

# THE SANGUINE DAWN INN - GROUND LEVEL

1 SQUARE = 5 FEET



# THE SANGUINE DAWN INN

For generations, Ostenwold was a humble smattering of homes and farms along the river Ost, a quiet, peaceful hamlet with little connection to the outside world. Thirty years ago, two retired adventurers, the human Horst Blackfoot, and the elf Déulara Tauranis, chose to settle down and spend their hard-earned gold on building The Sanguine Dawn Inn. At the time, it was the only safe resting place for travelers on the long march between civilized areas, and soon became a regular stopover for merchant caravans and traveling nobility.

Before the people of Ostenwold mysteriously vanished, The Sanguine Dawn featured everything you needed for a restful stay: a roaring fireplace, a warm bath, a stage for traveling bards, comfy bedrooms upstairs with a view, a fully stocked kitchen—and a secret trapdoor behind a bookcase leading to an underground chamber and the tunnels beyond.

## 1 - Porch

A dense, mysterious fog blankets the area, creating an almost ethereal atmosphere. Standing prominently amidst this mist is a well-kept building, its wooden structure exuding a sense of welcome despite the eerie surroundings. A sign gently sways in the fog, depicting a blood-red sun rising against a dark sky, silently beckoning travelers. The front porch of the inn is shrouded in the thick fog, adding to the sense of isolation. Through the windows, clouded by the mist, you catch a fleeting glimpse of movement within the barroom. For a moment, it seems as if someone—or something—is there, but it quickly vanishes, leaving you questioning whether it was ever there at all. The silence that follows is profound, as if the inn itself is caught in a moment of suspended anticipation, awaiting the unfolding of unseen events.

The thing the characters witnessed was one of the **GHOULS** from Area 4. It slithers back to the dining area to alert the others of the characters' presence.

The double doors to the inn are unlocked. If the characters stand on the porch long enough, one of the doors opens with a slow creak.

## 2 - Barroom

The barroom of the inn exudes a warm, inviting atmosphere, though it lies eerily silent and uninhabited. Six sturdy wooden tables are meticulously arranged across the room, each set with fine cups and plates, as if expecting guests at any moment. The soft, flickering glow of candles, strategically placed on the tables and in sconces along the walls, casts dancing shadows and adds a cozy, albeit slightly unsettling, ambiance. A grand bar stretches along one side of the room, its polished wooden surface reflecting the candlelight, showcasing an array of glasses and bottles lined up as if awaiting the innkeeper's hand.

Dominating the southwestern wall is a huge fireplace, its large hearth appearing like a welcoming beacon. However, the crackling flames seem to play tricks on the eyes, creating illusions in their leaping light. This massive fireplace serves as a natural divider between the barroom and the stateroom, hinting at further mysteries and comforts beyond. The whole scene is a paradox, a space fully prepared for merriment and company, yet hauntingly devoid of life, as if frozen in time just before its patrons vanished into the mist.

Characters who spotted the creature moving inside this room from Area 1 might want to observe the room, looking for signs of life (or otherwise). A successful DC 10 Intelligence (Investigation) check identifies bare footprints on the floor boards, coming and going from the various doors, but all inevitably disappearing into the room to the southwest (Area 3).

**Treasure: Crossbow.** Characters who actively search the bar discover a loaded light crossbow pinned underneath it. The bolt in the crossbow is silvered, as are the other nine bolts kept in a small box within reach of the weapon.

**Obstacle: Stuck Door to Area 6.** The mess in the kitchen has wedged the door connecting the stairwell between this area and there closed. Opening it requires a successful DC 12 Strength check.

### 3 - Stage

This large room is dominated by two huge tables, each surrounded by sturdy benches that once might have hosted lively audiences. A trio of smaller tables sit before a stage set against the southwestern wall, a platform that in happier times would have been the heart of entertainment and joyous gatherings. Now, it looms silently, a stark reminder of what once was.

The floor around the stage and tables tells a more sinister story. Pools of blood are splattered across the wooden planks, their dark, crimson stains a jarring contrast to the room's intended purpose of merriment. This grim sight is further disturbed by a discernible trail of blood that leads from the vicinity of the stage to a closed door in the southern corner of the room. The trail is marked by obvious footprints, suggesting a hurried, perhaps panicked, movement of at least one person or creature.

The **GHOULS** in Area 4 left the footprints. Aware of the character's presence, they're planning an ambush there.

**Cold Spots.** Evil's presence has left an incontrovertible mark on this area. When the character's first come into the area and see the blood, have them make Wisdom saving throws. The DC for the saving throw equals 10 + half the party's average level (rounded down). On a failed saving throw, the target is frightened of the room for 1 minute. The target can repeat its saving throw at the end of each of its turns, ending the effect on itself with a success.

### 4 - Meeting Room

As you step into the private meeting area of the inn, an appalling stench immediately overwhelms your senses, clashing starkly with the room's otherwise orderly setup.

In the center, a large table surrounded by chairs hints at past gatherings, now eerily silent. The southwestern wall features a shelf adorned with an array of trinkets and a prominent chest. Opposite this, the northeastern wall boasts a large bookcase, its shelves laden with leatherbound books.

This scene of quiet and scholarly reflection is abruptly shattered as a number of hideous creatures leap from their concealed positions within the room. These beings, with their gaunt, decayed appearances and hollow, lifeless eyes, move with a startling quickness and a clear intent of malice.

**Encounter: Undead Menaces.** The creatures are vicious undead. The number and types of creature present in this encounter depends on the party's average level, as shown in the table below. These vile things fight until destroyed.

#### Area 3 Encounters

Average Level	Encounter
1–2	1 <b>GHOUL</b> and 2 <b>ZOMBIES</b>
3–4	3 <b>GHOULS</b>
5–7	4 <b>GHASTS</b>
8–10	6 <b>GHASTS</b>

**Investigation.** The trinkets and goods on the southwestern wall's shelf are interesting, but don't hold more than 20 gp of value. Similarly, the nature and geography books on the shelf are nice, but relatively common in the region, worth no more than 70 gp total.

