# **HUBERT DE LACY**

## **Not Who He Seems**

Hubert is a wealthy man-at-arms holding the authority of Baron Bellard. He rides an expensive horse and a fine set of brigandine armour. However, he is not who he seems: he is Abbanexus, a tempter demon possessing Sir Hubert in order to entice Zartok to honour their pact. Abbanexus knows they are being hunted by Abbanexus' master for their failure against Friar Jerome.

Abbanexus is desperate, and needs his lying tongue, crafty mind and underhanded tricks more than ever. His true form possesses a fearsome visage, wings and vicious talons, but he has a severe aversion to everything holy. He might even consider changing sides...

Keyword: Tempter Demon	17 (+3)
- Possession	18 (+4)
- True Form:	
Fearsome Visage	18 (+4)
Vicious Talons	18 (+4)
Wings	17 (+3)
- Know what people want	17 (+3)
Aversion to everything holy (Flaw)	18 (-4)

**Possession** will not work on player characters. Abbanexus can only possess one person at a time, the act of possessing is visibly obvious and requires physical contact. A later Contest against the 'Not who he seems' Ability may mean Abbanexus' presence is detected.

Abbanexus has a limited ability to recall facts about his host's life, rolling the 'Possession' Ability in a Simple Contest

# The Situation

You've managed to wangle a place on the investigation by possessing Hubert. This is your chance to persuade Zartok back into the fold before the envoy of He Who Shall Not Be Named catches up with you both. Your back is against the wall and if this doesn't work you're better off not returning Down Below at all rather than come empty handed.

Hubert has proved a comfortable home, one you're reluctant to leave it without good reason - there's always a risk of being caught in the open should a transfer go awry, all hooves and talons on display.

### **Character Possessions and Notes**

Fine brigandine armour – a doublet consisting of small metal plates riveted between two layers of leather. Topped off with a subtle burgundy velvet covering. Stylish and practical!

Sallet helmet and arm and leg plates for when you expect serious trouble.

Wicked-looking horseman's war hammer, with pick on reverse Sword and dagger

Wheellock pistol, powder and shot

Purse bulging with silver shillings

Small leather bag containing yet more shillings

New pact for Zartok to sign (in blood of course – tradition dictates) Backpack of change of clothes, rations, bedroll, flint and tinder, etc. Black riding horse, not sure what it's called. Bad tempered.

#### **Hero Points**

2

Personality	
Lying Tongue	1M (+4)
Desperate	17 (+3)
Not who he seems	16 (+3)
Crafty Mind	13 (+3)
Underhanded Tricks	13 (+3)
Sir Hubert	
Wealthy	13 (+3)
Man at Arms	13 (+3)
Authority of Baron Bellard	13 (+3)
Ride	13 (+3)
Fine set of Brigandine Armour	13 (+3)
Expensive Horse	13 (+3)
Relationships	
Pact with Zartok	15 (+3)

#### The Others

#### Zartok

Your would-be partner in crime. If you can re-establish contact and persuade him to honour his pact for a lifetime of power in exchange for his soul you should be able to turn this lamentable situation around. And with you back, his warlock powers get a nice boost, maybe enough to ignore the ritual magic dampener Jerome placed on him.

1M (-4)

Hunted by Master He Who Shall Not Be Named (Flaw)

Trouble is you're not entirely sure this reformed Zartok is an act. He can't really be serious about going straight can he?

#### Sally Greenway

Some girl, looks pretty easy to manipulate. She keeps looking at you strangely, so she may well be attracted to Sir Hubert. I guess he is rich, fairly influential and quite dashing.

#### **Friar Jerome**

He's the one to watch: he bested Zartok, and by proxy yourself and got you both into the current mess. However, you don't hold a grudge against him, he's only doing his job.

He's important for two reasons: firstly, if you could bring him over to your side it would go a long way toward re-establishing yourself in the eyes of He Who Shall Not Be Named. Secondly, if that bridge is burnt there's a slim possibility that a demon can be redeemed and you know Jerome is a sucker for reforming souls — could be a way of saving your bacon, and if you were to defect to Jerome you could offer him a fair few trade secrets to sweeten the deal.

## **Nathaniel**

Big and ugly, with a stupid moustache. He works for the Inquisition as muscle, probably no real threat if handled carefully. He keeps looking at the girl Sally. Seems this would-be monk is struggling with his vow of chastity...