

BLOOD HUNTER

Marred but resolute, his grimacing face dripping with sweat, a half-orc reddens a finger across his wounds to draw a glowing, ruby glyph in the air. He grips the weightless, completed sigil, twisting it to unleash dark magical energies that fire forward, cursing the stalking behemoth from within its own veins to better even the odds.

A mysterious half-elf swathed in a worn cloak and rugged leather armor carefully investigates a grizzly scene off the roadway, her eyes flashing with recognition as she meditates on the remnants of the massacre. The survivor who warily hired her withdraws with a jump as the half-elf suddenly shoots to her feet, sure in the knowledge of the culprit, where it calls home, and how little time there is to find it.

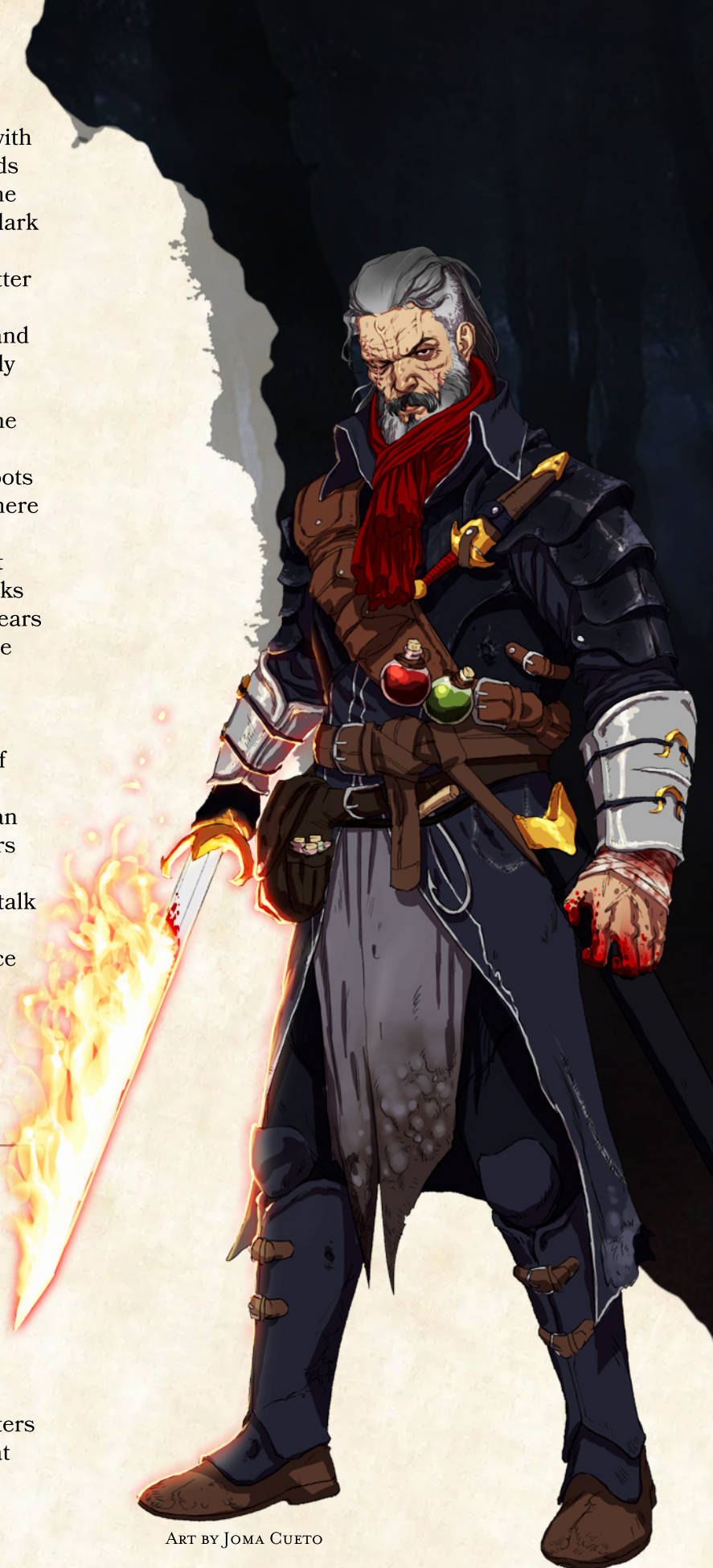
Stepping into the lightless chambers of ancient dust and lingering whispers, the halfling's nose picks up the pungent smell of imminent danger as she hears the scraping of bone and claw on nearby stone. She winces as she runs her blade across her palm, the steel transmuting her blood into glowing runes of powerful magic, her sword suddenly engulfed in arcane flames, eager to brand and burn the flesh of her enemies.

Often feared or misunderstood, and driven by an unending drive to destroy the wicked, blood hunters are clever, arcane warriors who have bound their essence to the dark creatures they hunt to better stalk and survive their prey. Armed with the rites of forbidden blood magic and a willingness to sacrifice their own vitality and humanity for the cause, they protect the realms from the shadows, ever vigilant to avoid becoming the same monsters they choose to hunt.

SACRIFICE TO PRESERVE LIFE

While most of the classic schools of magical study are well known and widely respected, the less refined and macabre incantations of Hemocraft have long been forbidden and lost to most of the civilized world. Blood Hunters have reclaimed these techniques away from the judging eyes of society, finding blood magic's esoteric nature effective against the evils that often defy the divine powers that historically hold the line.

Through careful study and practice, blood hunters have honed the rites of hemocraft into their combat prowess, forfeiting a facet of their health to infuse their weapons with powerful blood magic and summoning the elements to envelop their strikes.



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They can sear an arcane brand into the body of their quarry that hinders their foe's abilities and punishes their aggression, or call blood curses upon their enemies, manipulating their bodies from the inside. Willing to suffer whatever it takes to achieve victory, these adept warriors have forged themselves into a potent force against the terrors that threaten the innocent.

