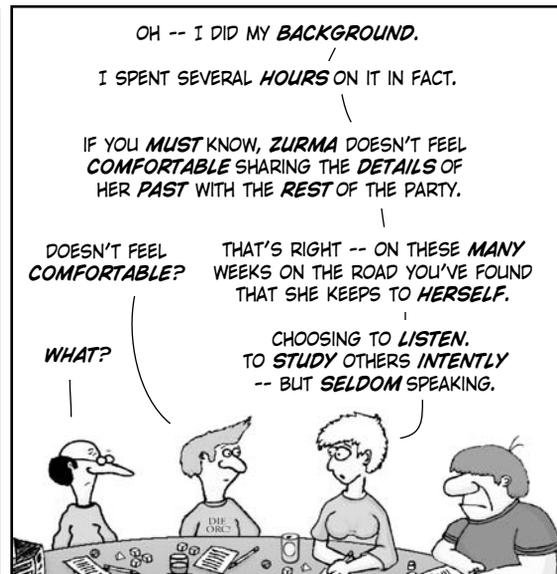
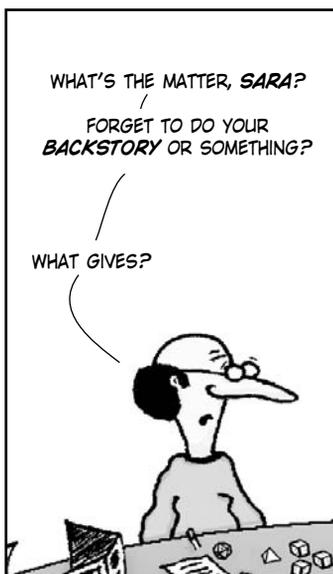
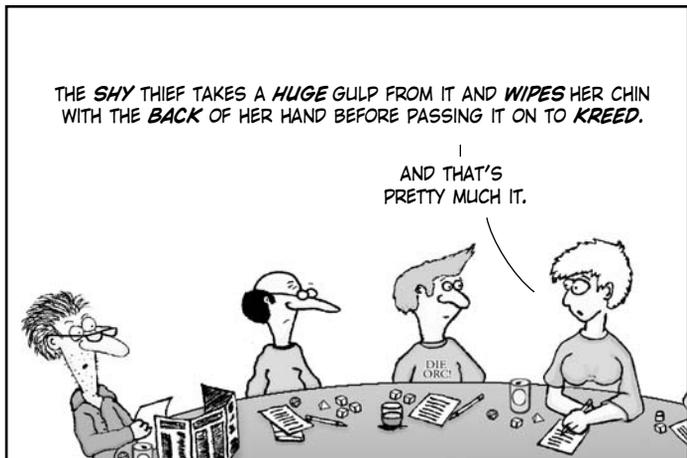
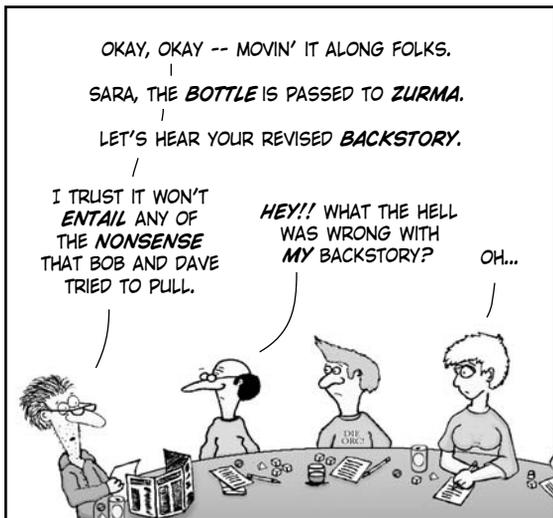


# Mean Sheets

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN





OH I'M WILLING TO *CHAT*. BUT *NOT* ABOUT MY PAST. AS A *HALF ELF* WHO HAS *NEVER* BEEN FULLY *ACCEPTED* --I DON'T FEEL AT *EASE* WHEN IT COMES TO DISCUSSING MY *BACKGROUND* WITH TWO *HUMANS* AND A *DWARF*.

WAIT A MINUTE.

I LAID MY *LIFE* OUT ON THE TABLE FOR *ALL* TO SEE, MISSY.

AND NOW YOU'RE *HOLDING* BACK?

GUYS -- SHE'S JUST PLAYING HER CHARACTER.

