

THE GRAND LIBRARY



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THE GRAND LIBRARY

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THE GRAND LIBRARY

For eons, the library has stood as a shining beacon of knowledge. It is a place where information and entertainment are gathered and cataloged so that their wonder can be passed on both to the current population, as well as the generations which shall follow.

However, one of the greatest joys of any library is the feeling of walking into the unknown. While you may arrive seeking one thing, you will often find something totally unexpected.

Reaching towards one of the heaving stacks may produce a popular tale that has been passed down from generation to generation. Or, it might give you a dusty tome that has not been opened since the author closed their ink well.

Some books give advice on how to be better in areas of life. Others give examples of how not to live. Telling us of horrible kings, vicious outlaws and people who just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

And yet, the library provides a space where those ideas can be considered for a brief moment. Where new desires and ideas that have long laid dormant below the surface can be entertained safely. Where the brain can bathe in the wonder of possibility.

And maybe sometimes, the words you find on the stacks may make you leave a totally different person than the one who entered through the heavy oak doors.

USING THIS BOOK

The aim of this book is to help DMs make their libraries and archives feel more alive, by giving them a list of generic books for their players to find while searching or looking around.

Each book in this guide is presented in the following format:

TITLE

Genre, Language, Rarity.

A short description of the book's appearance, covering what someone would see if their eyes were just roaming the shelves.

A description of the book's contents.

"A short extract from the book's pages"

BOOK EFFECTS

Some books also come with effects. Most of these trigger upon reading the book, however, some have other specific conditions of activation. These effects only trigger the first time the book is opened or read.



ALPHABETICAL ROLL TABLE

Number	Book	Number	Book
1	A Collection Of Plainsong	38	Edible Animals
2	A Guide To Library Usage	39	Elder Edda
3	A Visual Guide To Tinkering Tools	40	Elves: Marital Customs
4	A World Without Man	41	Fables Of The Forest
5	Advertising: The Shopkeep's Guide	42	Fighting: What Rats Can Teach Us
6	Ale Brewing	43	Fire And Its Tactical Brilliance
7	Alter Creation	44	First Grammatical Treatise
8	Alternative Tunings For The Lute	45	Fish Of The Sea
9	An End To All Kings	46	Food Taster's Guide To Spotting Poison
10	Animal Tracks	47	Food To Cook In The Forge
11	Appraising Antiques	48	Forbidden Whispers
12	Arrow Whittling	49	Formal Dancing
13	Avoiding Massive Ships	50	Frugal Famine Food
14	Avoiding Work	51	Grave Symbology
15	Battle Walk Chants	52	Healing Broths
16	Birds And Watching	53	How To Cook
17	Blade Sharpening	54	How To Cook When You Don't Have The Time
18	Blooming Plants Of The Moist Places	55	How To Create A Sewer System
19	Book Of Madness	56	How To Create Poisons
20	Book Of Xans	57	Hymns And Nocturns
21	Building Shelter	58	Illusions And Tricks
22	Butchery	59	Jousting
23	Cheese Rolling: A Guide	60	Knight Of The Cart
24	City Of Ladies	61	Knight Of The Lion
25	Clouds And Their Rain	62	Mapping For Beginners
26	Cooking With Berries	63	Maur's Price Guide
27	Criminals	64	Mineshaft Supports
28	Decoding Thieves' Cant	65	Missing Things And Where To Find Them
29	Disposing Of Magical Items	66	Mushroom Foraging
30	Domesday Book	67	Oatism: Your True Salvation
31	Dreams And Their Meanings	68	Patching A Mainsail
32	Drinking Songs Of The Northen Coast	69	Protecting Camp
33	Dry Land Wailing	70	Pyre Building
34	Dry Stone Walling	71	Removal Of Sleeping Curses
35	Dæmeon's Hymn	72	Repairing Constructs
36	Eat This Book	73	Repairing Ships
37	Economics In The Barter Age	74	Sailing Songs From The Trade Crews
		75	Sasho
		76	Sketchbook Of The Unknown Artist

Number	Book
77	Sleepy Stories For The Young
78	Small Group Battle Tactics
79	Snake Charming For Beginners
80	Solving Crime, Stopping Crime
81	Songs Of Monks
82	Spiritual Exercises
83	The Adventures Of Barthel
84	The Art Of Translation
85	The Blue Plague
86	The Book Of Energy
87	The Book Of False Gods
88	The Book Of Trance
89	The Children's' Guide To Archery
90	The Craftsman's Creed
91	The Deep Ocean Tablets
92	The Encyclopedia Of Godhood
93	The Farmer's Almanac
94	The Fire Of Desire
95	The Forest Of Enchantment
96	The Golden Loom
97	The Great Story Of Sleep
98	The Healer's Guide To Poisoning
99	The Language Of Crows And How To Speak It
100	The Life Of Taus Raz
101	The Lonely Rabbit
102	The Lord's Jester Is His Best Man
103	The Magical Fair
104	The Methods Of Peace
105	The Nig Library
106	The Night Guard
107	The Poem Of The Plowman
108	The Shopkeeper's Handbook
109	The Stars Above You
110	The Tale Of La'Riel
111	The Tale Of The Baker
112	The Virtue
113	The Warrior
114	The Wings Of The Past
115	The Wishing Deer
116	The Words Spoken To Me
117	The Young Adventurers' Manual
118	This Book Is Full Of Spiders
119	This Book Is Not Hollow

120	Three Moons Of Rain
121	Traditional Music: 40 Old Favourites
122	Treatise On Medicine
123	Unity Builds Strength
124	Wand Repair Volume 4: Recharges
125	Weapon Forging
126	Weaponry
127	Whale Hunting Vol 1: Tracking
128	What A Lord Needs To Know
129	What To Do When You Are The Fairest In The Land
130	Whistling: A Guide
131	Whittling: A guide
132	Why The Simarta Lute Is The Best
133	Wild Magic: A Study
134	Writing Letters The Elven Way
135	Yzal



RANDOM ROLL TABLE

Result	Book		Book
1	The Lonely Rabbit	41	The Children's' Guide To Archery
2	Patching A Mainsail	42	The Encyclopedia Of Godhood
3	The Forest Of Enchantment	43	Book Of Xans
4	Cooking With Berries	44	Grave Symbology
5	Sailing Songs From The Trade Crews	45	Solving Crime, Stopping Crime
6	Writing Letters The Elven Way	46	Songs Of Monks
7	Mushroom Foraging	47	Unity Builds Strength
8	First Grammatical Treatise	48	The Nig Library
9	Cheese Rolling: A Guide	49	The Art Of Translation
10	City Of Ladies	50	The Deep Ocean Tablets
11	Dæmeon's Hymn	51	Protecting Camp
12	The Adventures Of Barthel	52	Avoiding Work
13	The Tale Of The Baker	53	Ale Brewing
14	Hymns And Nocturns	54	Mapping For Beginners
15	Treatise On Medicine	55	Missing Things And Where To Find Them
16	Elder Edda	56	Sleepy Stories For The Young
17	Domesday Book	57	A Guide To Library Usage
18	Spiritual Exercises	58	Drinking Songs Of The Northen Coast
19	Sasho	59	Repairing Ships
20	Knight Of The Cart	60	Avoiding Massive Ships
21	Knight Of The Lion	61	Whittling: A guide
22	Arrow Whittling	62	The Tale Of La'Riel
23	The Great Story Of Sleep	63	Whistling: A Guide
24	The Farmer's Almanac	64	The Language Of Crows And How To Speak It
25	Frugal Famine Food	65	The Book Of False Gods
26	Birds And Watching	66	How To Create A Sewer System
27	The Poem Of The Plowman	67	Economics In The Barter Age
28	Butchery	68	This Book Is Not Hollow
29	Advertising: The Shopkeep's Guide	69	Wand Repair Volume 4: Recharges
30	The Book Of Energy	70	This Book Is Full Of Spiders
31	Pyre Building	71	Blooming Plants Of The Moist Places
32	Jousting	72	The Life Of Taus Ralz
33	The Craftsman's Creed	73	How To Cook
34	Food Taster's Guide To Spotting Poison	74	Forbidden Whispers
35	Formal Dancing	75	How To Cook When You Don't Have The Time
36	Fish Of The Sea	76	Oatism: Your True Salvation
37	Mineshaft Supports	77	Eat This Book
38	Dreams And Their Meanings	78	The Young Adventurers' Manual
39	The Words Spoken To Me	79	Healing Broths
40	What A Lord Needs To Know		

