

# Quick Adventures



Food for  
the GM's  
Mind



Elven  
Tower

# Elven Tower Cartography

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## Map 144 - Nautili Prison

Cartography by:



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# Nautili Prison

## About this Resource

This resource features the general description of a mage's tower where some sentient nautili are held prisoner. It includes adventure ideas that are appropriate for mid-level (**Level 8**) adventuring parties. **Challenge Rating** (CR) is calculated using a party of four as the model.

The DM is free to change or modify any or all the information found here. NPC names and settlement names are the first the DM should consider changing to accommodate any homebrew world lore. To modify the challenge rating of the adventure, the DM must first consider the power level of the party. Considering the PCs' individual levels and number of players is crucial to presenting a good challenge. Not all parties are the same, different playing styles and command of the system in the party can increase or decrease their effectiveness in encounters. The DM may adjust the encounters slightly by adding or subtracting monsters. Alternatively, controlling monsters with more intelligence and strategy is often the easiest way to raise the difficulty of an encounter.

When monsters are referenced, book name and page numbers are noted in parenthesis. Be aware that page numbers may vary depending on the book print. If the DM can't find a monster where noted, it means it is a different book print. Page differences tend to be small so whatever is missing will be reasonably close to the pages noted within the adventure.

## Background Lore

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When people see the oceans. They often see endless water and sources of food. The smart ones feel respect for the ocean and its dangers. Very few realize how far down it goes and what wonders it hides. Land dwelling races think their world is all there is. They are wrong. Under the waves there is more land than on the surface. There are more

kingdoms and countless civilizations. Some of them even have contact with coast cities. Tritons and other fishmen trade goods with men, but to them, they are just an after thought.

A man named Fardio saw things differently. He was a student of nature, one with the animals, a protector of flowers and vermin. Nature had given him the power to take on the form of beasts. He felt more comfortable spending the night with pack of wolves or a sleuth of bears than in the company of men. Men were strange to him.

Fardio felt interest in the creatures of the sea. He could take the form of a sturgeon and roam the seas. Fardio grew old. He spent his life and energy in the company of fish, wolves, birds and other creatures. He felt his body failing on him. He did not fear death, the food chain and the cycle of life were his sisters, he welcomed them with open arms. He wanted to leave something behind, however. He never had children; regardless of his animal shape, he could not have offspring with other animals either. Fardio crafted a spell that would imbue creatures with a semblance of life and consciousness. He chose to give this gift to a colony of nautili. The crustaceans found themselves grateful to him. It was the first feeling they experienced in their lives. Fardio spent the rest of his life swimming with the nautili.

The nautili are a type of crustacean that lives in deep water. In regular circumstances they do not gather in communities or share any kind of experience with each other, they are rather simple minded sea creatures. Fardio gave the gift of sentience to a community of nautili, they immediately gathered and formed a closed community. They created their own culture and language from scratch. They all speak the common language too through telepathy. After a generation, they found out that their offspring also shared the same condition, thus their civilization started.

Hundreds of years later the nautili spread across the sea and became one more sentient species under the waves. They are small in size and do not have limbs or hands to create things. They build their homes and "cities" in reefs and submerged canyons. Even some other ocean species are un-

## Fuel for your imagination

aware of the nautili sentience. Even to this day, the legend of the human druid creator still lives among the nautili through oral tradition. It is this belief in a human creator that spelled danger for them. An evil wizard, Dr. Lucien d'Amaraan bought a sentient nautilus specimen from a fisherman. The nautilus creature spoke a few words telepathically to Dr. Lucien and he was amazed.

Dr. Lucien d'Amaraan brought the nautilus back to his tower and experimented on it. He interrogated the innocent creature with pain and magic to learn its origin. Once he knew there was a whole world of sentient nautili he decided to study them. He laid traps for them and captured twenty five specimens. He plans on dissecting them and trying chemicals on them just for amusement. One such prisoner is Durg'blub'adin. The senior nautilus is an accomplished telepath. With some clever mind trick, Durg'blub'adin managed to create a telepathic cry for help that isolated Dr. Lucien's mind from hearing it. Hopefully a brave person will hear it and come in time to rescue the poor nautili.

## Location Description

Dr. Lucien d'Amaraan (**Archmage, Monster Manual p. 343**) built his tower near the sea, on top of a great cliff. The tower is deep green, built greenstone from a nearby quarry. The tower is four stories high. The windows on all stories are narrow slits; only small-sized creatures can pass through with a successful **DC 14 Dexterity (Acrobatics) check**. The whole tower is under the effects of a permanent *Guards and Wards* spell. The special effect is a *Gust of Wind* spell-like effect in **Area 1** originating from the north door to **Area 2**. All flights of stairs in the tower are covered in spider webs, and the rooms with fog, as per the description of the *Guards and Wards* spell. The DC for the spell is 11 + half the **Average Party Level (APL)**.

