

# The Hag's Feast

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# THE HAG'S FEAST

The Hag's Feast is a short, terrifying romp through a craggy mountainside for four characters of level 8-10.

## BACKGROUND

An elderly cavern hag recently became tired of her existence; all the things that once excited her – kidnapping, torture, and cooking the screams of innocent babes into foul potions – were now banal and uninteresting. One day, she decided to make children of her own, something to make her feel the thrill of life again.

Over the next few months, the cavern hag raided local settlements for children. She came in at night, stealing a baby from its bed, and leaving a disease-ridden sack in its place. Taking the babies back to her mountain lair, she subjected them to the horrible ritual that turned them into haglings. Ah, now could she live life again!

As time passed, she grew to rely on her haglings for many things: hunting, foraging, and gathering components for her rituals. She even stopped collecting the flesh (living and dead) that powered her fell magic. All of these tasks she left to her new children and most of the haglings enjoyed serving their mother. They became cult-like in their devotion to her, and some even willingly sacrificed themselves in her service. Others, however, resented her laziness and ran away. The runaways have attempted to survive while hiding from their mother's wrath, and grown weary. Now they seek a gift to buy their way back to her good graces. The campsite of a few adventurers offers an opportunity for them to steal something appropriate.

### KEEPING THE PARTY INTERESTED

The adventurers learned about the disappearance of more than a dozen local children over a month's time late last summer. The appearance of the haglings in ragged clothing of local style may give them a hint as to what happened to the children. In order to put a stop to the original menace, the party must track down the hag's lair and defeat her.

One of the haglings grabs a valuable piece of equipment from the campsite hoping to use it to return to the favor of its mother. As the adventurers track down the thieving haglings, they encounter much more than they bargained for.

# AMBUSH IN THE RAINSTORM

As the party makes camp for the evening, a light storm blows in over the mountain, pelting their campsite with rain. This rainfall causes the area to be lightly obscured, extinguishes uncovered flames, and imposes disadvantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on hearing. It is in these conditions that the haglings attack, first using flash spells to blind the party and then moving in for melee. The haglings are unaffected by the stormy conditions due to their blindsight. There are seven haglings in all, but one hagling hangs back in the shadows and darts in to steal unattended items during the fray, gathering what she can via *filch*, and coming near only for valuable items that are too large to steal with the cantrip. The hagling then flees back to her mother's lair to bring her these gifts.

If three or more haglings fall in combat, the survivors will attempt to flee in random directions. With the stormy conditions, at least one is likely to get away. As soon as the characters notice their missing gear, they may be inclined to track the missing haglings back to their mother's lair. This won't be easy, as the rain makes following tracks on the dirt challenging. However, the haglings are prone to dropping various items in their scramble to escape, which can be of assistance in tracking their movements. A successful DC 10 Wisdom (Survival) check, made at disadvantage, allows the party to follow the trail, or find the trail after ten minutes if it is lost.

# THE HAG'S LAIR

If all seven of the haglings were caught or killed, then the characters must wait until the storm subsides and the sun rises before they can find enough evidence to track down the hag's lair, a cavern.

The hag lives in a large cave hidden among the rocky recesses of the mountainside, reached by a narrow slope along the mountain ridge. The slope that leads up to the cave appears to be a run-off gully, a low point where water runs down the mountainside. This slope is considered difficult terrain.

The hag is very disappointed that her children have run away and is looking for a scapegoat. When the adventurers come near her cave, she calls her children to her. The sound of her screeching voice can be heard through the rainstorm as the characters approach the cave entrance. She then climbs to the top of her cave 40 feet above the ground and awaits the adventurers, launching her full complement of spells at them before descending to do battle. Meanwhile, the three haglings (two if the party managed to kill all seven from the first battle) in the cave use their own spells and sneak attacks to help their mother. The hag and her brood fight to the death to defend their home.

If the adventurers defeat all of the creatures, they can search the cavern in which they lived. There are two caverns, one large

# Scaling the Encounter

Parties as low as levels 4-5 can probably handle the encounter with the haglings at their camp, but for weaker parties the GM may wish to reduce the number of haglings. For parties below level 8, the cavern hag should be reduced using the adjusted traits as follows:

HP: 77 (9d10 + 27) Int: 17 CR: 6 (2300 xp) Saving Throws INT +6, WIS +4 Skills Arcana +6, History +6

**Spellcasting.** The cavern hag is a 9th-level spellcaster. Its spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 14\*, +6 to hit with spell attacks). The cavern hag has the following wizard spells prepared:

Cantrips (at will): enumerate, filch, mage hand, minor illusion 1st level (4 slots): detect magic, mage armor, magic missile, shield

2nd level (3 slots): misty step, suggestion

3rd level (3 slots): chill wind, counterspell, penumbral trap 4th level (3 slots): greater invisibility, stone shape

5th level (1 slots): wall of stone

\*Adjust horrific appearance and illusory appearance DCs to match.

Higher level parties can still be challenged by this encounter by adding additional haglings to both the ambush and the hag's lair.

main cavern and a smaller cavern where the creatures slept. The hag owns a large kettle in which she brews foul smelling concoctions, and many bones (identifiable as human with a successful DC 10 Intelligence (Medicine) or Intelligence (Nature) check) are piled near it. The whole place stinks of rot and decay that emanates from a variety of stone pots and vials that contain various bodily fluids extracted from the hag's prey. The hag's treasure can be found underneath a loose pile of stones in the smaller chamber with a successful DC 12 Intelligence (Investigation) check. This treasure stash contains a gold and platinum brooch (575 gp value), 283 gp, 2 potions of greater healing, 1 potion of poison, and a +2 dagger.