Result	Book
80	The Blue Plague
81	How To Create Poisons
82	A World Without Man
83	The Healer's Guide To Poisoning
84	Elves: Marital Customs
85	Weapon Forging
86	Snake Charming For Beginners
87	The Shopkeeper's Handbook
88	Repairing Constructs
89	Food To Cook In The Forge
90	An End To All Kings
91	Small Group Battle Tactics
92	Dry Stone Walling
93	Fire And Its Tactical Brilliance
94	Dry Land Wailing
95	Why The Simarta Lute Is The Best
96	Whale Hunting Vol 1: Tracking
97	A Collection Of Plainsong
98	The Wings Of The Past
99	Traditional Music: 40 Old Favourites
100	What To Do When You Are The Fairest In The Land
101	Maur's Price Guide
102	Wild Magic: A Study
103	The Golden Loom
104	Fables Of The Forest
105	Removal Of Sleeping Curses
106	Appraising Antiques
107	Fighting: What Rats Can Teach Us
108	Decoding Thieves' Cant
109	Alternative Tunings For The Lute
110	Criminals
111	Book Of Madness
112	The Book Of Trance
113	The Magical Fair
114	Illusions And Tricks
115	Disposing Of Magical Items
116	Edible Animals
117	Alter Creation
118	Weaponary
119	Clouds And Their Rain
120	A Visual Guide To Tinkering Tools

Result	Book
121	Sketchbook Of The Unknown Artist
122	The Stars Above You
123	Animal Tracks
124	The Methods Of Peace
125	Yzal
126	Battle Walk Chants
127	The Wishing Deer
128	Building Shelter
129	Blade Sharpening
130	The Warrior
131	The Night Guard
132	The Virtue
133	The Fire Of Desire
134	The Lord's Jester Is His Best Man
135	Three Moons Of Rain



BOOKS BY CATEGORY

STORIES AND FICTION

Roll	Book
1	The Tale Of The Baker
2	City Of Ladies
3	The Wishing Deer
4	Fables Of The Forest
5	Knight Of The Cart
6	A World Without Man
7	The Fire Of Desire
8	The Virtue
9	Elder Edda
10	The Golden Loom
11	Three Moons Of Rain
12	The Magical Fair
13	The Lonely Rabbit
14	The Night Guard
15	The Tale Of La'Riel
16	Knight Of The Lion
17	Sleepy Stories For The Young
18	Sasho
19	The Forest Of Enchantment
20	The Poem Of The Plowman
21	The Adventure Of Barthel
22	The Lord's Jester Is His Best Man
23	The Wings Of The Past
24	The Great Story Of Sleep

MUSIC AND SONG

Roll	Book
1	Dæmeon's Hymn
2	Yzal
3	Why The Simarta Lute Is The Best
4	Hymns And Nocturns
5	Battle Walk Chants
6	A Collection Of Plainsong
7	Traditional Music: 40 Old Favourites
8	Sailing Songs From The Trade Crews
9	Songs Of Monks
10	Alternative Tunings For The Lute
11	Drinking Songs Of The Northern Coast

REFERENCE GUIDES

Number	Book
1	Domesday Book
2	The Farmer's Almanac
3	Weaponry
4	How To Create A Sewer System
5	A Visual Guide To Tinkering Tools
6	This Book Is Full Of Spiders
7	Criminals
8	Elves: Marital Customs
9	Maur's Price Guide
10	Decoding Thieves' Cant
11	Book Of Xans
12	Fish Of The Sea
13	Dreams And Their Meanings
14	Animal Tracks
15	Clouds And Their Rain
16	Birds And Watching
17	Blooming Plants Of The Moist Places

INSTRUCTION MANUALS

Rol	Book
1	Dry Stone Walling
2	Snake Charming For Beginners
3	Whistling: A Guide
4	Writing Letters The Elven Way
5	How To Create Poisons
6	Missing Things And Where To Find Them
7	Repairing Ships
8	Repairing Constructs
9	The Language Of Crows And How To Speak It
10	Arrow Whittling
11	The Shopkeeper's Handbook
12	Wand Repair Volume 4: Recharging
13	Fire And Its Tactical Brilliance
14	Patching A Mainsail
15	Solving Crime, Stopping Crime
16	Blade Sharpening
17	Mineshaft Supports
18	Formal Dancing
19	The Book Of Energy
20	Avoiding Massive Ships
21	Protecting Camp
22	The Children's' Guide To Archery
23	Avoiding Work
24	Fighting: What Rats Can Teach Us
25	Whale Hunting Vol 1: Tracking
26	The Art Of Translation
27	Jousting
28	Dry Land Whaling
29	Illusions And Tricks
30	The Craftsman's Creed
31	Removal Of Sleeping Curses
32	Whittling: A Guide
33	Small Group Battle Tactics
34	The Healer's Guide To Poisoning

Rol	Book
35	Cheese Rolling: A Guide
36	Appraising Antiques
37	Building Shelter
38	Mapping For Beginners
39	Weapon Forging
40	Disposing Of Magical Items
41	Pyre Building
42	A Guide To Library Usage
43	Advertising: The Shopkeep's Guide

COOKBOOKS AND FOOD

Number	Book
1	Cooking With Berries
2	Frugal Famine Food
3	Butchery
4	Food Taster's Guide To Spotting Poison
5	How To Cook When You Don't Have The Time
6	Healing Broths
7	How To Cook
8	Mushroom Foraging
9	Food To Cook In The Forge
10	Edible Animals
11	Ale Brewing
12	Eat This Book



OTHER

FAITH AND RELIGION

Number	Book
1	The Book Of False Gods
2	Oatism: Your True Salvation
3	Alter Creation
4	Spiritual Exercises
5	Grave Symbolology
6	The Encyclopedia Of Godhood

ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL

Number	Book
1	Treatise On Medicine
2	Economics In The Barter Age
3	First Grammatical Treatise
4	The Warrior
5	What A Lord Needs To Know
6	The Blue Plague
7	The Methods Of Peace
8	Wild Magic: A Study
9	The Life Of Taus Ralz
10	An End To All Kings
11	Unity Builds Strength

Number	Book
1	What To Do When You Are The Fairest In The Land
2	Book Of Madness
3	The Deep Ocean Tablets
4	The Words Spoken To Me
5	Sketchbook Of The Unknown Artist
6	This Book Is Not Hollow
7	The Stars Above You
8	The Nig Library
9	Forbidden Whispers
10	The Book Of Trance



STORIES AND FICTION

THE LONELY RABBIT

Children's book, Common, Common.

A brightly painted cover depicts a rabbit bouncing in a meadow during a beautiful spring day.

A book about a rabbit trying to share its bread with its friends, despite an evil fox doing his best to steal the bread.

"Mr. Bunny did skip and dance through the glen, keen to bring his wonderful bread to all of his woodland friends. Little did he know that the grumpy fox was sat not too far away, muttering to himself and planning to steal the bread right out of Mr. Bunny's basket."

THE FOREST OF ENCHANTMENT

Children's book, Common, Common.

The cover depicts a very detailed drawing of the forest with several small animals peeking out from the undergrowth.

A short children's story that aims to teach children about forest creatures in a whimsical way. It seems only to focus on the weak and mundane creatures, making no mention of monsters.

"Within the trees are the bugs, and at the top of the trees live the birds who dance with the clouds and slumber in the trees"

CITY OF LADIES

Fiction, Common, Common.

An illuminated manuscript bound with rope. While it lacks a cover, the bright illustrations catch the eye of anyone looking through the stacks.

An allegorical tale set in a city made up of only women, designed to show the follies of the current political hierarchies.

"It is in this hall the women discuss policy and try to balance the needs of everyone in their district, this calm enlightened debate makes police nuanced and fair."

THE TALE OF THE BAKER

Fiction, Common, Common

A leather-bound book made by a professional. It has an embossed portrait of a baker on the front.

A tale about a baker who one day accidentally makes a delicious loaf of bread. He then sets about trying to recreate the loaf and learns perseverance along the way.

"And yet, the wise woman knew not how to make the bread. Nor did the church or the other bakers of the town. And so he set out into the wilderness with curiosity in his heart."

THE ADVENTURES OF BARTHEL

Fiction, Common, Common.

A very cheaply mass-made book. The parchment is so thin you can see through it if you hold it up to the light.

A collection of short stories focusing on the adventurer, Barthel. He seems to solve all of his problems with either booze, womanizing, or violence.

"As he swigged his ale, Barthel looks at the bandits before drawing his short sword. 'So you want a fight, do you?' he screamed. 'I'm more than happy to give you one to protect the lady!'"

ELDER EDDA

Poetry Collection, Common, Rare.

A very heavy wood bound book. It seems very very old, and the pages have greatly discolored, making the ink slightly hard to read.

A collection of historical poems, translated into Common.

"Yet they fly, and we're given such flight by higher forces. Mighty winds aid them."



THE WINGS OF THE PAST

Fiction, Draconic, Rare.

A thick leather book with a very smudged painting of a Dragonborn on the front. Despite this, the rest of the book seems to be in very good condition.

A novel about a young Dragonborn who heads out to avenge his father's death only to discover that his father had been hiding something from him.

"As he looked over the hooded figures he knew something was wrong, that he had stumbled upon something that was not meant to be seen and that they would make sure that his words never left this building. He pressed himself against the wall and waited for them to pass, hoping they did not look up."

SLEEPY STORIES FOR THE YOUNG

Fiction, Common, Common.

A beautifully painted cover depicts various Fey having a party. The book is slightly larger than most other books so that it can easily be handled by small hands.

