

TIN SOLDIERS OF WINTERTIDE

A Festive One-Shot Prompt



Daniel H. Kwan

THANKS

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This adventure was inspired by one of my favourite OSR adventures - *Kidnap the Archpriest* by *Skerples*. Consider purchasing it at DriveThruRPG.com!

USING THIS ZINE

This document is intended to be a primer for a holiday one-shot. On the next page you'll find structured narrative prompted to help your table craft a holiday story using any fantasy tabletop RPG system! You find a **Task** intended to prompt the players to investigate the treacherous activities rumored to be conducted by one of "Santa's" elves. Alongside **People of Interest** and a **Location of Interest (Wintertide)** designed to help you flesh out the adventure to meet the needs of your table.

Compared to my previous zines (*Denizens of Mountains & Seas Vol. 1 & 2*), the stats provided for the "dangers" are VERY minimalistic. This is so you can cater this zine to an adventure for any level!

FESTIVE NAMES

If you are having difficulty generating festive names for this adventure, here is a useful reference table! All you need to do is roll two d10s, using the first number for the characters' given name and the second for their family name.

D10	GIVEN NAME	FAMILY NAME
1	Wizz	Sugarlight
2	Glitzzy	Glitterpie
3	Shimmer	Everwarm
4	Ginger	Mintcake
5	Nutmeg	Snowdrop
6	Coco	Canditree
7	Twinkle	Chillycane
8	Toffee	Morningsong
9	Ivy	Everjoy
10	Button	Sparklemoon

DESIGN NOTES

This document was made using Julius Sans One by Luciano Vergara and Crimson Text by Sebastian Kosch. These fonts are free under the *Open Font License*.

CREDITS

Written by Daniel H. Kwan
Layout by Daniel H. Kwan
Consider supporting me on Patreon at www.patreon.com/danielhkwan

You can find me on Twitter @danielhkwan

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THE TASK

Each PC has been selected by *Frosty Sprinklefeet*, the spy master of *His Jolly Sovereign Nicholas XXV*, to conduct a secret mission. They must infiltrate the town of Wintertide and investigate the suspicious activity of the chief Craft Master Alabaster Gumdrop.

His Jolly Sovereign Nicholas XXV, ruler of the frigid lands of Wonderland seeks your aid. Alabaster Gumdrop, the Craft Master of Wintertide, has recently denied the High Toy Inspectors access to the gifts bound for shipment on the most joyous day of our year. Our Sovereign seeks answers about the rumors that Craft Master Alabaster may be engaging in traitorous behaviour. My agents believe it to be the manufacture of harmful toys - His Jolly Sovereign suspects treason. The hegemony of His Jolly Sovereign and the safety of children around the world are in question. No Craft Master has ever defied compliance inspections.

His Jolly Sovereign would prefer that this matter be handled with the utmost discretion. For thousands of years, wars have been waged between Wonderland and their bitter enemy Hallowmoor. Mustering his Gingerbread Legion would surely bring into question the strength of his land. Internal conflict is a sure sign of weakness.

Success thus lies in the hands of a small band who can keep things quiet. Completing this task will earn you the favour of His Jolly Sovereign and a chest full of gold cookies.

A sleigh will depart for Wintertide in a few hours. Take all that you will need. Time is of the essence.

PEOPLE OF INTEREST

FROSTY SPRINKLEFEET

Appearance: Athletic build. Long, silky hair tied into ornate braids. Simple clothing with a simple rank insignia.
Motivation(s): To serve *His Jolly Sovereign*.
Stats: As an elven Spy with a sword.

CRAFT MASTER ALABASTER GUMDROP

Appearance: Slender build. Cropped hair. Decorated, yet practical clothing. Wears a worn leather apron.
Motivation(s): Freedom and power. Alabaster is sick of working in service of Nicholas XXV. Hungry for power and seeks to control Wonderland, Alabaster is secretly assembling an army of *Tin Soldiers*.
Stats: As an elven Noble with a staff.

What are they doing right now?

- 1-2: Scheming with the *Lord of Shadows* from Hallowmoor
- 3-4: Inspecting their dormant army of *Tin Soldiers*
- 5-6: Inspecting the Wintertide workshops with his guards

HIS JOLLY SOVEREIGN NICHOLAS XXV

Appearance: Portly build. Long, grey hair tied into a bun. Long grey beard. Elegant red clothing with white fur trim.
Motivation(s): To spread joy and crush the nation of *Hallowmoor*.
Stats: As a half-giant Knight.

What is he doing right now?

- 1-2: Checking his list of gift recipients
- 3-4: Tending to his herd of dire reindeer
- 5-6: Personally making adjustments to his war sleigh

WINTERTIDE

Wintertide is a large town on the border of the dark land of Hallowmoor. It features a patchwork of architectural styles - from gingerbread homes to those of hard candy masonry. It is governed by *Craft Master Alabaster Gumdrop* who, for the last three centuries, has been in-charge of toy manufacture. Similar to the capital of Wonderland, elven guards (stats as an elven ranger with a longsword) comprise the majority of the town's law enforcement. They have been corrupted by *Alabaster's* twisted doctrine. These will be the primary enemies players may encounter when operating outside of the Craft Master's residence.

DANGERS

TIN SOLDIERS

Descriptors: construct, mindless, heavily armoured, large
Number Appearing: pair or legion
Resistances: half damage from magic

Craft Master Alabaster's rogue experiments have produced a soldier that rivals the Ginger Bread Legion of *His Jolly Sovereign* - the *Tin Soldier*. Armed with muskets tipped with bayonets, these constructs guard Alabaster's residence. An army of them stand dormant in his subterranean complex.

ALABASTER'S ELVES

Descriptors: soldier, slender, keen eyed
Number Appearing: varies (solitary to squad)

Elven guards were originally stationed at Wintertide to protect the interests of *His Jolly Sovereign* and the duty of Wonderland to provide gifts to those around the world. Now, they have been corrupted to keep *Alabaster's* secrets from leaking to the nation's powers. They are commonly armed with candy cane swords (interpret that as you wish!)



Daniel H. Kwan
www.danielhkwan.com