A MONSTER TO FIGHT MONSTERS

Whether driven by the wish to make a difference in a dangerous world, the need to take vengeance for a great wrong they have suffered, being inspired by witnessing the strange and powerful techniques of another blood hunter in person, or just seeking a place to belong in an uncaring world, the reasons one may take up the Hunter's Bane and choose this life are many and varied. In joining an order of blood hunters, one is also joining a tight family bound by service to each other and the common cause. For many, this is the only family they have known or have left, so the kinship felt between members of an order is a bond neigh unbreakable.

Beyond the boundaries of the order, however, the life of a blood hunter is often not an easy one. The rituals of the Hunter's Bane regularly leave one visibly changed and prone to unsettle common folk, and the witnessing of hemocraft can invoke a superstitious fear from even the most learned scholar. While some societies have come to accept the good deeds of the orders, many blood hunters publicly hide their nature unless absolutely necessary, feeling more comfortable in the wilds and wastes of the world where the Orders commonly train. Even so, the best work a blood hunter can do usually involves the poor and defenseless on the outskirts of society, those prone to the corrupting touch of fiends and dark intension. Braving the threat of vilification, these dark protectors wade through civilization, earning coin as mercenaries or bounty hunters, ever watching for the signs of something more nefarious beneath the surface.

In choosing this path, a blood hunter has irrevocably given a part of themselves to their cause, physically, emotionally, and sometimes morally. The orders of blood hunters practice their own unique ideals and methods, often employing techniques with dark origins that test the strength and will of these guardians. Many wrestle with the fear of losing this struggle, so a life of discipline and vigilance drives their travels as they wander the countryside in search of like-minded adventurers and whispers of dark deeds afoot.

CREATING A BLOOD HUNTER

As you create a blood hunter, the most important aspects of your character are why you were driven to this lifestyle, and why do you seek to give up everything to wallow in the dark with the evils you hunt? Did you lose a loved one to a fiendish beast and now wish to prevent others from suffering the same fate? Do you seek a sense of purpose and security, and found this among the order that has taken

you in? Have you always carried a seed of darkness within you, and seek kin to watch over you and prevent you succumbing to it? Were you once a holy warrior who strayed from his faith and was cast out, but still seek to give yourself to the cause of protecting the innocent? Or are you a criminal with a dark past seeking to make amends, taking this life as a path of penance?

What is your relationship with the powers of hemocraft and the abilities it promises to grant you as you step closer to its mastery? Do you respect and fear the ancient power that surges through your veins, using them only when necessary? Do you relish in the strength it offers you, embracing your gifts and using them freely? Are you worried the superstitions are right, and this power will eventually turn you into one of the monsters you hunt? Or has your study instilled you with the confident control of mind over matter, certain you can bend these gifts to bring a brighter dawn?

Consider too that while a blood hunter belongs to an order, many strike out on their own to do their best work. What made you leave the comfort of your order? Do you intend to return, or have you decided you have more to learn in the world beyond? What do you seek in other adventurers that can help you meet your goals?

While most blood hunters follow a path of good or neutrality in their pursuits, some have fallen to the dark, seductive side of hemocraft and use their abilities for selfish and evil purposes. These deviants are always thrown from the order, and often hunted along with the creatures they once trained to fell.

QUICK BUILD

You can make a blood hunter quickly by following these suggestions. First, make Strength or Dexterity your highest ability score, depending on whether you want to focus on melee weapons, or archery (or finesse weapons). Make Intelligence your next highest if you plan to focus on the potency of blood curses and mystical power. Choose a higher Constitution next, as you want to have extra hit points to burn on your crimson rite or amplifying blood curses. Then, select the urchin or soldier background.

CLASS FEATURES

As a blood hunter, you gain the following class features.

HIT POINTS

Hit Dice: 1d10 per blood hunter level

Hit Points at 1st Level: 10 + your Constitution modifier

Hit Points at Higher Levels: 1d10 (or 6) + your

Constitution modifier per blood hunter level after 1st.

PROFICIENCIES

Armor: Light armor, medium armor, shields

Weapons: Simple weapons, martial weapons

Tools: Alchemist's supplies

Saving Throws: Dexterity, Intelligence

The Blood Hunter

Level	Proficiency Bonus	Hemocraft Die	Blood Curses Known	Features
1st	+2	1d4	1	Hunter's Bane, Blood Maledict
2nd	+2	1d4	1	Fighting Style, Crimson Rite
3rd	+2	1d4	1	Blood Hunter Order
4th	+2	1d4	1	Ability Score Improvement
5th	+3	1d6	1	Extra Attack
6th	+3	1d6	2	Brand of Castigation, Blood Maledict (2/rest)
7th	+3	1d6	2	Order feature, Primal Rite
8th	+3	1d6	2	Ability Score Improvement
9th	+4	1d6	2	Grim Psychometry
10th	+4	1d6	3	Dark Augmentation
11th	+4	1d8	3	Order feature
12th	+4	1d8	3	Ability Score Improvement
13th	+5	1d8	3	Brand of Tethering, Blood Maledict (3/rest)
14th	+5	1d8	4	Hardened Soul, Esoteric Rite
15th	+5	1d8	4	Order feature
16th	+5	1d8	4	Ability Score Improvement
17th	+6	1d10	4	Blood Maledict (4/rest)
18th	+6	1d10	5	Order feature
19th	+6	1d10	5	Ability Score Improvement
20th	+6	1d10	5	Sanguine Mastery

Skills: Choose three from Athletics, Acrobatics, Arcana, History, Insight, Investigation, Religion, and Survival.

