



Harshbiscuit

A fanciful borough for Electric Bastionland including locations, denizens, factions, encounters, and a treasure

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End Material

They are divided into three parts, none of which are useful without the others, as the data is split between the volumes in a complex fashion. Each volume is related to a new location within Harshbiscuit monthly. They are all quite heavy; bring wheelbarrows.

The Elision Ledgers contain the history of all the embarrassing debt cleaned by the Bank's financial magicians. Their import is not limited to the question of which wealthy merchant had to take out a loan from which hated enemy; by following the transactions therein (which, to be fair, would require a very good accountant) you could trace the pillars of blackmail and robbery that support Harshbiscuit's entire economy. And a few neighboring boroughs to boot.

Treasure

Encounters

- Six Haraldson College freshmen (4 HP, d6 rapier) looking for a good time and some rapier practice. One of them wears a Kappa Gamma fraternity badge.
- Four functionaries of the New Harshbiscuit Tourism Bureau (4 HP, d6 club) drumming up business; won't you follow them to the local establishments they've been tasked to advertise? Not really a request.
- Ten Mockery automatons (2 HP, d4 tiny fists), which have been programmed to believe that by collecting scraps of material they might yet grow to be full-sized. Meat is a good scrap.
- Four dangerous scavengers (6 HP, d8 spiked clubs) heading for the Golden Midden, but they'll happily stop for opportunity muggings.
- One Haraldson College senior (10 HP, d8 electric foil, d6 hand pistol, +1 Armor wire shield) collecting scalps for her senior thesis; you are the only thing between her and graduation. She carries a Winged Brooch, which permits her to hover ten feet above the ground for 15 minutes per day while moving at a steady walking pace.
- Poor Harry (14 HP, Armor 2, d8 smother/drown) and Wealthy Jane (4 HP, d6 rock), a canal beast and his "mother." If Harry kills enough people, Jane can sell him off to Harrison for a sizable fee. She's also contracted with Keith, a journalist, who follows behind to chronicle the kills. "Wealthy" is aspirational.

Jessie Harrison

Daughter of the renowned collector of serial killer artifacts: she hates her dad. If she can find the right materials she has a plan to do something about him. She is angular in every particular, both physically and mentally. There's always a new approach.

Goal: blow up her father's mausoleum/museum

Plan: acquire the Neverquenched Gunpowder

Itch: get up to the Council Zeppelin so she can see everything at once

Sludge

Spiritual leader of the indigent of the borough, he is somewhat more solid than his name might imply. Generally speaking he knows what's going on, at least at street level. People owe him favors.

Goal: extend his knowledge down into the Underground

Plan: establish a powerful clairvoyant gestalt among his people using rare psychoactives

Itch: never see the Sun again

Venerable Guild of Hand-Crafters

This aging group of craftsmen, dedicated to preserving the ancient way of craftsmanship, near-monopoly over the furnishings of the rich, is well-funded and unscrupulous. Think Luddites, but with positive cash flow.

Drive: destroy mass production

Leader: Edgar Chao

Current Project: discover who's behind Carson's (4 slice clock)

The Bastion Futurists

An underground student art society which is mostly made up of Haraldson College undergraduates no matter how much they'd like to be a city-wide movement. They'd do a lot for a good contact at another school or two. In the meantime, they strive to give the finger to those who are obsessed with the past and to the Borough Council, not necessarily in that order.

Drive: become famous while remaining edgy.

Leader: it's an anarchist collective, but Rosalie Toe has a lot of influence

Current Project: acquire the necessary artillery to down the Council Zeppelin

NPCs

Chuckobolt

Chuckobolt is a badger Mockery with a grizzled muzzle, a bandanna wrapped around his head, and two wickedly sharp swords slung from his belt.

Goal: defend the rights of Mockeries everywhere

Plan: beat down humans who abuse his siblings

Itch: show that he's the superior fighter

Notes

Harshbiscuit is designed for *Electric Bastionland*, although it may be useful for other games as well. The general feel is Gilded Age America, complete with thoughtless rich people.

This borough was written for the #Dungeonz23 project. I just like cities more than dungeons. This was thrown together, unpublished, in about a week. Simple layout, no art.

Don't miss the map on the back of the zine layout page.

Points of Interest

By The Barrel

A poph bar catering to conspicuous consumers: the poor can drink here as entertainment.

Canal Spa

Rich people pay top dollar to bark in the remaining pool of a long-dead canal. It smells awful.

Carson's Toys for Tots

A lovely toy store specializing in small replica Mockeries. Some move!

The Council Zeppelin

The Harshbiscuit Borough Council floats high above, ever-watching, ever-wary, ever-wary. Also: a small restaurant there charges outrageous prices.

Elision Bank

The Bank specializes in converting embarrassing debt into debt owed to the right sorts of people.

The Geigeplex

In the back of a bicycle shop, mad scientists are building Mockery automatons for unknown purposes.

Bicycle Path

Someone is fitting trash down at peddles-down from the Council Zeppelin. It's not for the faint of heart. The value of anything that hits is not equal in E to the damage done. Some objects may be more valuable, but the actual owners are likely to want those back once they figure out what's going on.

City Tram (East)

A torrential rainfall has revived the old canal. It smells terrible, and blocks part of the tram tracks. Investigating the water will draw the attention of a crocodile (8 HP, d6 teeth, Armor 1). Other important buildings nearby are threatened by the rising water.

City Tram (West)

The line to Larsen's Bakery has outstretched any reasonable limits, as a result of a kitchen fire. It's moving slowly. Thank the gods for the mini-Mockeries that are entertaining everyone and offering free samples.

Factions

New Harshbiscuit Tourism Bureau

The old local tourism bureau didn't highlight local businesses enough; too much focus on natural beauty. The NHTB is pulling ahead in the contest for hearts and minds with a modernized, swarm-based task allocation system built on complex systems of pipes. Flash mobs assisting every tourist who sets foot in Harshbiscuit: the way of the future.

Drive: improving property values

Leader: Caroline Trintig

Current Project: hostile takeover of the Harshbiscuit Tribune in order to gain information warfare superiority (6 slice clock)

Golden Midden

Rich people throw out so much stuff.

Haraldson College

A training ground for young duelists.

Larsen's Bakery

The best bakery in Bastion; decorated with amazing puppets.

Nae'y's Place

Once the 5 story Council Chambers, now a bombed-out husk. Home to most of the poorer people in Harshbiscuit.

The Night Vault

This is where the old debt paper from the Bank lives. The Bank doesn't forget.

Welcome To Harshbiscuit

Two rival tourism bureaus have set up shop opposite one another; there is consistently violence between them.

Complications

These complications can be used any time there should be a barrier along the path of the specified transit routes.

Elevated Train

Someone with more money than sense has hung a complex pavilion off the elevated rail track, and the train crew is unwilling to destroy it. It's unclear if this is because of the risk to the train or because of the risk to the idle rich.

Harshbiscuit

