STORM KING'S THUNDER A GREAT UPPENDAL



DM's resources for Storm King's Thunder Chapter 1: A Great Upheaval

Chapter 1: A Great Upheaval

This document contains resources for running Chapter 1 of Storm King's Thunder, from the characters arrive in Nightstone to they rescue the villagers from the Dripping Caves. These resources include suggestions for running the adventure, monster rosters and keymaps for Nightstone and the Dripping Caves. It also contains monster index cards for most of the creatures your players can encounter in the first chapter of Storm King's Thunder.

It is recommended that you utilize the resources within in concert with the more thorough information that can be found in the first chapter of Storm King's Thunder.

Suggested Changes

TIMELINE

The timeline in the adventure says that three days have passed since the giants' assault on Nightstone. This doesn't seem to mesh well with everything else. The goblins seem like they've just moved in, and why would Kella and the guards in Nandar Keep just sit idle for several days? The easiest fix to this is to simply move the timeline up two days: the giants' attacked yesterday, and the goblins came into town mere hours before the adventurers arrive.

Dripping Caves too soon

There are several ways your party can learn that the citizens of Nightstone are in the Dripping Caves, and potentially decide to go there before they're ready. Luckily, it requires only simple changes to prevent this.

Tracks. When the characters arrive at Nightstone, there's the villagers' tracks leading north towards the caves (DC 15 Survival). This one is simple to fix: the villagers' tracks have been removed by rain, and obscured by the goblin tracks going towards the city. This way the characters can still find the caves by following the goblins' tracks backwards, but won't be compelled to immediately follow them.

Interrogating a goblin. While some goblins will fight to the death, a captured goblin might be intimidated or persuaded to answer the party's questions. This could send your party towards the caves without exploring the rest of Nightstone. To avoid this, have the goblin attempt deception first. It can tell the party that apparently a floating castle dropped large stones on the city, but lie and say that the citizens fled to the keep, and not to the Dripping Caves. If the party see through the lie, they'll learn the truth, but the goblin remembers to tell them that there are ogres in the cave. Hopefully, this warns the party not to dive in head first and get themselves killed.

A helping hand

There's a lot of potential for TPK (total party kill) in Nightstone. Especially the Seven Snakes (one bandit captain, six bandits and potentially the spy Kella Darkhope) is a very dangerous encounter for a party that has already been worn out by the goblins in the town. If everything is going south quickly, consider having the four guards from Nandar Keep show up and help the party. If you do, you can even give your players control of the guards, so you don't have to roll against yourself. If your party are already in dire straits during the encounter with the worgs (and perhaps a couple of goblins) you can also have Kella Darkhope intervene on their behalf, potentially ingratiating herself with the party early on.

Resting

If the party attempts to long rest in the city, before properly clearing the city, or before you would like them to, you can choose to interrupt them. First a pair of goblins (choose nearest goblins) rummage around the outside of the house they're in, or just walk straight in if the party hasn't protected their place of rest. When they spot the party, they attempt to flee to warn other goblins. If the party goes back to rest after at least one goblin has escaped to go for help, all the goblins remaining in the town go to the house, light it on fire from the outside, and wait for the party to appear. Be aware that this could be a deadly encounter, so again you can have the guards from Nandar Keep help the players if many goblins are still alive. This will also speed up the Nightstone segment significantly.

Skipping the orcs

The Ear Seekers encounter is probably the most challenging to run of the two optional encounters (Seven Snakes and Earseekers), while having a mostly irrelevant subplot. If none of your characters have a particular connection to this subplot of orcs vs elves vs Nightstone, and seem satisfied with just moving on to the Dripping Caves after a long rest, consider skipping the Ear Seekers entirely.