**Secret Chamber.** The bookcase in the northeastern side of the room obscures a secret chamber (4b). Finding this secret chamber requires a successful DC 15 Wisdom (Perception) check. Once discovered, a DC 13 Intelligence (Investigation) check is needed to find the book that serves as a lever to open the door.

**Locked Trapdoor.** There is a locked door in the secret chamber that leads down to the hidden section of the basement. A successful DC 15 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools unlocks the trapdoor.

## 5 - Toilets

As you step into the small room, a sense of eerie disquiet hangs in the air. Directly ahead, a large clawfoot bathtub looms, its cast iron form casting long, odd shadows in the flickering light. Despite its promise of warmth and relaxation, the tub now seems oddly out of place, contributing to the room's unsettling atmosphere. To one side, a single wooden stall is present.

**Encounter: Toilet Ghoul.** There is a **GHOUL** hiding in the toilet stall. If reduced to half its hit points or fewer, it attempts to flee to area 3 to join the other undead creatures there.

## 6 - Kitchen

The door connecting this area to the stairway between here and area 2 is stuck shut, due to the destroyed furniture. Forcing the door open requires a successful DC 12 Strength check.

As you step into the kitchen of The Sanguine Dawn Inn, the once orderly and bustling heart of the establishment, you're greeted by a scene of utter chaos. The large room, normally filled with the warm glow of the stove and the inviting aromas of cooking, is now a disarray of destruction. Shelves that once held an array of spices and ingredients have been torn from the walls, their contents strewn across the floor in a mix of colors and scents. The large stove, a centerpiece of the kitchen's modest appliances, stands cold and abandoned, surrounded by shattered crockery and broken utensils.

Treat this area as difficult terrain.

## 7 - Gardens

As you wander through the well-tended gardens on the south side of The Sanguine Dawn Inn, enveloped by the lush greenery and vibrant colors of the herbs and vegetables, you notice a shift in the atmosphere. The fog, more pronounced here, gathers gently around the quaint wooden fences, mingling with the earthy scents of rosemary, thyme, and the ripe tomatoes. It swirls softly, caressing the tops of the herbs and brushing against the robust vegetables, creating a scene of serene, otherworldly beauty.

Amidst this tranquility, a curious buzzing sound captures your attention, subtle yet unmistakable. It seems to emanate from nowhere and everywhere, a ghostly hum that resonates with the mystique of the fog-shrouded garden.

**Encounter: Mi-Go Scientist.** The first time the characters come to this part of the inn, there is a **MI-GO** scientist (see the appendix) hidden in the fog. It's observing the inn, keeping tabs on its specimens—the ghouls in Areas 3 and 5. The mi-go stays 60 feet away. However, a character who succeeds on a DC 20 Wisdom (Perception) check can see its glowing fronds through the mist.

## 8 - Upstairs

**Trap: Weak Stairs.** The ghouls occupying the upstairs have weakened the staircase's integrity. Spotting the trap requires a successful DC 13 Intelligence (Investigation) check. If a character steps onto the second to last step leading to the upstairs landing, the entire top portion of the staircase collapses. Any one on the stairs when this happens must make a DC 13 Dexterity saving throw, or fall to the lower level, taking 1d6 bludgeoning damage from the fall. Triggering the trap alerts the **GHOULS** in areas 4, 9, and 12.

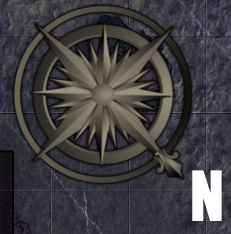
After the characters avoid or trigger the trap, read the following:

As you tread along the upstairs hallway of The Sanguine Dawn Inn, the pervasive air of malevolence that haunts the lower floors seems to intensify. The common area, with its two tables and a large shelf filled with books and games, sits under a heavy veil of dread, the items untouched and gathering dust, as if abandoned mid-use. The chairs are scattered as though their occupants fled in a hurry, adding to the sense of unease. Shadows pool darkly in the corners, seeming to watch and wait. The numerous doors lining the hallway, each potentially leading to a guest room, are closed and silent, yet they emanate a foreboding aura, suggesting they harbor more than just empty beds.

The first time the characters come up the stairs, they can hear the **GHOULS** lurking in areas 9a and 12, who do nothing to conceal their presence.

# THE SANGUINE DAWN INN - UPPER LEVEL

1 SQUARE = 5 FEET



## 9 - Bunk Rooms

Each room at the southeastern side of the inn features a pair of bunk beds.

**Encounter: Ghouls in 9a.** The southernmost bunk room contains fearsome undead, the number of which depends on the level of the adventure, as shown on the Area 9a Encounter table. The ghouls are feasting on a corpse; characters who listen carefully at the door and succeed on a DC 13 Wisdom (Perception) check can hear them from the hall.

### Area 9a Encounters

Average Level	Encounter
1–2	1 <b>GHOUL</b> and a <b>SWARM OF RATS</b>
3–4	2 <b>GHOULS</b>
5–7	2 <b>GHASTS</b>
8–10	3 <b>GHASTS</b>

**Treasure: Hidden Pack in 9a.** A visitor to the inn hid their backpack underneath the armoire. The backpack contains the contents of a diplomat's pack (the food has turned) and 100 gp.

**Traps: Caltrops in 9b.** Caltrops cover the floor in 9b. Any creature that enters the area must succeed on a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw or stop moving and take 1 piercing damage. Until the creature regains at least 1 hit point, its walking speed is reduced by 10 feet. A creature moving through the area at half speed doesn't need to make the saving throw. The ghouls in the inn are aware of this trap.

**Encounter: The Thing in 9c.** A headless animated corpse wanders aimlessly in area 9c. The corpse uses the statistics of a **ZOMBIE**, except it is blinded and deafened.

