

# **HANGOVER CITY**

A City Sourcebook for Dresden Files RPG

by Sue Wilson

## **Chapter five- Dwellers of the Pleasure-Dome**

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## The Morning After Pill

Longarm pushes open the fire door and leads her out into a dirty alley. He stands for a moment, a shiver in his shoulder as if trying to throw off the dust and stench from the basement. He turns to her and smiles. "So?" He prompts.

She glares at him. "So?" She demands.

"You heard what he said, no muriel or mule, or blinder for that." Longarm says.

"But what does that mean?" She stresses.

Longarm sighs.

"It means you are not in charge of anything, nor are you carrying anything for another." The voice comes from to her right, towards the street. It purrs softly but still some how manages to carry to her ears. He walks towards her, every step deliberate and precise. As he passes into the light above the fire door she can see him. Short dark hair, slightly spiked, his skin naturally tanned. Black eyes twinkling at her. The Black silk shirt and Leather trousers looks as if they are off next years catwalk. Nestling against his bare chest is a silver pendant in the shape of a Cannabis leaf. He looks her up and down. "Nor it seems are you one of mine, which is a pity, because..." He licks his lips.

"Angela, May I present Elijah Zander, Vampiric prince of our fair city." Long arm says. His tone warning.

Elijah pouts at him. "Oh spoil sport. And I was so looking forward to the chase."

"I'm not interested in Vampire." Angela says, crossing her arms and stepping back. "And I'm not running so there is nothing to chase."

Elijah's face twists into a more natural smile, the predator falling away. "So faerie boy, what did daddy have to say?"

Longarm growls back. "He is not my Father."

"Yeah right, thats not what he says." Elijah dismisses. He looks at Angela again. Studying her for a moment. "You are not his type." He states nodding to Longarm. He sniffs at her. "Too...."

"He stops. "He wont lower himself to anything less than a Changeling." His gaze turns back to Longarm teasingly. "So if she is not a fling, why are you taking her to see the old man."

Longarm sighs. "Elijah..." He warns

"If it's not Fae, it's Council." Elijah states. "As a council leader, I could command you to tell me."

Longarm looks up at the lightening sky. "Please..."

Elijah shrugs. Then he half turns. "Fine then pretty boy, keep your secrets and I'll keep mine." He snaps his fingers and two shapes move from the shadows nearer the road. As they

get closer Angela can see they are two stunning women; One a white blonds and the other whose hair is a midnight black. They are dressed high heels and almost transparent drifts of fabric that match the colour of their hair. He reaches over and pulls the blond over. As she leans in closer she looks up, exposing her neck. He licks along it, his tongue flicking at her chin. The brunette giggles almost as if she is the one being caressed. He turns his face back to Angela, his black eyes now silver. As they fade back to normal, he nods to the woman. "A Blinder." He says.

She frowns.

"It is what we call mortals who have given themselves to the addiction of serving the White Court." Longarm says. There is an edge in his voice, a hint of disgust.

The brunette looks at him. "You say that like it's a bad life." She moves over to Elijah, caressing his shoulder and nuzzling his hair. She moves round him so there flank him.

"We all have to die some time. That is why we are called Mortals." The Blond says. Her voice is almost identical to the Brunette's Now they are closer together Angela realises their faces are also close enough to be twins, the only difference is colour of the hair and the 'clothing'.

"But, if you are not going to play nicely Faerie boy." Elijah runs his hand over the white lace hip. "And after I went to all the trouble of bringing two." He muses. "Ohh well, I guess I'll just have to play with them both. Oh the hardship of being the prince!" He kisses the brunette forcefully. She laughs.

"Callum and Ream wanted her brought here." Longarm says. He almost spits out the words.

"They wanted to make sure she was not dangerous to Tí Du Gong."

"There. Was that so hard?" Elijah says. He lets go of the blond and pats her bottom, pushing her towards Longarm. She pouts at him but walks down the alley to join them. Angela watches confused as the woman leans against Longarm. She looks up at him and smiles.

"Hello daddy."

He sighs "How many have I told you not to play with aunty Wenn?" He says. From his tone he has said it many times before.

The Brunette blows him a kiss.

"But Daddy they are so much fun!" The blond pouts.

Elijah laughs and takes Wenn's hand. "Come on sister. We have work to do anyway, and they are boring." He turns and leads her off down the alley "Later Longarm." He waves without looking behind him.

