

THE TRAVELLING CIRCUS

Setting description

Stopped by the road for the night, Tisabelle and Solomon's Travelling Circus has been delighting this region for decades. The owners, now far past their performing prime, tend to collect ticket fees and return to their caravans to snooze. They don't ask questions about the background of their performers, caring only for the ability to wring money from the public. Even when travelling, the show will put on an act or two if the money is right.

Some circus personnel

- 1 Ringmaster Dorvar the Prince, a half-orc. Instead of a whip, in the ring he wields a polished axe. Claims this is the greatest show in the world and is excessively flamboyant. Wears an obscene outfit of a leopard skin hat, croc skin trousers and knee-high kid-skin boots.
- 2 The Amazing Rouven, an acrobat. A very lithe and bendy elf, his amazing tricks frequently end in disaster due to being very unlucky. Is exceedingly cheery.
- 3 Goran, an animal keeper, who is very kind to the beasts he looks after. Regularly distracted by his memories of circus acts he has enjoyed, his wits are not often about him and beasts have been known to escape.
- 4 Baldo the Clown wears a wig made of short white feathers. If anyone snatches it from his head he is enraged and will attack. He is not funny. He smells.

Events that might happen today

- 1 Several beasts and monsters have escaped from the caged wagons and are fighting around the tents and wagons. Terrifying and out of control, the animal keepers need help recapturing the beasts.
- 2 In a bout of sudden screaming, it becomes apparent that someone has stolen a small crystal ball from one of the caravans. Solomon shuts down the camp, and allows no one to leave until the thief is found.
- 3 Tobisaac, an enormous bone-chewing giant, has wandered into the circus camp. He insists a show is put on for him in the Big Top and he demands to be entertained. Trouble is many of the acts are worn out from travel or are drunkenly relaxing.
- 4 A friendly militiaman has informed Tisabelle that local guards are on their way to raid the circus, looking for wanted criminals hiding amongst the performers, checking people's papers. It is an outrage and the circus plans to defend themselves against the raid.

Circus Acts

- 1 The Extraordinary Contortions of Elastic Edith - watch her stretch and bend! See her fit into a small box!
- 2 The Beasts of Barnaby Borribol - gasp as Barnaby tames an owlbear & puts his head inside a gelatinous cube.
- 3 Target My Boy - see Gilbert the Archer just miss his son Oswyn with knives and arrows. Then try your own luck!
- 4 The Cackling Clowns - hear them cackle as Waldo, Faldo and Baldo play hilarious tricks on the audience
- 5 Mariote of Fire - see her breathe real fire! The blood of dragons truly flows in our Mariote's veins! Some juggling.
- 6 Allen Geoffrey, Shapes of Man - gasp as Allen shifts his form into that of any member of the audience!
- 7 Big Bartag, the World's Strongest Orc - see him crush a skull in one hand! Watch as he raises the roof.
- 8 Estherpology - watch as Esther escapes from locked cages, nailed barrels and the clutches of the authorities!

Fortunes told by Lady Serena Hark and her Cards of the Future. "Cross my palm with gold."

- 1 The Laughing Kobold, he is laughing at you, yes. Just as all the creatures of the underground will and, indeed, as they should! I really don't blame them.
- 2 The Burning Skull, this means your ugly face will soon be slapped by the hand of one you admire. Perhaps you can prevent this by being less annoying?
- 3 The Blood Moon, ah, it is bad. At the next full moon your blood will be spilled in its light. What a shame.
- 4 The Shambling Mound, yes, your appearance will soon be as this mound, though you will not see it as such. Everyone else will be disgusted though, I bet.
- 5 Seven of Walnuts, this means your luck will be good if you do everything seven times. If you can manage it, I dunno. Probably too hard for you, y'know?
- 6 The Mimic. It means soon a mimic of you will come, perhaps with your face but perhaps just with your soul. Poor thing, what a horror for it!
- 7 The Elf Princess Crowned, it is good! It means that the next elf you meet, you must marry! Then, happy times.
- 8 Four of Dogs, of course, I see. You will be hounded from this land by wild animals who will not relent until they have seen you banished for good. I support this.