

Party at Pfalkenberg's

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Overview: *This scenario revolves around a celebration of the winter solstice, hosted at the Pfalkenberger family town house. It is designed to be set in Nuln, but can easily be staged in any city of the Empire. The players will be hired as chaperones and troubleshooters to look after the three daughters as well as the house, and anything that could scandalise the family of Pfalkenberger.*

Cast

Herr **Godwin Pfalkenberger**, the head of the house, has three daughters of appropriate wedding age.

Gabriella and **Isolde** are both to turn eighteen in a couple of months and keen on exploring the social privileges of young noblewomen.

Annika is two years older and far more cynical, having spurned worthwhile suitors she is trying to forge an identity for herself.

The younger girls persuaded their father to throw a ball to honour the solstice, and to further their own desires. Godwin, desperate to secure profitable husbands for them after the difficulties of Annika, agreed and now is concerned that no embarrassing incidents befall his event.

Udo Swech, Godwin's manservant, is an elderly and dignified man who impresses the need for a worldly group of individuals to act as undercover agents during a forthcoming ball.

Hook

The characters are contacted in a bar (or restaurant, guildhouse, cathouse, etc) by Udo. They are to stop any troublemakers or knaves from ruining the party or Godwin's reputation.

The pay is a generous 40 silver each for one night's work, with a meal in the kitchen thrown in! They should arrive at the town house by 8pm, an hour before the party starts to meet Godwin and get familiar with the house.

Getting Ready

Godwin greets the PCs and is politely welcoming, he will pay half the cash in advance if charmed.

Godwin will inform them that they should appear well dressed and unarmed for the party.

This is not negotiable, as he wishes them to be able to blend in unobtrusively. Therefore all weapons must be small enough to be concealed, armour is restricted to leather at most, and they should be dressed finely and in style.

If the dress code is a problem Godwin will offer to lend some of his clothes

to any human or elf characters. Other characters can borrow some servants jackets if they are unwilling to resource their own clothes. This offers a certain amount of anonymity but the character will endure a fair amount of being ordered about by arrogant rich folk.

There are numerous weapons attached to the wall, but being showpieces they each confer two misfortune dice, and the Unreliable 1 rating.

Events at the Ball

The following events can be included at the party in this order, or in any that you feel fits.

1) Hilda von Brun expresses an old enmity for Annika over **Anton Kien-dorfs** rejection of her in favour of Annika, who then spurned him. It may be wise to keep her away from Annika.

2) Chef discovers the cellar is full of rats, he set the small but vicious cat **Thom** on them but five of them escaped upstairs. The PCs must find and dispose of the rats before any are spotted by the guests, without appearing suspicious.

3) Harold de Guer arrives, nephew of **Countess Liebwitz**, with his friend **Roderick Stamd**. Harold is drunk and slightly boisterous, at some point during the evening he will make vulgar drunken advances towards Isolde and get into a fight with a young silver merchant **Deihl Hakkenson**. Both of these must be managed without Harold being shamed or hurt. Roderick is behaving nervously, if questioned he will

say his mothers' cousin was a Celestial wizard who foresaw that this solstice was ill omened for evil spirits. He'd rather be at home.

4) Orfeo Genaille the Bretonian lute player slips on his way out of the privy and sprains his wrist, one of the PCs will have to fill in and inspire the guests during the ball at the end of the evening.

5) Karl von Jurgen a dashing nobleman from Bogenhafen begins reading exotic poetry, then telling young ladies their future based on star signs. PCs who have been listening may realise some of his references are based on occult teachings. When he thinks nobody is looking he will slip off upstairs with Gabriella and her close friend Emelda about thirty minutes before midnight. Once there he will light a candle made of human fats and attempt to summon a daemonette into one of the girls bodies at midnight with a summoning incantation hidden in his poetry.

6) Nils Gotthard, a gifted and wealthy actor and admirer of Isolde, attends but is too shy to approach a noblewoman. Isolde likes him too but her father distrusts performers. Can the PCs unite the pair.