YEAH, WELL I LISTENED VERY *POLITELY* AS YOU *LAID* IT ALL OUT THERE, BOB.

BUT I'M NOT *SHARING*. I'M GUARDED.

IT'S JUST MY WAY.

OH THAT *BLOWS!*

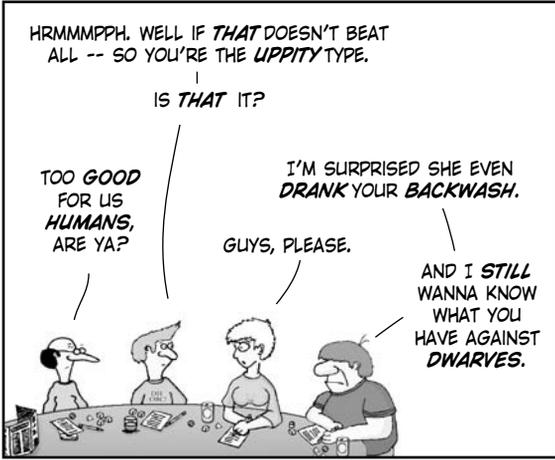
WHATTA YA GOT AGAINST *DWARVES* ?



HEY, I *NEVER* WOULD'A SAID ANYTHING ABOUT ME BEING IN *HOSU* IF I KNEW YOU WERE GONNA BE ALL *SECRETIVE* AND STUFF.

I'M TAKIN' THAT PART *BACK* -- I *NEVER* MENTIONED IT.

DAVE, CHILL. IT'S NOT PERSONAL.



HRMMMMPPH. WELL IF *THAT* DOESN'T BEAT ALL -- SO YOU'RE THE *UPPITY* TYPE.

IS *THAT* IT?

TOO GOOD FOR US *HUMANS*, ARE YA?

I'M SURPRISED SHE EVEN *DROCK* YOUR *BACKWASH*.

GUYS, PLEASE.

AND I *STILL* WANNA KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE AGAINST *DWARVES*.



WELL YOU *SURE* SEEMED TO BE *CHUMMY* WITH THE *HALFLING* RANDY.

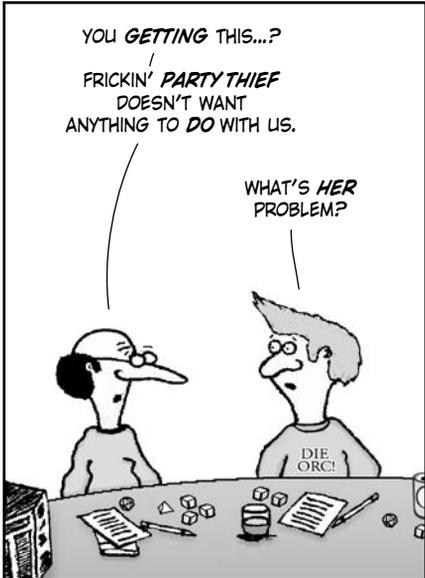
YOU FEEL MORE AT *EASE* WITH THE *HIRED* HELP THAN YOUR *COMRADES*?



I GRAB MY BOWL OF *STEW* AND MOVE OFF TO SIT BY *MYSELF* IN THE SHADOWS.

I DON'T HAVE TO *EXPLAIN* MYSELF. AND I *CERTAINLY* DON'T LIKE THE *STONE* OF THIS *CONVERSATION*.

YOU DON'T, HUH?



YOU *GETTING* THIS...?

FRICKIN' *PARTY THIEF* DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO *DO* WITH US.

WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?



YO, SARA...

I *GET* WHERE YER COMIN' FROM.

PLAYIN' UP THE *MISTRUST* BETWEEN *RACIAL* LINES THING..

YEAH. I'M *DOWN* WITH THAT.

