

extinction curse players guide

Extinction Curse Players Guide: In the vast and intricate world of tabletop role-playing games, few campaigns offer the unique blend of excitement and challenge that the Extinction Curse provides. This campaign, set in the rich universe of Pathfinder, invites players to step into the shoes of circus performers who must confront the dire threats facing their world. This guide aims to equip players with essential strategies, character-building tips, and advice on navigating the intricacies of the Extinction Curse adventure path.

Understanding the Basics of Extinction Curse

The Extinction Curse is a six-part adventure path for Pathfinder Second Edition. It revolves around a traveling circus that becomes embroiled in a mystery involving the disappearance of magical creatures. Players take on the roles of circus performers, leveraging their unique talents to combat threats from a world that is slowly losing its magic.

Campaign Overview

1. Themes: The campaign emphasizes themes of performance, community, and the struggle against extinction. The characters must navigate the complexities of their circus lives while facing existential threats.
2. Setting: The adventure takes place in the diverse and magical land of Golarion, with a focus on the regions surrounding the Inner Sea. Players will encounter a variety of locales, from bustling cities to enchanted forests.
3. Tone: The tone of Extinction Curse is a unique blend of whimsical circus life contrasted with darker themes of loss and ecological devastation.

Character Creation Tips

Creating a character for the Extinction Curse requires thoughtful consideration of both mechanics and narrative. Players should choose their characters based on the unique attributes of the circus and the overarching story.

Choosing a Class

When selecting a class, consider how it complements the circus theme. Here are some strong options:

- Bard: Perfect for enhancing performances and supporting allies with spells and skills.
- Rogue: A great choice for a character with a knack for trickery, stealth, or acrobatics.
- Druid: Fits well with the theme of nature and magic, and can summon animals to aid in battles.
- Fighter: A versatile choice for those who prefer direct combat and showcasing physical prowess.

Backgrounds and Ancestries

Choosing the right ancestry and background can significantly affect your character's narrative and abilities.

1. Ancestries:

- Human: Flexible and versatile, humans can fit into any role.
- Gnome: Known for their whimsical nature, gnomes are well-suited for circus life.
- Half-Elf: Their mixed heritage can provide unique perspectives and abilities.
- Tiefling: Offers a darker, more mysterious element that contrasts with the circus's light-heartedness.

2. Backgrounds:

- Acrobat: Gives bonuses to acrobatics and reflects a life of performance.
- Entertainer: Perfect for characters with a flair for the dramatic, boosting performance-related skills.
- Outlander: Offers survival skills that can be beneficial during the adventure.

Understanding the Circus Mechanics

The Extinction Curse incorporates unique circus mechanics that players must understand to thrive in the campaign.

Circus Performances

Performances are a significant aspect of the campaign. Players can engage in various types of performances that can:

- Boost morale among allies.
- Gain the favor of the audience, influencing NPCs and situations.
- Provide resources or benefits for the circus.

Consider these performance types:

- Acrobatics Shows: Showcase physical feats to impress the audience.
- Musical Acts: Use music to inspire or charm.
- Magic Demonstrations: Utilize spells to create awe-inspiring displays.

Managing Circus Resources

Players must also manage circus-related resources effectively. This includes:

- Finances: Money earned from performances and how it's spent on supplies.
- Personnel: Managing the various performers and ensuring everyone is contributing.
- Reputation: The circus's standing in different communities can affect interactions and quests.

Combat Strategies

Combat in the Extinction Curse can be challenging and dynamic. Players must be prepared for various encounters, often involving magical beasts and otherworldly threats.

Teamwork and Coordination

1. Synergizing Abilities: Work with team members to create powerful combinations. For example:
 - A bard can inspire allies while a fighter charges into battle.
 - A druid can control the battlefield with area spells while a rogue flanks enemies.
2. Using Terrain: Leverage the environment during encounters. High ground can provide tactical advantages, while obstacles can be used for cover.

Resource Management in Combat

- Spell Slots: Keep track of spell usage to ensure you can handle tough encounters.
- Healing: Ensure that someone in the party can provide healing, as battles can be unpredictable.
- Items: Utilize potions and other magical items strategically to turn the tide of battle.

Exploration and Roleplaying

Exploration and roleplaying are crucial aspects of the Extinction Curse campaign. Players should immerse themselves in the world and engage with NPCs and the environment.

Interacting with NPCs

1. Building Relationships: Forge connections with NPCs, which can lead to quests, valuable information, or resources.
2. Using Skills: Leverage skills like Diplomacy, Intimidation, or Deception to manipulate situations in your favor.
3. Understanding Motivations: Pay attention to NPC motivations; knowing what they want can help in negotiations.

Exploring the Environment

- Investigation: Use Investigation and Perception skills to uncover hidden secrets.
- Environmental Challenges: Be prepared for environmental challenges that can affect travel and exploration.
- Side Quests: Engage in side quests that may not directly relate to the main story but can provide

valuable rewards and experience.

Conclusion

The Extinction Curse Players Guide serves not only as a resource for understanding the mechanics of the game, but also as a means to enrich the narrative experience of playing. By focusing on character creation, circus mechanics, combat strategies, and exploration, players can fully immerse themselves in the world of Extinction Curse. Embrace the whimsical yet perilous journey ahead, as you and your fellow performers work together to save the magic of your world. With creativity, strategic thinking, and collaboration, the Extinction Curse can become a memorable campaign filled with adventure, laughter, and triumph over darkness.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Extinction Curse in Pathfinder?

The Extinction Curse is an adventure path for Pathfinder 2nd Edition that focuses on a traveling circus and the mysteries surrounding it, including themes of extinction and survival.

What are some key tips for managing a circus in Extinction Curse?

Players should focus on balancing the circus's finances, attracting new performers, and maintaining morale among the crew, while also addressing any threats that arise from the storyline.

How can players effectively use their unique character abilities in Extinction Curse?

Players should leverage their characters' abilities to enhance circus performances, solve problems creatively, and engage with NPCs, ensuring that their skills contribute to the overall success of the circus.

What types of encounters can players expect in Extinction Curse?

Players will encounter a mix of combat, role-playing, and skill challenges, including battles with wild beasts, interactions with mysterious patrons, and problem-solving scenarios related to circus operations.

How does character development play a role in the Extinction Curse?

Character development is crucial as players navigate personal arcs that intertwine with the circus's story, allowing for growth through interactions, challenges, and moral dilemmas faced during the

adventure.

What are some common pitfalls to avoid when playing Extinction Curse?

Players should avoid neglecting the circus management aspects, as well as failing to engage with NPCs or the story, which can lead to missed opportunities for character and plot development.

How can GMs prepare for running Extinction Curse effectively?

GMs should familiarize themselves with the adventure path's lore, prepare for dynamic circus mechanics, and be ready to adapt the story based on player choices, ensuring a fluid and engaging experience.

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