Longarm sighs and shakes his head slightly as he watches Elijah and 'Aunty Wenn' leave. He looks at Angela. "I am sorry about that." He says. "The problem of such a close knit

community.” He looks down at the blond still hanging onto his waist. “You end up related to the most unfortunate of people.”

The Blond grins at him and then belches. Her eyes bleary. Suddenly it is all too clear she is very drunk.

“It seem I have to get this... young lady home to bed.”

“What about me?” Angela asks, from the light in the sky she is sure she will have lost her hotel reservation.

“I’ll take you back to Ream.” Longarm says. “You are his problem now.” He sighs as the blond slips on her high heels. “This one is mine and more than enough. I would wash my hands of her but...” He looks down and she can see a tenderness in his gaze that surprises her.

The girl giggles at her own inability to stand.

“My liege dictates otherwise.” Longarm excuses. “In my past I abandoned my changelings who rejected the blood, but this city makes for strange bed fellows and sometimes politics dictate another course of action.” He looks at Angela for a moment and she is sure he is going to say more, but something makes him hold his tongue. Instead he grimaces, and lifting the girl with a string grip under her arm, all but carries her out towards the city streets.

## White Court

The Family Zander are one of the smaller White Court factions.

They live off the euphoria of destructive excess - or to give it its old world name; the sin of Gluttony. Modern mortal lifestyles, with its taciturn acceptance of 'binge drinking', drug taking and over indulgence; dovetail well into this feeding pattern and the Zanders have potential to grow to a significant faction in White Court politics. However skirmishes with mortal authorities and their 'War on Drugs/Terror' have prevented them from capitalising and they are currently lying low quietly rebuilding.

In Liverpool they are lead by Elijah. He is very young to hold the title of Prince and there is some 'unclarity' around his 'coronation'. Most White Court outside the city believe he is little more than a puppet placed on the thrown by the Covenant forces of the Royal Court and The Mages Guild. Like many White court groups they are one extended family. To tighten links Zander and Raiths lines have effectively intermarried by sharing mortal wives and husbands. As such it is not always clear which line an individual descends from, especially as Raiths will use the recreational drugs to 'soften up' their prey and the Zanders enjoy sex as much as the next... inhuman vampiric creature.

The activities in Clubland mean that changelings and those with magical talent are just as likely to become 'Blinders' - a term used with in the supernatural community to describe those addicted to the Vampire's gifts, and derived from the scouse term for alcoholics that have turned to wood alcohol, surgical or mentholated spirits, which often cause blindness. i.e. People who are so focused on feeding their addiction they will turn a blind eye to the detrimental effects kill themselves. Additionally these people are just as likely to be taken as mates by the White court as the mortals, often more so in the hope that they will show some of the skills form their no vampiric parent.

This can make for a complicated family line as the various groups inter-relate over different generations, and can prove to be a nightmare for any one concerned about the prospect of 'accidental incest'. Rumour has it, Ream does not just track the Breeds family lines in those books.

### Family Zander Template

**Description:** Zander Vampires are Good looking humans, not as visually stunning as the Raiths, but still striking and capable of attracting the attention of all the mortals in a room. They tend to be very bi-polar in their nature; alternating between Manic hyperactivity and and 'chilled out' latitude depending on how recently they have fed and what they have been 'snacking' on.

**What We Know:** House Zander vampires primarily feed on euphoria fuelled by intoxication. Often they will have a 'drug of choice' that they encourage their victims to partake in, as different drugs give different flavours to the euphoria. The side effect of this is that a Zander vampire can usually tell at least the type of drug the person is being influenced by (e.g. Hallucinogenic, depressant, stimulant)

**Powers:** Standard White Court powers. Additionally the emotion they incite is one of dependance, such that the victim becomes addicted to the presence to the Vampire themselves, which they often back up to the physical addiction of the drugs they offer. This helps to prevent the prey from going to an alternative source, as the drugs themselves can never quite give the same level of high.

**Skills:** Zander Vampires often have skills in Scholarship (lab work to allow them to create new intoxicating substances), Contacts (People who make new intoxicating substances) and / or Resources (Representing the money they make form selling the products). They also often have Performance or Presence to allow them to attract a group of mortals.

