

Name: GOODMAN GAMES

Class: ADVENTURE DESIGN

Year: CLASS OF 1974

160 pages • 25 authors • \$29.99

HOW TO WRITE ADVENTURE MODULES THAT DON'T SUCK!





How to Write Adventure Modules that Don't Suck

Writers: Jobe Bittman, Mike Breault, Anne K. Brown, Timothy Brown, Stephen Chenault, Casey Christofferson, Chris Clark, Michael Curtis, Chris Doyle, Joseph Goodman, Allen Hammack, Jon Hook, Kevin Melka, Brendan J. LaSalle, Lloyd Metcalf, Bill Olmesdahl, Steve Peek, Jean Rabe, Merle M. Rasmussen, Lester Smith, Harley Stroh, Jim Wampler, James M. Ward, Skip Williams, Steve Winter

Developer: James M. Ward **Concept**: Joseph Goodman

Editing: Joseph Goodman and Jeff Erwin Cartoon illustrations: Chuck Whelon Cartography & Layout: Tom Denmark

Cover design: Lester B. Portly

End Sheet Illustrations: Doug Kovacs

Published by Goodman Games

Contents copyright $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ 2017 Goodman Games. All rights reserved.

Introduction

What you hold in your hands is a very unique product. This is the codification of some of the best ideas of the world's finest role-playing game designers in what they think is important in putting together an encounter.

Not only are their articles a must read for the new game designer; the example encounters they present offer the best in cutting edge game design.

This is the primer that every game designer needs to have on his bookshelf. I've been in the role-playing game design industry for over forty years. In many of those years my products were the best selling products out that year. I learned many new things from this set of articles. Things that have improved my design skills; so I know they will improve yours as well.

I know you will find yourself mining this product over and over again for fresh ideas.

James M. Ward

Summer of 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction5	Encounter: "The Goblinoid Differential"70
Adventures in Context7	Making Monsters Cooler72
Encounter: "Dead Man's Chest"	Encounter: "All That Glitters Is Not Gold"76
a level 1 adventure8	An Adventure's Story78
Players Make Your World Go 'Round!11	Encounter: "The Old Lair"83
Encounter: "The Doom of Riego"15	Unleashing Your Dungeon Creativity87
Listen! Do You Smell Something?19	Encounter: "The Chamber of 100 Axes"91
Encounter: "Follow Your Nose"23	Something Worth Fighting For92
Logical First Contact: Inventing Intelligent Science Fiction Aliens24	Encounter: "Shock Spiders"97
Encounter: 'Feeding Time'29	Building Better Encounters: Monstrous Symbiosis and Environmental Factors98
There Are No Empty Rooms in the Wilderness31	Encounter: "The Swamp of Doom"101
Encounter: "Four Arrows And A River Running" A Castles & Crusades Adventure33	ATMOSFEAR104
Making a Villain36	Encounter: "Dark and Deep"108
Encounter: "Honreed Duclaigh: A Dinner with	The Sense of Adventure110
Death"	Encounter: "Water's Garden Shop"112
Raison d'être ~ "Or Why Everything in Your Adventure Should Have a Reason for Being	LEGO® Building Toy Maps116
There."	Encounter: "Shipwrecked on Lay-Goh Island"120
Encounter: "The Overlook"46	All Aboard for Adventure123
Know (and Love)	Run Your Best Game Tonight127
What You Write48	Encounter: "The Oracle"
Encounter: "Denkin's Trading Post & Rarities Brokerage"	The Risk vs. Reward Equation131
How to Write Encounters That Don't Suck55	Encounter: "The Caprapod Nursery"
Encounter: "The Deadly Crevasse"60	Player Character Death136
A Publisher's Perspective On Adventure Modules	Encounter: "Smallish Chamber of Doom"138
	Tell a Story141
Encounter: "Eye of the Storm":	Encounter: "Chogti's Lair"147
A Sample Encounter64	How to Design Setbacks That Don't Suck151
Keeping Encounters within the Capabilities of Your Players66	Encounter: "Lair of the Chokebats"155

Over the last 15 years, Goodman Games has established a reputation for publishing some of the best adventure modules in the industry. Now we present our advice on how you can write great adventures! This compilation of articles is authored by two dozen of the industry's best-known adventure writers. Each article gives a different perspective on how to write adventure modules that don't suck, written by authors with decades of experience and prominent published credits. By the time you're done reading this book, you'll be on the path to designing great adventure modules on your own. Whether you're an experienced writer or an aspiring novice, you'll find something of value in this book!

GMG4378