EQUIPMENT

You start with the following equipment, in addition to the equipment granted by your background:

- (a) a martial weapon or (b) two simple weapons
- (a) a light crossbow and 20 bolts or (b) hand crossbow and 20 bolts
- (a) studded leather armor or (b) scale mail armor
- an explorer's pack

Alternatively, you could begin with starting wealth of 4d4 x 10 gp and purchase starting items of your choice.

HUNTER'S BANE

Beginning at 1st level, you have survived the Hunter's Bane, a dangerous, long-guarded ritual that alters your life's blood, forever binding you to the darkness and honing your senses against it. You have advantage on Wisdom (Survival) checks to track fey, fiends, or undead, as well as on Intelligence ability checks to recall information about them.

The Hunter's Bane also empowers your body to control and shape hemocraft magic, using your own blood and life essence to fuel your abilities. Some of your features require your target to make a saving throw to resist the feature's effects. The saving throw DC is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Hemocraft save DC} = 8 + \text{your proficiency bonus} + \text{your Intelligence modifier.}$$

BLOOD MALEDICT

At 1st level, you gain the ability to channel, and sometimes sacrifice, a part of your vital essence to curse and manipulate creatures through hemocraft magic. You gain one blood curse of your choice, detailed in the "Blood Curses" section at the end of the class description. You learn one additional blood curse of your choice, and you can choose one of the blood curses you know and replace it with another blood curse, at 6th, 10th, 14th, and 18th level.

When you use your Blood Maledict, you choose which curse to invoke. While invoking a blood curse, but before it affects the target, you can choose to amplify the curse by losing a number of hit points equal to one roll of your hemocraft die, as shown in the Hemocraft Die column of the Blood Hunter table. An amplified curse gains an additional effect, noted in the curse's description. Creatures that do not have blood in their bodies are immune to blood curses, unless you have amplified the curse.

You can use this feature once. Beginning at 6th level, you can use your Blood Maledict feature twice, at 13th level you can use it three times between rests, and at 17th level, you can use it four times between rests. You regain all expended uses when you finish a short or long rest.

FIGHTING STYLE

At 2nd level, you adopt a style of fighting as your specialty. Choose one of the following options. You can't take a Fighting Style option more than once, even if you later get to choose again.

ARCHERY

You gain a +2 bonus to attack rolls you make with ranged weapons.

DUELING

When you are wielding a melee weapon in one hand and no other weapons, you gain a +2 bonus to damage rolls with that weapon.

GREAT WEAPON FIGHTING

When you roll a 1 or 2 on a non-rite damage die for an attack you make with a melee weapon that you are wielding with two hands, you can reroll the die and must use the new roll. The weapon must have the two-handed or versatile property for you to gain this benefit.

TWO-WEAPON FIGHTING

When you engage in two-weapon fighting, you can add your ability modifier to the damage of the second attack.

CRIMSON RITE

At 2nd level, you learn to invoke a rite of hemocraft within your weapon at the cost of your own vitality. Choose one rite from the Primal Rites list below to learn.

As a bonus action, you activate a crimson rite on a single weapon with the elemental energy of a known rite of your choice that lasts until you finish a short or long rest, or if you aren't holding the weapon at the end of your turn. When you activate a rite, you lose a number of hit points equal to one roll of your hemocraft die, as shown in the Hemocraft Die column of the Blood Hunter table.

While active, attacks from this weapon deal an additional 1d4 damage of the chosen rite's type. This damage is magical, and increases as you gain levels as a blood hunter, as shown in the Hemocraft Die column of the Blood Hunter table. A weapon can only hold a single active rite at a time.

You learn an additional Primal Rite of your choice at 7th level, and choose an Esoteric Rite to learn at 14th level.

PRIMAL RITES

Choose from the following:

Rite of the Flame. Your rite damage is fire damage.

Rite of the Frozen. Your rite damage is cold damage.

Rite of the Storm. Your rite damage is lightning damage.

ESOTERIC RITES

Choose from the following:

Rite of the Dead. Your rite damage is necrotic damage.

Rite of the Oracle. Your rite damage is psychic damage.

Rite of the Roar. Your rite damage is thunder damage.

BLOOD HUNTER ORDER

At 3rd level, you commit to an order of blood hunter martial focus. Choose Order of the Ghostslayer, Order of the Profane Soul, Order of the Mutant, or Order of the Lycan, all detailed at the end of the class description. The order you choose grants you features at 3rd level, and again at 7th, 11th, 15th, and 18th level.

ABILITY SCORE IMPROVEMENT

When you reach 4th level, and again at 8th, 12th, 16th and 19th level, you can increase one ability score of your choice by 2, or you can increase two ability scores of your choice by 1. As normal, you can't increase an ability score above 20 using this feature.

EXTRA ATTACK

Beginning at 5th level, you can attack twice, instead of once, whenever you take the Attack action.

BRAND OF CASTIGATION

At 6th level, whenever you damage a creature with your Crimson Rite feature, you can choose to sear an arcane brand of hemocraft magic into it (requires no action). You always know the direction to the branded creature, and each time the branded creature deals damage to you or a creature you can see within 5 feet of you, the branded creature suffers psychic damage equal to your Intelligence modifier (minimum of 1 damage).

Your brand lasts until you dismiss it, or you apply a brand to another creature. Your brand counts as a spell for the purposes of *dispel magic*, and the spell level is equal to half of your blood hunter level (maximum of 9th level spell).

Once you use this feature, you can't use it again until you finish a short or long rest.

GRIM PSYCHOMETRY

When you reach 9th level, you have a supernatural talent for discerning the history surrounding mysterious objects or places touched by evil. When making an Intelligence (History) check to recall information about a darker past surrounding an object you are touching, or a location you are present in, you have advantage on the roll. The information gleaned often leans towards the more sinister influences of the past, and sometimes conveys visions of things previously unknown to the character on higher rolls.

