

Thursday Drop-In: The Crimson Courtship



Level Range: 1-3

Setting: Isolated village chapel & catacombs

Tags: Grimdark, Romance, Horror, Social, Undead

Adventure Hook

The village prepares for the Festival of Saint Liora — a tradition where couples leave offerings at the old chapel to bind their love. But this year, the prayers are being answered.

Couples vanish. Others return pale, smiling too wide, whispering of eternal devotion. And a charming noble has arrived in town, offering comfort to the grieving.

What's Going On?

Beneath the chapel lies the sealed tomb of Lord Valemir, a centuries-old vampire entombed beside his beloved. The burial rites failed. His bride did not rise — but he did.

Valemir believes modern love is shallow and fleeting. Through charm, seduction, and blood, he offers something purer — something eternal. Those who pray at the chapel become Marked, their dreams filled with longing and obsession. He is rebuilding his lost court of lovers.

Key Locations

1. Chapel of Saint Liora – Wilted roses hang from cracked arches. A rhythmic thump can be heard beneath the altar. Hazard: WIS DC 12 or become Marked.
2. Lovers' Lane – Ribbons and centuries-old love letters line a wooded path.
3. The Mourning Inn – Lord Valemir listens patiently by the hearth, offering comfort.
4. The Catacombs Below – Coffins line narrow corridors. A sealed chamber waits at the end.

Notable NPCs or Monsters



Lord Valemir of the Crimson Veil – HP 28 | AC 15
Elegant Blade (1d8+2) or Bite (1d10; heals half damage).
Charm (1/scene): WIS DC 13 or cannot attack him unless harmed.
Mist Form; Weakness: cannot cross thresholds uninvited.



The Bride in the Coffin – HP 18 | AC 13
Claw (1d6); Kiss of Rot (CON DC 12 or temporary STR loss).



Marked Villagers – HP 6 | AC 11 | Knife (1d4); will protect Valemir.

Notable Loot / Oddities

Ring of the Final Vow – Immune to charm; cannot willingly abandon an ally.

Love Letters of Saint Liora – Burn to reroll a failed save.

Crimson Chalice – Restores 1d6 HP if filled with fresh blood.

Timers, Twists, & Terrors

Countdown Timer: Each night, 1d4 villagers become Marked. At 10 Marked, the Wedding Rite begins.

Twist: Valemir may attempt to court a PC.

Escalation: Every 2 rounds in the catacombs, coffins crack open (1–2 on d6 = skeletal lover rises).

Final Scene: The Wedding Rite

Candles flicker in the catacombs. Marked villagers weep as Valemir stands before the altar in funeral-black velvet. Behind him, his bride claws from stone.

He asks softly: 'Have you ever loved someone enough to damn yourself for them?'

Closing Note

The Crimson Courtship is a grimdark Valentine's Drop-In about obsession, devotion, and the horror of love that refuses to die. Play up the charm and moral tension — the villain is romantic. And that is far more dangerous.