### 1. Main Entrance

This long hall is decorated with paintings of landscapes and knights. A strong wind comes from the far door (*Gust of Wind* effect) It is strong enough to push a man back.

### 2. Restless Guardians

Dr. Lucien d'Amaraan does not trust living guardian



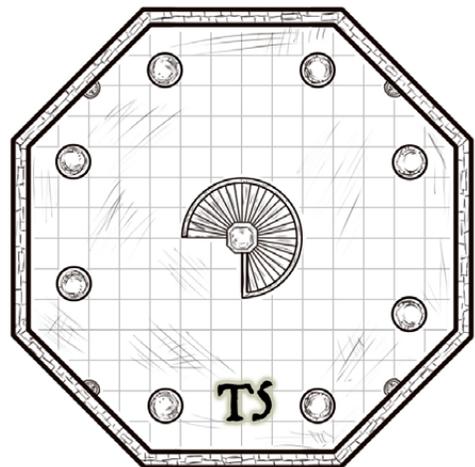
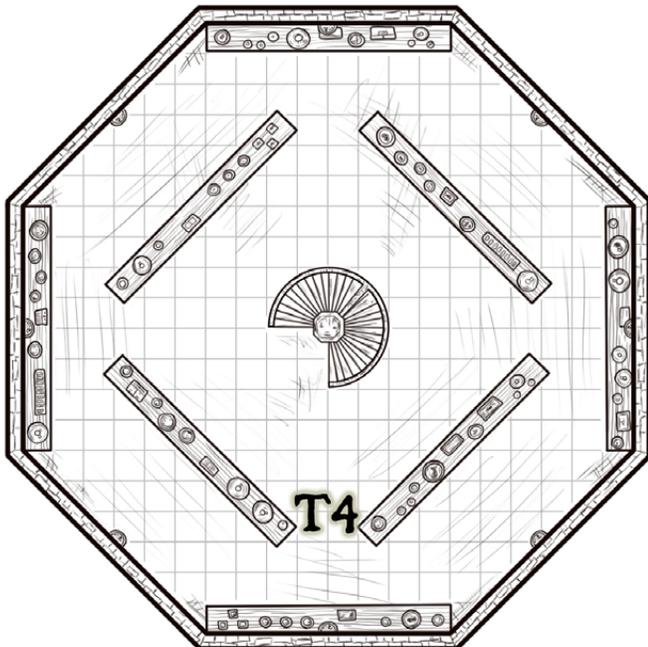
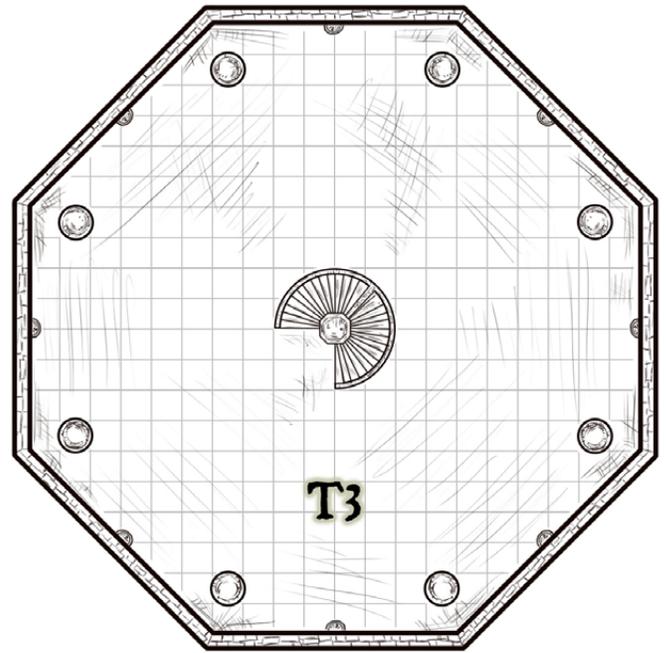
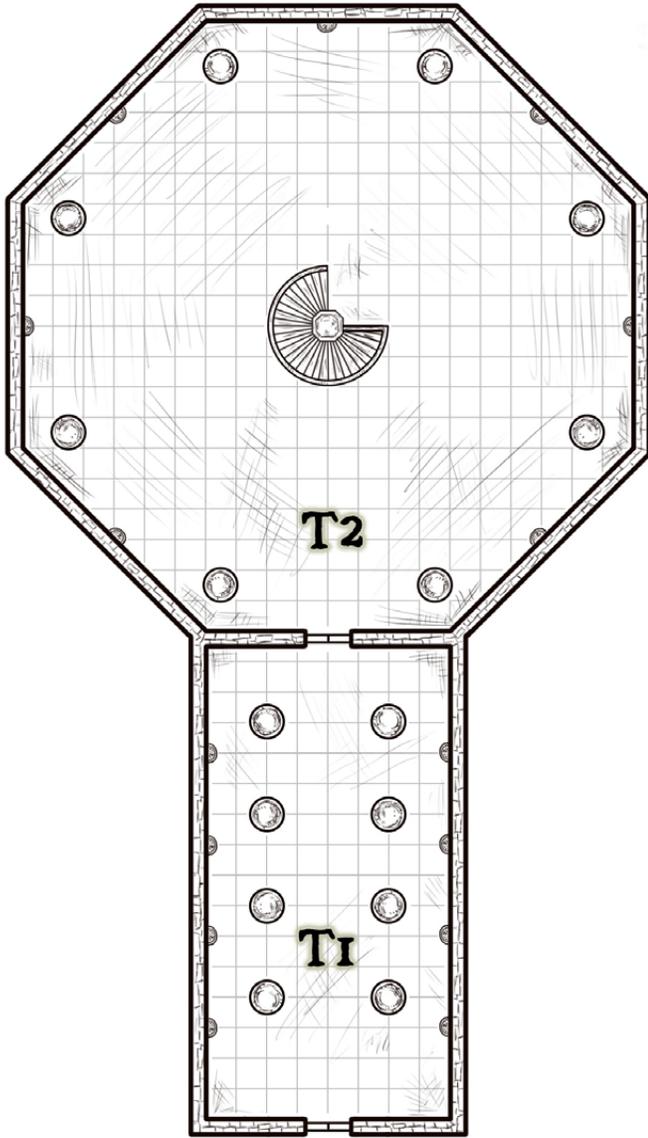
to keep his tower. Over the years he has amassed some undead servants to protect his tower. This room is protected by 6 **Zombies (Monster Manual p. 316)**, 1 **Beholder Zombie (Monster Manual p. 316)**, 3 **Ghast (Monster Manual p. 148)** and 1 **Wraith (Monster Manual p. 302)**.

