

The Albany Job

[\[The Day After Ragnarok\]](#)

The party meets in a bar.

Specifically, it's a bar in mob-controlled Havana, which means that while the drinks are watered, at least the party will be able to finish them without being interrupted by machine-gun fire. They're there to meet Erastus Corning, former US Army private and legitimate mayor of Albany, NY. Corning is very closed-mouth about how he got from Europe to Cuba, and whether he bothered to get permission from the Army first - but that's par for the course, these days. Besides, that's not why they're meeting Corning, anyway.

So why *are* they meeting Corning? Because he's putting a team together. Albany died after the Serpentfall,: the last radio reports talked about monsters and dysentery, which is also par for the course for dead cities in the Poisoned Lands. But all the valuable *stuff* to be found in a state capital is probably still there. Things that would have high resale value, back in civilization. And Corning knows the right bank vaults and hidden safes to empty. He's just as closed-mouthed about how he knows such valuable information, but he does, and people the party know will vouch that Corning is who he says he is.

The plan is simple: sail up the Drowned Coast to the fortress-port of Portsmouth. Once in the New Hampshire Enclave, it's only a hundred and fifty miles from Concord to Albany. Route 9 to Route 7: the former is patrolled all the way to the New York border, and it's said that the latter has not yet completely decayed into uselessness. A group of adventurers can get in where an army would not -- and Corning is absolutely going along. He's a respectable fighting-man these days, with the prideful mien that implies. Besides, his name and title might open doors along the way; Governor Dale might have been of the other political party before the Serpentfall, but he will still respect Mayor Corning's legitimate title. Corning's not so sure of the savages that might still remain in the Hudson Valley, which is why he's recruiting an adventuring party.

Rewards: portable, high-value loot, such as tool dies, precision gear, precious metals in moderation, and of course there's always gemstones. Corning has a list (in his head) of places where the city and state government would have hidden its treasures; some caches will no doubt be looted by now, but the rest will repay the costs of the expedition and more. The party will get their fair share of the profits, after expenses are subtracted. Corning will receive a double share, but the terms are still generous.

Complications: Albany is a city that fell to both monsters and disease. Presumably there are examples of either still in residence. There's also neo-barbarian savages, somewhat more civilized bandit gangs, and the inevitable Serpent Cultists infesting the ruins. All of that is to be expected by any rational adventuring party.

What they might not expect is that while Mayor Corning absolutely plans to bring out a full load of gems and precious metals out of Albany*, his *real* goal is to acquire certain ledgers, records, and files. Corning belonged to the national Democratic political machine, and some of the other members of that machine currently hold high positions in California and Texas. Corning plans to use the leverage found in those files to convince those men to ensure he ends up enjoying a somewhat higher status than 'increasingly grizzled lone adventurer.' How the party reacts to that - or to any hypothetical rival adventurers equally interested in Corning's files - is up to them. It is arguably no skin off of their nose what the man does with the documents, after all.

*He also absolutely plans to live up to his side of the bargain with the party, because Corning's not a damned fool.