## 10 - Single Rooms

The two rooms at the northeastern end feature a single bed, a desk, and an armoire.

**Locked Door to 10b.** The door to area 10b is locked, requiring a successful DC 15 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools to

unlock, or a successful DC 15 Strength check to break it down. Characters who listen at the door can hear a loud droning sound coming from within. If they encountered the mi-go in Area 7, they recognize it immediately.

**Encounter: Mi-Go Scientist.** Another **MI-GO** (see the appendix) scientist uses this room as a makeshift operating suite. It is operating on a destroyed ghoul. The mi-go is too fixed on its work to bother itself with the characters. It only fights if the characters persist or attack it. If it's reduced to half its hit points or fewer, it escapes through the nearby window.

**Treasure: Mi-Go Tools.** If the characters manage to kill the mi-go, they discover some of its tools. The tools can be used to implement unusual changes to biological creatures. To use the tools, the creature must spend 10 minutes using them with a non-construct creature within 5 feet the whole time. At the end of the duration, the creature must make an Intelligence (Arcana) check. Refer to the Mi-Go Tools Results to determine the outcome.

### Mi-Go Tools Results

Check Result	Outcome
0 or less	The target must make a DC 15 Constitution saving throw, taking 21 (6d6) radiant damage on a failed saving throw, or half as much on a successful one.
1–9	The target must make a DC 15 Constitution saving throw, taking 10 (3d6) radiant damage on a failed saving throw, or half as much on a successful one.
10–14	Nothing happens.
15–19	The target regains 1d6 hit points. This outcome affects undead.
20–24	The target regains 2d6 hit points.
25 or higher	The target mutates. Roll on the Random Mutation table to determine what happens.

## Random Mutation

d20	Mutation	Effect
1	Bioluminescent	The creature constantly emits dim light in a 20-foot radius.
2	Enlarged ears	The creature has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks made to hear.
3	Webbed fingers and toes	The creature gains a swimming speed equal to its walking speed.
4	Gills	The creature can breathe air and water.
5	Extra limbs	The creature gains an extra limb. It has a reach of 5 feet, and it can lift a number of pounds equal to five times the creature's Strength score. The creature can use it to do the following simple tasks: lift, drop, hold, push, or pull an object or a creature; open or close a door or a container; grapple someone; or make an unarmed strike. The GM might allow other simple tasks to be added to that list of options. It can't wield weapons or shields or do anything that requires manual precision, such as using tools or magic items or performing the somatic components of a spell.
6	Elongated limbs	The creature's melee reach increases by 5 feet.
7	Chameleon effect	The creature has advantage on Dexterity (Stealth) checks made to hide.
8	Retractable claws	The creature can use its claws to make unarmed strikes. When it hits with them, the strike deals 1d6 + the creature's Strength modifier slashing damage, instead of the damage normal for its unarmed attack. If the creature already has claws, the dice it uses increases by one step (from 1d4 to 1d6, 2d6 to 2d8, etc.)
9	Night vision	The creature gains darkvision out to 30 feet.
10	Telepathy	The creature gains telepathy out to 60 feet.
11	Acidic saliva	The creature can use its action to spit a glob of acid at a target that it can see within 30 feet of it. The target must make a Dexterity saving throw against a DC of 8 + the creature's Constitution modifier + the creature's proficiency bonus. On a failed saving throw, the target takes 2d4 acid damage. The creature can use this feature a number of times equal to its Constitution modifier (minimum of once), and regains all expended uses after completing a long rest.

## Random Mutation (Continued)

d20	Mutation	Effect
12	Regeneration	The target can use its bonus action to regain 1d6 hit points. The number of hit points it regains increases by 1d6 at 5th level (2d6), and again at 11th (3d6), and 17th level (4d6). Once the creature uses this feature, it can't use it again until it completes a long rest.
13	Insectoid wings	The creature gains a flying speed equal to its walking speed.
14	Sonar sensing	The creature gains blindsense out to 30 feet. The creature can't use its blindsight while deafened.
15	Photosynthetic skin	The creature no longer requires food, so long as it spends at least one hour each day in direct sunlight.
16	Enhanced musculature	The creature's Strength score increases by 2.
17	Thermal vision	The creature gains blindsight out to 30 feet. However, creatures and objects that do not have heat signatures (such as undead or constructs) are invisible to the creature's blindsight.
18	Venomous bite	The creature can use its mouth to make unarmed strikes. When it hits with it, the bite deals 1d4 + the creature's Strength modifier slashing damage, instead of the damage normal for its unarmed attack, and the target must make a Constitution saving throw against a DC of 8 + the creature's Constitution modifier + the creature's proficiency bonus. On a failed saving throw, the target is poisoned for 1 minute. The target can repeat its saving throw at the end of each of its turns, ending the effect on itself with a success.
19	Scale-like skin	When the target isn't wearing armor, its base AC is 13 + its Dexterity modifier. It can use its natural armor to determine its AC if the armor it would wear would leave it with a lower AC. A shield's benefits apply as normal while the creature uses its natural armor.
20	Antennae	The creature gains advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks.



A creature that mutates gains a disease. Until the disease is cured, the target can't regain hit points except by magical means, mi-go tools, or its own innate regenerative features (such as troll's regeneration) and the target's hit point maximum decreases by 3 (1d6) for every mutation it has every 24 hours. If the target's hit point maximum drops to 0 as a result of this disease, the target dies.

Removing the disease reverts the creature to its original state and it loses all the benefits of its mutation.

Once a creature uses the tools, the tools can't be used again for 24 hours.

## 11 - Deluxe Rooms

The two rooms in the northern corner of the build's upper level feature larger beds, shelves, and wardrobes.

**Encounter: Ghouls in Area 11a.** More ghouls occupy area 11a, anxious to sink their crooked teeth into the flesh of living prey. The number of types of ghouls here depends on the level of the adventure, as shown in the Area 11a Encounter table.