### 3. Dr. Lucien d'Amaraan's Quarters

This large chamber is home to Dr. Lucien. Furniture is arranged near the walls: a few cabinets, a bed, a table and two chairs, and two bookcases. The party will encounter Dr. Lucien here. He will be well aware of their presence and attack them on sight. Dr. Lucien possesses a slaadi control gem, it controls a **Death Slaad (Monster Manual p. 278)** who follows him as his body guard. There are 4 **Ghouls (Monster Manual p. 148)** in this chamber too. If the battle foes south for Dr. Lucien he leaves his lackeys to fight while he climbs to the laboratory to regroup.

### 4. Mage's Laboratory

# Nautili Prison



1 Square = 5ft.

This large chamber features eight long table-cabinets full with flasks and wooden boxes. Most flasks are filled with green or blue liquids; some of them contain the remains of some creature or a part of it, floating lifeless. Some of the flasks in the cabinets are where the nautili are imprisoned. Only Durg'blub'adin (**Psionic Nautilus**), the nautilus can help the party with a few spells. When the adventurers reach this chamber, if Dr. Lucien managed to escape, he will have summoned two **Earth Elementals (Monster Manual p. 124)** to guard him. If Dr. Lucien starts to lose this second fight he will attempt to flee with a teleportation spell.

## 5. Scroll Library and Treasury

The highest level of the tower is somewhat smaller in size than the rest of the tower. This chamber is filled with archives with past research, spell scrolls and Dr. Lucien's notes. Dr. Lucien's spellbook is here, it holds all the spells noted in the **Archmage** stat-block. Other treasure found here:

- Chest with 2100 gp, 10 rubys worth 50 gp each.
- 2 Potion of Flying
- 1 Universal Solvent
- 1 Pearl of Power
- 1 Ring of Spell Storing

### Psionic Nautilus

*Tiny beast, neutral*

**Armor Class** 15 (natural armor)

**HP** 3 (1d4+1)

**Speed** 5 ft., swim 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
2 (-4)	18 (+4)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)

**Skills** Perception +3

**Senses** Passive Perception 11

**Languages** Nautili, Common (Telepathy Only)

**Challenge** 1/4

**Telepathy.** The Nautilus can communicate mentally with any creature that understands language within 30 ft.

**Innate Spellcasting.** The Nautilus's innate spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 14). It can innately cast the following spells, requiring no components:

At will: *mage hand*, *minor illusion*, *poison spray*

1/day each: *detect magic*, *magic missile*, *ray of sickness*

#### Actions

**Ink Cloud.** The nautilus expels a cloud of dark ink causing an area of 10 ft. radius to become heavily obscured under water.