *(el varieties)*

This passageway loops around the central shaft of the tower.

**Creatures:** There is a 10% chance per minute of encountering a group of 1d4 drow warriors passing through either gallery.

**Drow Warrior** *(varies)* CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72).

8. **Barcocks** *(el varieties)*

These spartan quarters house the drow warriors that make up the house's corps of defenders. Each room is filled with a dozen cots. A small footlocker at the foot of each cot holds minor personal effects.

**Creatures:** At any given time, there are 1d12–1 drow warriors residing in each chamber. There are 48 drow warriors total in residence in the fortress.

**Drow Warrior** *(varies)* CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72).

9. **North and South Armories** *(el varieties)*

These triangular rooms serve as armories and weapons training classrooms.

**Creatures:** At any given time, there are 1d12–1 drow warriors practicing in each chamber.

**Drow Warrior** *(varies)* CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72).

**Treasure:** Each armory contains various weapons (mostly rapiers, daggers, hand crossbows, and hand crossbow bolts) with a collective value of 700 gp.

**Development:** Anyone practicing herein has a chance of hearing sounds of combat from #10 with a successful Listen check (DC 15).

10. **Entrance Balcony** *(el 6 and 7)*

In the side of the great octagonal tower is an ornate archway. Extending 20 feet out of the opening is a platform, reachable only by creatures capable of flying or climbing sheer surfaces. Part of the platform is covered by a small roof adorned with crouching, demonic gargoyles. Four drow warriors, two of whom are mounted on riding lizards, are guarding the platform.

The entrance balcony serves as the formal entrance to the tower. It is designed to impress the leaders of other houses by forcing visitors to arrive via magic (e.g., levitation) or astride a flying steed. It also serves the winged zephyrion as their primary means of entering and leaving the stronghold.

**Creature:** Four drow warriors are posted here, two of whom are mounted atop a pair of riding lizards.

**Drow Warrior** *(4)* hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72) or see next.

**Riding Lizards** *(2)* hp 30 each; Forgotten Realms Campaign Setting 308 Suggested Miniature: Mounted Drow Patrol (Underdark 54/60).

**Trap:** A pair of half-shadow dragon statues flank the iron double doors leading to #3. The doors are locked and trapped. None of the drow warriors has the key (it lies with the Patron Father), but all four guards know how to bypass the trap. A successful Open Lock check (DC 30) is required to pick the lock.

**Twin Shadow Guards Dooorknob Trap:** CR 7, mechanical device; touch trigger (turn knob); automatic reset; hidden switch bypass (Search DC 25); dragon jaws +14 melee (2d4+6 plus poison); poison (shadow essence, Fortitude DC 17 resists, 1 Str drain, 2/6 Str damage); Search DC 27, Disable Device DC 26.

When the knob is turned, the right statuette's head rapidly bounces and bites the hand on the knob. If the attack succeeds, the target must save against the poison described above. The trap automatically resets, though the poison must be refilled manually each time.

**Tactics:** If intruders are spotted, one drow warrior rushes to the door at the rear of the room and pounds on the door until the alarm is raised. There is a 75% chance per round of deliberate noisemaking that the alarm is raised in #3 and a 50% chance per round of deliberate noisemaking that the alarm is raised in #9. If intruders are spotted climbing up the exterior of the tower, the two mounted drow warriors engage them in a vertical battle on the side of the tower, while the fourth drow warrior provides covering fire. If flying intruders are spotted, all three drow withdraw under the covering archway and use their crossbows until the intruders engage. Inside the chamber, the mounted drow make full use of all four surfaces during the battle.

11. **Great Hall** *(el varieties)*

This great hall serves as the formal audience chamber for the Patron Father to greet visitors. Its placement across the shaft (#3) from the formal entrance (#10) is deliberate, either forcing visitors to employ magic to cross the shaft or humiliating them by making them cling to the back of a drow warrior on a riding lizard.

**Creatures:** At any given time, there are 1d4–6 drow warriors eating in the chamber. At meal times, this number rises to 4d6.