Nightstone

NIGHTSTONE ROSTER

Area	Creature(s)	Notes
2d	1 goblin	Gwerk is afraid other goblins will take her necklace
2e	2 goblins	Larv & Snokk will go to 4g if they hear combat there
3	2 worgs	If bell has been silenced, goblins from 4c and 9 joins fight
4c	2 goblins	Pojo & Tot are chasing chickens. If one dies, the other flees
4g	2 goblins	Blinded by pumpkins on their head, goblins from 2e joins fight
4h	1 tressym	Rillix tries to hide if characters search through the house
5b	2 goblins	Beedo & Vark are swinging on the bell, ringing it
6a	1 specter	Spectre appears if crypt is disturbed, can't leave graveyard
7b	1 goblin	Shoots from cover when characters enter 7a
8b	1 goblin	Tries to flee with her heavy bag when characters appear
8f	Kella Darkhope (spy), 1 flying snake	Kella tries to hide from characters, pretends to be a monk
9	1 goblin	Will fight to the death, goes to 3 if he hears combat there
10	2 goblins	Shoots at characters from rafters under the roof
14a	Sydiri, Torem, Alara & Kaelen (4 guards)	Will help characters and have information



DRIPPING CAVES

Dripping Caves Roster

Area	Creature(s)	Notes
1	5 goblins & 2 ogres	Nob is mudbathing, Thog is sleeping, goblins cry alarm
2	6d6 goblin noncombatants	Goblins have no effective attacks and cries for mercy
3	1 black pudding	The blob is hidden in the stalagmite, ambushes the party
4	6 guards & 24 commoners	A swarm of bats fill the room if agitated by a loud noise
5	2 goblins	Blinded by pumpkins on their head, goblins from 2e joins fight
7	1 goblin	Snigbat will lead the party to Hark, she wants to be the leader
9	1 goblin boss, 2 goblins $&~7$ giant rats	Hark will negotiate for the prisoners, Daphne imprisoned

8. Boss Hark's Cave



Bandit		BANDIT (JAPIAIN		Spy				
Medium human	oid (any race)		Medium human	oid (any race)		Medium huma	noid (any race),	any alignment	
Armor Class 12 Hit Points 11 (2 Speed 30 ft.		pr)	Armor Class 15 Hit Points 65 (1 Speed 30 ft.		her armor)	Armor Class 12 Hit Points 27 (6d8) Speed 30 ft.			
Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con	
11 (+0)	12(+1)	12 (+1)	15 (+2)	16 (+3)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	15 (+2)	10 (+0)	
Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	
10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	14 (+2)	11 (+0)	14 (+2)	12 (+1)	14 (+2)	16 (+3)	
Senses passive Perception 10 Languages Common Challenge 1/8 (25 XP) <u>Actions</u> Scimitar. Melee Weapon Attack: +3 to hit,			Saving throws Skills Athletics Senses Passive Languages any	+4, Deception Perception 10 two languages	+4	Skills Deception +5, Perception Hand +4, Steal Senses Passive	+6, Persuasio th +4 e Perception 16	n +5, Sleight	
reach 5 ft., one t damage. <i>Light Crossbov</i>	target. <i>Hit:</i> 4 (1 w. <i>Ranged We.</i>) ft./320 ft., or	<i>tack:</i> +3 to hit, d6 + 1) slashing <i>apon Attack:</i> +3 he target. <i>Hit:</i> 5	Challenge 2 (45	50 XP)		Languages any Challenge 1 (2		3	
				Actions		Cunning Actio	n. On each of i	ts turns, the s	
			dagger. Or the attacks with its <i>Scimitar.</i> Mele reach 5 ft., one t damage.	h its scimitar e captain ma daggers. e Weapon At target. <i>Hit</i> : 6 (1 d Weapon At ft., one target.	and one with its kes two ranged <i>tack:</i> +5 to hit, d6 + 3) slashing <i>tack:</i> +5 to hit,	can use a bo Disengage, or l Sneak Attack 7 (2d6) damag weapon attack roll, or when th of the spy that doesn't have di	Hide action. (1/turn). The sp ge when it hits and has advant e target is withi isn't incapacita sadvantage on Actions	by deals an extr a target with age on the attac n 5 feet of an al ated and the sp the attack roll.	
			proroning damage	Reactions		Multiattack. ´ attacks. Shortsword. M			
				ain adds 2 to it at would hit i e the attacker	s AC against one t. To do so, the and be wielding	reach 5 ft., one damage. Hand Crossbo to hit, range 30 + 2) piercing da	target. <i>Hit:</i> 5 (1 w. <i>Ranged We</i> 0/120 ft., one ta	l d6 + 2) piercin eapon Attack: +	
						FLYING	Snake		
						Tiny beast, una			
						Armor Class 1 Hit Points 5 (2 Speed 30 ft., fty Str	4 d4)	0 ft. Con	
						4 (-3)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)	
						Int	Wis	Cha	
						2 (-4)	12 (+1)	5 (-3)	
						Senses blindsig Languages – Challenge 1/8	ght 10 ft., passiv (25 XP)	ve Perception 1	
						Flyby. The sna attacks when it	-		
						Bite. Melee or hit, reach 5 f			
						,			