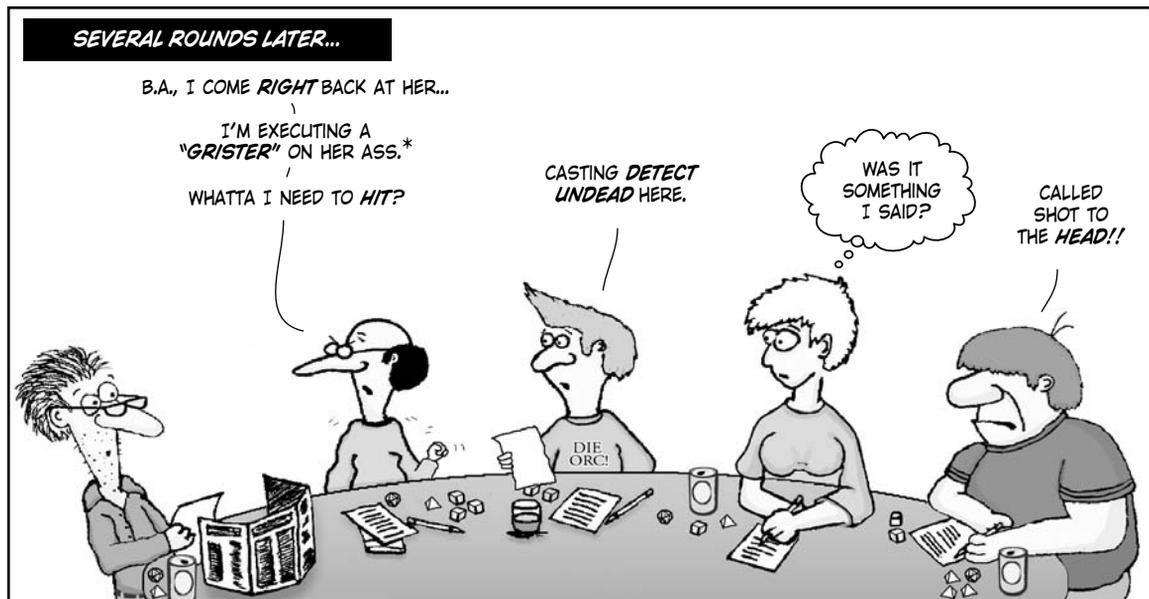
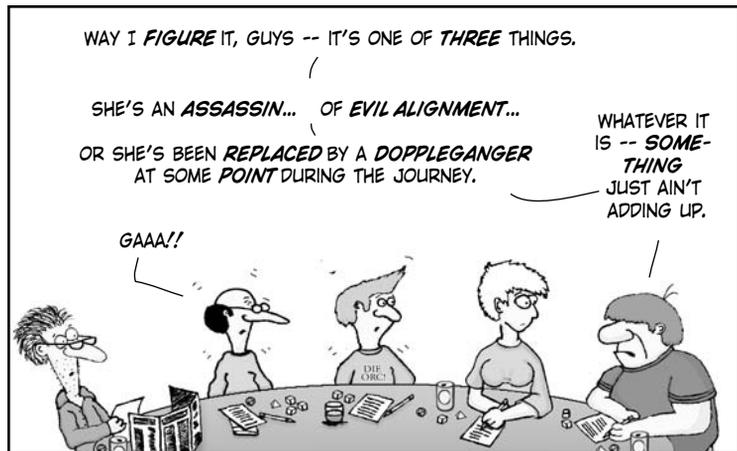
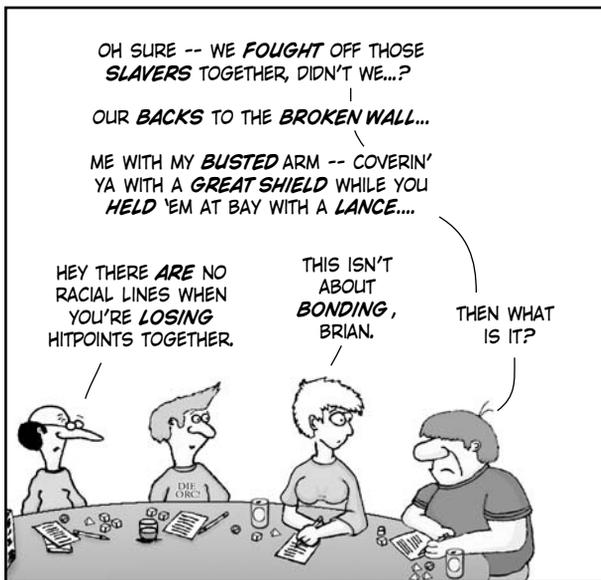


ESPECIALLY WHERE *HUMANS* ARE INVOLVED.

BUT *ME* AND YOU...?

I REALLY THOUGHT WE'D *BONDED* ON THIS JOURNEY.

OH..?



\* See **KODT 120**: A 'grister' is the signature combat move developed by Bob's character in the Arena.