DARK AUGMENTATION

Upon reaching 10th level, arcane blood magic suffuses your body, permanently reinforcing your resilience. Your speed increases by 5 feet, and whenever you make a Strength, Dexterity, or Constitution saving throw, you gain a bonus to the saving throw equal to your Intelligence modifier (minimum of one).

BRAND OF TETHERING

Starting at 13th level, the psychic damage from your Brand of Castigation feature increases to twice your Intelligence modifier (minimum of 2).

In addition, a branded creature can't take the Dash action, and if a creature branded by you attempts to teleport or leave their current plane via ability, spell, or portal, they



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take 4d6 psychic damage and must make a Wisdom saving throw. On a failure, the teleport or plane shift fails.

HARDENED SOUL

When you reach 14th level, you have advantage on saving throws against being charmed and frightened.

SANGUINE MASTERY

Upon becoming 20th level, you honed your control over blood magic, mitigating your sacrifice and empowering your capability. Once per turn, whenever a blood hunter feature requires you to roll a hemocraft die, you can choose to reroll the die and choose which result to use.

In addition, whenever you score a critical hit with a weapon attack empowered by your Crimson Rite, you regain one expended use of your Blood Maledict feature.

BLOOD HUNTER ORDERS

There are a handful of secretive orders of blood hunters that guard their cryptic techniques and rituals. One must adhere to one of these orders to even be granted access to the Hunter's Bane rite that starts their journey, and only once they've proven their dedication and ability will the

secrets of the order begin to be revealed. It's within these small, enigmatic sects that the real power of a blood hunter is learned.

ORDER OF THE GHOSTSLAYER

The Order of the Ghostslayer is the oldest of the orders, having originally rediscovered the secrets of blood magic and refined them for combat against the scourge of undeath. Ghostslayers seek out and study the moment of death, obsessing over the mysteries of the transition and how it can become corrupted by unholy powers to rise once more. Tuning their abilities to annihilate such abominations, these zealous blood hunters seek out the sources of such necromantic energies, intent to destroy them wherever they arise.

Order of the Ghostslayer Features

Blood Hunter

Level Feature

3rd Rite of the Dawn, Curse Specialist

7th Ethereal Step

11th Brand of Sundering

15th Blood Curse of the Exorcist

18th Rite Revival

RITE OF THE DAWN

When you join this order at 3rd level, you learn the Rite of the Dawn esoteric rite (detailed below).

Rite of the Dawn. Your rite damage is radiant damage. While the rite is active, you gain the following benefits:

- Your weapon sheds bright light out to a radius of 20 feet.
- You have resistance to necrotic damage.
- Your weapon deals one additional hemocraft die of rite damage when you hit an undead.

CURSE SPECIALIST

Beginning at 3rd level, your ancient order teaches advanced mastery over blood curses. You gain an additional use of your Blood Maledict feature. In addition, your blood curses can target any creature, whether it has blood or not.

ETHEREAL STEP

Upon reaching 7th level, at the start of your turn, if you aren't incapacitated, you can choose to magically step into the veil between the planes. You can move through other creatures and objects as if they were difficult terrain, as well as see and affect creatures and objects on the Ethereal Plane. You take 1d10 force damage if you end your turn inside an object. If you are inside an object when this feature ends, you are immediately shunted to the nearest unoccupied space that you can occupy and take force damage equal to twice the number of feet you moved. This feature lasts for a number of rounds equal to your Intelligence modifier (minimum of 1 round).

You can use this feature once. Beginning at 15th level, you can use your Ethereal Step feature twice between rests. You regain all expended uses when you finish a short or long rest.

BRAND OF SUNDERING

Beginning at 11th level, your Brand of Castigation now exposes a fragment of your foe's essence, leaving them vulnerable to your Crimson Rite. Whenever you damage a branded creature with your Crimson Rite, your weapon deals one additional hemocraft die of rite damage. In addition, the branded creature can't move through creatures or objects.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE EXORCIST

At 15th level, you've honed your hemocraft to tear wicked influence from your allies, punishing those who would infiltrate their body and mind. You gain the Blood Curse of the Exorcist for your Blood Maledict feature. This doesn't count against your number of blood curses known.

RITE REVIVAL

Upon reaching 18th level, you learn to protect your fading life by absorbing your blood rite. When you are reduced to 0 hit points while you have an active Crimson Rite, but don't die outright, the rite ends and you drop to 1 hit point instead. If you have rites active on multiple weapons, you choose which one ends.

ORDER OF THE PROFANE SOUL

Those who have taken to the Order of the Profane Soul have seen the limits of hemocraft against some of the most ancient and cruel fiends and terrors of the world. Unable to pursue beings of such power, creatures able to vanish amongst the nobles without a trace, or bend the mind of the most stalwart warrior with but a glance, this order trusted in their resilience and delved into this same well of corrupting arcane knowledge, making pacts with lesser evils to better combat the greater. While they may have traded a part of themselves, members of this order believe the power gained far outweighs the price, for even devils now quake when they know they've drawn the attention of the Order of the Profane Soul.

Order of the Profane Soul Features

Blood Hunter Level	Feature
3rd	Otherworldly Patron, Pact Magic, Rite Focus
7th	Mystic Frenzy, Revealed Arcana
11th	Brand of the Sapping Scar
15th	Unsealed Arcana
18th	Blood Curse of the Souleater

OTHERWORLDLY PATRON

When you reach 3rd level, you strike a bargain with an otherworldly being of your choice: the Archfey, the Fiend, or the Great Old One, each detailed in the *Player's Handbook*, the Undying within the *Sword Coast Adventurer's Guide*, and the Celestial or Hexblade in *Xanathar's Guide to Everything*. Your choice augments some of your order features.