Cultist			Cult Fa	NATIC		INVISIBLE STALKER				
Medium huma Armor Class 1	noid (any race) 2 (leather armo	or)	Medium human Armor Class 1	(5)		Medium eleme Armor Class 1				
Hit Points 9 (2d8) Speed 30 ft.			Hit Points 33 (Speed 30 ft.	(6d8+6)		Hit Points 104 Speed 50 ft., fl:	· /			
Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con		
11 (+0)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)	14 (+1)	12 (+0)	16 (+3)	19 (+4)	14 (+2)		
Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha		
 Skills Deception +2, Religion +2 Senses Passive Perception 10 Languages any one language (usually Common) Challenge 1/8 (25 XP) Dark Devotion. The cultist has advantage on saving throws against being charmed or frightened. 			Senses Passive Languages a Common) Challenge 2 (4 Dark Devotion	e Perception 10 ny one lan 50 XP) 1. The cultist h		 Skills Perception +8, Stealth +10 Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing and slashing from nonmagical weapons Damage Immunities poison Condition Immunities exhaustion, grappled, paralyzed, petrified, poisoned, prone, restrained, unconscious Senses darkvision 60 ft. passive Perception 18 Languages Auran, understands Common Challenge 6 (2,300 XP) 				
Actions Scimitar. Melee Weapon Attack: +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 4 (1d6 + 1) slashing damage.			Spellcasting. The fanatic is a 4th-levelInvisibility. The stalker is invisible.spellcaster. Its spell casting ability is WisdomFaultless Tracker. The stalker i(spell save DC 11, +3 to hit with spell attacks).fanatic has the following cleric spellsThe fanatic has the following cleric spellsdirection and distance to its quarryprepared:the two of them are on the sameCantrips (at will): light, sacred flame,of its summoner.thaumaturgy1st level (4 slots): command, inflict wounds,Actions					lker is given a stalker knows the quarry as long as e same plane of		
			shield of faith 2nd level (3 slo weapon	makes two slam x +6 to hit, reach 5 5 + 3) bludgeoning						
			attacks. Dagger. Melee	or Ranged We t. or range 20/6	akes two melee eapon Attack: +4 60 ft., one target. ge.					

Commoner	GUARD			VETERAN	1			
Medium humanoid (any race)		nanoid (any race),		Medium humanoid (dwarf), lawful good				
Armor Class 10 Hit Points 4 (1d8) Speed 30 ft.	Hit Points 1 Speed 30 ft.	· · · ·		Armor Class 17 (splint) Hit Points 58 (9d8 + 18) Speed 25 ft.				
	Con Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con		
	0 (+0) 13 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)	13 (+1)	14 (+2)		
	Cha Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha		
10 (+0) 10 (+0) 10	0 (+0) 10 (+0)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)		
Languages any one language Common) Challenge 0 (10 XP) Actions	(usually Senses pass Languages (Challenge 1			Damage Resis Senses darkvis 12 Languages Cor Challenge 3 (7	sion 60 ft., pas mmon, Dwarvi	*		
ft., one target. Hit: 2 (1d4) blu damage.		hit, reach 5 ft. or range 20/60 ft., one target. Hit: 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage.				ganist poisoli.		
					Actions			
				Multiattack. Th attacks. If it ha make a handax Battleaxe. Me reach 5 ft., one damage, or 8 used with two h Handaxe. Mel	s a handaxe di e attack. <i>lee Weapon A</i> target. <i>Hit:</i> 7 (1 (1d10+3) slas nands.	rawn, it can als <i>ttack:</i> +5 to hi ld8 + 3) slashin		