**Weaknesses:** Standard White Court weaknesses, plus injury from the expression or trappings of Abstinence and temperance. In practicality this means that anyone who has given up an addiction will have a bonus to resisting the effects of the Zander vampires. - See stopping smoking really can save your life! However the 'burnt lips' level of damage the Raith experience when faced by True Love only really comes into play with some one who is devoutly temperance and has sworn off all levels of intoxication - e.g. Methodists that have signed the pledge- and in these times, that is even rarer than True Love

**Location: The Shaw Street Mansion**

The prince and the vast majority of his retinue and family live in a large gothic brown stone building on Shaw street. The building has a low level veil around it, built into the original brick work, that means most mortals ignore it and walk past without a second glance. It is the traditional home of the vampire Prince of Liverpool and was built 1840 after the original house on the site was destroyed by fire, also killing the last few Red Court vampires holding out in the city. Inside it is a classic example of Victorian splendour; the decor examples of the best the empire had to offer. Marble from Greece, hardwoods from the Orient. No expense was spared in its decorations, fixtures and fittings.

Elijah HATES the place. It is too dark, too old-fashioned and everything he feels is wrong with the 'crusty old guard'. He desperately wants to demolish it and replace it with something sleek, glass and modernistic. He has even gone so far as to have plans drawn up 'just in case the place should mysteriously fall apart one night'. Unfortunately, the building is listed, and despite the veil which only extends to the activities inside the building, is considered a much-loved landmark, so his attempts so far have been rejected. His back-room bribes to Fidel to 'call up an earthquake or something' have been unsuccessful as the thing is too well built to just fall down, although the quake did rupture a nearby water main and get the apprentice mage grounded for three months. (It also taught Fidel to be very cautious in his dealings with the Prince.)

Elijah's latest plan had been an extension of the railway underground towards Walton Vale, in the hope the house would fall in the hole, but it was stopped by Railtrack's lack of funds.

He has a 'back-up crash pad' at the top of Liverpool one, where he can overlook the city. In fact, his money funded much of the redevelopment in the area JUST so he could have a new apartment with a nice view. (Though he told the council it was so they could ensure the Old Dock would be preserved and protected.) He is more often found here, although a few nights a week he retreats to the 'monstrosity' to do his duty.

## **Elijah Zander**

Elijah Zander is the Vampiric Prince of the city. His line gain their energy not from the lust utilised by the Raiths but for the euphoric destruction associated with excessive drug taking and binge drinking (and to a lesser extent classic food based gluttony) As prince of a city known for its partying there is no shortage of mortals, and even some supernaturals, who are willing to pay with their energies for the addictive pleasure they offer in return. The prince has a number of talented drug creators in his retinue, including a few mages and summer court Faerie, who ensure a steady supply of new and interesting products for his eager cliental.

### **Elijah's rise to power**

The rise of the fear of aids put a serious dent in the power basis of the old White court aligned with the Raiths, who were already weakened following battles at the start of Queen Victoria's reign when the Covenant forces forced the Red Court out of the city.

Through the 1980s liverpool became Skag city, well known as a source of heroin, which drew the 'customers' in. Additionally the rise of the Rave scene meant a steady supply of recreational drug users came to the fore. The Zanders soon found themselves with more power than they knew what to do with. After a series of complex negotiations, which only just held off all out civil war between the competing White Court factions; Elijah was declared the heir apparent to the prince during the summer solstice celebrations at Caulderstones park in 1990. In november of 1991 the old prince was found dead in a bed sit in Bootle. The death was investigated by both the mortal police and Rare Breed. Toxicology proved negative and the autopsy suggested his heart had given out. There were strong suspicions that Elijah had been behind it but nothing that could be proved as the man had a water tight alibi as he was playing poker with Longarm, Ream and McKensie at the time. The Breed eventually tracked the culprit to a sorcerer known as Cayden, who had been a servant of the old Red Court prince and the whole affair was explained away as a very long fuse revenge plot.

### **Elijah today**

Many outside the city think that Elijah is little more than a puppet put on the thrown by the Covenants High Council. This is far from the case. Ream has often said that they cursed themselves in letting "that conniving evil little Bastard get any more power than a school crossing lady". However despite the potentially troublesome effect of his retinue and the drug fuelled chaos they bring, Ream



has to admit that the man does have the best long term interests of the city at heart and does police his own people effectively.