A collection of bedtime stories for children. They are very simple and sweet and don't seem to have any real goal aside from entertainment.

"When the rabbit did hop into the hall of the king. The king was amazed to find that the bunny was the wriest fellow he had ever met."

A WORLD WITHOUT MAN

Fiction, Common, Common.

This book is written on thick and expensive looking parchment. The cover depicts a beautiful landscape covered in various animals.

This story aims to show what the world would be like if man and other intelligent races had never been created and wild animals had remained alone.

"The vines grew thick in this area, it made perfect hunting grounds for the boar who used this slim protection to sire young."

SASHO

Play, Elvish, Common.

The print on the cover and pages is slightly misaligned and smudged, suggesting that this is a cheaper reproduction of a more expensive book, but they either couldn't or didn't change the format to fit the cheaper paper.

An epic play about Sasho the merchant who helps a shipwrecked Lord and gets embroiled in the political turmoil that follows them.

"Sasho, how do you think I found such fine clothes. Despite your thoughts, I am not a mere sailor who can't tell port from wine."

KNIGHT OF THE CART

Fiction, Common, Common.

A cheap mass-produced book. The cover art depicts a maiden fawning over a proud knight.

The book tells the story of a young knight who goes off to rescue a kidnapped Queen. However, during the rescue the Queen and the Knight fall in love.

"And yet, you come with such bravery," smiled the Queen, her raven hair dancing on her shoulders. "I can not see such bravery and presume it is a mere duty that drives you."

KNIGHT OF THE LION

Fiction, Common, Common.

A cheap mass-produced book. The cover art depicts a very muscular Knight in ornate lion-themed armor.

After the Queen from the last book shuns the Knight, the Knight goes on a quest to regain her favor.

"The cave of the dragon stood on the horizon. He was scared, he could feel his hands trembling around the hilt of his sword. However, he ignored this, the love of his lady could allow him to overcome even the gods themselves."

THE GREAT STORY OF SLEEP

Children's Book, Common, Legendary.

A large ornate book with leather and metal binding. The has silver inlaid into it, making it resemble the night sky.

A bedtime story that talks about the Moon rising into the sky to talk to the stars. The story is both very long and very boring.

"Can I rise?" Said the Moon. "Yes," said the North Star. "Yes," said the South Star, "Yes," said the West Star."

Effect: Reader must make a Constitution saving throw (DC 12) or fall into a deep sleep for 1d6 hours.

THE POEM OF THE PLOWMAN

Poetry, Common, Common.

An average looking book, however, it seems to be covered in soil and dirt.

A book of poems about the life of a Plowman. However, the level of romanticization suggests that this was not written by a plowman.

"A happy day is a tilled field, full of seed and grain and mud, let your boots do their thud, as the cows do chew the cud"

THE GOLDEN LOOM

Fiction, Common, Common.

A simple book, bound in leather. A spinning wheel is embossed into the front cover.

A story about a woman who finds a magic loom that turns all the thread spun on it into gold. She tries to keep it a secret but fails. Once the secret gets out, the woman is forced to defend the wheel from those who want it for their own ends.

"The thread that had moments ago been nothing but dour wool now sparkled and flickered in the light like riches she had never seen. Her heart fluttered as she gazed, unable to believe what she was seeing."



FABLES OF THE FOREST

Fiction, Elvish, Common.

A very thick book made out of ornate paper with guiding along the edge. The cover is made out of various jewels that form the image of a forest.

A collection of fables designed to teach children morals. Most of the stories involve children meeting grizzly ends because they disobeyed an elder.

"At that moment Azul realized he was lost in the forest of green. He could hear the wolves get closer. He tried to shout but realized that no one could hear him as he had left his group far far behind."

THE WISHING DEER

Fiction, Common, Common

A slim book with a stiff parchment cover. The cover depicts a deer walking through some trees. However, the style and the level of detail suggest that this image was stolen from a nature guide.

A thief saves a deer from a hunter's trap. From then on, the deer appears to help the thief avoid injury and capture. As time goes on, the thief learns that the deer is a God who took on an animal form to mingle with their followers.

"That deer is charging us!" Shouted one of the guards as she dived out of the way, dropping her spear from Zatl's throat as she did. The deer started to thrash and buck wildly, knocking the guard's weapons from their hands as Zatl quickly made his escape."

THE TALE OF LA'RIEL

Fiction, Elvish, Common.

An ornately painted cover depicts a noble elf, who is holding a notebook and making notes.

This book tells the tale of La'Riel, a scholar who travels the world to study and ends up befriendng the gods along the way.

"La'Riel looked at the tree and at the woman. "So you tell me, you created this? You created the sublime nature I am witnessing. And I am meant to believe that without question?"

THE MAGICAL FAIR

Fiction, Common, Rare.

This leather-bound book features pages of many different colors, making it look like a rainbow on the shelf.

A short tale about a magical fair and all the people who go there to have a fun day.

Effect: When opened the book casts "Minor Illusion" to make a small image of the fair appear on the pages.

"Fair day is here! Fair day is here! The best and most wonderful day of the year!"

THE NIGHT GUARD

Fiction, Common, Common

A small book, bound in thick parchment. The cover features a rough sketch of a group of people carrying various weapons.

A story about a small town that is attacked by bandits. The locals form a guard to prevent future attacks and to hunt down the leader of the bandits.

"And we wait on the walls?" He asked as he looked around. "Won't the bushes make us harder to spot?" Varsil just sighed and shook his head. "We want to be seen, being seen is the entire purpose of a guard!"

THE VIRTUE

Fiction, Common, Common.

A very ornate book. The leather cover features a painting of the main characters and the spine has a very eye-catching pattern painted on it.

A story about a woman who disguises herself as a man so she can join the army and avenge her brother's death. However, she gradually falls in love with one of the other soldiers and has to decide if she is driven by vengeance or love.

"The armor was tight against her body and the rags that bound her chest made that tightness even more obvious. But she tried to block it out, this visage was the only way she could repay the pain that had been inflicted upon her."

THE FIRE OF DESIRE

Fiction, Common, Common

A simple book made out of cheap paper and even cheaper string. The cover has a painting on the front, it appears to show a woman looking wistfully at a lake, however, most of the paint has flaked off.

A story about a female elf who falls in love with both a male elf and a human. However, when a war breaks out, her love interests end up on opposite sides of the battle.

"She could see him through the trees. She knew what her heart wanted, but she knew that it wasn't something she should do. They would eventually find out, but she couldn't help herself, the temptation was too great."

THE LORD'S JESTER IS HIS BEST MAN

Fiction, Common, Common.

The wooden cover has a jester carved into it. The pages are surprisingly thick and the book is held closed by two bits of frayed rope.

A comedy about the Lord's Jester. The jester has to constantly save the Lord from himself, and find creative and inventive ways to solve the Lord's increasing wacky problems.

"Married?! Again?!" Blinked the jester. "It has only been three times!" Laughed Lord Asul. "Three times too many if you asked me!" Chuckled the jester as his brain started to work. His lunch would have to wait."

THREE MOONS OF RAIN

Fiction, Common, Common.

A small book bound in very cheap leather that is already starting to crack and peel. The pages have started to turn yellow due to either age or staining.

A story about a gnome who is very unlucky in love. Whenever he falls in love, his partner dies in mysterious circumstances. After his twentieth love gets crushed by an Ox, the gnome sets out to talk to the gods and find out why his luck is so bad.

"As he walked he muttered their names, each repetition making him feel more enraged. He clenched his jaw tight as his muttering grew raspier. His desire to know the truth becoming a burning fire within him."

MUSIC AND SONG

SAILING SONGS FROM TRADE CREWS

Songbook, Common, Rare.

The leather cover seems to be dried out and covered in a thin layer of salt. The pages are made of very cheap parchment.

A collection of songs sung by sailors while at sea. The sheet music has a lot of mistakes suggesting that the author didn't know how to transcribe music.

"If the quartermaster won't give the tot/ Throw him off the boat and drink all you've got/ We'll drink all we want and never flee/ Because we're here for life at sea."

DÆMEON'S HYMN

Sheet Music, Common, Rare

A couple of sheets of ratty parchment held together with string.

An old hymn that was originally shared by word of mouth. The transcriber notes that this hymn was written by an illiterate farmer who was blessed with words they did not understand.

"The might of the hand that guides/ The glory of the hand that forms/ Created from all and in every shadow."

HYMNS AND NOCTURNS

Songbook, Common, Common

Very cheap and rough paper bound with string. The book lacks a cover, but the musical notation makes it obvious what the book is about.

A collection of hymns. Unusually for a book of this type, the hymns seem to cover various different Gods and religions.

"Hail she who brings the trees/ Hail she who brings the berries/ Give to us thine harvest/ and bring us the sun"

SONGS OF MONKS

Songbook, Common, Rare.

A pile of sheet music that is badly bound together with rope. The title has been written out with a very shaky hand.

A collection of songs heard in various monasteries. As opposed to being a hymn book, it also includes several personal work songs, most of which center around insulting other monks.