GOBLIN Small humanoid (goblin), una	GOBLIN BOSSGIANT RATSmall humanoid (goblin), unalignedSmall beast, unaligned						
Armor Class 15 (leather armo Hit Points 7 (2d6) Speed 30 ft.	Armor Class 1 Hit Points 7 (2 Speed 30 ft.		or, shield)	Armor Class 12 Hit Points 7 (2d6) Speed 30 ft.			
Str Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con
8 (-1) 14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)
Int Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha
10 (+0) 8 (-1)	8 (-1)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)
Senses darkvision 60 ft., pass Languages Common, Goblin Challenge 1/4 (50 XP) Nimble Escape. The goblin Disengage or Hide action as a each of its turns	Languages Con Challenge 1 (2 Nimble Escap	mmon, Goblin 00 XP) pe. The goblin lide action as a	ive Perception 9	Senses darkvision 60 ft. passive Perception 10 Languages – Challenge 1/8 (25 XP) Keen Smell. The rat has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell. Pack Tactics. The rat has advantage on an attack roll against a creature if at least one of the rat's allies is within 5 feet of the creature			
Actions Scimitar. Melee Weapon At reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 5 (1 damage. Shortbow. Ranged Weapon A range 80/320 ft., one target. piercing damage.	attacks with its disadvantage. Scimitar. Mel reach 5 ft., one damage. Javelin. Melee to hit, reach 5 ft Hit: 5 (1d6 + 2) Redirect Attac can see target	scimitar. The s ee Weapon At target. Hit: 5 (1 or Ranged We to range 30/1 piercing dama Reactions s it with an at	oss makes two econd attack has ttack: +4 to hit, .d6 + 2) slashing eapon Attack: +4 20 ft., one target. ge. ature the goblin .tack, the goblin of 5 feet of it. The		., one target. I	on Attack: +4 to Hit: 4 (1d4 + 2)	

Orc			ORC WA	R CHIEF		Orc Eye of Gruumsh			
Medium huma	noid (orc), chao	otic evil	Medium huma	noid (orc), cha	otic evil	Medium humanoid (orc), chaotic evil			
Armor Class 13 (hide armor) Hit Points 15 (2d8 + 6) Speed 30 ft.			Armor Class 1 Hit Points 93 (Speed 30 ft.	,		Armor Class 16 (ring mail, shield) Hit Points 45 (6d8 + 18) Speed 30 ft.			
Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con	Str	Dex	Con	
16 (+3)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)	18 (+4)	12 (+1)	18 (+4)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)	
Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	
7 (-2)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)	11 (+0)	16 (+3)	9 (-1)	13 (+1)	12 (+1)	
10 Languages Common, Orc Challenge 1/2 (100 XP) Aggressive. As a bonus action, the orc can move up to its speed toward a hostile creature that it can see.			Senses darkvision 60 ft. passive Perception 10 Languages Common, Orc Challenge 4 (1,100 XP) Aggressive. As a bonus action, the orc can move up to its speed toward a hostile creature that it can see.			Challenge 2 (450 XP)Aggressive. As a bonus action, the orc camove up to its speed toward a hostile creature			
reach 5 ft., one damage.	target. <i>Hit</i> :9 (10	<i>ttack:</i> +5 to hit, d12+3) slashing		when it hits with	leals an extra 4 a weapon attack	spellcaster. Its	11, +3 to hit w	oility is Wisdom ith spell attacks	
damage. Javelin. Melee or Ranged Weapon Attack:+5 to hit, reach 5 ft. or range 30/120 ft., one target. <i>Hit</i> : 6 (1d6 + 3) piercing damage.			Greataxe. Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. <i>Hit:</i> 14 (1d12 + 4 plus 1d8) slashing damage. Spear. Melee or Ranged Weapon Attack:+6 to hit, reach 5 ft. or range 20/60 ft., one target. <i>Hit:</i> 12 (1d6 + 4 plus 1d8) piercing damage, or 13 (2d8 + 4) piercing damage if used with two hands to make a melee attack. Battle Cry (1/Day). Each creature of the war chief's choice that is within 30 feet of it, can hear it, and not already affected by Battle Cry gain advantage on attack rolls until the start of the war chief's next turn. The war chief can then make one attack as a bonus action.			2nd level (2 sld (spear) Spear. Melee to hit, reach 5 <i>Hit:</i> 12 (1d6 + 13 (2d8 + 4) pi	ts): bless, comr ots): augury, sp Actions or Ranged Wee ft. or range 20/ 4 plus 1d8) pie	nand iritual weapon apon Attack: +5 60 ft., one targe rcing damage, c	

