

# *Delve of the Mist* [sic]

## Act I, Scene 1

*(The curtain rises on a battle scene, at the threshold of a desert ruin. The interior of the ruin is open to the audience, but cloaked in shadow to draw attention to the front of the building. A horde of skeletons is advancing from outside, putting pressure on three plucky defenders.)*

**Ruby:** *(The rearmost of the three. Screams.)* Through ice, I pin your right hand to the ground, one minute!

**Skeleton 1:** *(Is anchored to the ground by its left hand, obstructing the rest of its fellows somewhat.)*

**Ruby:** Your other right!

**Skeleton 1:** *(Dutifully switches hands.)*

**Felix:** *(Blocks with his shield, and cuts down a skeleton.)* Eligio? We could use some good news, here!

**Eligio:** *(From the darkness.)* Just keep them off me!

**Araina:** *(Delivers a savage blow with her glowing staff to one of the attackers, and yells.)* We can't hold them much longer!

*(The lights come up inside the ruin, revealing a massive stone door down the hall, currently held up in the open position. Eligio is messing about with the gears, holding far too many tools with too few hands. Wisps of fog wash over his ankles from deeper on the ruin.)*

**Eligio:** *(Glares down the hall.)* Look, do you want this done fast, or do you want it done ri...

*(The door lets out a loud SPROING, and Eligio drops his tools and dodges a projectile. Ruby is struck in the back, and goes down.)*

**Araina:** *(Angrily.)* Eligio!

*(The door starts to fall closed. Eligio curses, thrusts his spear into the gears, and grunts with the exertion. The door stops. For now.)*

**Felix:** *(Still fighting.)* Araina! Get Ruby out of here!

**Araina:** *(Picks Ruby up, and retreats with her towards the door.)* Since you're no good at right, is it too late for fast?

**Skeleton 1:** *(Frees itself, lets out a silent scream, and waves its blade menacingly.)*

**Eligio:** *(Rolls his eyes as Ruby and Araina pass. Still holding his spear in the gears.)* Right! Felix, we're done here!

**Felix:** *(Fighting bravely and alone, Felix is losing ground. Takes out two skeletons with his blade, then buys some space with a vial of holy water thrown at his feet.)* Now?

**Eligio:** Yes, now!

*(Felix turns around and barrels towards the door, closely pursued by the undead. He catches a piece of Eligio's shoulder as he passes under the door, and Eligio wrenches his spear free of the gears.)*

*(The door hangs in midair, unmoving.)*

*(The skeletons are very close, now.)*

*(Cursing under his breath, Eligio gives the gears a kick. Finally, the door slams down, right in the face of Skeleton 1.)*

*(As the door falls, so do the lights, plunging the audience into pitch blackness along with the heroes. Heavy panting is heard from the four, but after a moment this sound is lost to a rising, cacophonous hiss.)*

*(Yellow eyes in the dark.)*

*(Curtain falls.)*