

Bem of the Do Khyi Mountains

A book hunter/Bücherjäger out of Walter Moers' [Zamonien](#)



Artwork by [Marcus Trolldenier](#)

What was Bem designed for?

What's [Zamonien](#)? Walter Moers' universe, known among others for Kapitän Blaubär. Bem was designed for a Homebrew Oneshot set in the city of Buchhaim in Zamonien. Dungeons&Dragons 5E provided the base for rules and mechanics.

The premise of the Adventure and baseline for all participating characters was a group of Bücherjäger (book (treasure) hunters) coming together for a job pricey and intriguing enough to make them join up despite their profession being a solitary and cutthroat one. The mission, and price, was a seemingly genuine trail of a book of singular worth.

How did I design Bem/Inspirations

Character Background in Zamonien and personality

Due to the question of time I limited my research focus on the city of Buchhaim, which would be the focus of the adventure, and the hi/story of the Bücherjäger, how they came into being, how the profession changed and how it changed the people following it. Bücherjäger display a wide variation of talents and skills, the solitary, dangerous and cutthroat proportions of the job appeal to a very specific clientele.

With that base I went for the playable races and cultures, which, for me, is always the essence of character creation. Different to my usual character creation process I had already pretty much decided on classes, going for a Monk/Rogue multi class.

Without that class prerequisite it would have been a close call between Wolpertinger and Lindwürmer, thanks to my love for the DnD Dragonborn, but due to the Monk/Rogue combo and their background, especially due to the dog breed character traits, I fell for the Wolpertinger immediately.

Mainly due to the artstyle that's just not my cup of tea and most of the dog breed traits not really fitting what I had in mind, and a random gift from the YouTube algorithm, I was reminded of one of my favourite dog breed, the [tibetan mastiff](#), I asked the Game Master if I could homebrew them into the homebrew adventure. And so Bem of the Do Khyi Mountains was born.

The idea of a 3m tall shaggy dog man as an agile, smart and calculating Bücherjäger instantly captured me and knowing that the rest of the group would probably be playing very social or at least socially capable characters, the idea of the territorial and wary nature of the tibetan mastif turning into a somewhat a-social idea for Bem.

Not having the time to read up on the lore as much as I would have liked, I just read as much as I could and made up my own. Creating a secret society in Buchhaim, a shadow academy for Bücherjäger led by some mysterious Shadowbroker, that Bem could be a part of. A very skilled and talented Bücherjäger, lacking most skills that don't immediately have to do with the job. Issues and contrasts make for the most roleplay opportunities

Visuals/Inspirations

Bem's looks were heavily influence by the actual [dog breed](#). Add to that the flair of somewhat asiatic monks, a mix of shaolin and ninja, due to the rogue multiclass.

I was lucky enough that, at the time, an artist friend of mine was looking for some practice and inspiration which I was happy to oblige.



DnD Classes & Features

For the profession of Bücherjäger I pretty much immediately had the Classes of Monk and Rogue in mind. Monks with their physical prowess, especially the agility and movement abilities, to traverse the dangerous catacombs full of deadly traps laid by the creators and rival Bücherjäger. Rogue is the no-brainer. Sneaky, agile and all the tricks you need to find things you're not supposed to find and end up in places you were meant to be kept out of.

Another happy accident was the preset options of which lore race the Wolpertinger could be based on for the homebrewed oneshot. The tibetan mastiff was not just used as a guard dog but for bear hunting and for that mother nature gave them a tough hide and very movable hide! An attacker might sink in their teeth but the mastiff would still be able to twist and turn away due to their shaggy and lose hide, leaving them still able to defend and attack. Matching that quality and the height of the Wolpertinger with the lore race of Bugbear seemed perfect. They too are a tall race and have a racial features like long-limbed, giving them more reach, fey-ancestry, that makes them hard to be charmed like a wary mastiff, and, the funniest fit of them all, sneaky, making them fit into and through spaces they seem to big for. Perfectly funny and perfectly fitting for a Bücherjäger!

Profile

Name: Bem of the Do Khyi Mountains, “Das Wilde Weiße Gesicht” (working alias due to his ferocity, laughter and the white mother-of-pearl mask he wears to hide his identity)

Gender: Male

Species: [Wolpertinger](#)

Age: 22 (but he doesn't know)

Appearance: Bem is an impressive figure. At 3m tall, crass, black gear and armor with the telltale sapphire-blue lacing and the mask he is most recognisable for and named after. The mask is a clear white with mother-of-pearl shimmer, tied to a wide fur cape (comparable to [San from Princess Mononoke](#)) added to that the mask seems to alter his voice, giving it an odd cascading of pitch. Imagine meeting such a one in dark catacombs, let alone hear him laugh.

Nobody has ever seen him without his mask or his gear as Bücherjäger are more than serious about their identity due to the nature of their job. Bem doesn't wear armor but prefers high quality tough fabrics that allow for maximum agility and so do his weapons of choice: A staff or spear, a katana and a compound bow. His tall, broad back is spanned by his complex backpack setup that is strapped to his limbs for security without impairing mobility.

Occupation: [Bücherjäger](#)/book hunter. A type of treasure hunter focused on the catacombs beneath the city of [Buchhaim](#) to retrieve precious books and other artifacts.

Background: Bem was found as an orphan by one of the Bücherjäger from the Shadowbroker's fledgling academy. Taken in and trained he was a precious student thanks to his physical talent and intelligence in academic training. His stubbornness and whims were tolerated for his obvious talents and his undoubted loyalty to the Shadowbroker and his academy. What Bem doesn't know is the circumstances of his becoming an orphan and the not so wholesome intentions of the Shadowbroker and his training of Bücherjäger from a young age, institutionalizing a profession and indoctrinating a growing number of youths.

Personality: Being rather socially inept and tied tightly to his saviour, Bem doesn't realize the fact of his indoctrination and being used as nothing more than a tool. He was given a home and an education in a field that he naturally excelled in. The perfect life for him with endless challenges to best and both colleagues and competitors to best and beat. Not naturally or intentionally malicious, most of his fellow students and Bücherjäger despise him for both his talent and his nonchalance. Bem is boastful, direct to a fault and seems unable to empathize but he just never learned how. The Shadowbroker's academy doesn't waste time on any one thing not necessary for success as a Bücherjäger.

Goals and Fears: They are as simple as Bem. Be the best Bücherjäger there is and making his last venture into the catacombs, failing and betraying the Shadowbroker and the academy.