### Area 11a Encounters

Average Level	Encounter
1–2	1 <b>GHOUL</b>
3–4	2 <b>GHOULS</b>
5–7	2 <b>GHASTS</b>
8–10	3 <b>GHASTS</b>

**Treasure: Golden Key.** One of the ghouls wears a gold key around its neck. The key's bow is carved to resemble a small, four-fingered humanoid claw. The key is worth 10 sp.

**Encounter: Rats in Area 11b.** A nest of foul rats covers every floor and surface of area 11b. The types and quantity of these rats depend on the level of the adventure, as shown on the Area 11b Encounter table. Ghoul rats are a new creature detailed in the appendix.

### Area 11b Encounters

Average Level	Encounter
1–2	1 <b>SWARM OF RATS</b>
3–4	2 <b>SWARMS OF RATS</b>
5–7	3 <b>GHOUL RATS*</b> and 2 <b>SWARMS OF RATS</b>
8–10	6 <b>GHOUL RATS*</b>

## 12 - Owner's Suite

As you cautiously step into what was once the owner's suite of The Sanguine Dawn Inn, a chilling sight unfolds before you. The room, grand in its day, now exudes an air of decayed opulence. Dominating one wall is a large fireplace, its cold, dark hearth a stark contrast to the warmth it once provided. By the northern wall is an imposing four-post bed, its once-luxurious canopy torn and hanging limply, a ghostly remnant of its former grandeur. Beneath your feet, a huge bear rug, now matted and dusty, sprawls across the wooden floor. But it's the room's current occupant that freezes the blood in your veins. Towering over everything, an enormous undead abomination looms, standing easily 10 feet tall. Its grotesque form is a nightmare come to life, its skin a patchwork of decay. In its gnarled, monstrous hands, it mindlessly chews on a human leg, the remnants of its unfortunate victim. The sound of bone and sinew being crushed under its immense jaws echoes through the room.

**Encounter: Super Ghoul.** The large creature is a super ghoul. It uses the statistics of a **ZOMBIE OGRE**, except it is a CR 3 (700 XP) creature and has the following actions in place of its Morningstar attack:

**Bite.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 22 (4d8 + 4) piercing damage.

**Claw.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +7 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 18 (4d6 + 4) slashing damage. If the target is a creature other than an elf or undead, it must succeed on a DC 13 Constitution saving throw or be paralyzed for

1 minute. The target can repeat the saving throw at the end of each of its turns, ending the effect on itself on a success.

**Investigation: Bed Treasure.** Characters who search the room discover a wide but short foot locker stuffed under the bed. A padlock prevents entry, but it's relatively simple, requiring only a DC 10 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools to unlock it. Otherwise, it has AC 15 and 2 hp. The chest contains a smaller unlocked chest with 100 gp and an iron key (used on the cell door in area 14c). There is also a masterwork longsword in a jeweled scabbard worth 50 gp.

### 13 - Basement Storage

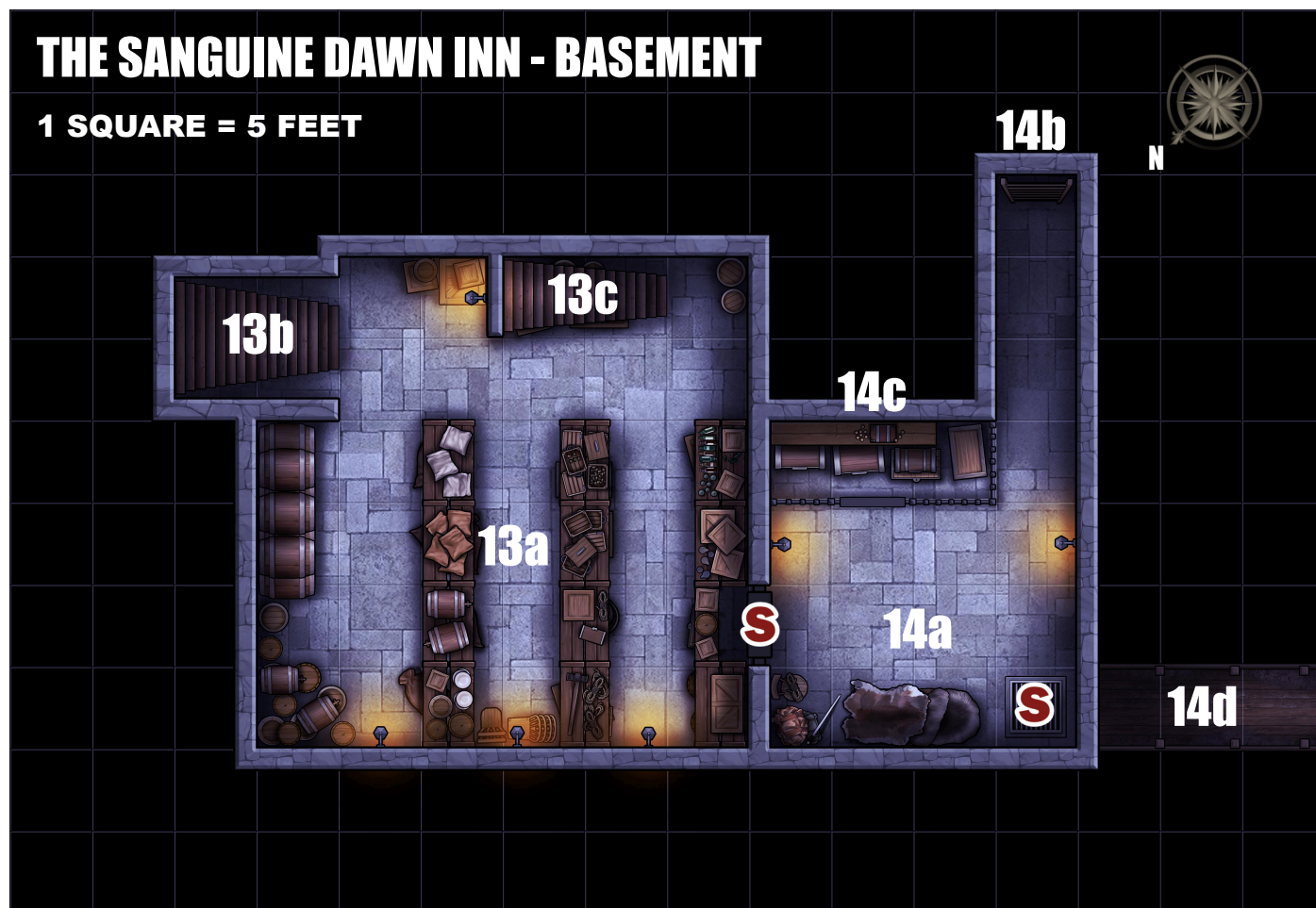
As you descend into the basement storage area, the air grows cooler and carries the musty scent of old wood and earth. The space stretches out before you, its dimly lit expanse revealing rows upon rows of kegs, each one neatly stacked and labeled. These barrels, dozens in total, hold the promise of ale, wine, and perhaps more exotic spirits.

