

Exercises for writing for a rogue-like game

Notes from the director:

We're working on a new sector style, one full of remnants of an ancient, lost post-spaceflight civilization. The new weapons and upgrades from these will all be plasma based: E.G. plasma cannons, plasma beam drones, and plasma bombs. These weapons will cost one more energy point to use than most of their counterparts, but will do both ion and normal damage.

Some of the pre-existing racial or technological abilities that the player may have:

- Missiles or bombs – The ability to break apart objects or vessels with explosions.
- Ion cannons – The ability to disable electronics.
- Beam weapons – The ability to cut pieces off of objects or vessels.
- Mind Control – The ability to render an enemy crew suggestible.
- Hacking drone – The ability to disable a single electronic subsystem.
- Improved Sensors – The ability to track through debris fields and nebulas.
- Rockmen – Rockmen on the crew are immune to disease and fire.
- Slugs – Slugs are telepathic, immune to mind control, and may be used to track manned ships through nebulas when sensors fail.
- Engi – Engi are part machine, and can interface with alien technology.
- Lanius – Lanius live in vacuum, and do not require oxygen to survive.

We need:

1) Encounter that will provide nothing.

You jump into the system to find that it appears a Mantis pirate ship is waiting for you! Your com crackles, but instead of the menacing face of a Mantis, you see a Slug, with a Human over one slimy shoulder, and a Rockman over the other.

“Greetings and salutations!” the translator says as the Slug blurbs. “We wish you well on your pilgrimage! May the ancients ever smile upon you.”

“Be at peace.” the Human says.

Before you can even respond, the transmission closes, and the (apparently former) pirate ship warps out of the system.

2) Encounter that will only provide something if the ship can track down another ship:

e.g. with enhanced sensors or engines.

A small transport ship hails you as your ship drops out of warp. A group of Humans and Mantis appear on screen, all wearing white robes.

“We have found salvation, but there is danger. Follow us if you dare!”

The ship pulls into an asteroid field.

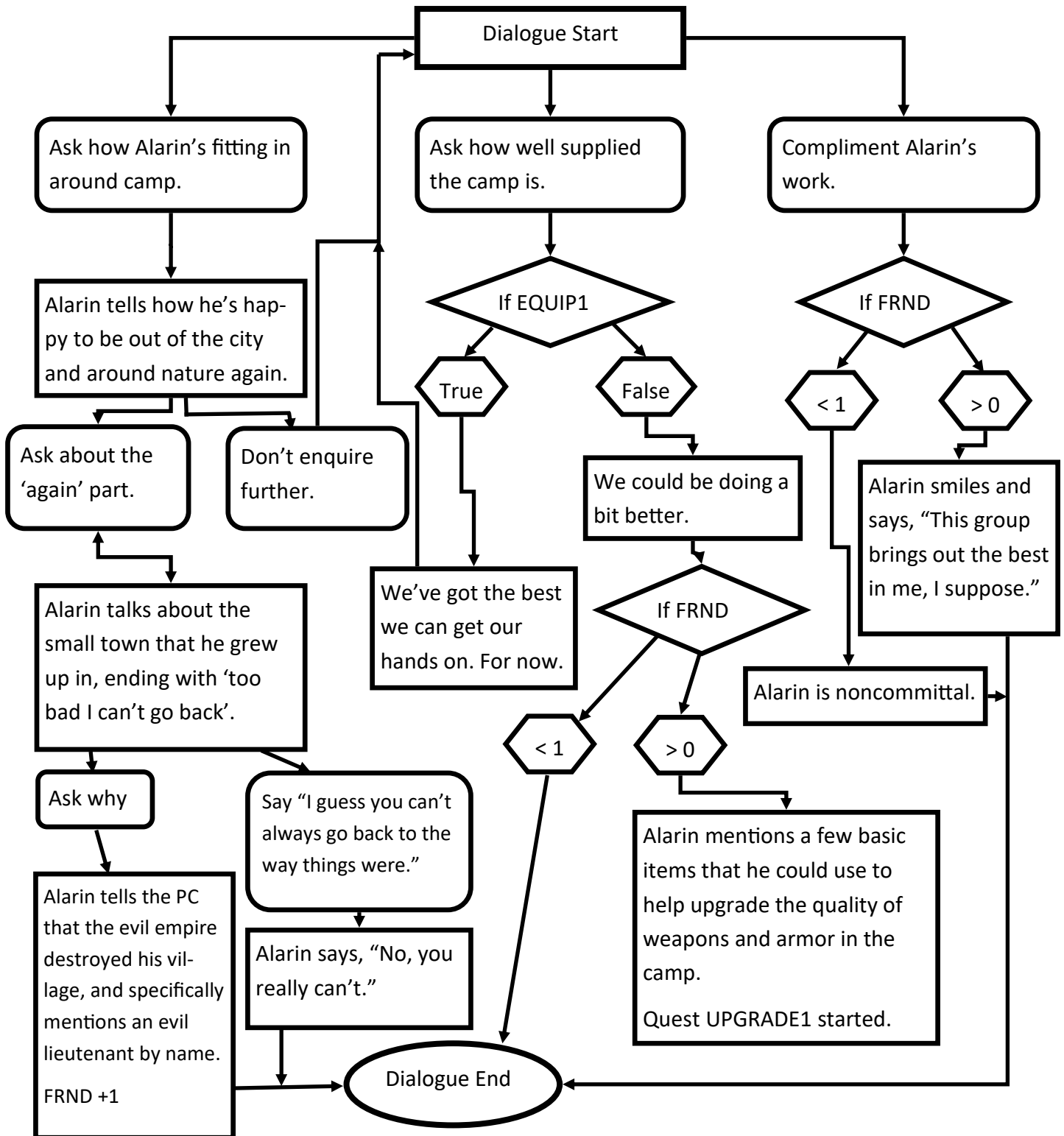
Options:

