

Greetings from Kings Landing,

Your suspicions were correct, your friend is indeed visiting the capital. However unless he comes from a large extended family of rouges and sell-swords he has not been visiting any family while here.



I have good news and some bad news to report to you.

First, the laws of supply and demand extend even to sellers of murder and mayhem and prices here are at an all-time high. As a result your friend's considerable wealth has not managed to procure him either a first rate assassin or some of the deadliest poisons that he desired to purchase.

You are also fortunate that he failed to hire one of the Faceless men of Braavos. They told him "an assassination by a faceless man must not be haphazard, it must kill only the intended targets." I assume from this admonishment he must be plotting some type of random mayhem.

Now for the bad news: he has hired the services of a first rate burglar who is not much of a fighter. He has curly brown hair, very young and slight of build. What coin he saved on this assassin he has spent on large flasks of two very nasty poisons so my guess is he is planning on poisoning quite a few people.

Everyone in Westeros now knows of the poison called "The Strangler" since it was used in the demise of King Joffrey Baratheon at his wedding feast. Very few know that after the rare and very expensive tiny purple crystals known as stranglers are removed an equally deadly toxin can be extracted from the solution that remains using alcohol. This cheaper toxin has the same effects as the strangler does, but it is bulky and can only be mixed into alcoholic beverages.

The "Tears of Lys" also proved too expensive for him to buy, but he did purchase a cheaper and more common toxin that is far less deadly which is called the "Purple Duking Potion" by the residents of Flea Bottom. It causes nausea and vomiting like the Tears of Lys, however almost no one ever dies from it. Effects can last for weeks and all victims turn purple as an eggplant. The skin coloration can last for months.

I hope you can figure out his plan and put a stop to it.

Dear Commander,

I will require the services of two dozen of your mercenary guards for a secret assignment that will last a few weeks at



most. I would like it to remain secret so please mention it to no one except the men involved.

I would like to hire longbowmen or crossbowmen for this task. The assignment will involve guarding some items of importance and no physical labor will be required of the men.

Please find the first week's payment in gold in the sack accompanying this note.

Dear Brewmaster

Filoki,

I understand this note contains a very strange request, but please understand it is a matter of life and death and not a joke.



I have provided a wagon containing: a wire cage and over 1000 numbered stoppered glass vials.

Please capture unharmed and place into the cage a dozen brewery rats.

I also will need samples of every barrel of beer from the cave in which the stranger was recently killed.

Please be sure to place only beer from barrel 5 into the vial numbered 5; do this for every barrel in the cave.

I would not ask this of you if it was not important.

Dear Sire,

By tomorrow morning I will know for certain the identity of the person who has plotted to poison your beer and ruin our great beer festival.



Equally important at that time, I will be able to tell you the barrel numbers of the two barrels of beer that he poisoned.

Please meet me at sunrise at my laboratory and all will be revealed at that time.

Your humble servant,

The Alchemist



Official Investigation Report

Lord Volsted and the Alchemist both died with their swords in their hands. Both of them had suffered no combat wounds and perished as a result of the flames. I was not able to determine if they were about to fight each other or an unknown third party that may have escaped death in the fire.

The cause of the lab explosion was a large glass jar filled with the green liquid known as "Wildfire" which fell from a tall shelf and broke open during the struggle. The alchemist's lab contained lit candles, lanterns and hundreds of exotic animals preserved in distilled alcohol, the wildfire and the resulting intense conflagration burned away or melted almost all of the evidence which may have been found here.

Behind the lab is a two story building which is being used mostly as a stable, it was untouched by the fire. Its ground floor contained 6 stalls, 3 horses and a wagon. The 2nd floor contained a writing desk, several birds in large bird cages and several small numbered wire cages on the floor with rats inside them.

The writing desk contains several sheets of parchment, pen, ink, sealing wax and a small sealing wax stamp bearing a scorpion for writing and attaching small notes to the legs of birds.

The bird cages contain several messaging ravens, which have probably trained to fly messages to various parts of the world.

All of the animals appear to be healthy and in good condition except for the rats.

Twelve numbered cages each contain one rat inside. The cages numbered 11 and 12 contain fat healthy normal rats in them. Cages 1, 2 and 10 contain rats which appear to be drunk but otherwise healthy. Cages 3 and 9 contain sickened purple rats. Cages 4 and 7 contain dead rats. Cages 5, 6 and 8 contain dead rats that are purple in color.