"Boil the pot!/ Boil the pot!/ What is everyone else going to do?/Not a lot!"

ALTERNATIVE TUNINGS FOR THE LUTE

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

The leather binding has various instrument strings embedded into it, giving the cover an interesting texture and causing it to play a note whenever it is tapped or dropped.

A guide on different tunings for Lutes, each designed to make the instrument sound different or to make certain things easier to play.

"Tuning to Low F allows for the Lute to accompany other instruments and fill the role usually given to percussion instruments."

WHY THE SIMARTA LUTE IS THE BEST

Non-Fiction, Common, Common.

Bound in very expensive wood, this book features a painting of a lute on the front. The book is held closed by a sparkling red thread.

A promotional book, aiming to sell lutes made by Simarta and her daughters. It attempts to sound academic however it is obviously a sales pitch.

"The best tone comes only from wood that is as thick as the original trunk, something only Simarta lutes are. Others skimp on the wood and make several lutes from one tree."

DRINKING SONGS OF THE NORTHERN COAST

Song Book, Common, Common.

A tiny hand-written book, full of sheet music. Its size makes the music hard to read but you could likely work it out if given long enough.

A collection of drinking songs gathered from various taverns on the northern coast.

"Pour it down the hatch/ Down the hatch, down the hatch/ If the quartermaster denies the tot/ Push him down the hatch."

TRADITIONAL MUSIC: 40 OLD FAVOURITES

Song Book, Common, Common.

A simple book, obviously designed to be easily replicated. The only decoration is a single musical note drawn on the front cover.

A collection of forty old songs. These range from ceremonial and religious songs to drinking and working songs.

"Every morning I work the hay/ Every morning I work the hay/ Until I come back and find where the sheep doth lay."

A COLLECTION OF PLAINSONG

Sheet Music, Common, Common.

A collection of sheet music, bound in ornately patterned leather. Even the spine is decorated with little diamonds and other geometric shapes.

A collection of chants and vocal pieces to be performed at ceremonies and other major events. Most of them are very complex and would be a challenge for all but the most talented of singers.

"The sun is up and we are at one/ Our voices raised/ Our spirits long."

YZAL

Sheet Music, Elvish, Common.

While it lacks a cover, this bundle of sheet music is held together with a very ornate gold rope. It also has a very ornate wax seal stamped on the top of the first page.

The music for an Elvish play that details the life of a simple farmer who ends up going to war to defend his people. The longest song is the last one, an extended solo where Yzal dies in the arms of his wife.

"And yet when it comes my time/ I shall raise my arms/ Be it sickle or sword/ I will do my all"

BATTLE WALK CHANTS

Sheet Music, Orcish, Rare.

All of the pages are scuffed or ripped. The collection seems to be held together by two arrows rammed through the parchment.

A collection of Orcish chants that are sung while heading to battle. It seems that the transcriber has done their best to convey the discordant nature of Orc shouting. However, their notes suggest that they are far from fluent in Orcish.

"Crush the heads/ Paint the ground!/ Wave your clubs/ This is our land!"



INSTRUCTION MANUALS

PATCHING A MAINSAIL

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very cheaply made book. The cover seems to be handwritten and the ink is smudged.

This is a guide to patching a ship's mainsail. The book suggests borrowing the cabin boy's shirt or the shirt of the most recent rule breaker.

"Once you have the shirt, make several heavy stitches in each corner and attach these to the sail before stitching the rest, this will ensure the patch stays in place and doesn't fall while the repair is underway"

WRITING LETTERS THE ELVEN WAY

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A short book that is made out of high-quality writing paper. The back few pages seem to include letter writing templates.

A guide to writing to Elves, specifically those in positions of power. It mostly focuses on what to avoid when contacting them.

"Remember. Never reduce your words for the sake of time. If someone is worth writing to, they are worth your fanciest and most eloquent sentences."

BLADE SHARPENING

Instruction Manual, Dwarven, Common.

The book has a thick stone cover that makes it heavier than most other books. It is also covered in what seems to be small shards and flakes of metal.

A guide to keeping blades sharp. It covers a lot of different methods for sharpening, from improvised solutions using trees and the book's cover, to more advanced solutions like spinning grinders.

"Sweep forward with your blade, making sure to keep it on an angle. If you slip, quickly stop what you are doing, pushing the blade into the rock will merely render it even blunter."

CHEESE ROLLING: A GUIDE

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A mass-produced book made out of cheap paper with a leather cover. Several pages are already torn.

A guide to the sport of cheese rolling, where several people chase a wheel of cheese down a hill.

"Cheese rolling requires a variety of strategies. When the cheese is bouncing it is best to allow others in front to allow them to take the brunt of the terrain while you preserve your breath for better chances."

AVOIDING WORK

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A small book with a cheery drawing of a man sleeping in front of the fire on the cover.

An amusing guide detailing ways to avoid doing work. Includes everything using scarecrow as a decoy to faking your death.

"Work is boring, and thus I present a guide to avoidance! Easy ways to avoid the simple suffering of the day"

Effect: Contains the spell "Feign Death" which can be copied into a Ritual Caster's spellbook.

BUILDING SHELTER

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This small book is bound in several ropes of different colors. Each of the ropes is lightly knotted on the back of the book so that they can be removed with ease.

Step by step guides to building various kinds of shelter. The ropes on the book's cover are often a key part of the designs, acting as everything from supports to tripwires.

"Remove the crimson rope and throw it over a sturdy tree branch before pushing the end through the hole in your cover. This will give your shelter a basic shape that keeps cool during hot nights."

THE ART OF TRANSLATION

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book is made out of very high-quality paper. The leather cover has the book's name embossed into it.

A guide to the skills required to be a translator, specifically one who translates from Elvish to Common. It spends a great deal of time discussing how Elvish is about flourish and how direct translation can cause a text to lose its meaning.

"To change the words is not enough, to change the words is merely to transpose. Translation carries across the heart and faith of the words, a true translation will fill the heart with the same emotion in either language."

Effect: Contains the spell "Comprehend Languages" that can be copied into a Ritual Caster's spellbook.

HOW TO CREATE POISONS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

The book is covered in dark green fabric. While this fabric looks fuzzy, it feels oddly cold. An image of a skull is printed on the edges of the pages.

A guide on how to make various poisons. Covers killing everything from rats to giant monsters. However, the creator does warn to not use the information to commit murder.

"14 drops of blood, 2 blooms of ground Nightshade, boil in a pot for fourteen hours."

THE HEALER'S GUIDE TO POISONING

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A handwritten book. It is bound in parchment that has yellowed with age.

A medical guide, teaching healers how to cure various types of poison. It also tries to teach how to identify a poison from its symptoms.

"The temperature of the victim and their skin color are the best way to identify poison type. Heat and darkness around the eyes suggest something in the blood."

SNAKE CHARMING FOR BEGINNERS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very thin book. The wooden cover has the image of a snake burnt into it. There seem to be flecks of paint on the cover, suggesting that the snake was painted at some point.

A guide on how to charm snakes with music. Both as a way to tame them and as a form of performance. The first half of the book is mostly warnings about picking the wrong type of snake.

"Keep your rhythm firm, the driving pulse is what attracts the snake and keeps it entranced."

DRY STONE WALLING

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very dusty book, bound in carved stone. The carving makes it look like the book is sandwiched between two little walls.

A guide to the wall building method referred to as dry stone walling. It is a very detailed guide and covers both the building and maintenance of these walls.

"The walls allow for a quick erection and can survive the winter winds and the summer heat if maintained properly. Even damage can be fixed if you act quickly and follow this guide."

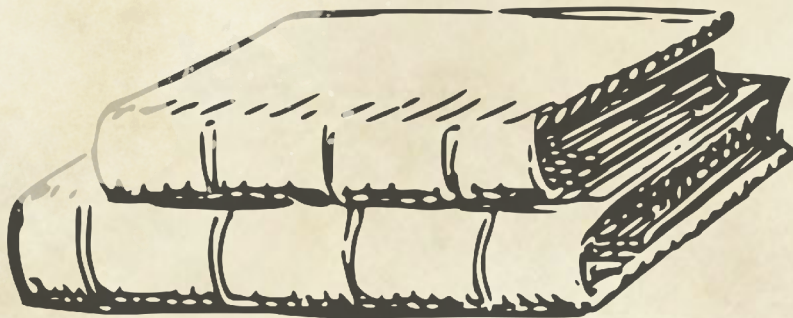
REMOVAL OF SLEEPING CURSES

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book has a shiny glass cover that makes it sparkle and refract the light when it is moved.

A guide to removing various types of sleeping curses. It also includes a guide on how to help the victim of the curse adapt to living in the waking world.

"Remember, the waker might be very angry and not realize they've been sleeping, especially if cursed during a struggle. Make sure to keep well back when they awaken."



DRY LAND WHALING

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book is bound in very cracked leather and wrapped in wax paper. All of the pages are soggy and yellow.

A guide to hunting whales and other large sea creatures while on land. Includes methods such as spearfishing and net dredging.