Ogre			BLACK P	UDDING		Worg			
Large giant, cha	otic evil		Large ooze, una	ligned		Large monstrosity, neutral evilArmor Class 13 (natural armor)Hit Points 26 (4d10 + 4)Speed 50 ft.StrDexCon			
Armor Class 11 Hit Points 59 (7 Speed 40 ft. Str	. ,	Con	Armor Class 7 Hit Points 85 (1 Speed 20 ft., clin Str		Con				
19 (+4)	8 (-1)	16 (+3)	16 (+3)	5 (-3)	16 (+3)	16 (+3)	13 (+1)	13 (+1)	
Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	Int	Wis	Cha	
5 (-3)	7 (-2)	7 (-2)	1 (-5)	6 (-2)	1 (-5)	7 (-2)	11 (+0)	8 (-1)	
	on 60 ft., pass nmon, Giant 60 XP) Actions ee Weapon Att	ive Perception 8 tack: +6 to hit,	Damage Immu slashing Condition Imm deafened, exhau Senses darkvisi radius), passive	mities acid, nunities blin stion, frighten ion 60 ft. (bli	cold, lightning, nded, charmed, red, prone	Skills Percept Senses darkvi 14 Languages Go Challenge 1/2 Keen Hearing	ion +4 sion 60 ft., pas blin, Worg (100 XP)	ssive Perceptio	
oludgeoning dar	mage. or Ranged Wea . or range 30/1	apon Attack:+6 120 ft., one	Languages – Challenge 4 (1,1	_			Wisdom (Per	ception) check	
			Amorphous. Th		0		Actions		
			squeezing. Corrosive Form pudding or hits within 5 feet of i Any nonmagica wood that hits dealing damag permanent and damage rolls. If weapon is destro made of metal of destroyed after of	A creature to it with a mel t takes 4 (1d8) 1 weapon ma the pudding ge, the wea cumulative f its penalty of oyed. Nonmag r wood that him lealing damag n eat through 2	lee attack while) acid damage. ade of metal or corrodes. After apon takes a -1 penalty to drops to -5, the ical ammunition ts the pudding is ge. 2-inch-thick, non	Bite. Melee W ft., one target. J damage. If the succeed on a D be knocked pro	Hit: 10 (2d6 + 3 target is a crea DC 13 Strength) piercing ture, it must	
			Pseudopod. Mereach 5 ft., or bludgeoning da damage. In addi by the target is permanent and AC it offers. The penalty reduces Split. When a larger is subject damage, it splits at least 10 hit popoints equal to rounded down. smaller than the	e target. His mage plus ition, nonmagi partly dissolv cumulative – its AC to 10. Reactions pudding that cted to lightni into two new p ints. Each new half the orig New pudding	t: 6 (1d6 + 3) 18 (4d8) acid ical armor worn wed and takes a 1 penalty to the destroyed if the is Medium or ing or slashing ouddings if it has v pudding has hit ginal pudding's, gs are one size				