Elijah himself is well aware of the tenuous state of a lesser family in the larger politics of the White court. He is careful not to draw too much attention to his faction and the city he controls. Despite the death of the old prince, there are still a number of Raith White Court vampires and virgins still in the city, and he is carefully to treat them fairly and as equals to his own people, not wanting to bring down the wrath of the family. He cautions his people to be careful about their choice of 'playmates' so as not to attract problems from the external authorities of the Breed or the Police. Mean while his organisations are turning over a tidy little profit and making him very very rich.

### **Elijah's retinue**

#### **Branwenn**

Branwenn calls Elijah brother, although they are more like second cousins. She is a Raith White court vampire, but has learnt to utilise many other emotions as a food source in her long life. She has pale white skin and midnight black hair, which she wears shoulder length and straight. Her role in Elijah's life is close to being a personal assistant. She keeps his diary for him, prepares letters and communications and fends off people he can not be bothered to talk to. Most believe their relationship to be sexual but this is in fact all part of the act. Both of their interests lie elsewhere.

Her much younger sister, Jennifer, annoyed their father by inconveniently falling in love and becoming mortal. To add insult to injury she fell in love with a Faerie, and even more galling, the Faerie in question was the Fisher king's white knight Longarm. The two 'married' and had a child, Morgaine. Jennifer's death, at the end of what was an all too short mortal life for Longarm, resulting in the Fae swearing he would never love a mortal again. By way of petty revenge for the loss of her sister, Wenn seduced Morgaine. She told the confused young woman about her mother's true nature, something her father had never revealed. Eventually Wenn persuaded Morgaine to give up her changeling blood so she could dedicate herself to the pleasures of serving the white court. Her long term plan is for Elijah to have a child with Morgaine so as to cement the connection between his family and the Faerie knight. Morgaine believes that she can earn her demon and become a full blown white court vampire.

**Andy Wynn**

Andy was a breed member. Technically he still is, but most consider him to have turned and Brian is no longer giving him duties. Elijah seduced him as a challenge after some one claimed at a meeting of the council that the Breed's independence was invincible. He is not quite sure what to do with his 'pet Bull dog' now. He knows Ream will not accept him back and feels responsible for his exile. Currently he is using him as a body guard, though Elijah is far more capable of defending his own body than Andy is. So he has given the man the task of keeping his daughter, Clover, out of trouble. This is no easy task. Clover is a very precocious and spoiled rotten 8 year old. She knows daddy is a prince and that makes her a princess, and acts accordingly.

Andy, like most of the welsh descended Wynn line, has red hair and very pale skin. In some ways he looks more like a white court vampire than his prince does. He was trained to face fae and changelings and as a result his skills are of some use in keeping those people in line in Elijah's clubs. He still carries his Breed issued Iron club and caltrops.

**Moon**

Moon is a self taught alchemist. He appeared in Liverpool shortly after the great war and spoke with a german accent, although he quickly lost it following a number of beatings for being "The Boche" He gained a job in the chemistry department of the newly independent University of Liverpool. He rose rapidly through the ranks of academia, gaining a chair of organic Chemistry in 1933. But his success was not to last. After only 2 years he was fired following the mysterious death of one of his research students by 'accidental' ingestion of a chemical he was developing. The news reports of the enquiry were picked up by a 'young' Elijah Zander who hunted out the professor. Sitting in a gentleman's club on Water Street the two discovered they had a surprisingly large amount in common, and a new partnership was formed.

Elijah supplies Moon with the materials he needs and all the 'test subjects' he could want. Moon provides in return an ever changing and bewildering array of recreational drugs and potions. Inspired by the magical and alchemical texts in Elijah's library, the man has moved far beyond chemistry. He spends all his waking hours in the 'lab' Elijah has created for him in an old detached house in Kensington. The surrounding properties are all boarded up awaiting demolition and redevelopment so any strange noises or smells from Moon's lab pass unnoticed.

His time associated with the university means the man never came to the attention of the Guild of the Manipulators of Magic and Elijah is anxious for things to remain that way. As a result Moons researches carry on in isolation and he is convinced he is the only man in the world with the powers he has.

Physically Moon is 5ft 6, painfully thin as he relies on his potions to sustain him, and has long black greasy hair. His beard is singed short rather than cut, the effects of constantly standing over a boiling cauldron. He wears a lab coat, that was once white but now has a multitude of stains, and very little else.