

A Tune From The Deep

Initial Brief

Across the Keter System, a handful of Particularly Capable individuals receive the following communication:

the myteneans have dug 2 deep. whatever they found, aSpExX are scrambling to get their

but its not just any old aspexx lackey - its »melodious solution« (and her "mobility" division) that are paniking about this. we don't no y yet, but we r watching them. solution is bad news - did you hear she stole an entire asterode???!?

anyway point is this goes really deep and also all the way 2 the very top, but with your help we can blow this hole thing wiiiide open. GOTO 'the adventurers guild' in civilia on mytene (*not* the one on aceworld! y r there 2 of these...) and meet our agent there, codeword 'undrw0rld'. theyll fill u in

Characters

- [Gathering Flow](#) - Phil
- [Stellar Glory](#) - Tamsin
- [Lost Finder](#) - Stuart

Summary

- The party head to the recently-created Adventurers' Guild building in Civilia, where they eventually identify their contact from the briefing message after getting several other bystanders interested in whatever they're off to do, since all the currently available quests to hunt Magma Wyrms are apparently getting rather repetitive.
- The party find out that Aspexx, and specifically the team reporting to Melodious Solution, seem to be very interested in something that was discovered recently by a Guild adventuring party – an area of decay suppression out beyond Civilia's ship heart range, but where the nearest ship heart still appeared to be Civilia. An Aspexx team has apparently gone down to investigate, so the Card Table hacker collective wants to send the party in to disrupt/prevent whatever nefarious thing Aspexx are presumably up to.
- Heading down into the mine, the party encounter several hazards they might have expected – cave slugs, burrowing mites, Decayed drilling equipment – and a few they might not have, such as heavily drugged and angry raktors (introduced by someone to fight Decay, it seems).
- Eventually, they find the area described – protection from Decay, but when Gathering Flow attempts to discern the direction of the nearest ship heart, sure enough this is unchanged and is Civilia. Heading deeper, they find what appears to be a deep chasm, with one Aspexx elite soldier standing guard at the top. They manage to deal with them without alerting the rest of the Aspexx party below, but as they begin to rappel down the rope into the chasm, lying about being Aspexx staff, they are rumbled. Since the staff at the bottom of the chasm are only two non-combat scientists and one more elite guard, however, this only causes a small hiccup in

proceedings until the guard is dealt with and the scientists have been variously threatened/knocked unconscious/threatened some more.

- The scientists were in the process of tethering a box to the bottom of the rope when the party arrived. This box is a complex creation, with many buttons and controls on the outside, clamped around what is clearly a ship heart inside it. The scientists get very very agitated when the party try to open the box and/or talk to the ship heart.
- Questioning of the scientists eventually gets them to break their Aspexx NDAs in preference to being murdered. The party learn the following things:
 - The box is a SCION unit, which may be more or less familiar to characters as interfaces that e.g. spaceship-bound ship hearts exist in.
 - SCION units have various setting options, and this one is currently set to prevent the ship heart within receiving any input (e.g. communication, people talking to it, etc) from the world around it.
 - This is because this ship heart is an 'unattuned' ship heart, which has not yet made contact with any people or other outside influences. The party recognise this as similar to things that Endeavour has previously mentioned about e.g. ship hearts forming personalities based on interactions – this would appear to be a ship heart which has not started that process.
 - The scientists are very clear that this ship heart needs to remain unattuned for the purposes of Aspexx Mobility Division, led by Melodious Solution – which is to recreate an Interstellar Gate to replace the Orion Gate.
 - Also, the ship heart (and its SCION) cannot be moved through the power of another ship heart (e.g. Intervention) – this is another type of grey area in ship heart interactions where the ship heart would need to consent to (or contest) being moved and, since it is kind of unaware of the existence of existence, cannot/will not do either.
- The party develops a bit of a split about what to do with all this information, with Lost Finder favouring immediately opening the box to rescue the ship heart from solitary confinement, while Gathering Flow and Stellar Glory prefer to keep it in its un-contacted state until they learn more about the purpose which Aspexx want it for – after it develops a personality, after all, they know of no way to undo that and return it to this state.
- Eventually, they agree to bring the box back to the surface, along with the Aspexx scientists and their unconscious guards. On the way back they do not meet any Decay, since the ship heart they carry appears to be repelling it. They do, however, meet a Magma Wyrms, which poses a considerable fiery problem until Gathering Flow uses Intervention with Endeavour to forcibly relocate it to a field a few miles outside Civilia which she saw while flying in. The Magma Wyrms cease to be a problem (for the party).
- Heading back towards the surface, the party encounter another adventuring party heading down - apparently hunting the same ship heart. This turns out to be the Hole Gang, a longstanding group of ship heart enthusiasts who had stopped hunting for relics after the events of [Treasure Hunt](#) but had been sucked back in for One Last Job by the hackers' hints of how amazing this thing down here was. Oh yes, the hackers had reached out to them too. Somewhat indiscriminate party hiring, it seems.
 - The party attempt to argue the Hole Gang down from attempting to steal the ship heart, but it's too big a prize - however, with a combination of reason, threats and Gathering Flow's deployable Barrier preventing anyone getting too close, they manage to get past and leave the Hole Gang to follow them back out of the mine.

* At the exit to the mine, however, they meet an Aspexx welcoming party headed by Melodious Solution herself (with two more elite guards for backup). The party return the unconscious guards to

her, and they are taken off to heal quietly in a corner. Meanwhile, the party try to convince Melodious to let them go with the ship heart. Melodious tries to convince them to hand the ship heart over, for the good of the Keter System. Neither succeeds. * Eventually, the party are so insistent that they want to stay with the ship heart, understand what will be done with it to create a gate and ensure its best interests are protected, that Melodious Solution offers a compromise: she will employ them as Aspexx contractors (with an NDA and contract) on this specific project to recreate an interstellar gate. They will assist in the project and thus will get to be involved in the fate of the ship heart. Gathering Flow and Stellar Glory accept this as the best offer they're likely to get from Aspexx: however, Lost Finder refuses to part with the ship heart for even the time it would take to transfer everyone to the *Starlight Ebbing* and get contracts etc signed. Instead, he uses a combination of his Zylene and Specialist abilities to hide - holding the SCION - and attempts to flee. This is eventually foiled by everyone else, and he is knocked unconscious and dragged back to the *Starlight Ebbing* for Aspexx to deal with later.

Aftermath

- Bullet points of what characters did in the aftermath of the mission

Consequences

- Breakdown of consequences for characters - rewards, effects, contacts.
- Also mention any wider consequences for the world

All Characters

- Consequences

Character 1

- Consequences

Character 2

- Consequences

Be sure to add tags for the characters

[mission](#), [character 1](#), [character 2](#)

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Last update: 2024/05/31 17:15



