

Scene Outline Worksheet

Story Title: The Sanguine Cross

Story Goal & Opposition

Story Goal: To prevent the assassination of Pope Clement IV by the Brotherhood

Main Villain: Bishop Ernesto Capellini

Villain's Allies: Personal Guard (60 soldiers), Plague Sprits,

3 influential Cardinals with ties to the Brotherhood and their retinues

Genre, Time, Setting & Mood

Genre: Political suspense thriller

Time Period: 1348

Setting: Lombard Italy to the Commune of Rome: Albano

Mood: A dark conspiracy.

Backstory

20 years ago Bishop Capellini signed a deal with infernal powers to cease being a poor friar and rise to one day rule the entire Catholic Church. Shortly after that, a freak storm slew his superior, the Bishop of Brescia, and to everyone's surprise, Capellini was selected to assume the now vacant position. After carefully manipulating the politics of the time, along with subtle aid from unknown benefactors, he was next in position to assume the role of Cardinal Bishop of the commune of Albano.

All his political machinations came at a great cost, as evidence was mounting as to how the Bishop came into power in the first place, and how he dealt with difficulty. A former mistress was slain along with her newborn child, whose deformity spoke of the unholy taint befitting the parentage. A church Mystic, whose sight was seared away from her around the time of the murder, would speak nothing but how evil has come to dwell within the confines of God's Holy House. She has been missing for a week as of the beginning of the story, and many fear her dead.

If Bishop Capellini assumes the Cardinal Bishopric in Albano, the Brotherhood will have a political and philosophical majority within the College of Cardinals, and will be able to elect a Pope of their choosing should any "misadventure" happen to the current Successor to Peter Cephas.

Scene Outline

1. Scene Title: The Betrayal	Introduction – Inciting Incident
Goal: Survive an attack on the festival banquet	
Opposition: Bishop Capellini’s personal guard (attack squad)	
Setting: The Festival of the Unity of Italy	
Tie-In: After discovering that the attack was only meant to kill them and political enemies, an angel gives them direction towards recovering the casket and revealing to the world Capellini’s hidden evil.	
2. Scene Title: Twisted Offspring	Rising Action – Significant Event
Goal: Find the incriminating casket of Capellini’s child.	
Opposition: 8 – 12 soldiers sent by Capellini to destroy the grave before the body can be used as evidence against him.	
Setting: Brescia’s old cemetery at night.	
Tie-In: Dying soldier bragging that they will never reach the mystic in time	
3. Scene Title: The Corrupted Ones	Complications – Plot Twist
Goal: Find the mystic and leave the village safely.	
Opposition: Plague spirits.	
Setting: Plague infested town.	
Tie-In: The seer, dying of the plague, warns the group of the conspirator’s true intentions, which is to kill the Pope immediately after Bishop Capellini’s appointment to the Cardinal Bishopric of Albano.	
4. Scene Title: Death at the Tolling of the Bells	Crisis – Decisive Moment
Goal: Survive the ambush by brotherhood forces and locate the basilica.	
Opposition: 12 soldiers	
Setting: urban alban	
Tie-In: The tolling of the bells of the Basilica.	
5. Scene Title: The Key & the Crook	Climax – Confrontation
Goal: Save Pope Clement IV from assassination.	
Opposition: Assassins sent to kill the Pope, and some of the Tribune’s private guard.	
Setting: Basilica in Alban	
Tie-In: Capellini denounces the characters.	
6. Scene Title: The Accusation	Resolution – Outcome
Goal: Present the casket to the Pope, proving that Capellini has been defiled by Satan.	
Opposition: Capellini & his personal guard of 12 men.	
Setting: Outside the Basilica in Alban	
Tie-In: none.	