



Too Many Hitlers!

by Darrell Hardy

GHOST punchers

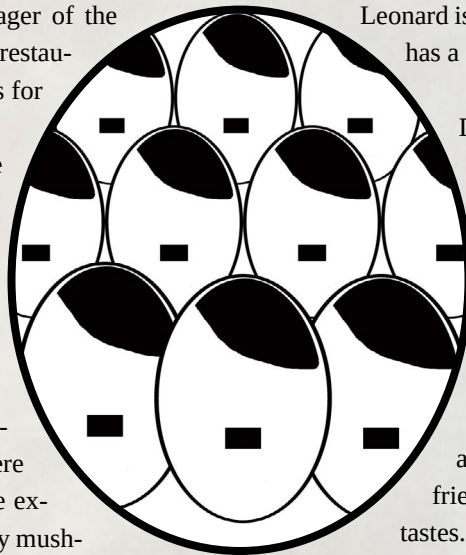
What's better than punching ghosts? Punching Nazi ghosts!

Darius "Dar" Wilson, owner and manager of the Gold Star Classic Eatery, believes his restaurant is haunted, so he turns to the heroes for help.

"I've seen some crazy stuff over the years," he says. "But the past couple months? Beyond crazy. Weird stuff. Scary stuff. Stuff that's getting people hurt."

He lists a number of incidents that have taken place in the past few weeks:

- A customer eating a mushroom pasta dish realized the mushrooms were more rubbery and spherical than he expected. He saw they weren't actually mushrooms at all, but eyeballs. By the time a waitress rushed to his table to see what was wrong, the mushrooms were back to normal.
- In the kitchen, a large knife flew from its storage place and started hacking up meals that were almost ready to be served. After destroying four meals, two loaves of bread, and a head of lettuce, the knife stuck itself into the wall.
- While alone in the kitchen, a waiter named Leonard was shoved by unseen hands into the walk-in freezer. The door slammed itself shut. No one could open it for more than ten minutes, after which time the door simply swung open on its own.
- In addition to the flying knife incident, kitchen staff reported food containers dumped out, utensils bent, and glassware dropping off shelves and shattering on the floor.
- Thursday was the last straw. Customers were reporting a man lurking in the men's restroom. "They said he looked all faded and gray," says Dar. "They also said he had had short dark hair and a little mustache—you know, like Hitler." Dar sent Leonard to check it out. According to Leonard, the stranger (who he agreed looked like Hitler) simply *appeared* behind him and viciously assaulted him.



Leonard is still heavily bruised and one of his fingers has a splint on it.

"This is starting to affect business," says Dar. "I'm losing employees. I've lost customers. And they're leaving some nasty reviews online. I guess 'Hitler in the bathroom' isn't much of a selling point."

Background

Siegfried and Cheryl Thompson used to visit the Gold Star about once a month. Cheryl enjoyed the restaurant's friendly atmosphere and down-home cooking. Siegfried found the place too "friendly" for his tastes. He was a jealous, possessive man, and got angry whenever he felt someone else was paying too much attention to his wife.

While not physically abusive, Siegfried was short-tempered and manipulative. He had unreasonable demands and expectations of his wife. If they weren't met, he became belligerent and cruel. When he came home after work, he claimed his right to be "king of the castle" and retired to his recliner in front the television. Here, he watched the History Channel while Cheryl brought him his supper and beers until it was time for bed.

When Siegfried died of a stroke six months ago, Cheryl tried to grieve, but in her heart found only relief.

And then the incidents began.

The Haunting

Siegfried is haunting Cheryl. He feeds off of her, draining her energy in death much as he did in life. He doesn't ask for much: just a regular meal, a chance to watch his favorite historical TV shows, and for everything to remain exactly the same as it was during his life. He often turns on the TV in the middle of the night and sets it to the History Channel. Cheryl sometimes comes home from work to find the house rearranged to how it was before her husband died.

Siegfried wants to continue his existence much as it was before, but Cheryl is starting to make the most of her new freedom. She's going out into the world. Meeting people. Chatting with the waiters at the Gold Star. And he won't put up with that.

As Cheryl has been spending more time at the Gold Star, Siegfried has started haunting the restaurant. He targets those customers and staff who he feels are paying too much attention to his widow. He particularly has it in for the waiter, Leonard, who has been actively flirting with Cheryl the past few weeks.

Siegfried refuses to reveal himself to the people he's haunting. Instead, he manifests a number of Adolf Hitler duplicates to do his dirty work. These Hitlers are based on on black and white footage he's watched on TV, so they are gray and flickering and unspeaking. But they're definitely Hitlers.

