

explorers guide to wildemount

Explorers Guide to Wildemount offers an expansive look into one of the most captivating settings in the world of Dungeons & Dragons. This guide takes players and Dungeon Masters alike through the various regions, cultures, and mysteries of Wildemount, a land filled with intrigue, adventure, and countless opportunities for storytelling. From its vast landscapes to its rich lore, the Explorer's Guide to Wildemount is an essential resource for creating memorable campaigns in this diverse realm.

Overview of Wildemount

Wildemount, a continent situated in the world of Exandria, is a land shaped by its tumultuous history, diverse geography, and intricate politics. It is divided into several regions, each with its own unique flavor and challenges. The continent is characterized by its rich tapestry of cultures, ancient ruins, and the lingering effects of the Calamity, a cataclysmic event that reshaped the land and its inhabitants.

Geographical Regions

Wildemount is divided into several distinct regions, each with its own environment, inhabitants, and storyline potential:

1. The Greying Wildlands: This rugged and inhospitable area is known for its harsh climate and fierce beasts. It is often seen as a place for outcasts and those seeking solitude.
2. The Penumbra Range: A mountain range that serves as a natural barrier between the northern and southern parts of Wildemount. Home to dwarves and other hardy folk, these mountains hide many secrets and treasures.
3. The Ashen Isles: These volcanic islands are known for their dangerous terrain and unique flora and fauna. Adventurers often seek the islands for their rare resources and powerful magical artifacts.
4. The Kryn Dynasty: A vast empire that has risen to prominence in the south of Wildemount, ruled by the Drow and their unique culture centered around the worship of the Luxon, a mysterious entity.
5. The Empire of Tal'Dorei: A neighboring empire with a rich history that often interacts with Wildemount. Its political machinations can influence events across the continent.

Inhabitants and Cultures

Wildemount is home to a variety of races and cultures, each adding depth to the landscape and opportunities for character development.

- Humans: Predominantly found in the Empire of Tal'Dorei and the Kryn Dynasty, humans are known for their adaptability and ambition.
- Drow: The ruling class of the Kryn Dynasty, drow culture is rich with traditions and centered around the worship of the Luxon.
- Dwarves: Primarily located in the Penumbra Range, dwarves are known for their craftsmanship and hearty lifestyles.
- Elves: Various subtypes of elves inhabit Wildemount, each with its own history and connection to the land.
- Halflings and Gnomes: These smaller folk often serve as traders and adventurers, bringing their unique perspectives to the broader conflicts of the continent.

Key Organizations and Factions

Adventure in Wildemount is often driven by the actions of powerful organizations and factions. Understanding these groups is essential for any adventurer looking to navigate the complexities of the land.

Notable Factions

1. The Kryn Dynasty: A powerful entity with its own agenda, the Kryn Dynasty seeks to expand its influence and spread the worship of the Luxon.
2. The Cerberus Assembly: A group of powerful mages and scholars who aim to control magical knowledge and artifacts. They often act in their self-interest, manipulating events to achieve their goals.
3. The Claret Orders: A collection of religious sects dedicated to the worship of blood gods. They often engage in shadowy dealings and may create tension with other factions.
4. The Myriad: A criminal organization that operates in the shadows, the Myriad engages in various illegal activities, including smuggling, assassination, and espionage.
5. The Revelry: A loose confederation of pirates and raiders based in the Ashen Isles, they are known for their chaotic nature and unpredictable

behavior.

Adventure Hooks and Story Ideas

The diverse landscape and rich lore of Wildemount provide countless opportunities for adventure. Here are some compelling hooks to ignite your campaign:

1. The Search for Artifacts

Adventurers hear rumors of powerful magical artifacts hidden within the Ashen Isles. A wealthy benefactor hires them to retrieve one of these relics, but they must contend with the Revelry and dangerous terrain.

2. Political Intrigue in the Kryn Dynasty

Tensions are rising within the Kryn Dynasty as factions vie for power. The characters are drawn into a web of political intrigue, forced to navigate alliances and betrayals to uncover a conspiracy that threatens the empire.

3. The Threat of the Myriad

The Myriad has been operating openly in a small town, causing unrest among the locals. The characters must investigate the organization's activities and uncover their plans before it's too late.

4. The Awakening of an Ancient Evil

An ancient evil, thought to be sealed away during the Calamity, begins to stir in the depths of the Greying Wildlands. The characters must gather allies and confront the dark forces before they can break free.

Exploring the Lore and History

Understanding the lore and history of Wildemount is crucial for creating immersive and engaging campaigns. The history of the continent is filled with epic battles, divine interventions, and the rise and fall of empires.

The Calamity

The Calamity was a catastrophic event that forever changed the landscape and the inhabitants of Wildemount. It is a pivotal moment in history, influencing the beliefs and behaviors of its people. Many adventurers seek to uncover the truths behind this event, exploring ancient ruins and forgotten texts.

The Luxon and Its Followers

The Luxon is a central figure in the beliefs of the Kryn Dynasty. Its followers, the Kryn, believe in the cycle of life and death, and that every being is connected through the Luxon's light. Understanding this belief system can provide insights into the motivations of the Drow and their political maneuvers.

Conclusion

The Explorer's Guide to Wildemount is a treasure trove of information for adventurers looking to dive deep into a land rich with history, culture, and adventure. Whether you are a player crafting a unique character or a Dungeon Master weaving intricate stories, this guide serves as a foundation for countless campaigns. From navigating the political landscape of the Kryn Dynasty to exploring the mysterious depths of the Greying Wildlands, Wildemount offers endless possibilities for storytelling and adventure. Embrace the lore, engage with its inhabitants, and set out on a journey that will leave a lasting impact on your gaming experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Explorers Guide to Wildemount'?

'Explorers Guide to Wildemount' is a campaign setting book for Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition, created by Matthew Mercer, detailing the continent of Wildemount, featured in the popular web series Critical Role.

What are the main regions covered in the Wildemount setting?

The book covers several key regions in Wildemount, including the Dwendalian Empire, the Kryn Dynasty, and the Greying Wildlands, each with its own unique cultures, politics, and geography.

How does 'Explorers Guide to Wildemount' enhance gameplay for D&D players?

The guide provides rich lore, new character options, unique monsters, and detailed maps, allowing players and Dungeon Masters to create immersive adventures that are deeply rooted in the setting's narrative and history.

Are there new subclasses introduced in 'Explorers Guide to Wildemount'?

Yes, the book introduces several new subclasses for various classes, offering players more options for character customization and playstyle that reflect the themes and cultures of Wildemount.

What types of creatures can players expect to encounter in Wildemount?

Players can encounter a variety of new and unique creatures, including powerful monsters like the Kryn's Luxon Beacons and other entities tied to the setting's lore, alongside traditional D&D monsters.

Is there a focus on any specific themes or story arcs in Wildemount?

The setting emphasizes themes of war, exploration, and the conflict between light and darkness, particularly through the lens of the Dwendalian Empire and the Kryn Dynasty's ongoing struggles.

Can 'Explorers Guide to Wildemount' be used with campaigns not related to Critical Role?

Absolutely! While it is tied to the Critical Role universe, the setting and its content are designed to be compatible with any D&D campaign, providing a rich backdrop for any adventure.

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