- Attempt to follow the ship.
 - *There is a loud crash as an asteroid pings off your hull. Your ship is forced to fall back out of the asteroid field to deal with the damage. (Lose 5 hull points)*
- Let it go.
 - *Nothing happens.*
- (Improved Sensors) Attempt to intercept it on the other side of the asteroid field.

- 3) Encounter with an ancient artifact where the crew must choose whether to salvage scrap, an ancient weapon, or a star map before something either destroys the artifact or chases away the ship. An additional choice required beforehand to delay the explosion or chase would be good. The star map will add a quest marker to the next sector.

[illegible]

This is a sample conversation with Alarin, your blacksmith companion. He is taciturn, and does not respond well to flattery, sarcasm, or flirtation unless he is already friendly with the PC. We need a line of questions that will have him talk about his yearning for the quiet life of his now-destroyed village where the PC may gain friendship with him, and once he has greater than 0 friendship, we need a line of dialogue that will lead to him deciding to upgrade the weapons and armor of the party. If there is room, add an additional flirtation option that he may respond to if he is friends with the PC. The numeric variables that can change are: FRND (Friendliness), RI (Romantic Interest) and the Boolean variable that can change is: EQUIP1 (Equipment upgrade 1) and the Quest marker that can start is UPGRADE1. If you could pave the way for Alarin's future personal quest in his backstory dialogue, please do.



We need a sample conversation with Ik'thul, a powerful reptilian warrior who has joined the crew of your spaceship. The Rrosha race thinks of humans as somewhat soft and squishy, as his race is hardy, has natural armor, and has redundant organs. (Note: because of this redundancy, they have a habit of referring to bravery as 'having a set of quads') In spite of their reputation in this quadrant for being mindless thugs, he is actually a weapons expert, and will be willing to upgrade your weapons if you impress him with your toughness. His race has a tendency to use head-butts with the armored plate on their forehead to show dominance and/or toughness, and the animators would love to animate the PC headbutting a Rrosha. The numeric variable that can be unlocked is: FRND. The Boolean variables that must be unlocked to gain his respect are: PROW (Proving your battle prowess) and PHYS (Proving your physical toughness for a human.) Once FRND >1 and the two Booleans are true, the quest this unlocks is: GUNPWR1 (Upgrading your weapons to do more knockback damage)