PACT MAGIC

When you reach 3rd level, you can augment your combat Blood Hunter (2020)

Profane Soul Spellcasting

Blood Hunter Level	Cantrips Known	Spells Known	Spell Slots	Slot Level
3rd	2	2	1	1st
4th	2	2	1	1st
5th	2	3	1	1st
6th	2	3	2	1st
7th	2	4	2	2nd
8th	2	4	2	2nd
9th	2	5	2	2nd
10th	3	5	2	2nd
11th	3	6	2	2nd
12th	3	6	2	2nd
13th	3	7	2	3rd
14th	3	7	2	3rd
15th	3	8	2	3rd
16th	3	8	2	3rd
17th	3	9	2	3rd
18th	3	9	2	3rd
19th	3	10	2	4th
20th	3	11	2	4th

techniques with the ability to cast spells. See chapter 10 of the *Player's Handbook* for the general rules of spellcasting and chapter 11 of the *Player's Handbook* for the Warlock spell list.

Cantrips. You learn two cantrips of your choice from the warlock spell list. You learn an additional warlock cantrip of your choice at 10th level.

Spell Slots. The Profane Soul Spellcasting table shows how many spell slots you have. The table also shows what the level of those slots is; all of your spell slots are the same level. To cast one of your warlock spells of 1st level or higher, you must expend a spell slot. You regain all expended spell slots when you finish a short or long rest.

For example, when you are 8th level, you have two 2nd-level spell slots. To cast the 1st-level spell witch bolt, you must spend one of those slots, and you cast it as a 2nd-level spell.

Spells Known of 1st Level and Higher. At 3rd level, you know two 1st-level spells of your choice from the warlock spell list.

The Spells Known column of the Profane Soul table shows when you learn more warlock spells of your choice of 1st level and higher. A spell you choose must be of a level no higher than what's shown in the table's Slot Level column for your level. When you reach 11th level, for example, you learn a new warlock spell, which can be 1st, 2nd, or 3rd level.

Additionally, when you gain a level in this class and order, you can choose one of the warlock spells you know and replace it with another spell from the warlock spell list, which also must be of a level for which you have spell slots.

Spellcasting Ability. Intelligence is your spellcasting ability for your warlock spells, so you use your Intelligence whenever a spell refers to your spellcasting ability. In addition, you use your Intelligence modifier when setting the saving throw DC for a warlock spell you cast and when making an attack roll with one.

Spell save DC = 8 + your proficiency bonus + your Intelligence modifier.

Spell attack modifier = your proficiency bonus + your Intelligence modifier.

RITE FOCUS

Beginning at 3rd level, your weapon becomes a core to your pact with your chosen dark patron. While you have an active Crimson Rite, you can use your weapon as a spellcasting focus (found in chapter 5 of the *Player's Handbook*) for your warlock spells, and you gain a specific benefit based on your chosen pact (outlined below).

The Archfey. When you deal rite damage to a creature, it glows with faint light until the end of your next turn. For the duration, the creature can't benefit from half cover, three-quarters cover, or being invisible.

The Fiend. When you hit a creature with your Rite of the Flame, if you roll a 1 or 2 on your hemocraft die, you can reroll the die and choose which roll to use.

The Great Old One. When you score a critical hit against a creature while using the weapon, that creature is frightened of you until the end of your next turn.

The Undying. Whenever you reduce a hostile creature to 0 hit points using a weapon, you regain a number of hit points equal to one roll of your hemocraft die.

The Celestial. You can expend a use of your Blood Maledict feature as a bonus action to heal one creature that you can see within 60 feet of you. They regain a number of hit points equal to one roll of your hemocraft damage die + your Intelligence modifier (minimum of 1).

The Hexblade. Whenever you target a creature with a blood curse, your next attack against the cursed creature deals additional damage equal to your proficiency modifier.

MYSTIC FRENZY

Starting at 7th level, when you use your action to cast a cantrip, you can immediately make one weapon attack as a bonus action.

REVEALED ARCANA

At 7th level, your dark patron grants you the rare use of a dangerous arcane spell based on your pact.

The Archfey. You can cast *blur* once using a pact magic spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Fiend. You can cast *scorching ray* once using a pact magic spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Great Old One. You can cast *detect thoughts* once using a pact magic spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Undying. You can cast *blindness/deafness* once using a pact magic spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Celestial. You can cast *lesser restoration* once using a pact magic spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Hexblade. You can cast *branding smite* once using a pact magic spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

BRAND OF THE SAPPING SCAR

Upon reaching 11th level, your Brand of Castigation feature now digs dark, arcane scars into your target, leaving them vulnerable to your magic. A creature branded by you has disadvantage on their saving throws against your warlock spells.

UNSEALED ARCANA

At 15th level, your patron grants you the rare use of an additional arcane spell based on your pact.

The Archfey. You can cast *slow* once without expending a spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Fiend. You can cast *fireball* once without expending a spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Great Old One. You can cast *haste* once without expending a spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Undying. You can cast *bestow curse* once without expending a spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Celestial. You can cast *revivify* once without expending a spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

The Hexblade. You can cast *blink* once without expending a spell slot. You can't do so again until you finish a long rest.



BLOOD CURSE OF THE SOULEATER

Starting at 18th level, you've learned to siphon the soul from your fallen prey. You gain the Blood Curse of the Souleater for your Blood Maledict feature. This does not count against your number of blood curses known.

ORDER OF THE MUTANT

The process of the Hunter's Bane is a painful, scarring, and sometimes fatal experience. Those that survive find themselves irrevocably changed, enhanced. Some found this experience exalting, embracing the ability to alter one's own physiology through a combination of hemocraft and corrupted alchemy. Over generations of experimentation, a splinter order of blood hunters began to emerge, one that focused on brewing toxic elixirs to modify their capabilities in battle, altering their blood and, over time, become something beyond what they once were. They called themselves the Order of the Mutant. Researching their targets to know their strengths and weaknesses, these blood hunters can alter their biology to be best prepared for the coming conflict.