"Make sure the net is held firm. If the net is not firm your party may be dragged by the creature and pulled into the dark water."

WAND REPAIR VOLUME 4: RECHARGES

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare.

Bound in ornate crimson leather. There is a gold inlay on the spine that seems like it would form an image if this book was placed with the rest of the set.

Part of a massive encyclopedia on wands. This volume discusses how to recharge certain wands and offers some tips to make certain wands charge faster.

"Be aware of the specifics of enchantment. A wand enchanted to use the light of the sun will, of course, require it during a recharge. But if the enchantment merely says light, then a candle or your hearth may work just as well."

THE YOUNG ADVENTURERS' MANUAL

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A tiny handbook made of slightly faded paper. The cover depicts a group of young children reading a map.

A guide for young adventurers, aiming to teach them key skills. However, it omits any skills related to weapons or combat.

"Remember, when trying to hide, make sure your hiding place is safe. No point being out of sight if you're sitting in a poison bush."

WHALE HUNTING VOL 1: TRACKING

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very ornate book. The spine has part of a whale drawn on it. If the whole set was put together the spines would likely form a complete image.

Part of a guide on hunting large sea creatures. This volume focuses on tracking and discusses how to work out migratory patterns and how to spot creatures moving through the water. It also details how to follow these animals without scaring them off.

"At first, you may think that the creature will move forward. However, these creatures are not privy to such logic. They move with the currents as they act much like our roads. They are the simplest path to travel and thus, to follow one, you must know the current."

ARROW WHITTTLING

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A small book, bound in wood. It features the image of an arrow carved into the front cover. This carving is deep enough to be used as a mold.

A guide to making arrows via whittling. The book mostly uses diagrams, suggesting it was written for those who can't speak common.

"Scrape part 1, Cut into part 2"

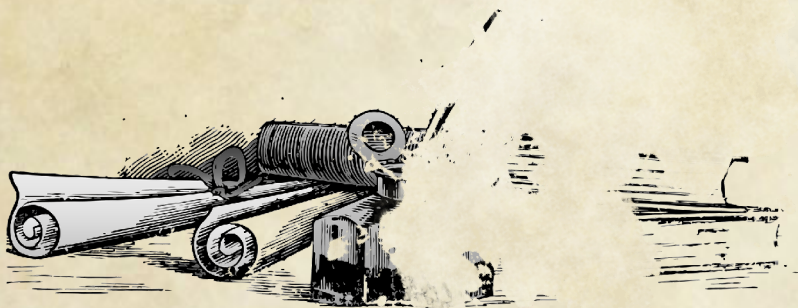
PROTECTING CAMP

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A small book made of very stiff paper. There are no illustrations and the writing is very small, seemingly in an attempt to save ink.

A guide to setting up campsites so that they are harder to attack. It includes tips on how to arrange guards and patrol routes as well as ways to armor tents and food stashes.

"Never confuse difficult for impossible. A river may be hard to cross, but it won't stop an angry Orc or a bandit with nothing to lose. Cover all your sides at all times or pay the price."



SMALL GROUP BATTLE TACTICS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very formal leather cover features an overly detailed drawing of an armored soldier wielding a longsword.

A military guide to small group tactics, including how to fight when massively outnumbered. It includes several case studies and a few pages of diagrams.

"Forming a circle is imperative in open ground. If the terrain doesn't allow you to cut off one option, you need to prevent flanking before it happens."

FIRE AND ITS TACTICAL BRILLIANCE

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very formal looking document that lacks a cover, making it more closely resemble an essay.

A guide to using fire in combat situations. The book mostly takes the form of long rambling anecdotes about battles the author has fought in. This means that very little of the document discusses fire.

"As we approached the hill we saw nigh on twenty of the orcs down below. We considered hard because our actions would, as Zair put it, shape the near future of the area."

MINESHAFT SUPPORTS

Instruction Manual, Dwarvish, Common.

A very dirty and dusty book. The cover is hewn from granite.

This book is a guide to shoring up mineshafts to prevent them from collapsing. It is very detailed and references several case studies of former collapses.

"The supports must always be checked for hairline cracks, with secondary supports checked more regularly. Shifts can happen very quickly and changes will need to be made constantly."

MAPPING FOR BEGINNERS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A small leather book. The cover is coated in wax in an attempt to make it waterproof. This copy seemingly has several pages marked by the former owner.

A guide to making maps while traveling. It is mostly diagrams and tips on how to align yourself with stars and other major landmarks.

"The first thing one needs when creating a map is a location to map and a star with which to align yourself."

ILLUSIONS AND TRICKS

Instruction Manual, Gnomish, Common.

A simple book with a wooden cover that has been painted to make it look like gold. The effect isn't dramatically convincing.

A guide to pulling off various illusions and tricks. While there are a lot of them, they are all very simple and are mostly designed to entertain children.

"Remember to be confident even if it is a lie. Even if you go wrong, the audience will think you meant to do it and accept it as part of the illusion"

DISPOSING OF MAGICAL ITEMS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very plain book, wrapped in white fabric. This fabric makes it easy to tell just how dusty the book is.

A guide on how to dispose of magical items safely without risking them hurting people or causing problems in the future.

"Remember to dispose of in a place where digging is uncommon. There is no point burying it in a field where a farmer will dig in spring."



MISSING THINGS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book is made out of parchment and bound together with expensive rope. The rope has some red thread woven into it to make it easier to spot.

A guide to finding missing things. While it starts out with simple suggestions it soon goes into magical and even religious solutions.

"The ritual is not something to be used as a first attempt, angering a ritual because you forgot to look under your bed isn't a great way to go."

A GUIDE TO LIBRARY USAGE

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A thin and very worn book, bound in leather. The library's logo is embossed on the front cover.

A guide explaining how to use a library. It includes information on finding books, withdrawing books, and has a chapter describing the penalties for late returns.

"First, know what you are looking for. Merely looking for a 'book' will get you nowhere unless you like the machinations of chance. Know what topic you want and at what level you want the information."

REPAIRING SHIPS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A wax-covered book that is both water damaged and stained with blood. It seems like it has been used by many people over the years.

A guide to performing ship repairs. It is very thorough and covers both full-scale repairs in dry dock and improvised repairs that can be performed at sea.

"When a leak springs, speed is your only ally, the longer the leak is left, the more damage it will do. Patching boards are the quickest way to slow the flow and prevent further damage."

SOLVING CRIME, STOPPING CRIME

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare.

A very utilitarian looking book made entirely out of thin parchment. The cover is blank aside from the handwritten title.

A manual for town guards, explaining how to investigate a crime. It is trying to promote the idea that in-depth investigation will prevent crime as criminals will fear being caught and thus not commit any.

"Ask questions, do not merely listen and follow the stories of those in the town. Rumor and hearsay may lead to their stories being nothing but well-meaning fictions. Act out the story, make sure it fits the location of the crime."

FORMAL DANCING

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare.

The book doesn't seem to close properly and all of the pages seem to be twice as thick as you would usually expect for a book of this size. The leather cover has been stretched and bent due to the sheer volume of parchment inside the book.

A guide to formal partner dances. The book includes fold-out charts to show where you need to put your feet, however, years of use have left them quite dirty.

"The couple's dance ends the evening. This dance is much slower than a normal dance, this means all eyes will be on your feet."



THE LANGUAGE OF CROWS AND HOW TO SPEAK IT

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very plain book. The cover is blank aside from the handwritten title.

A guide to looking after birds, specifically how to judge their moods and needs via their calls.

"A crow that needs to eat will make a lower call than a full one. Note the warbles, these warbles will become more obvious when the crow is desperate."

WHITTILING: A GUIDE

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book appears to be bound in whittled wood. The cover even has a crude image of a tree carved into it.

A basic guide to whittling wood into various useful and artistic shapes.

"Always whittle away from you, the knife blade should always face downwards, this will prevent injury if you slip or if the wood splits."

REPAIRING CONSTRUCTS

Instruction Manual, Dwarvish, Common.

A large book made out of rough paper. This copy seems very dirty and seemingly has authors notes written in the margins.

A guide to repairing constructs, specifically ones used for defense or mining.

"Be careful, unlike a dagger you can't hit the dents out of a construct. Know what you are doing before you start."



THE CRAFTSMAN'S CREED

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book's cover is made of iron, making it amazingly heavy. Several smaller bits of metal have been shaped into ornate patterns and attached to the cover as decoration.

A guide to basic crafting techniques, specifically focusing on the qualities that make a good craftsman.

"Dedication is what makes metal form its best shape. Mere creativity stops long before the metal has melted."

Effect: Reader gets advantage on next Crafting roll

ADVERTISING: THE SHOPKEEP'S GUIDE

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare.

A very fancy looking book made out of paper that feels like silk. The front cover features a beautiful picture of a thriving shop and its happy owner.

A guide on how to attract business to a store. The book has several chapters focused on appealing to adventuring parties.

"Always go bigger than the person next to you. If there are four shops in a row, the one with the bright light on top will always win out."

