

HEADMASTER'S NOTE (HANDOUT)

To whoever can be reached at the Blacklamp Tavern, I write in desperation. Two of my pupils have vanished from The Blessed School tonight. I have sent for New Londinium's constables, but they call it a childish runaway and will not send help until morning. I need capable adventurers at once.

During the usual night routine after dinner, staff checked the dormitories and found the boys — Alvin and Bradley, ages eleven and twelve — missing. Their beds are untouched. Their peers know nothing. The last report places them in the dining hall, quarreling. They are known to quarrel, but not to want to run away, certainly not together.

The Blessed School's reputation is fragile. A previous student runaway sparked weeks of rumors and furious letters; families threatened to pull their children and their fees, and we cannot weather that again. Find these boys and return them safely, lest our reputation be terminally ruined. I beg discretion. Whatever has happened here must not become gossip for the papers or the families who trust us.

For the last few days there have been complaints of an acrid, putrid smell, especially from the lower halls. The kitchen servants insist they have it handled, yet it has only grown worse and no clear source has been found. I fear this is no simple runaway.

Arrive at once at White Blossom Plaza and knock at the front entrance. Groundskeeper Briggs will see you inside and provide access to begin your investigation.

Reward will be paid in full upon the safe return of the children. Fifty gold pieces total for any adventuring group who can come at once. You have my gratitude, and my word.

- Headmaster Kaine