#### Rewards

In addition to the treasure found in the hag's lair, the adventurers can also make friends with the local population by proving they have ended the kidnapping menace. If they do this successfully, the locals consider them friends and give them shelter and food any time they pass through. The GM is free to give other non-monetary rewards to the party as they see fit.

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# CONCLUSION

If any of the haglings escaped the party, they could continue to follow the adventurers for some time, menacing villages through which the group travels. Before long, word that the characters' presence brings death and missing goods spreads to the towns on their path. They must solve the mystery of the haglings before being welcomed again into any town in the region.

## CREATURES

The following creatures appear in this adventure.

#### HAGLINGS

Haglings are children who have been subjected to the potions and rituals normally used to turn adults into hags. These dark rites twist the child into a hag-like creature, stunting its aging and bestowing mystical power onto the unfortunate creature.

#### HAGLING (CAVERN)

Small fey (titanspawn), chaotic evil

**Armor Class** 13 (Hide Armor) **Hit Points** 26 (4d6 + 12) **Speed** 25 ft., burrow 20 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	СНА
11 (+0)	13 (+1)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	13 (+1)

#### Skills Arcana +3, Stealth +5

Condition Immunities Blinded

**Senses** Blindsight 60 ft. (blind beyond this radius), Passive Perception 11

**Languages** Common, Giant, Terran **Challenge** 1/2 (100 XP)

**Horrific Appearance.** Any humanoid that starts its turn within 30 feet of the hagling and can see the hagling must make a DC 13 Wisdom saving throw. On a failed save, the creature is frightened for 1 minute. A creature can repeat the saving throw at the end of each of its turns, with disadvantage if the hagling is within line of sight, ending the effect on itself on a success. If a creature's saving throw is successful or the effect ends for it, the creature is immune to the hagling's Horrific Appearance for the next 24 hours.

Unless the target is surprised or the revelation of the hagling is sudden, the target can avert its eyes and avoid making the initial saving throw. Until the start of its next turn, a creature that averts its eyes has disadvantage on attack rolls against the hagling.

*Keen Smell.* The hagling has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on smell.

Sneak Attack. Once per turn, the hagling deals an extra 3 (1d6) damage when it hits a target with a weapon attack and has advantage on the attack roll, or when the target is within 5 feet of an ally of the hagling that isn't incapacitated and the hagling doesn't have disadvantage on the attack roll.

Spellcasting. The hagling is a 2nd-level spellcaster. Its spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 11, +3 to hit with spell attacks). The hagling knows the following sorcerer

spells:

Cantrips (at will): enumerate, filch, fire bolt, mage hand

1 st level (3 slots): *detect magic, disguise self, flash* Actions

**Multiattack.** The hagling makes two claw attacks. **Claws.** Melee Weapon Attack: +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (2d4 + 1) slashing damage.

#### Hag (Cavern)

Large fey (titan), any evil alignment

**Armor Class** 12 (15 With Mage Armor) **Hit Points** 102 (12d10 + 36) **Speed** 30 ft., burrow 30 ft.

# STR DEX CON INT WIS CHA 17 (+3) 14 (+2) 17 (+3) 18 (+4) 12 (+1) 11 (+0)

Saving Throws INT +7, WIS +4

**Skills** Arcana +7, History +7

Damage Resistances Damage from Spells Condition Immunities Blinded

**Senses** Blindsight 60 ft. (blind outside this radius), Passive Perception 11

Languages Any four languages Challenge 8 (3,900 XP)

**Horrific Appearance.** Any humanoid that starts its turn within 30 feet of the cavern hag and can see the hag's true form must make a DC 15 Wisdom saving throw. On a failed save, the creature is frightened for 1 minute. A creature can repeat the saving throw at the end of each of its turns, with disadvantage if the hag is within line of sight, ending the effect on itself on a success. If a creature's saving throw is successful or the effect ends for it, the creature is immune to the hag's Horrific Appearance for the next 24 hours. Unless the target is surprised or the revelation of the hag's true form is sudden, the target can avert its eyes and avoid making the initial saving throw. Until the start of its next turn, a creature that averts its eyes has disadvantage on attack rolls against the hag.

**Spellcasting.** The cavern hag is a 12th-level spellcaster. Its spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 15, +7 to hit with spell attacks). The cavern hag has the following wizard spells prepared:

Cantrips (at will): chill touch, enumerate, filch, mage hand, minor illusion

1 st level (4 slots): detect magic, mage armor, magic missile, shield

2nd level (3 slots): *misty step, shadow evocation, suggestion* 

3rd level (3 slots): chill wind, counterspell, penumbral trap 4th level (3 slots): greater invisibility, shadow traitor, stone shape

5th level (2 slots): lavaform, wall of stone

6th level (1 slot): disintegrate

#### Actions

**Multiattack.** The cavern hag makes two melee attacks. **Claws.** Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 9 (2d6 + 3) slashing damage.

Illusory Appearance. The cavern hag covers herself and anything she is wearing or carrying with a magical illusion that makes her look like another creature of Medium or Large size and humanoid shape. The effect ends if the hag takes a bonus action to end it or if she dies. The changes wrought by this effect fail to hold up to physical inspection. For example, the hag could appear to have no claws, but someone touching her hand might feel the claws. Otherwise, a creature must take an action to visually inspect the illusion and succeed on a DC 15 Intelligence (Investigation) check to discern that the hag is disguised.



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# MAP: THE HAG'S LAIR



# MAP: CAMPSITE





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