

THE PEAT BOGS



he Peat Bogs are one of the darkest and most disturbing places in Lindwurm. It is a marshy area of wetlands where few dare to tread, and it is so desolate that only a scant few living creatures (mostly small insects and vermin) call this

revolting place home.

The most foul place in this especially inhospitable peninsula is the great swamp that is encircled by vertically placed stones that are as thin as a sheet of parchment. These stones are the final resting places of hundreds of mummified corpses. The sight of these corpses will freeze the blood in the veins of the most seasoned adventurer as the ghastly expressions of panic and suffering are forever etched on the faces of these unfortunate souls.

When the Northern Tribes, led by Ice Bear and Alborc, reached this grim site on their way south, all fell silent. The impenetrable Fog began to rise slowly over the surface of the swamp. The direwolves began to howl, and the orcs fell into formation, one next to the other, establishing an impassable barrier to prevent any others from advancing further. Alborc turned to the Varank leader and, with a sullen shake of his head, motioned for him to change course. Jarl Ahlwardt, shocked at the terrible sight, waved his arm in the air, ordering the tribes to fall back. Suddenly, as if announcing the arrival of something or someone, the faint sound of a cowbell in the distance broke the silence and a shiver ran up the old warrior's spine. His daughter Hilgart, hot on Alborc's heels, was the only one to question what was going on and who was coming.

As they retreated away from the swamp, the orc croaked an ominous warning while caressing his daughter's head, "Best you don't see this madness." It was then that Hilgart glanced back over her shoulder. What she saw caused her to gasp in horror: One of the rotting mummies, a thread of black ichor dribbling out of its mouth, raised its head to glare directly at her. No Varank believed her when she spoke of this sight later on...but no orc doubted her word.





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