Effect: This book contains the "Skywrite" spell that can be copied into a Ritual Caster's spellbook.

THE BOOK OF ENERGY

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book has a cover made of woven thread, making it feel oddly soft and comforting.

A guide to having more energy in your day to day life. Mentions everything from exercise to drugs and magic.

"Mixing these herbs into a tea will cause you to feel very awake for several hours, however after those hours you might feel heavy and dizzy."

Effect: Reader loses one level of Exhaustion.

JOUSTING

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare.

A heavily damaged book. The cover has been ripped off and the book has a massive hole through the middle.

A guide to jousting, including techniques and strategies.

"Horse control is the most unmentioned part of jousting technique. Being able to keep your speed under control is often the difference between winning and losing"

APPRAISING ANTIQUES

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A small leather-bound book. The cover is very simple and plain, making it look like a normal notebook from a distance.

A guide to appraising objects, aimed at antique dealers and shopkeepers. It includes examples of many common relics and second-hand goods.

"Remember which metals scratch or tarnish easily; these marks are often key in making sure the good is as it seems."

Effect: Contains the spell "Identify" that can be copied into a Ritual spellcaster's spellbook.

THE CHILDRENS' GUIDE TO ARCHERY

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

The cover is festooned with bright colors and happy images of young men target shooting

A guide to archery, aimed at young children. It covers most of the basics of aiming and firing a bow at a static target.

"Once aimed, raise your arm slightly to account for drop and then release in a clean and smooth manner."

WHISTLING: A GUIDE

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very small book, bound in old sheet music that doesn't seem to be related to the rest of the book.

A guide on how to whistle. It includes the sheet music for several classic folk songs.

"Remember to blow softly, hard blowing merely tires you out and leads to a rasping and non-melodic sound."

FIGHTING: WHAT RATS CAN TEACH US

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This book's cover is made of black rat pelts. It is soft but also slightly horrifying.

This book uses rats as an example of good combat tactics. The author argues that rats can take down much bigger creatures due to their use of agility and numbers.

"You may dismiss them because they are small, but that dismissal is why combat so often ends in losses as you dismiss the evidence in front of your eyes."

WEAPON FORGING

Instruction Manual, Dwarvish, Common.

A very dirty and grimy book. Its cover is coated in a thin layer of metal that has been tarnished and burnt several times.

A simple how-to guide on basic weapon forging. Covers how to set up a furnace and how to make a simple dagger, sword, and arrow using it.

"Make sure your fire stays hot, the main cause of broken weapons that shatter on first use is the fire getting cold during the forging."

THE SHOPKEEPER'S HANDBOOK

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very fancy looking book. The leather cover has a very complex pattern embossed into it as well as ornate metalwork attached to it.

A book that aims to teach the skills needed to become a successful shopkeeper. Covers things like pricing, maintaining stock, dealing with theft and promoting your store.

"While it might sound like heresy, some items are fine to make a loss on. Common items are a good way to attract people to more costly items."

PYRE BUILDING

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very small book, bound in paper. It seems to be slightly singed already.

A guide to making a pyre for both warning and funerary purposes. The book is designed to be used as kindling and thus is made out of very flammable paper.

"Roll up this page and insert it into the tower of twigs before adding flame."

AVOIDING MASSIVE SHIPS

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

This heavy book features a fold-out diagram of a large trade ship on the front. It also has a metal clasp on the side to keep it closed.

Despite its comical name, this book is a rather dry guide to naval navigation. It features several chapters discussing how to avoid crashing into other boats.

"Beware the pull of larger ships. A trading vessel will disturb the water for at least 15ft around it. This disturbed water can pull in smaller ships, causing them to be thrown against the bigger hull."



COOKBOOKS AND FOOD

COOKING WITH BERRIES

Cook Book, Common, Common.

This book is bound in leather and has several berries embossed on the cover. Some of the pages are stained with what seems to be berry juice.

A guide to cooking with berries. It has many dessert recipes, including tarts and pies.

"Heat the berries over a low fire for several hours, this will render the berries into a liquid that can be placed over the mixed berries from the previous stage."

FRUGAL FAMINE FOOD

Cookbook, Common, Common.

A very cheap looking book. Several of the pages are already falling out of the binding and one of the pages appears to have been bitten.

A collection of recipes designed to make your food last as long as possible during a famine. Many of the recipes do not look very appetizing.

"Sawdust makes an excellent alternative to corn and adds color to your food. When ground and baked it is nearly impossible to spot."

Effect: Reader only needs Half Rations to cover their food needs for the current day.

How To Cook

Cook Book, Dwarfish, Common.

A very dirty lump of parchment with a simple leather cover that is held on by a very thin bit of rope.

A guide to the basics of cooking. It has a lot of recipes for stews and simple roasted meats. It seems designed for people on a small budget.

"Put the onion into the pot and wait for the water to bubble before adding the roots."

How To Cook When You Don't Have The Time

Cook Book, Common, Common.

A very short book that is wrapped in wax paper. The pages are made of very thin parchment and the ink is slightly smudged.

The book is full of recipes that can be made quickly. Some of them don't sound dramatically appetizing.

"Quickly stick the apple in the fire, once it is is hot, mash with Goodberries and eat."

EAT THIS BOOK

Cook Book, Common, Legendary.

A small circular book made of oddly pastel purple paper. The ink seems to shimmer slightly and the book smells of stale bread.

This book declares itself to be the first edible book. The author suggests that this concept will allow the poor to read more as they can buy food and a book at the same time. Most of the pages are long rambling passages where the author sings their own praises.

"No longer will you have to decide bread or knowledge. With my concept knowledge can be your bread, you may feast on majestic words and ancient wisdom!"

Effect: If you eat the book, roll 1D20. On an even result, the book fulfills all of your food needs for the day. On an odd result, take 2d6 poison damage.

FOOD TO COOK IN THE FORGE

Cook Book, Common, Common.

A simple book bound in very burnt rope. The handwriting is slightly clumsy and the book is full of crossed-out errors.

Recipes that can be cooked in the fire of a forge. This book is designed for workers who want a hot lunch while they are working.

"Pull your tongs out and set them down before laying the mutton on top of them. It will quickly start to smoke. With a poker keep turning the meat to prevent the smoke filling the workshop."

HEALING BROTHS

Cookbook, Elvish, Common.

A cookbook that features large ornate paintings of each dish. These paintings seem to make the broths look much better than they possibly could in real life.

A guide to making broths and soups that have a healing effect. These recipes are family heirlooms and are often centuries old.

"Mix all of the herbs in a small pestle and slowly add them to the pot, making sure the pot doesn't overflow due to excess heat."

MUSHROOM FORAGING

Instruction Manual, Elvish, Common.

A professionally bound book that features some very detailed drawings of various kinds of mushrooms. However, this specific copy seems to be very stained.

A guide to foraging for mushrooms, focusing heavily on how to avoid poisonous ones. It has a very dry writing style that suggests it was written by a botanist.

"The Death Angel Mushroom is very safe and delicious with game and other meats. However, the Angel of Death Mushroom is deadly and must not be consumed."

ALE BREWING

Instruction Manual, Dwarvish, Common.

The paper smells heavily of hops. The cover has a drawing of an overflowing ale mug on the front.

A step by step guide to brewing ale. While the book focuses on Dwarven ale it does include some tips for making ale for other races.

"If your cask isn't left for over a year then you're ale is nothing more than water! A good strong brew requires time and planning. Always keep a cask ready for when you're waiting on the new one."

FOOD TASTER'S GUIDE TO SPOTTING POISON

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare

A very small book with a plain black leather cover, almost as if it is designed to be concealed or hidden.

A guide for Royal food tasters, teaching them how to spot poisoned food.

"Food that is an unusual color or emits an odd odor must be immediately removed from the hall, lest it corrupt other food."

Effect: Contains the spell "Purify Food And Drink" that can be copied into a Ritual caster's spellbook.

EDIBLE ANIMALS

Cookbook, Dwarven, Common.

An utterly filthy leather book. It is covered in dirt and bloodstains and it has a strong odor of decay.

A guide to which animals contain edible meat. It also tries to assess if the animal is worth hunting by discussing how hard the animal is to kill.

"While they produce a lot of meat it isn't worth the risk when other meat is around. If you need to hunt them then you are better off keeping distant and showering it in arrows."

BUTCHERY

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A heavy book, bound in cheap leather. Most of the book is stained with blood and half of the pages are ripped.

The book is filled with guides and diagrams showing how to butcher various animals to get different cuts and joints of meat.

"Remove the fat from the bone with a short knife and then slowly drag the blade around to remove roasting joint from the rest of the body."



REFERENCE GUIDES

DOMESDAY BOOK

Reference Book, Common, Common.

The book is expertly bound and made of fine paper. However, it is obviously written by two different people. One of whom has terrible handwriting.

A census on the local area's population. Including their dwelling, land holdings and family relations.

"Exial, 4 Acres, 10 Cows. 1 Wife by the name of Izal"

Effect: Advantage on the next History check.