At the center of the room, three six-foot tall shelves dominate, each one packed to the brim with an assortment of crates, sacks, and various tools. The crates, some of them slightly ajar, reveal glimpses of their contents—dried goods, perhaps, or spare parts for repairs. Sacks of grain or flour are piled haphazardly, their burlap surfaces stained and worn. Amongst these, a medley of other goods are haphazardly arranged: lanterns, lengths of rope, spare linens, and a miscellany of items necessary for the upkeep of a busy establishment.

The northernmost stairs (13b) lead up to a cellar door on the north side of the inn. The stairs against the southwestern wall (13c) lead up to the bar.

**Treasure: Dry Goods.** The goods here are relatively good condition. If the characters devise a way to carry them out of the tavern, they are worth 250 gp altogether.

**Investigation/Trap: Secret Door.** The wall



against the southwestern wall masks the presence of a secret door, detectable with a successful DC 16 Wisdom (Perception) check. A character who examines the shelf can make an Intelligence (Investigation) check. The table below determines what they learn; results are cumulative.

### Area 13a Investigation Check

Check Result	Information Learned
9 or lower	Nothing
10–14	Lifting one of the lanterns on the shelf opens the secret door.
15+	If the lantern isn't lit before it is lifted, the door won't open. Additionally, it triggers the nail trap.

Lifting the lantern on the shelf opens the secret door, but only if it's lit. If someone lifts the lantern without first lighting it, a box of nails explodes. The trap makes an attack against the person lifting the lantern with a +6 to hit, dealing 1d4 + 1 piercing damage on a success.

Disabling the trap requires a successful DC 13 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools.

The secret door leads to area 14a.

## 14 – Secret Basement

Against the southeastern wall, a stark, iron-barred cell stands out. Inside the cell, an assortment of chests and crates are piled high, suggesting valuable or secretive contents. In the northern corner of this hidden chamber, away from the cell, lies a hastily assembled pile: a rugged backpack, a sheathed sword, and a coiled bundle of rope.

This secret basement was used by the inn's owner to store her earnings and offer a means to escape in case things took a turn.

The ladder in the southern corner (14b) leads up to the secret chamber in the meeting room, area 4b. The secret door from area 13 is obvious from this side. A latch to the left of it

opens it, no traps triggers.

**Trap: Cell Door (14c).** The cell is locked. The iron key in the owner's suite (area 12) unlocks the door without issue. Otherwise, a successful DC 15 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools unlocks it. However, the door is trapped. Anyone attempting to pick the lock must make a DC 16 Constitution saving throw, taking the full damage listed on the Area 14c Trap table on a failed save, or half as much on a success. Noticing this trap requires a successful DC 14 Intelligence (Investigation) check. Disarming it requires a successful DC 15 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools. Failing the check to disarm it by 5 or more triggers the trap.

### Area 14c Trap Damage

Average Level	Damage
1–2	1d6 lightning damage
3–4	2d6 lightning damage
5–7	4d6 lightning damage
8–10	6d6 lightning damage

**Treasure: Cell Loot (14c).** The chests are loaded with copper pieces. The total treasure depends on the party's average level, as shown in the Area 14c Treasure table.

### Area 14c Treasure

Average Level	Treasure
1–2	12,500 cp and 500 sp
3–4	20,000 cp and 2,000 sp
5–7	385,700 cp and 10,000 sp
8–10	500,000 cp and 15,000 sp

**Investigation: Secret Exit.** A large grate in the corner masks the presence of an escape tunnel. The tunnel connects the inn to the house across the street.

# THE CLENCHED FIST SMITHY

Before the people of Ostenwold vanished, The Clenched Fist was run by a giant of a human, Horst Blackfoot. Some said he had Goliath blood in him, but his thick black beard suggested otherwise. Although his wares were well known for their quality, his home was far too luxuriously decorated for a humble blacksmith—that's because Horst ran an underground bare knuckle fight club in the cellar.

## 1 - Smithy

The first time the characters enter this area, read the following:

Encircled by a wrought iron fence, twisted and ornate, this smithy stands as a silent sentinel to the abandoned craft within. The forge, now cold and still, is shrouded in a layer of fine mist, giving the impression of a sleeping beast. Beside it, the wheel grinder looms like a specter, untouched and covered in a fine sheen of dew, its once busy wheel now still in the oppressive silence. The workbench, scattered with tools and remnants of past projects, is veiled in a thin layer of mist, adding to the sense of time having stood still.

From the shadows near the door to the house, a small, faint voice echoes out, tinged with both hope and fear, calling from behind the metal grate set into the ground.