**Drow Warrior** *(varies)* CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72).

12. **North and South Kitchens** *(el varieties)*

These two chambers serve both as food preparation areas and as pantries.

**Creatures:** At any given time, there are 1d4–1 drow warriors preparing food in each chamber.

**Drow Warrior** *(varies)* CR 1 each; hp 4 each; *Monster Manual* 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72).

13. **Ambush Alleys** *(el varieties)*

These short passageways have barred double doors at each end and barred single doors on each side of each hall. (See #3 for details.)

**Creatures:** There is a 10% chance per minute of encountering a group of 1d4 drow warriors coming to or from the parapet.
14. ze'ksyln fosterages (el. varies)

This large, oblong chamber holds two large beds, what looks to be a massive scratching post, and a variety of equipment presumably used for exercise and training. Several bookshelves filled with books, scrolls, and runestones line the outer wall.

These four chambers house the young ze'ksyln who are being raised and trained to serve as elite assassins of the Jaerded Chaulsin. Each chamber is home to two ze'ksyln, for a total of eight in residence at the Jaerded fosterage.

Creatures: At any given time, there are 1d3-1 ze'ksyln residing in each chamber.

Ze'ksyln (varies): CR 6 each; see #2.

Treasure: The books in each chamber, which focus on denizens of the Underdark and Plane of Shadow, are worth a small fortune. Most emphasize the physical and magical strengths and weaknesses of such monsters, as well as the implication of cultural traits on behavior patterns. All the books are written in Draconic. Collectively, they hold an impressive array of details of interest primarily to a trained killer. Access to one such library provides a +2 circumstance bonus on Knowledge (dungeoneering) and Knowledge (the planes) checks. Each room's library is worth 1,000 gp.

15. parapet (el.6)

This long, enclosed passageway functions as a parapet, as its outer walls are lined with arrow slits. Collectively, the arrow slits allow a complete survey of the surrounding terrain.

The arrow slits marked with an ‘S’ are actually secret doors. The walls of the arrow slit fold open to allow ingress or egress by a creature of Medium size or smaller. Only the Patron Father and the ze'ksyln know of their existence.

Creatures: Eight drow warriors patrol the parapet at all times, keeping watch for threats from elsewhere in Karsoluthyl. The drow walk in pairs and have a pattern of regular shouts so that the absence of a shout is also grounds for an alarm to be raised.

Drow Warriors (8): hp 4 each; Monster Manual 102; Suggested Miniature: Drow Fighter (Giants of Legend 45/72).

16. portal cavern (el.5)

You find yourself in a large stone cavern cloaked in shadows. From the darkness emerges a dragon with a beaked nose, spiny dewlaps, and a crest supported by a single, back-curving spine. A crisp, faintly chemical odor accompanies this dragon, whose translucent scales seem to ooze with oily, liquid blackness giving it the look of a foreboding mass of shadows.

This cavern contains a permanent two-way portal to the Plane of Shadow.

Creature: A solitary, shadowy young white dragon guards this chamber and the portal that lies within it. Othimturac, better known as “Black Ice,” was bred by the previous Patron Father of Karsoluthyl, ere his untimely death, as an experiment. Efforts to breed other varieties of shadow chromatic dragons have so far failed to date, leading some in the Jaerded Chaulsin to conclude that white dragons’ immunity to cold makes them more capable of becoming natives of the Plane of Shadow than other varieties of wyrm.