THE FARMER'S ALMANAC

Reference Book, Common Common.

A small pocket-sized book made out of cheap and thin paper. Each page has a sketch of an animal at the bottom.

A guide for farmers. It attempts to predict the weather for the upcoming year and suggests the optimum time for planting and harvesting various crops.

"Fourth Moon: Prepare the corn and till the soil for the roots"

BIRDS AND WATCHING

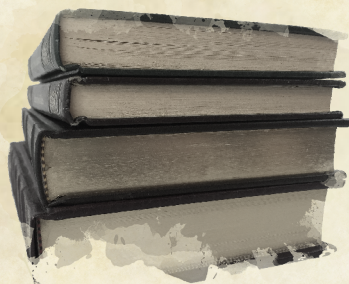
Reference Book, Common, Common.

A small pocket-sized book that features very detailed sketches of various small birds. A raven is drawn on the cover.

A guide to various small birds. It focuses on how to recognize both their silhouette and their call. It is seemingly written for hobbyists.

"The Dropping Sparrow has a low call that sounds like a drop hitting a bucket."

Effect: Advantage on the next Nature check.



ELVES: MARITAL CUSTOMS

Reference Book, Common, Common.

A simple leather-bound tome that looks intentionally inconspicuous. It is very hard to tell what this book is about at first glance.

A guide to Elven marital traditions in several regions. A major part of the book is dedicated to a step-by-step guide to your average Elven ceremony.

"Make sure to make eye contact with the front row, their movements will tell you if something has changed or if a family tradition is going to be used."

HOW TO CREATE A SEWER SYSTEM

Reference Book, Common, Rare.

A very smelly book, with very stained pages. It seems like it was originally a high-quality book, but it has been kept in bad conditions for many years.

A guide to sanitation in large settlements. It covers everything from simple pits, to large drainage systems.

"To keep everything clean is to protect the public both spiritually and physically. Dirt and filth attract the worst of society and the worst of conditions."

MAUR'S PRICE GUIDE

Non-Fiction, Common, Rare.

A cheap pocket notebook, complete with a bit of string that would have held a quill at some point in the past. The cover is heavily scratched and is covered in various ink splatters and scribbles.

An auctioneer's price guide, containing their suggested prices for various relics and precious metals. It seems like this was only meant for their own private use and thus there are many personal notes in the margins.

"Gold (in a usable form) 200 GP Per pound if bulk and trustworthy."

FISH OF THE SEA

Reference Book, Common, Common.

The book is bent and covered in seaweed. It obviously got very wet at some point and the attempts to dry it were not totally successful.

A visual guide to identifying various fish found in the sea. The book spends most of its time discussing fish that are good for eating, however, some mention is made of sea monsters.

"Carp 1 foot maximum. Heavy and shiny, often easier to net than to hook."

CRIMINALS

Reference Book, Common, Common.

The book is bound in flesh. Because of this, it feels cold and slimy to the touch.

A book of criminals and their crimes. Most of the crimes are relatively old. However, some of them are more recent.

"Their criminal urges continued to grow in size and scope until he tried one time too many and fell on the holy sword."

DECODING THIEVES' CANT

Reference Book, Common, Common.

A leather book with various symbols scratched into the cover. They seem to be symbols used by thieves and tricksters, however, they are drawn slightly incorrectly.

A guide teaching the basics of Thieves' Cant. However, it seems to be incorrect, almost as if it was made to confuse people.

"Symbols like this take on another meaning when carved into an object. They suggest that a location is useful or a person is a mark."

DREAMS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Reference Book, Common, Rare.

This book has a shimmering purple cover that seems to have strange shapes and patterns carved into it.

This book offers a guide to working out what dreams and visions mean, including an index of commonly seen objects.

"The goblet is a symbol of the heart, a full goblet means that love is coming to you soon"

BLOOMING PLANTS OF THE MOIST PLACES

Reference Book, Common, Common.

The thick wooden cover has several different mushrooms engraved on it. The book also seems to have several actual mushrooms growing on it.

A book detailing the plants that grow in moist areas such as swamps and dank caves. Covers everything from mushrooms to larger flowers and vines.

"When it reaches bloom, spores fly out of the Nyar Mushroom and these will grow new mushrooms within a few months provided the air remains humid."

BOOK OF XANS

Reference Book, Common, Legendary.

An ornate and colorful cover depicts various monks surrounded by animals. The paper is very old and the book seems to be handwritten by several different people.

An ancient tome, written by a monk called Xans. It tells the ancient history of the local area. However, it is hard to tell what is correct and what is just misunderstood myths.

"The dragon that stood upon the mountain cascaded down a wall of ice that, once melted, became the lake, which still bubbles with the dragon's rage to this day."

Effect: Advantage on the next History check.



THIS BOOK IS FULL OF SPIDERS

Reference Book, Common, Common.

This book's cover is furry and seems to be made out of the chitin from various giant spiders.

An illustrated guide to various spiders found around the world. Includes domestic and monstrous varieties.

"Giant Spiders are bigger than the domestic types but are still the most mundane of the spider family."

CLOUDS AND THEIR RAIN

Reference Book, Common, Common.

Both the front and back cover of this book have clouds carved into them. However, due to inlaid glass, the cloud on the front is white and the one the back is dark gray.

A guide to clouds that focuses on predicting rainstorms via the color and shape of the clouds on the horizon.

"When the gray grows darker, the cloud brings with it great rain, the type that can ruin crops and flood the landscape. This is the time to seek shelter."

WEAPONRY

Reference Book, Common, Common.

This book is wrapped in several layers of leather, making the cover look unusually thick. However, the high-quality paper makes it obvious that the thick cover was a deliberate design choice.

A guide to weapons, covering everything from the smallest daggers to large siege engines. The book also has entries for several mythical weapons and for the armaments wielded by several famous heroes.

"Daggers are usually iron and around 6 inches long and 2 inches thick at their most clumsy. While some have been specially crafted for warfare, most daggers are primarily designed as eating tools."

A VISUAL GUIDE TO TINKERING TOOLS

Reference Book, Gnomish, Common.

The bright wooden cover features paintings of several Gnomes, all hard at work on various projects.

A guide to the tools found in a tinkerer's workshop. Each page features a large, detailed drawing of a tool with various labels explaining what it is and how to use it. The simple language suggests it is aimed at young children.

"This is the sharp end, the end that must always be facing your workbench. The other end is not a hammer and thus should not be used as one."

ANIMAL TRACKS

Reference Book, Elvish, Common.

This book is bound in bark, with an image of a wolf paw engraved into it. The parchment is slightly darker than usual, either in an attempt to make the text easier to read or to hide stains.

An extensive guide to animal tracks. It covers pretty much every animal a normal person is likely to encounter. The final chapter is dedicated to predicting what tracks several mythical creatures would leave.

"Unlike many animals of this size, their lighter step means that they leave less detailed prints. However, it is this lack of detail that makes them so distinctive to the trained tracker."



FAITH AND RELIGION

OATISM: YOUR TRUE SALVATION

Non-Fiction, Common, Rare.

A small pamphlet-sized book made out of cheap thin paper. The cover features a very crude sketch of a horse.

A book promoting a supposed religion for horses, based around oats. It seems very unfocused and almost like someone misunderstood a joke.

"And lo, Oatis will deliver his great bounty to your fields and your soil shall never be free of glorious oats."

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Instruction Manual, Common, Rare.

The leather cover is thin and worn. The cheap binding suggests that this is an artist's notebook as opposed to an actual published text.

The book is apparently meant to be a guide to spiritual practices to bring one closer to their god. However, it seems to be one person's diary detailing their attempts to make these practices work.

"Breathing, I am breathing. I can feel the air, I can feel it inside me. I can hear the whispers behind me and coming closer yet they are too obscured to hear."

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GODHOOD

Reference Book, Common, Common.

A large and heavy book that is made out of expensive parchment. It contains both text and images and the images seem to have been drawn by several very talented artists.

A guide to various gods worshipped around the world. It seems to be very in depth and even has entries for gods who are only rumored to exist.

"We have collected records from over one hundred scholars to make sure this guide covers as many deities as possible. Making this the foremost text on Godhood"

Effect: Advantage on next Religion check.

THE BOOK OF FALSE GODS

Reference Book, Common, Rare.

A very yellowed book, with an overly stiff leather cover. It looks like it has been repaired at some point as the pages are covered in scuff marks.

It claims to be an encyclopedia of gods that have been found to be fake. However, how it judges this seems to be very random. It seems like this book was written to discredit several religions.

"A failed attempt at motivating the people of the village into supporting the ruling Lord, several fake healings were held in the village square and fake historical drawings were created."

ALTER CREATION

Reference Book, Common, Rare.

A small leather pocketbook, that features several small symbols carved into the cover. They seem to be various glyphs of protection.

A guide to the alters of various religions. The book includes guides for constructing improvised emergency alters to specific gods.

"The flowers must be on the center plate. While placement on the left plate does not ruin the ritual, in my experience it is heavily frowned upon and may make you enemies within the congregation."