"Help!" calls the voice of a small child. "The creatures trapped us down here. They want to eat us! Please save us!"

**Encounter: Mimicking Horror.** The grate beside the front door is directly above the boxing ring in the basement (area 7c). A target that approaches the grate must make a DC 13 Wisdom (Insight) check or be surprised by the the **MIMICKING HORROR** (see the appendix) in the basement. If the mimicking horror surprises the creature, it reaches through the grate with its tentacle and tries to grab the target's leg. If it succeeds, the target falls 10 feet down into the basement below, taking 1d6 damage from the fall.

Note: this combat may prove deadly for 1st or 2nd level characters. Consider substituting a

traditional **MIMIC** with the mimicry trait for the mimicking horror.

**Treasure: Smith's Tools.** The tools covering the old smith's bench are still in great working condition. A character that spends one minute to gather the tools can get enough supplies to create a set of smith's tools.

## 2 - Shop

This room is a treasure trove of the smith's craft, with multiple tables laden with an array of goods. Weapons of various designs, from slender, razor-sharp swords to hefty axes, are displayed alongside helmets of intricate craftsmanship. Shields adorned with emblems and crests lean against the walls, each telling a story of battles and bravery. Full suits of armor, polished to a gleaming finish, stand sentinel in the corners, their empty eye sockets casting deep shadows in the flickering light.

Amidst this display of martial artistry, a strange creature lurks, an entity beyond human understanding. It resembles a bizarre amalgamation of a starfish, a squid, and a human, with a radial symmetry. Its body is covered in an array of eyes, tentacles, and fluttering gills, and it moves with an unsettling, otherworldly grace.

**Encounter: Elder Thing.** The creature is an **ELDER THING**, an ancient creature of alien intelligence. It doesn't attack immediately, content to better understand its opponent. It only attacks the characters if they try to fight it or they try to go through the door that leads to area 3. The elder thing's statistics are in the appendix.

**Treasure: Weapons and Armor.** The room is loaded with smithed goods. There are two chain shirts, a suit of scale mail, two breastplates, a suit of half plate, two suits of chain mail, and a suit of full plate. There's also six shields, ten daggers, four handaxes, three maces, six spears, two battleaxes, a flail, three glaives, a greataxe, a gratsword, a halberd, six longswords, two mauls, two morningstars, four rapiers, two scimitars, eight shortswords, and six warhammers.

# THE CLENCHED FIST SMITHY - GROUND FLOOR

1 SQUARE = 5 FEET



# THE CLENCHED FIST SMITHY - GROUND FLOOR

1 SQUARE = 5 FEET



# THE CLENCHED FIST SMITHY - BASEMENT

1 SQUARE = 5 FEET



### 3 - Storage

Two large shelves dominate the space. One shelf is laden with an assortment of weapons – swords, daggers, and spears – each gleaming dully in the muted light, alongside meticulously crafted pieces of armor, from breastplates to helms. The other shelf is a repository of smithing resources: stacks of metal ingots glinting silver and copper, rolls of sturdy leather, bundles of arrow feathers, and an assortment of nails and rope, all the essentials for a master smith. At the south end of the room, a staircase leads upwards.

If the characters entered this room from area 1, add:

Suddenly, a door in the northeastern corner of the room swings open with a loud, jarring creak. Darkness lies beyond.

**Treasure: Smith's Goods.** The room is loaded with smithing tools, weapons, and other supplies. There is a chain shirt, a suit of scale mail, three breastplates, a suit of half plate, and a suit of chain mail. There's also eight shields, twelve daggers, six handaxes, four maces, ten spears, a battleaxe, a glaive, a greataxe, a greatsword, four longswords, a maul, four morningstars, two rapiers, four scimitars, four shortswords, a hundred arrows, fifty crossbow bolts, and three warhammers. There are enough supplies here to create four sets of smithing tools. Any mundane item from the adventuring gear table costing 5 gp or less can also be found here.

### 4 - Living Area

At the far end of this room sits a large dining table with four chairs, all appearing unused for some time, with a layer of dust settled upon them. In the southeastern corner, a large cooking hearth stands lit, the only sign that someone may have recently been here. There are two doors in the western hall, both closed.

Encounter: Disembodied Arms. The first time the characters enter the room, the character with the highest passive Wisdom (Perception) check notices something crawling under the dining table. While the things look like snakes from afar, they are actually two disembodied and reanimated arms, the result of the elder

thing in area 2's experimentation. The **DISEMBODIED ARMS** attack anything that comes into the area. Their statistics are included in the appendix.

### 5 - Study

**Trap: Locked Door.** The door to the study is locked and trapped. Spotting the trap requires a successful DC 15 Intelligence (Investigation) check. Removing the trap requires a successful DC 15 Dexterity check using proficiency in thieves' tools. A creature that tries to open the door without removing the trap first must make a DC 10 Constitution saving throw, taking 1d4 lightning damage on a failed saving throw, or half as much on a successful one. If the trap reduces the target to 0 hit points, the target is stable but paralyzed for 1 hour, even after regaining hit points.

Your eyes are immediately drawn to the floor-to-ceiling bookshelves that line the entire eastern wall. They are filled to the brim with an array of books, their spines offering a rainbow of colors and a wealth of knowledge on the artisan crafts. The smell of old paper and leather fills the air. On the western wall stands a large, oaken desk, its surface a landscape of scholarly chaos. Scrolls and loose sheets of paper are strewn across it, some rolled up, others laid flat with notes and sketches.

### 6 - Bedroom

The dimness of this cramped bedroom envelops you, with only a single window on the western wall offering a meager stream of light. The room feels close and intimate, shrouded in shadows that dance gently with the movements of the outside world. In the southwestern corner, a small table is surrounded by chairs. Along the western wall, a shelf holds a pair of urns, their forms elegant yet somber, casting long, slender shadows, along with a mastercraft sword polished to perfection. Beside them, an armoire stands, its doors closed.