Othimturac: Suggested Miniature: Zombie White Dragon (Deathknell 60/50).

othimturac, “Black Ice” CR 5

Male shadow white young white dragon
CE Medium dragon (cold, extraplanar)
Init +4; Senses blindsense 60 ft., darkvision 120 ft., keen senses; Listen +10, Spot +10
Languages Draconic

AC 18, touch 10, flat-footed 18 (+8 natural)
hp 76 (9 HD); DR 5/magic
Immune cold, sleep, paralysis
Fort +8, Ref +6, Will +6
Weakness vulnerability to fire

Spd 90 ft. (12 squares), burrow 45 ft., fly 300 ft. (poor), swim 90 ft.
Melee bite +11 (1d8+2) and 2 claws +9 (1d6+1) and 2 wings +9 (1d4+1)
Base Atk +9; Grp +11
Special Atk breath weapon (80-ft. line; 3d6 cold, Ref DC 16 half)
Abilities Str 15, Dex 10, Con 15, Int 6, Wis 11, Cha 6
SQ icewalking, shadow blend
Feats Alertness, Improved Initiative, Multiattack, Wingover
Skills Hide +8, Listen +10, Move Silently +14, Search +6, Spot +10, Swim +18

Icewalking (Ex) As the spider climb spell, but the surfaces Othimturac climbs must be icy. This ability is always in effect.

Shadow Blend (Su) In any conditions other than full daylight, Othimturac can disappear into the shadows, giving him total concealment. Artificial illumination, even a light or continual flame spell, does not negate this ability, but a daylight spell will.

Skills When swimming, Othimturac can always choose to take 10 on Swim checks, even if distracted or endangered while swimming.

Tactics: Othimturac can be cunning and subtle, but he prefers to simply attack anyone who comes within reach of his claws. “Black Ice” takes full advantage of any confusion that stems from his appearance, as most opponents assumes he is some variety of black or deep dragon.

Treasure: Othimturac sits on a bed of 6,500 tarnished, silver coins of varying mintages. Nestled in and among the coins are 4 pieces of smoky quartz (worth 50 gp each), a scroll of pass without trace, a scroll of obscuring mist, and a shadowcloak shirt (+1 mittlar shadow chain shirt).

Development: Despite Othimturac’s unusual nature, a successful Knowledge (arcana) check (DC 20) reveals the similarities in his physical appearance to that of “normal” white dragons.

17. quildon’s harem (el.5 and 8)

You find yourself in a large, ornately furnished, rectangular room. Tapestries woven of swirling shadowstuff shield six large alcoves around the edges of the room. The center of the chamber is dominated by four graceful pillars and several “conversation areas” including low, soft chaises strewn with silks.

The alcove marked #17E has a secret door, which opens into the great cavern of Karsoluthyl, more than five stories above the ground. This passage serves as a secret escape route known only to the Patron Father. The alcove marked #17G also has a secret door that opens into a narrow passage that leads down
to #18. Both secret doors can be found with a successful Search check (DC 30).

**Creatures:** This chamber is home to the six zar’ithra’rin of Quildan’s ilbarim (harem). Each ilbar’quarten, as the Patron Father’s concubines are known, has her own curtained alcove off the main chamber, with a luxurious bed draped with silks and a chest for other personal effects. Normally, four ilbar’quarten are found herein at any given time, while the other two are off attending to the Patron Father, but the recent crisis with Quildan means that only two ilbar’quarten are here presently (roll 1d6 twice to determine which alcoves they are resting in).

**Zar’ithra’rin (2):** Suggested Miniature: Baaz Draconian (Dragoneye 34/60).

---

**zar’ithra’rin**

**CR 3**

Female draconic shadowdrow warrior

CE Medium humanoid (elf, extraplanar)

Init +1; Senses darkvision 120 ft., low-light vision; Listen +3, Spot +4

Languages Draconic, Drow Sign Language, Elvish, Undercommon

AC 16, touch 11, flat-footed 15

(+1 Dex, +4 armor, +1 natural)

hp 5 (1 HD)

Immune sleep

Resist cold 6, +2 vs. enchantment spells or effects, +4 vs. paralysis; SR 12

Fort +3, Ref +1, Will –1 (+1 vs. spells and spell-like abilities)

Weakness light blindness

Spd 45 ft. (9 squares)

Melee 2 claws +4 (1d3+2) or

Ranged hand crossbow +2 (1d4/19–20)

Base Atk +1; Grp +3

Spell-Like Abilities (CL 1st):

1/day—dancing lights, darkness, faerie fire, shadow walk (CL 15th, DC 17)

**Abilities**

Str 15, Dex 13, Con 12, Int 12, Wis 9, Cha 12

**SQ** shadow blend

**Feats** Weapon Focus (claw)

**Skills** Hide +1, Intimidate +3, Listen +3, Move Silently +5, Search +3, Spot +4

**Possessions** chain shirt

**Shadow Blend (Su):** In any conditions other than full daylight, a zar’ithra’rin can disappear into the shadows, giving it total concealment. Artificial illumination, even a light or continual flame spell, does not negate this ability, but a daylight spell will.