GRAVE SYMBOLOGY

Reference Book, Common, Rare.

A very simple book with a dour gray cover. The book is very dirty and several of the pages are covered in soil.

A book detailing the symbols found on various gravestones and at other burial sites. It covers several different religions and regions.

Graves of this type tend to be simple shapes made out of twisted sticks and various wildflowers. This is likely due to the nomadic origins of this religion. These twig markers would be easy to erect quickly without any specialized tools.

Effect: Advantage on the next Religion check.

ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL

FIRST GRAMMATICAL TREATISE

Academic Text, Common, Common.

A thick book, bound in fine leather. The spine features several ornate bits of metalwork that catch the light. Despite its beautiful look, the book is covered in a thick layer of dust.

A study on the grammatical rules of Common. While it would be a good guide to the language, the fact it is written in Common makes it useless for this purpose.

"The secondary clause can if given before a supporting clause, redefine the original clause to become descriptive as opposed to persuasive."

TREATISE ON MEDICINE

Academic Text, Common, Rare.

A heavy book with a thick wooden cover. It has a school's emblem embossed on the front as well as gold leaf inlaid on the pages.

A guide to medicine that discusses new ways to cure common ailments, especially those that arise from bad living conditions.

"First, we must make sure the cleaning is complete before attaching the worms. These worms will engorge over time. Cleaning the wound despite their unsightly appearance."

Effect: Gives the reader an advantage on the next Medical check.

WILD MAGIC: A STUDY

Academic Text, Common, Rare.

A very plain and academic looking document. Its slightly yellowed cover is blank apart from a handwritten title.

A study into the workings of wild magic and how it could be channeled. The author doesn't seem to explain why they embarked on this study or what uses they would have for controllable wild magic.

"This test disproved my earlier hypothesis, destroying the gem, the holder and my room in one blast of bright light. Thus a new method was needed."

THE BLUE PLAGUE

History Book, Common, Common.

A very plain and academic looking text. Written on medium quality parchment with very neat handwriting.

An analysis of a plague that swept through a small village. The author suggests the cause was a strange species of frog that made its home in the town's well.

"The frogs, while normally harmless were in such great numbers that their natural poison would have built up in the well over days and months."

ECONOMICS IN THE BARTER AGE

Academic Text, Common, Rare.

A very dull looking book. Plain white paper bound together with simple rope. The cover and all the text is hand-written by the same hand.

A guide to barter economies and how they affect the wider economy of the land. The book cites many different examples and gets quite complex in places.

"As value is ever changing, one object's worth is not exact and thus hard to calculate. This means that the moving forces are stronger especially if they move into a knowledge void."

THE LIFE OF TAUS RALZ

Non-Fiction, Common, Common.

This book features a portrait of a woman on the front cover. She seems to be very stern and dignified.

A biography of an Elven scholar called Taus Ralz. She studied magic and set up several educational establishments.

"Taus was not content with being merely another scholar, she packed up her life and moved across the land, hoping to learn by experience"

AN END TO ALL KINGS

Political, Common, Common.

A very cheaply made book that is only a few pages long. It has very inconsistent handwriting, especially on the title where it seems like the author ran out of ink midway through.

A political manifesto, debating that kings and monarchs are no longer needed and their symbols and relics should be destroyed to free people from the lingering effects of their rule.

"And yet, they complain of machinations when they themselves are machinations! They are the ones who stabbed their own backs and then blamed us with their fronts!"

UNITY BUILDS STRENGTH

Political, Common, Common.

A short pamphlet, seemingly handmade and handwritten. Despite looking quite new the paper is already starting to decay.

A manifesto from a group trying to unite the local farmworkers so they can overthrow a local landowner.

"They shall only fear when the power of our backs is not broken on the land but aimed directly at them and their houses."

WHAT A LORD NEEDS TO KNOW

Instruction Manual, Common, Common.

A very basic yet pleasing book, made out of good paper. The front cover features a picture of a Prince taking advice from a ghost.

The book aims to teach skills to Lords. It has chapters on the basics of area management, dowries, and other such legal precedents.

"If a lord doth fail to know his self, then his people shall only know him by jeers."

THE METHODS OF PEACE

Academic Text, Common, Common.

A simple Academic text, bound in supple brown leather. The pages are rather thin, meaning that the book is deceptively long.

An essay on the need for peace and how to achieve it. It features several case studies of peace talks and treaties and tries to form a method to easily broker peace between any two warring groups.

"Both must get something. One side cannot be made to lose because even noble hearts can be clouded by raging thoughts. By allowing both groups to easily come out without sacrifice, peace has one less blockage."

THE WARRIOR

Academic Text, Common, Common.

This book has a shiny metal cover with beautiful gilded letters forming the title. The pages are thick and have a wonderful, almost silken texture.

A discussion on what it means to be a warrior. The book discusses several famous warriors throughout history and tries to suggest the ten defining characteristics that make warriors so revered in public life.

"While some may argue a warrior is merely a medium of force, this is mostly incorrect. For if this was true, terms like warrior-poet and warrior monk would not be so popular, especially in tales. Thus a warrior must be more than meat and muscle."



OTHER

THE WORDS SPOKEN TO ME

Reference Book, Abyssal, Rare.

Several sheets of ripped parchment badly tied together with string. It looks like it was made by someone who had no idea about bookbinding.

The mad scrawlings of a person who was trying to talk to the creatures of the Underdark.

"Hear, listen they bid me do their bidding and that is to bid into the world the bidding of before"

THIS BOOK IS NOT HOLLOW

Other, Common, Common.

A book with a red cover. However, it looks like it is made out of painted wood, even the pages look drawn on.

A hollow box disguised as a book, seemingly put in the library by accident. That or someone was trying to stealthy exchange something.

Effect: Find 50gp inside the book.

FORBIDDEN WHISPERS

Non-Fiction, Common, Rare.

This book is wrapped in leather and sealed with a lockable metal clasp. The leather has several symbols of protection carved into it.

This book starts as a Monk's personal diary and slowly becomes a record of the strange and forbidden words muttered by a group of allegedly possessed people.

"Words were spoken at midnight as her eyes took on a purple hue. Unlike the previous nights, the words were louder but they are still impossible to transcribe."

Effect: Upon reading, make a Wisdom saving throw (DC 12) or fall victim to Short-Term Madness.

BOOK OF MADNESS

Other, Common, Common.

This book is made out of a very strange fabric. The cover features several distorted paintings of faces, all of whom seem to be in great distress.

The book is a collection of mad ramblings by various people. The introduction says that the author will explain the cause of each madness, however, within a few pages, the author's notes seem to be just as mad as other ramblings.

"Not madness, the fear is right the fear is appropriate, it is coming, it is coming, it is coming."

Effect: Upon reading make a Wisdom Saving Throw (DC 13) or fall victim to Short-Term Madness.

THE BOOK OF TRANCE

Other, Elvish, Legendary.

This book is very thin and only seems to be a few pages long. The wooden cover is decorated with a very surreal and brightly colored pattern.

The book contains a few double-page spreads depicting patterns like the ones on the cover. The book has no words at all, and thus the patterns are left unexplained.

Effect: When opened the book casts "Hypnotic Pattern" centered on itself.

THE NIG LIBRARY

Artifact, Common, Legendary.

A load of scrolls bound together and seemingly sealed in wax to preserve them. However, the wax makes them very hard to read.

This is an artifact from an ancient library, listing what books it had in its collection. While some still exist, many of them have been lost to time.

"Writing Of Galvin Ka, Ethics treatise By Rashi Pazul"

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE THE FAIREST IN THE LAND

Non-Fiction, Common, Legendary.

The book's cover is decorated with precious looking gemstones that sparkle and catch the light. Even the spine is lined with shimmering green gems.

The first page features a handwritten note that just says "Die!" in large letters. The rest of the pages seem to be blank and in a certain light, it looks like they are emitting wisps of smoke.

"Die!"

Effect: When opened casts "Sleep" on the person holding the book.

THE DEEP OCEAN TABLETS

Artifact, Unknown, Legendary

Heavy stone tablets bound together with rope. The tablet has a strange, unknown language carved into it.

An ancient document in an unknown language. Some say that it acts as a way to perform an ancient ritual or that it is merely a dictionary for the unknown language.

SKETCHBOOK OF THE UNKNOWN ARTIST

Artifact, Unknown, Legendary

A large sketchbook that seems to be bound in the skin of a boar. The cover features many small doodles.

A series of sketches by an unknown artist. While they are labeled, the artist exclusively uses an unknown language. The places depicted, while pretty, don't seem to be of any real-world location.

THE STARS ABOVE YOU

Artifact, Elvish, Legendary.

A very big book with only a few pages. The front cover is a highly detailed star map.

A guide to the stars, however unlike most other books of this type, this book relies on illusion magic to create star maps that fill the whole room. Without magic, the pages are totally blank.

Effect: When opened, the book casts "Major Image" centered on itself, forming a highly detailed map of the night sky around the reader.



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