

WOE TO THE WICKED / ALPHA v44

NPC Reference

GM profile reference. Alpha v44 playtest edition; use actual capability and situation when preparing encounters.

Ordinary NPCs

Use motive, access and a concrete role to portray ordinary people. These people are not Wicked Ones merely because they can oppose a party. Use normal **Player Book** procedures when a consequential outcome is uncertain; conversation does not automatically require a roll.

Bitter Cargo contacts

Mara Venn, Guild clerk - NPC

Ink-stained cuffs, pinned-back hair and a steady, measuring gaze; reads every promise aloud.

Access and role: A bounded contract, evidence storage and port contacts.

Tessa Reed, apothecary - NPC

Rolled sleeves, herb-scented apron and careful hands; labels every sample.

Access and role: Residue comparison and limited neutralizers.

Pell Bristle, ratfolk cartwright - NPC

A whiskered ratfolk with a patched tool belt and grease-darkened paws; taps wheels while talking.

Access and role: Cart repair, drainage knowledge and practical barricades.

Iven Silt, survey recorder - NPC

Dusty spectacles, sun-faded scarf and a ledger under one arm; numbers every find.

Access and role: Apparatus diagram, entrances and supervised alterations.

Nera Vale, Order runner - NPC

A travel-worn cloak and tightly gripped satchel; watches doors and speaks in quick, guarded phrases.

Access and role: Workshop routine, volatile stock location and a recruit's defection.

Bram Holt, waystation cook - NPC

Flour-dusted apron, weathered hands and a welcoming grin; remembers favorite meals.

Access and role: Clean storage and observations of repeated deliveries.

The Bleeding Grave contact

Jorin Vale - NPC

The missing farmhand's older brother is frightened and embarrassed, but willing to help people who treat him with respect. He wants his brother recovered, or proof of what happened. He refuses an obviously suicidal charge.

Access and role: Farm paths, a lantern and shovel, and a drainage ditch reaching the graveyard wall. He knows his brother followed blue light; the red tree was ordinary three days ago; the bog creatures avoid the well's brightest pulses; and the western berry bush is healthier.

Council figures: GM lore

Current notes establish the Council's famine manipulation and soul-conversion ambitions, and Desmond Key's later membership. They do not establish a complete roster or the membership of every older faction. His falling out with the heroes remains unspecified.

Portray an agent through its established access, information and purpose. The preceding Council combat proposals lack a complete self-contained profile and remain in 07 Design References for completion, rather than supplying unstated combat dice here.

Low Resolve: at half maximum Resolve or less, Presence, Composure and Influence have Disadvantage on their Skill dice; normal cancellation applies. Ends above half. Odd maximum 9: threshold 4.