Order of the Mutant Features

Blood Hunter	
Level	Feature
3rd	Formulas (4), Mutagencraft
7th	Strange Metabolism, Formulas (5) Mutagens (2/rest)
11th	Brand of Axiom, Formulas (6)
15th	Blood Curse of Corrosion, Formulas (7) Mutagens (3/rest)
18th	Exalted Mutation, Formulas (8)

FORMULAS

You begin to uncover forbidden alchemical formulas that temporarily alter your mental and physical abilities.

Beginning at 3rd level, you choose to learn four mutagen formulas. Your formula options are detailed at the end of this order description. You gain an additional formula at 7th level, 11th level, 15th level, and 18th level.

Additionally, when you gain a new mutagen formula, you can choose one of the formulas you already know and replace it with a new mutagen formula.

MUTAGENCRAFT

At 3rd level, you can concoct a single mutagen when you finish a short or long rest. Starting at 7th level, the number of mutagens you can create when you finish a rest increases to two, and you can create three mutagens at 15th level.

As a bonus action you can consume a single mutagen, and the effects and side effects last until you finish a short or long rest, unless otherwise specified. While one or more mutagens are affecting you, you can use an action to focus and flush the toxins from your system, ending the effects and side effects of all mutagens.

Mutagens are designed for your biology and have no effect on other creatures. They are also unstable by nature,

losing their potency over time and becoming inert if not used before you finish your next short or long rest.

STRANGE METABOLISM

Beginning at 7th level, your body has begun to adapt to toxins and venoms, ignoring their corroding effects. You gain immunity to poison damage and the poisoned condition.

In addition, you can instill a burst of adrenaline to temporarily resist the negative effects of a mutagen. As a bonus action, you can choose to ignore the side effect of a mutagen affecting you for 1 minute.

Once you use this feature to resist side effects, you can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

BRAND OF AXIOM

At 11th level, your hemocraft has altered your Brand of Castigation to enforce a foe's true nature. Any illusions **disguising or making a creature invisible** when you brand them end, and they can't benefit from such illusions while branded. If a creature branded by you is polymorphed or has changed shape, they must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw or revert to their true form and be stunned until the end of your next turn. Whenever a branded creature **attempts to polymorph or change shape**, they must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw or the attempt fails, and they are stunned until the end of your next turn.

BLOOD CURSE OF CORROSION

Starting at 15th level, your blood curse can wrack a creature's body with terrible toxins. You gain the Blood Curse of Corrosion for your Blood Maledict feature. This does not count against your number of blood curses known.

EXALTED MUTATION

At 18th level, your body has adapted to produce your toxins naturally in a moment of need. As a bonus action, you can choose one mutagen currently affecting you to flush from your system and end, then immediately have a mutagen you know the formula for take effect in its place.

You can use this feature a number of times equal to your Intelligence modifier (minimum of 1). You regain all uses of this feature after you finish a long rest.

MUTAGENS

These mutagens are presented in alphabetical order. You can learn a mutagen at the same time you meet its prerequisites.

Aether (11th Level Required). You gain a flying speed of 20 feet for 1 hour. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Strength and Dexterity ability checks for 1 hour.

Alluring. Your skin and voice become malleable, allowing you to slightly enhance your appearance and presence. You have advantage on Charisma ability checks. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on initiative rolls.

Celerity. Your Dexterity score increases by 3, as does your Dexterity maximum. This bonus increases by 1 at 11th level (+4) and 18th level (+5). As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Wisdom saving throws.

Conversant. You gain advantage on Intelligence ability checks. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Wisdom ability checks.

Cruelty (11th level required). When you use the Attack action, you can make an additional weapon attack as a bonus action. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Intelligence, Wisdom, and Charisma saving throws.

Deftness. You gain advantage on Dexterity ability checks. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Wisdom ability checks.

Embers. You gain resistance to fire damage. As a side effect, you gain vulnerability to cold damage.

Gelid. You gain resistance to cold damage. As a side effect, you gain vulnerability to fire damage.

Impermeable. You gain resistance to piercing damage. As a side effect, you gain vulnerability to slashing damage.

Mobile. You are immune to the grappled and restrained conditions. At 11th level, you also are immune to the paralyzed condition. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Strength ability checks.

Nighteye. You gain darkvision for up to 60 feet. If you already have darkvision, this increases its range by 60 additional feet. As a side effect, you gain sunlight sensitivity (detailed in the Dark Elf section on page 24 in the *Player's Handbook*).

Percipient. You gain advantage on Wisdom ability checks. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Charisma ability checks.

Potency. Your Strength score increases by 3, as does your Strength maximum. This bonus increases by 1 at 11th level (+4) and 18th level (+5). As a side effect, you have disadvantage on Dexterity saving throws.

Precision (11th level required). Your weapon attacks score a critical hit on a roll of 19-20. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Strength saving throws.

Rapidity. Your speed increases by 10 feet. At 15th level, your speed increases by 15 feet instead. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Intelligence ability checks.

Reconstruction (7th level required). For 1 hour, at the start of each of your turns, you regain hit points equal to your proficiency bonus if you have at least 1 hit point but no more than half of your hit points left. As a side effect, your speed decreases by 10 ft for 1 hour.

Sagacity. Your Intelligence score increases by 3, as does your Intelligence maximum. This bonus increases by 1 at 11th level (+4) and 18th level (+5). As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on Charisma saving throws.

Shielded. You gain resistance to slashing damage. As a side effect, you gain vulnerability to bludgeoning damage.

Unbreakable. You gain resistance to bludgeoning damage. As a side effect, you gain vulnerability to piercing damage.

Vermillion. You gain an additional use of your Blood Maledict feature. As a side effect, you gain disadvantage on death saving throws.

