

### SILENCE DESCENDS!

#### Terror in the Diamond City?

Mirjam Nilsson

News has swept Samazar of a new and mysterious threat - something otherworldly that hates the sound of music.

Multiple murders are now being laid at the feet of this mysterious presence in the city, and citizens are warned - do not sing, hum, or otherwise make music while you are alone, especially in a public place!

The so-called "Silence" has brought terror to our fair city. Murders - with maimed bodies missing parts - have so far occurred in the Temple District and Metalworks District. Is the discovery of maimed bodies of Fellblooded citizens in the Falling District related?

So far the only commonalities of attacks seem to be the isolation of the person attacked and their making music. Thus, we implore our readers - take care! Large musical venues may be safe, as there have not been any attacks at theatres and the like, but practicing music alone is strongly discouraged at this time.



Who - and what - the "Silence" is remains a mystery as of this printing.



The Army of Flowers is largely anonymous. We were able to interview the leader "Kiku" only under condition of maintaining their anonymity.

## Army of Flowers presses on

Exclusive interview with leader "Kiku" below!

By Mirjam Nilsson

Just over a month ago, Adventurers traveled to occupied Isildar with stealth and managed to salvage a victory for the Army of Flowers.

A leader of the Resistance known only as "Kiku," the Chrysanthemum, had been captured by Nocturnal Empire forces. Adventurers moved swiftly and minimized the damage to the Resistance by freeing Kiku before the leader could be broken in interrogation.

Sneaking into a Nocturnal Empire building via secret methods, the Adventurers dealt a blow to the occupying forces both directly, via taking out many soldiers, and indirectly, through sabotage, all while accomplishing their important mission.

The Diamond City Times was able to secure an interview with Kiku, under condition of continued anonymity. They are here quoted directly.

Times: What did your capture signify?

Kiku: While my capture could have been a set-back for the Resistance, we all take risks knowingly and do our best to limit those risks. Pseudonyms like mine are commonplace and protect our members from being outed, should something happen - like capture and interrogation. As a leader, I know more, so it could have been terrible if the Empire forces had broken me - but the Adventurers came to my rescue in time.

Times: Now that you have escaped, what can you tell us about how things are going in Isildar, and for the Resistance more generally?

Kiku: Things are tough in Isildar. The Resistance is doing its best but needs more support. The Army of Flowers is fighting on multiple fronts - both in Isildar and back on the main island - and in a multitude of ways. We need more people willing to take risks, to join the ranks, to smuggle, fight, and to take creative actions, like countering propaganda from the Empire. *(cont. on p. 2)*

### The Falling District The latest updates

Mirjam Nilsson

The Temple, with the full support of the Diamond Assembly, is coordinating efforts to make repairs and rebuild in the Falling District. The Assembly requests the assistance of artificers and other crafters in this endeavor.

### Poetry submissions From various citizens

Ë. Andaleh, Kjartan

Recent poetry submissions from citizens of Samazar and beyond.

**Page 2**

### Advice Column Ask questions now

P. K. Ochs

Volunteer writer P. K. Ochs, Adventurer, answers your questions.

**Page 2**

P. K. Ochs

## Adventure, letters, boyfriends, and blood How do you navigate life in the Diamond City?

*Dear Mr. Ochs, Which District of the city has the most ADVENTURE in it?*

Well now, this depends entirely on your definition of "ADVENTURE," doesn't it? For adventures of the mind, there is no better place than in a good book! The Metalworks District is home to a number of excellent bookstores. For adventures of a more aesthetic or intimate nature, your coin pouch will likely dictate whether you visit the Free District or the Kind District. (I'm much more of a Kind District fellow, if I do say so myself.) Finally, what could have more ADVENTURE than the Adventurer's Guild itself?! We're located just off Victory Square!

*Dear Mr. Ochs, My grandmother lives in Isildar. I haven't heard from her in the last year. I want to get a message to her - what do you recommend?*

Alas, I know many citizens find themselves in

similar situations. Sending messages long distance is a bit dubious even when the destination is not in the middle of enemy territory. However, all is not lost! First and foremost, I would highly recommend you send multiple copies of the same message through different means. This way, if some get lost or seized, one may still manage to get through to its destination. In addition, although the recent signing of the non-aggression pact between the Nocturnal Empire and the city of Ulfdar has many leaders and politicians worried, it does present a unique, if possibly brief, opportunity!

*Dear Mr. Ochs, I heard Councilor Orcus has a new boyfriend. Inquiring minds want details!*

"When does Councilor Orcus not have a new friend?," I retort. The Councilor quite obviously enjoys finding new and varied companionship. Not that I'm judging, of course, not at all! I wasn't always an adventurer, you know. However, if you really want more

details, I would suggest frequenting the Kind District. Sooner or later you're bound to come up with something juicy!

*Dear Mr. Ochs, how do you get blood out of silk? ... Asking for a friend.*

Ah, a question after my own heart! First off, I hope your friend, and everyone involved, is safe and healthy! To your question: Don't let it set, if at all possible. Once a stain has dried onto silk, it is much harder to get out completely. Try vinegar or lemon juice first, but don't scrub! Dab! If you scrub, you risk damaging the silk strands. If these fail, you may have to take more drastic measures and find an alchemist that sells more potent cleaning solutions or services. At that point, be sure to weigh the value of replacement over the cost of cleaning. You may find that they are closer than you think.



Artist's rendition of a streetscape in Isildar

## Interview with Kiku, continued

Times: How can the average citizen aid your cause?

Kiku: We are always in need of food, medical supplies, good boots, survival gear - we often have to rough it. And we need safe places for important refugees we can sneak out, so if you have a spare room and can house someone quietly and discreetly, even for a short period of time, please let us know.

Times: What's the one thing that you think is most important for the citizens of Samazar to understand about this fight?

Kiku: The Nocturnal Empire isn't just out for power and it doesn't just have its eyes on Isildar. They have their eyes on the whole world. They seek complete and total domination - a domination that leaves no room for disagreement, dissent, or difference. They believe fully and zealously in the superiority of dragonkin over other races and their right to subjugate all others. And they will not stop with Isildar - they can and will move on Kishar, Samazar, and other places as soon as they are confident that they can win.

Citizens of Samazar and beyond

### Poetry submissions

#### New and original pieces

##### Star

one of the very brightest  
stars in my sky  
now obscured by clouds, hidden from sight  
I keep looking and hoping  
that the skies will clear  
and bring one of my guiding lights back  
daily I go through the motions,  
thankfully not alone  
in pretending that things are alright  
but when darkness falls  
I look to the heavens  
hoping for that one star to appear  
that its light will banish my fears  
and my sky will be whole again

- Ę. Andaleh

##### Survival:

Delving dead men's dreams  
A differing diversion done  
Weathering wandering's toll, dour this debt

Fleeting fear, fought fast with fury  
Facing fate's fetters  
Alone, a lingering flame flickers.

##### Meaning:

Purpose perchance purloined  
Paramount to hold pulse  
Minimum expression, limited pride

Life but a loan from loving rulers  
Leading the lost through twilight  
But bedlam lies beyond all bridges.

- Kjartan