Dominating the northwestern corner is a large bed, its covers rising in a large, mysterious lump. Suddenly, this lump emits a low groan, a sound muffled by the fabric yet unmistakably human.



**Encounter: Experiment.** The poor soul under the covers is still alive, but in a horrible state. Both of his arms have been surgically removed and his eyes and mouth have been sewed shut. Clever characters immediately recognize that the man's arms are the ones in the living area. So long as the characters didn't completely destroy the pair, they can be reattached with a regeneration spell or similar magic. The thread binding his eyes and mouth can be removed with a sharp instrument.

The man is Horst Blackfoot, the blacksmith (human **VETERAN**). If the party manages to reattach his arms, he's willing to help them in their endeavor to clear Ostenwold of the deadly creatures there. Otherwise, he asks that they take him away from this horrible place.

Either way, Horst can offer plenty of information to the characters. Although "the attack" on Ostenwold happened so fast, he isn't exactly sure what actually has happened, he can still provide the characters with information about the Ostenwold as it was before the aberrations came to town. He also shares the location of the secret passage in the downstairs office.

**Treasure: Mastercrafted Sword.** The sword on the shelf isn't just beautiful—it's magical. The longsword confers a +1 bonus to attack and damage rolls to anyone who wields it. The bonus increases to +2 to anyone who attunes to it. However, a creature that remains attuned to it for 24 hours or longer learns to speak and read Giant and forgets how to speak and read every other language it knows.

## 7 - Boxing Den

The door at the bottom of the stairs (area 7a) is locked.

As you descend into the large room in the basement, you're immediately struck by the unexpected sight of a huge boxing ring at its center. The ring, with its well-worn ropes and stained canvas, speaks of countless bouts. Surrounding the ring are numerous tables, scattered haphazardly, some overturned, others standing as if awaiting spectators who never returned. The air is stale, heavy with the ghostly echoes of cheers and clashes from a bygone era. On the eastern side of the room, a bar stands desolate, its shelves bare and glasses gathering dust.

**Encounter: Mimicking Horror.** Unless the characters already encountered the mimicking horror (see area 1), they may be surprised to find a group of children huddled in a mass at the middle of the boxing ring, holding hands and weeping. Keen eyed observers will notice that the children aren't actually holding hands, but their hands are melded together. As soon as the characters get within 10 feet of the "children" or attack, the creature transforms into a **MIMICKING HORROR** and attacks.

## 8 - Office

The door to this small office is kept locked.

Both the eastern and western walls are lined with huge shelves, each one groaning under the weight of countless documents, ledgers, and various office paraphernalia. At the center of the room, a desk commands your attention. It's a solid, no-nonsense piece of furniture that looks like it has seen many years of use. On its surface lies an open ledger, its pages filled with neat, careful entries that speak of diligent record-keeping. Beside the ledger, a coin purse sits slightly agape, revealing a glimpse of its glittering contents.

**Treasure: Coin Purse.** The coin purse contains 100 coins—the coins are gold if the characters' average party level is 4 or less, and platinum if it's 5 or higher.

**Investigation: Secret Exit.** The shelf on the western wall masks the presence of a secret passage. Finding the secret passage requires a successful DC 20 Wisdom (Perception) check. The passage leads south for approximately 200 feet eventually connecting to the Ostenwold marketplace.

## Disembodied Arm

*Small construct, unaligned*

**Armor Class** 11

**Hit Points** 11 (2d6 + 4)

**Speed** 20 ft.

Str	Dex	Con	Int	Wis	Cha
16 (+3)	13 (+1)	14 (+2)	3 (-4)	9 (-1)	1 (-5)

**Condition Immunities** blinded

**Senses** blindsight 30 ft. (blind beyond this radius), passive Perception 9

**Languages** —

**Challenge** 1/4 (50 XP)

**Proficiency Bonus** +2

### Actions

**Slam.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d4 + 3)

## Elder Thing

This strange creature has a star-shaped head and numerous writhing appendages arranged radially around its barrel-shaped body.

Known by various names on various worlds, but most often as “elder things” or “old ones,” these strange creatures have very little of the humanoid in their shape, yet their philosophies and goals shine with very human features—fundamental curiosities about the nature of life, deep interests and skills in creating lasting works of art and architecture, and a boundless capacity for war and egotism.

The elder things are travelers—with the ability to navigate interstellar distances, their kind has journeyed to and settled upon countless planets throughout the universe.

### Elder Thing

*Medium aberration, neutral*

**Armor Class** 18 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 59 (7d8 + 28)

**Speed** 30 ft., fly 20 ft., swim 40 ft.

Str	Dex	Con	Int	Wis	Cha
15 (+2)	14 (+2)	19 (+4)	20 (+5)	16 (+3)	17 (+3)

**Skills** Arcana +7, History +7, Perception +7

**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 17

**Languages** Deep Speech

**Challenge** 3 (700 XP)

**Proficiency Bonus** +2

### Special Traits

**Unusual Nature.** The elder thing does not require air.

### Actions

**Multiattack.** The elder thing makes five attacks with its tentacles.

**Tentacle.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d4 + 2), and if the target is a Medium or smaller creature, it is grappled (escape DC 12). Until the grapple ends, the target is restrained. The elder thing can only grapple two targets at a time.

## Ghoul Rat

*Small undead, chaotic evil*

**Armor Class** 12 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 14 (4d6)

**Speed** 30 ft.

Str	Dex	Con	Int	Wis	Cha
8 (-1)	15 (+2)	11 (+0)	3 (-4)	10 (+0)	4 (-3)

**Damage Immunities** poison

**Condition Immunities** poisoned

**Senses** darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

**Languages** —

**Challenge** 1/2 (100 XP)

**Proficiency Bonus** +2

### Special Traits

**Keen Smell.** The rat has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell.

**Pack Tactics.** The rat has advantage on an attack roll against a creature if at least one of the rat’s allies is within 5 ft. of the creature and the ally isn’t incapacitated.