ORDER OF THE LYCAN

Of the many terrible curses that plague the realm, few are as ancient or as feared as Lycanthropy. Passed through blood, this affliction seeds a host with the savage strength and hunger for violence of a wicked beast. The Order of the Lycan is a proud order of blood hunters who undergo “The Taming,” a ceremonial inflicting of lycanthropy from a senior member. These hunters then use their abilities to harness the power of the monster they harbor without losing themselves to it. Through intense honing of one’s own willpower, combined with the secrets of the order’s blood magic rituals, members learn to control and unleash their hybrid form for short periods of time. Enhanced physical prowess, unnatural resilience, and razor sharp claws make these warriors a terrible foe to any evil that crosses their path. Yet, no training is perfect, and without care and complete focus, even the greatest of blood hunters can temporarily lose themselves to the bloodlust.

ART BY JESSICA NGUYEN

Blood Hunter (2020)

Design by Matthew Mercer



Order of the Lycan Features

Blood Hunter

Level	Feature
3rd	Heightened Senses, Hybrid Transformation
7th	Stalker's Prowess
11th	Advanced Transformation, Unarmed (1d8) Feral Might (+2), Predatory Strikes (+2)
15th	Brand of the Voracious
18th	Hybrid Transformation Mastery, Feral Might (+3), Predatory Strikes (+3)

HEIGHTENED SENSES

Starting when you choose this archetype at 3rd level, you begin to adopt the improved abilities of a natural predator. You gain advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on hearing or smell.

HYBRID TRANSFORMATION

Upon choosing this archetype at 3rd level, you begin to learn to control the lycanthropic curse that now lives in your blood. As a bonus action, you can transform into your hybrid form for up to 1 hour. You can speak, use equipment, and wear armor in this form. You can revert to your normal form earlier as a bonus action. You automatically revert to your normal form if you fall unconscious, drop to 0 hit points, or die. This feature replaces the rules for Lycanthropy within the *Monster's Manual*.

Once you use this feature, you must finish a short or long rest before you can use it again. While you are transformed, you gain the following features:

Feral Might. You gain a +1 to melee damage rolls. This bonus increases by 1 at 11th level (+2) and 18th level (+3). You also have advantage on Strength checks and Strength saving throws.

Resilient Hide. You have resistance to bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing damage from nonmagical attacks not made with silver weapons. While you are not wearing heavy armor, you gain a +1 bonus to your AC.

Predatory Strikes. You can apply your Crimson Rite feature to your unarmed strikes as single weapon. You can use Dexterity instead of Strength for the attack and damage rolls of your unarmed strikes. When you use the Attack action with an unarmed strike, you can make one unarmed strike as a bonus action.

Your unarmed strikes deal 1d6 slashing damage. The damage increases to 1d8 at 11th level.

Bloodlust. If you begin your turn with no more than half of your maximum hit points, you must succeed on a DC 8 Wisdom saving throw or move directly towards the nearest creature to you and use the Attack action against that creature. You can choose whether or not to use your Extra Attack feature for this frenzied attack. If there is more than one possible target, roll to randomly determine the target. You then regain control for the remainder of your turn.

If you are under an effect that prevents you from concentrating (like the barbarian's Rage feature), you automatically fail this saving throw.



The Onus of Lycanthropy

Those inducted into the Order of the Lycan choose this path with conviction, understanding the terrible burden it is and the challenges it brings. Where most who embrace this curse grow wicked, mad, even murderous, these blood hunters accept the gifts of the beast while maintaining control through intense training and blood magic. These factors enable a member of the Order of the Lycan to prevent the spread of their curse through blood, should they wish to. One of the most sacred oaths of this order is to never infect another without the order's sanction.

Should a member of the Order of the Lycan be cured of the lycanthropic curse, it is a terrible shame on their name, the order, and those who carry the curse still. There have been passages written about members being cleansed against their will, but those brothers and sisters readily return to the order to undergo a renewed initiation of The Taming, reintroducing the curse to their bodies and restoring their honor.

Lycanthropy comes in many forms. Each version of the curse is bound to a specific beast: wolf, bear, tiger, boar, and rat are a few of the more well-known variations. The strain of the curse defines the beast a hybrid form will share, but the features the curse bestows remain relatively uniform across strains.

STALKER'S PROWESS

At 7th level, your speed increases by 10 feet. You also can add 10 feet to your long jump distance and 3 feet to your high jump distance. In addition, your hybrid form gains the Improved Predatory Strikes feature.

Improved Predatory Strikes. You gain a +1 bonus to attack rolls made with your unarmed strikes. This bonus increases by 1 at 11th level (+2) and 18th level (+3). In addition, when you have an active Crimson Rite while in your hybrid form, your unarmed strikes are considered magical for the purpose of overcoming resistance and immunity to nonmagical attacks and damage.

ADVANCED TRANSFORMATION

Starting at 11th level, you learn to unleash and control more of the beast within. You can use your Hybrid Transformation feature twice, regaining all expended uses when you finish a short or long rest. In addition, your hybrid form gains the Lycan Regeneration feature.

Lycan Regeneration. At the start of each of your turns, before you roll for bloodlust, you regain hit points equal to 1 + your Constitution modifier (minimum of 1) if you have at least 1 hit point and no more than half of your hit points left.

BRAND OF THE VORACIOUS

At 15th level, you have advantage on your Wisdom saving throws to maintain control of your bloodlust in hybrid form. In addition, your Brand of Castigation now binds your foe to your hunter's thirst for savagery. While in your hybrid form, your attacks have advantage against a creature branded by you.

HYBRID TRANSFORMATION MASTERY

At 18th level, you have wrestled your inner predator and mastered it. You can use your Hybrid Transformation feature an unlimited number of times, and your hybrid form can now last indefinitely.