**Trap:** A pressure plate just beyond the secret door leading to #18 triggers a trap. The zar’ithra’rin, the zeyklon, and the Patron Father all know about the trap.

**Fuissilade of Shadow Essence Dart:** CR 8; mechanical; location trigger; manual reset; Atk +18 ranged (1d4+1 plus poison, dart); poison (shadow essence, Fortitude DC 17 resists, 1 Str drain/2d6 Str damage); multiple targets (1d8 darts per target in a 10-foot square); Search DC 19; Disable Device DC 19.

**Treasure:** The tapestries are worth 700 gp each. The various silks strewn about the beds and chaises are worth another 800 gp collectively.

---

**18. Quildan’s Lair (El 10)**

You find yourself at the north end of a large, ornately furnished, rectangular room. The walls are lined with tapestries woven of swirling shadowstuff. Tables pilled high with mercantile records are scattered about the room. A circular, shallow pit dominates the southern half of the room. It appears to be filled with coins and other treasures and piled high with pillows. A top the bed of coins and pillows is the writhing form of a creature fluctuating between the form of a dragon and a male drow elf. He is attended by two dark elf females with distinctive dragonlike features. The two females rise to defend him from attack. A human female lies on the floor on the west wall, bound in iron bands that prevent any movement.

The lair of the Patron Father is normally a hub of activity as he alternates dallying with his concubines and conducting the business of the Jazzed Chaullin.

A secret door on the east wall leads down a short passage to a second secret door. That door opens into the great cavern of Karsoluthlith, more than five stories above the ground. This passage serves as a secret escape route known only to the Patron Father. Both secret doors can be found with a successful Search check (DC 30).

**Creatures** Quildan Oussghym, Patron Father of Karsoluthlith, lies on the bed in agony, effectively disabled by a hecataeum unknown spell (a permanent variant of a corporeal invisibility spell that affects only creatures with the shapechanger subtype) cast by a malaugrym sorcerer during a recent pitched battle on the Plane of Shadow. He is in drow form. Quildan must make a successful Fortitude save (DC 23) each round in order to have a standard or move action in that round. He is incapable of full-round actions until cured by means of a dispel magic spell (or Mordenkainen’s disjunction or limited wish). Lesser spells such as cure disease, remove curse, restoration, or neutralize poison have no effect.

Quildan should act 50% of the time during this combat. Quildan’s first action if there are intruders is to change form back to his normal draconic form. This activates his frightful presence ability as well. His second action is to breathe on as many PCs as he can, choosing fighters over spellcasters if he must. After that, he does whatever he can. He doesn’t have any teleportation magic but does know the secret way out.

The PCs don’t need to kill Quildan to succeed here. They can defeat his guardian zar’ithra’rin (see below), release Amarune, and make an escape while Quildan cannot act.

Quildan Oussghym: Suggested Miniature Alternate between Large deep dragon (Underdark 52/60) and drow rogue (Giants of Legend 46/72).
Quildan is attended by two members of his illhariim. The remaining two members have departed via the portal in #16 on a long and arduous trip through the Plane of Shadow back to the City of Wyrmshadows to seek help.

Zar’ithra’in (2); see #17, suggested Miniature: Baaz Draconian (Dragomey 34/60).