### Actions

**Bite.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d4 + 2) piercing damage. If the target is a creature, it must succeed on a DC 10 Constitution saving throw or contract a disease. Until the disease is cured, the target can’t regain hit points except by magical means, and the target’s hit point maximum decreases by 3 (1d6) every 24 hours. If the target’s hit point maximum drops to 0 as a result of this disease, the target dies. A humanoid slain by this attack rises 24 hours later as a ghoul, unless the humanoid is restored to life or its body is destroyed.

## Mi-Go

This fungal, insectoid creature has stubby wings, multiple limbs, and a nightmarish head.

The mi-go are a space-faring people of great skill and vast malevolence. They travel in large numbers between worlds, somehow covering astronomical distances in months rather than decades.

**Strange Technology.** Their technology includes powerful techniques to implant mi-go elements and minds in others' bodies (or to extract them). They also have unparalleled mastery of living tissue in both plant and animal form. Mi-go merchants exchange psychic tools, surgical instruments, and engineered materials. They work these materials into fantastic objects such as void-crossing solar wings, glowing lampfruit, and purple starvines, which induce sleep.

**World Colonizers.** While they have their own secrets and goals, the mi-go also serve ancient powers from between the stars. They are devoted followers of Shub-Niggurath, goddess of fecundity and growth, and take their evangelical mission seriously. They colonize entire worlds in Shub-Niggurath's name, planting and harvesting entire species according to her will.

**Brain Cylinders.** The brain cylinder, a device that permits the extraction and maintenance of a living brain outside the body, is the apex of mi-go technology. Safely isolated in a mi-go cylinder, a humanoid brain can travel safely between the stars. They deploy, fill, and retrieve these cylinders according to mysterious schedules and for purposes. Indeed, most of their technology appears either revolting or simply bizarre to humanoids (plant folk are less disquieted by their functioning).

### Mi-Go

*Medium plant, neutral evil*

**Armor Class** 17 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 95 (10d8 + 50)

**Speed** 30 ft., fly 60 ft.

Str	Dex	Con	Int	Wis	Cha
16 (+3)	19 (+4)	21 (+5)	25 (+7)	15 (+2)	13 (+1)

**Saving Throws** Str +6, Con +8, Cha +4

**Skills** Arcana +10, Deception +7, Medicine +5, Perception +5, Stealth +7

**Damage Resistances** cold, radiant

**Senses** blindsight 30 ft., darkvision 120 ft. Passive Perception 15

**Languages** Common, Deep Speech

**Challenge** 5 (1,800 XP)

**Proficiency Bonus** +3

### Special Traits

**Deathly Spores.** When a mi-go dies, its body crumbles into millions of spores. Each creature within 10 feet of the mi-go must succeed on a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw, or take 14 (4d6) poison damage and become poisoned until

the end of its next turn.

**Unusual Nature.** The mi-go doesn't require air, food, drink, sleep, or ambient pressure. It requires only minimum exposure to starlight a few times each year to sustain itself.

### Actions

**Multiattack.** The mi-go makes two Claw or Psychic Bolt attacks.

**Claw. Melee Weapon Attack:** +7 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 17 (3d8 + 4) slashing damage, and the target is grappled (escape DC 15) if it is a Large or smaller creature.

**Psychic Bolt. Ranged Spell Attack:** +10 to hit, range 120 ft., one target. *Hit:* 17 (3d6 + 7) psychic damage.

**Spore Burst (Recharge 5–6).** The mi-go releases hallucinogenic spores in a 30-foot cone. Each creature in the area must make a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw. On a failure, a creature takes 21 (6d6) poison damage and is incapacitated until the end of its next turn. On a success, a creature takes half the damage and isn't incapacitated.

## Mimicking Horror

*Large aberration, chaotic evil*

**Armor Class** 17 (natural armor)

**Hit Points** 93 (11d10 + 33)

**Speed** 20 ft., climb 20 ft.

Str	Dex	Con	Int	Wis	Cha
18 (+4)	8 (-1)	17 (+3)	8 (-1)	16 (+3)	16 (+3)

**Skills** Deception +9, Perception +6, Stealth +5

**Senses** darkvision 60 ft. Passive Perception 16

**Languages** understands Common and Deep Speech, but speaks only through the use of its Mimicry trait

**Challenge** 5 (1,800 XP)

**Proficiency Bonus** +3

### Special Traits

**Ambusher.** In the first round of a combat, the horror has advantage on attack rolls against any creature it surprised.

**Mimicry.** The horror can mimic any sounds it has heard, including voices. A creature that hears the sounds can tell they are imitations with a successful DC 17 Wisdom (Insight) check.

**Grasping Tendrils.** The horror can have up to four tendrils at a time. Each tendril can be attacked (AC 17; 10 hit points; immunity to poison and psychic damage). Destroying a

tendril deals no damage to the horror, which can extrude a replacement tendril on its next turn. A tendril can also be broken if a creature takes an action and succeeds on a DC 15 Strength check against it.

**Spider Climb.** The horror can climb difficult surfaces, including upside down on ceilings, without needing to make an ability check.

### Actions

**Multiattack.** The horror makes four attacks with its tendrils, uses Reel, and makes one attack with its bite.

**Bite.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +7 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 22 (4d8 + 4) piercing damage.

**Tendril.** *Melee Weapon Attack:* +7 to hit, reach 50 ft., one creature. *Hit:* The target is grappled (escape DC 15). Until the grapple ends, the target is restrained and the horror can't use the same tendril on another target.

**Reel.** The horror pulls each creature grappled by it up to 25 feet straight toward it.

**Shapechanger.** The horror polymorphs into a Small, Medium, or Large creature or object it has seen, or back into its true form. Its statistics, other than its size, are the same in each form. Any equipment it is wearing or carrying isn't transformed. It reverts to its true form if it dies.