You also gain the Blood Curse of the Howl for your Blood Maledict feature. This does not count against your number of blood curses known.

BLOOD CURSES

The blood curses are presented in alphabetical order.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE ANXIOUS

As a bonus action, you magnify the adrenaline in the body of a creature within 30 feet of you, making them susceptible to forceful influence. Until the end of your next turn, all creatures have advantage on Charisma (Intimidation) checks directed at the target creature.

Amplify. The next Wisdom saving throw the target has to make before this curse ends has disadvantage. Once you've amplified this blood curse, you must finish a long rest before you can amplify it again.

BLOOD CURSE OF BINDING

As a bonus action, you can attempt to bind a creature you can see within 30 feet of you that is no more than one size larger than you. The target must succeed on a Strength saving throw or have their speed be reduced to 0 and they can't use reactions until the end of your next turn.

Amplify. This curse lasts for 1 minute and can affect a creature regardless of their size category. At the end of each of its turns, the cursed creature can make another Strength saving throw. On a success, this curse ends.

BLOOD CURSE OF BLOATED AGONY

As a bonus action, you curse a creature that you can see within 30 feet of you to painfully swell until the end of your next turn. For the duration of this curse, the creature has disadvantage on Strength and Dexterity ability checks, and suffers 1d8 necrotic damage if it makes more than one melee or ranged attack during its turn.

Amplify. This curse lasts for 1 minute. At the end of each of its turns, the cursed creature can make a Constitution saving throw. On a success, this curse ends.

BLOOD CURSE OF CORROSION

Prerequisite: 15th level, Order of the Mutant

As a bonus action, a creature within 30 feet of you must make a Constitution saving throw or become poisoned. At the end of each of its turns, the target can make another Constitution saving throw. On a success, the curse ends.

Amplify. The cursed creature suffers 4d6 necrotic damage, and suffers this damage again every time it fails its Constitution saving throw to end this curse at the end of its turn.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE EXORCIST

Prerequisite: 15th level, Order of the Ghostslayer

As a bonus action, you can choose one creature you can see within 30 feet of you that is charmed, frightened, or possessed. The target creature is no longer charmed, frightened, or possessed.

Amplify. The creature that charmed, frightened, or possessed the target of your curse suffers 3d6 psychic damage and must make a Wisdom saving throw or be stunned until the end of your next turn.

BLOOD CURSE OF EXPOSURE

When a creature you can see within 30 feet is hit with an attack or spell, you can use your reaction to temporarily weaken their resilience against it. Until the end of the turn, the target loses their resistance to the damage types of the triggering attack or spell.

Amplify. The target instead loses invulnerability to the damage types of the triggering attack or spell, having resistance to them until the end of the turn.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE EYELESS

When a creature you can see within 30 feet of you makes an attack roll, you can use your reaction to roll one

hemocraft die and subtract the number rolled from the creature's attack roll. You can choose to use this feature after the creature's roll, but before the DM determines whether the attack roll succeeds. The creature is immune if it is immune to blindness.

Amplify. You apply this curse to all of the creature's attack rolls until the end of the turn. You roll a new hemocraft die for each affected attack.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE FALLEN PUPPET

When a creature you can see within 30 feet drops to 0 hit points, you can use your reaction to make that creature immediately makes a single weapon attack against a target of your choice within its attack range.

Amplify. You can first move the cursed creature up to half their speed, and you grant a bonus to the cursed creature's attack roll equal to your Intelligence modifier (minimum of 1).

BLOOD CURSE OF THE HOWL

Prerequisite: 18th level, Order of the Lycan

As an action, you unleash a blood-curdling howl. Each creature within 30 feet of you that can hear you must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw or become frightened of you until the end of your next turn. If they fail their saving throw by 5 or more, they are stunned while frightened in this way. A creature that succeeds on this saving throw is immune to this blood curse for the next 24 hours.

You can choose any number of creatures you can see to be unaffected by this howl.

Amplify. The range of this curse increases to 60 feet.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE MARKED

As a bonus action, you can mark a creature within 30 feet of you. Until the end of your turn, whenever you deal rite damage to the target, you deal an additional hemocraft die of rite damage.

Amplify. The next attack roll you make against the target before the end of your turn has advantage.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE MUDDLED MIND

As a bonus action, you curse a creature that you can see within 30 feet of you that is concentrating on a spell. That creature has disadvantage on the next Constitution saving throw it must make to maintain concentration before the end of your next turn.

Amplify. The cursed creature has disadvantage on all Constitution saving throws made to maintain concentration of spells until the end of your next turn.

BLOOD CURSE OF THE SOULEATER

Prerequisite: 18th level, Order of the Profane Soul

When a creature that isn't a construct or undead is reduced to 0 hit points within 30 feet of you, you can use your reaction to usher their soul to your patron in exchange for power. Until the end of your next turn, your weapon attacks have advantage.

Amplify. In addition, you regain an expended warlock spell slot. Once you've amplified this blood curse, you must finish a long rest before you can amplify it again.

BLOOD HUNTER MULTICLASSING

Should you wish to multiclass into a blood hunter, the prerequisites and proficiencies gained are listed below.

BLOOD HUNTER MULTICLASSING PREREQUISITES

Ability Score Minimum

Strength 13 or Dexterity 13, and Intelligence 13

BLOOD HUNTER MULTICLASSING PROFICIENCIES

Proficiencies Gained

Light armor, medium armor, shields, simple weapons, martial weapons, one skill from the class's skill list, alchemical supplies.

BLOOD HUNTER MULTICLASSING WITH WARLOCK

If multiclassing Order of the Profane Soul with Warlock levels, add a third of your blood hunter levels (rounded down) to your Warlock level and consult the Warlock progression table in the *Player's Handbook* for total Spell Slots, Cantrips known, and Spell Slot Level.



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