Investigation

Dar is desperate to get "this whole ghost business" cleared up as quickly as possible. To that end, he allows the heroes to not only use his restaurant as a staging area for their investigation (if they wish), but to interview his customers and staff.

"Just try not to freak out the customers," he says. "Do what you got to do, but keep it low-key, okay?"

The heroes may pursue several different avenues of investigation:

A History of Hunger: The restaurant has no previous history of hauntings, violence, or strange incidents. It was built in 2002 as part of a national chain. Dar Wilson, who was the manager at the time, bought and remodeled the place when the franchise-owner retired in 2011; it's been doing well ever since.

The Regular: By talking to the staff and making a successful Investigation roll, the heroes realize that the hauntings occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 4:00 and 7:00 in the evening. On a raise (or after additional conversation) the staff recalls that a regular customer is usually in the restaurant during those times: an attractive middle-aged woman who al-

ways eats alone and tips well. A look at the credit card records reveals her name to be Cheryl Thompson.

Listening to Leonard: Leonard Carr is a 35 year-old actor and stand-up comedian who pays rent by waiting tables at the Gold Star. He's friendly and outgoing, and admits that he'll occasionally flirt with female customers for fun or in hopes of scoring a better tip. He's never experienced anything like the recent ghost attacks, and he's a little spooked. He's even thinking of quitting. Leonard knows Cheryl by name and appearance. He's rather fond of her and, if asked, says that he's chatted her up quite a bit over the past few weeks.

Checking out Cheryl: Armed with the Cheryl's name and a successful Investigation roll, the heroes can find that she was recently widowed, lives about three miles from the restaurant, and works at the Starkwell Insurance Agency. On a raise (or if they spend some time following her), they learn she lives alone in a small house which she only leaves to go to work, the grocery store, and the Gold Star Classic Eatery.

Talking to the Widow

If the heroes approach Cheryl Thompson, she's skittish and doesn't want to talk with them at first. With a successful Persuasion roll at -2, Cheryl breaks down and tells the heroes what she knows.

"I know Sig is gone," she says. "But I can still *feel* him sometimes. Watching me. I hear him in the house some nights. Walking around. Watching the History Channel on that old TV in the basement. It's not even plugged in."

Cheryl is relieved if the heroes explain that her dead husband really is stalking her and she's not going crazy. She's scared of helping the punchers against Siegfried, but can be convinced (with a successful Persuasion roll) to do so.

If asked about the Hitlers, Cheryl explains that her husband was obsessed with World War II documentaries. "He wasn't a *fan* of Hitler," she says. "Not like *that*. But he spent so much time with the man on TV... I think he thought of him as a friend."



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Confronting the Ghost

Siegfried isn't *always* hovering over Cheryl's shoulder, but is usually close enough to intervene if someone starts getting what he considers overly friendly with her. The exception is while she's at work. He spends that time at home watching TV.

The heroes' best bet for drawing Siegfried out is to either start hitting on Cheryl or mess with his TV. While the television isn't technically a Link, he is emotionally attached to it, and can sense when others are fiddling with it.

Siegfried prefers not to interact with the punchers directly, but to send his Hitlers to dispatch them. If the Hitlers don't seem to be doing the trick, he uses them as a distraction as he ambushes the heroes himself. If it appears he's going to lose the fight, he takes Cheryl hostage. If he can't keep her, he figures, no one else can either.

Siegfried Thompson

Siegfried is a beefy, red-faced and mustachioed man with a permanent scowl on his face.

Attributes: Agility d6, Smarts d6, Spirit d10, Strength d6, Vigor d8

Skills: Fighting d10, Intimidation d12, Notice d12, Stealth d12, Taunt d8

Charisma: —; **Pace:** 6; **Parry:** 7; **Toughness:** 6

Special Abilities:

- **Ghostly:** Siegfried has all the special abilities of a ghost (Essence Drain, Fear -2, Hard to See, Spiritual)
- **Manifestation (Illusion—Gross Out):** Siegfried makes food appear horrifying, causing a Fear roll in those who experience it.
- **Manifestation (Omen—Six Hitlers):** Siegfried manifests up to six gray, flickering Hitlers. They have d6 in all stats, and a ranged attack (Range 6/12/24, Damage 2d6) that appears as a Luger that makes no sound). Siegfried prefers to manifest only one at a time: at first it's unnerving ("Oh no! Hitler!"), then absurd ("Okay, there are just *too many* Hitlers in this room").