Quildan’s prisoner, “Lady Nael Irlingstar,” sits on a couch near Quildan’s rapidly shifting form. She is imprisoned by a set of iron bands of Bilbar. Amarune, her true name, has long been absent from Shadowhome, the fortress of the Blood of Malaug on the Plane of Shadow, fearing death from her kin for some long-forgotten sin if she is ever discovered. Amarune has posed as Lady Nael Irlingstar for over three decades, eschewing the plots of her kin and living quietly among Waterdeep’s nobility, in accordance with the Dark Decree of the Great Shadowmaster Dhalgrave. The death of her daughter Sintre left House Irlingstar without a direct heir and Amarune alone with the magical baubles she had acquired. Although Amarune is entangled with the Unseen back in Waterdeep, her current predicament is not of her making. She knows nothing about the Patron Father’s affliction, but she has been playing along in hopes of delaying her own certain death.

Amarune

Female malaugrym Mon sorcerer 5
CE Medium outsider (evil, extraplanar, shapechanger)
Init +1; Senses darkvision 60 ft.; Listen +9; Spot +9
Languages Common, Malaugrym

AC 19, touch 12, flat-footed 17 (+2 Dex, +5 natural armor, +2 enhancement to natural armor)
hp 50 (10 HD); DR 10/silver, fast healing 3
Immune poison
SR 20
Fort +8, Ref +7, Will +11
Weakness silver vulnerability

Spd fly 30 ft. (6 squares)
Melee tentacle +8 (1d6+1)
Base Atk +7; Grp +8
Sorcerer Spells Known (cast 6/7/5 per day, CL 5th):
2nd—detect thoughts (DC 15, 16 with cloak), invisibility (DC 15, 16 with cloak)
1st—charm person (DC 14, 15 with cloak), comprehend languages, mage armor (DC 14, 15 with cloak), magic missile
0—arcane mark, detect magic, ghost sound (DC 13, 14 with cloak), mage hand, prestidigitation, read magic

Abilities Str 12, Dex 14, Con 12, Int 15, Wis 13, Cha 16 (18 with cloak)
SQ change shape, summon familiar (none)
Feats Blind-Fight, Combat Expertise, Deceitful, Great Fortitude, Iron Will, Negotiator

Skills Bluff +11, Concentration +11, Diplomacy +17, Disguise +13 (+15 in character, +21 with change shape, +23 acting with change shape), Forgery +4, Intimidate +13, Knowledge (arcana) +10, Knowledge (the Planes) +10, Listen +9, Search +10, Sense Motive +11, Spellcraft +12, Spot +9
Possessions amulet of natural armor +2, cloak of Charisma +2

Silver Vulnerability (Su): Amarune suffers maximum damage from silver weapons. She cannot heal damage caused by silver weapons naturally, including with her fast healing ability. Cure wounds spells and other magic heals this damage normally.
Trap: Stepping anywhere on the floor between the two secret doors triggers a trap. Only the Patron Father knows about the trap, and he bypasses it by flying over it.

Fusillade of Shadow Essence Darts: CR 8; mechanical; location trigger; Atk +18 ranged (1d4+1 plus poison dart); poison (shadow essence, Fortitude DC 17 resists, 1 Str drain/2d6 Str damage); multiple targets (1d6 darts per target in a 10-foot square); Search DC 19; Disable Device DC 19.

Treasure: mixed coins worth 8,305 gp, 10 banded agates (worth 10 gp each), 120 turquoise (worth 10 gp each, 2 pieces of smoky quartz (worth 50 gp each), dragonspore flute², iron bands of Bilbo (currently imprisoning Amarune), scroll of ebony eyes³, scroll of shadow conjuration, scroll of shadowloom⁴, scroll of shadow phase⁵.

About the Author

Eric Boyd has been a fan of the Forgotten Realms product line since the first time Elminster graced the pages of Dragon magazine. When he's not playing the role of software development manager or dad, Eric enjoys writing about Faerûn late into the night and knitting together obscure bits of Realmslore. Eric has written or coauthored nearly a dozen books about Faerûn and contributed to many more. His most recent credits include Faiths and Pantheons, Races of Faerûn, Serpent Kingdoms, and Champions of Ruin.