

Masque of the Red Death – Nijmegen Campaign

By Jennifer

In the summer of 2006 I ran a short 2nd edition Masque of the Red Death campaign. It lasted only for four sessions and this is a transcript of those sessions.

Background

The story takes place in the Netherlands, from Monday 24th of February to Thursday the 27th of February in the year 1890. Most of the action takes place in the city of Nijmegen.

The year 1890 is a difficult one for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. King Willem III lays dying in his palace 't Loo in Apeldoorn. His young wife Queen Regent Emma takes care of matters of state, with the help of Prime Minister Aeneas Mackay in 's Gravenhage¹. The only living legitimate child of King Willem is his ten year old daughter Crown Princess Wilhelmina. It is highly unlikely that King Willem will live out the year, so Queen Regent Emma is already ensuring that she will take the Regency for her daughter Crown Princess Wilhelmina. And then Wilhelmina will ascend the throne when she comes of age.

Forbidden Lore

In Nijmegen a man lays claim to the throne. He claims to be the son of King Willem III. This might well be true, in his younger years King Willem was definitely a ladies man, which caused a lot of strife between him and his first wife, Queen Sofia. Nobody knows how many bastards the King might have sired. The claimant has a lot of followers, who follow him for different reasons. One very important reason is that many people think that a woman should not rule the Kingdom. They feel only man can be a King.

Furhermore, at this point in time, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is still part of the Netherlands, but because Wilhelmina is a woman she cannot inherit it, so it will revert to a cousin, Adolphe, Duke of Nassau. If a man were to follow King Willem III, the Netherlands would not lose the Grand Duchy.

Lastly there is a lot of tension between Catholics and Protestants in the Netherlands at the moment. The Royal family are all protestants and this is part of the history of the Netherlands. But in the southern part of the Netherlands live a lot of Catholics, who feel that they are discriminated against in Dutch society. Although a lot of progress has been made, they still feel that they are second rate citizens. They support the claimant, because Nijmegen is a strongly Catholic city and the claimant comes from Nijmegen and promises to support the Catholic cause.

For more information

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Netherlands

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_monarchy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_III_of_the_Netherlands

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_of_the_Netherlands

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nijmegen>

<http://www.noviomagus.nl/home1.html>

¹ The long name of The Hague.

The Players

Roel Bleeker; tradesman journalist, played by Marie

Roel is a journalist for the Staatscourant, a newspaper which reports on the decisions of the government. He is part of the political circles in The Hague and knows a lot about journalism, photography and the laws of the Netherlands. He is part of the group to give his opinion on the legal aspects of this strange case.

Matheus Petrus Maria van Dijk; mystic spiritualist, played by Bart

Matheus is a Catholic priest, originally from Nijmegen but nowadays he lives in The Hague. There he ministers to a small congregation. He is very loyal to the Royal family and the state.

Willem van Buren; tradesman detective, played by Richard

Willem is an agent of the ministry of Domestic Affairs. His job description is a bit shady, he solves problems. Right now he wants to solve the problem of the claimant.

Korneel de Witt; tradesman detective, played by Sander

Korneel is also an agent of the ministry of Domestic Affairs, with an equally shady job description. His mission is to uncover the extent of the support for the claimant and the extent of the Catholic resistance to the current government.

Marcus Haanstra; tradesman parson, played by Ellen

Marcus is a protestant reverend and he ministers to the members of the Royal court. Not to the Royal family directly, because he is rather junior, but to their servants and other hangers on.

Session I

The Hague; Monday February 24th 1890, 0900h

In the early morning of Monday 5 men announce themselves at the Palace Noordeinde for an audience with Her Majesty Queen Regent Emma and His Excellence Prime Minister Mackay. The men know each other vaguely as members of the lower circles of Dutch politics. Willem and Korneel are colleagues, Roel is a journalist and both Marcus and Matheus are members of the clergy, although they belong to different religions.

They are received by the Queen Regent and the Prime Minister in a small salon. The salon is very richly appointed with chairs, tables, cushions, curtains and illuminations. They party is served some tea with biscuits. Willem and Matheus are both so nervous that they embarrassingly spill their tea². But discreet and well trained maids clean up the mess quickly.

When everybody has finished their tea, Queen Regent Emma quickly comes to the point. As everybody knows her husband King Willem III is seriously ill and will probably not live out the year. At the moment she takes care of all matters of state. After his death she will continue to do so as Queen Regent for their daughter, Crown Princess Wilhelmina, who is only 10.

This is all very problematical. But to complicate matters there is a man in Nijmegen, a stronghold of Catholic resistance to the Protestant State and Royal family, who claims to be a son of King Willem III and since he is older than Wilhelmina³, he wants to claim the throne. This Leopold van der Plas claims that his mother the actress Mimi⁴ van der Plas was married

² Failed etiquette rolls

³ He is even older than Emma, who was really young when she married the elderly Willem.

⁴ It is hard to find a name that sounds more slutty

to King Willem III when he was born. This would mean he is the oldest surviving heir to King Willem III and should inherit the throne.

Leopold can count on a lot of support in Nijmegen and the rest of the Netherlands. The Catholics will support him against the Protestant Royal family, people who want to see a man on the throne will support him against Queen Regent Emma and Crown Princess Wilhelmina and those who want to hang on to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will also support him against Crown Princess Wilhelmina.

Queen Regent Emma and Prime Minister Mackay have an assignment for the group. They must travel to Nijmegen and neutralise⁵ the influence of Leopold. If they find any documents which support his claims to the throne, they must be destroyed. Any proof at all that Leopold van der Plas is who he claims to be must be utterly destroyed, this is not a time at which the legitimacy of the Crown and State can be in doubt.

The group still has a few questions before they depart. Marcus wants to go look for all sorts of documents concerning the life and history of Leopold and the actress Mimi at the City Hall, Churches and Hospitals in Nijmegen. He also wants to find Mimi to ask her questions about the parentage of her son.

Roel wonders if someone born in Catholic Nijmegen would also be baptized as a Catholic and whether this would be an obstacle to ascending the throne. He realizes that it would, but if Leopold can count on a lot of popular support and manages to unleash some sort of riot or revolution, he could probably get away with it. Baptisms are also documented.

Then the party goes off to Nijmegen by train. With a harrowing speed of 30 miles an hour the train thunders through the Dutch landscape. After a journey of about 4 hours, they travel over the new rail-bridge over the river Waal into Nijmegen, a masterpiece of modern engineering. At the train-station, which is still being constructed, they are awaited by Johannes van Hees, and old friend of Matheus, who was with him on the seminary. He introduces himself as a contact of the government and takes them to Café le Velo in the centre of Nijmegen.

In the Café Johannes tells the group more details about the problem of Leopold. He says that there are rumours which claim that King Willem III divorced his first wife Queen Sofia in 1851⁶, after that he quickly married the actress Mimi van der Plas and in 1852 Leopold was born⁷. This is shocking news! Roel immediately realises the implications of this⁸. The divorce of the King and Queen, would make the marriage of the King and Mimi legal and thus their issue legitimate. If they are still married, the marriage to Queen Regent Emma is not legal and Crown Princess Wilhelmina is illegitimate.

On the other hand a secret marriage between the King and anyone, without the consent and support of parliament immediately makes the King no longer a King. The throne would then go to the next legitimate heir, in this case Adolphe, Duke of Nassau, a distant relative.

Johannes goes on to tell that the next evening Leopold will come to the Old Orphanage, a Catholic orphanage for the children of Nijmegen. He will address the board of the orphanage, all influential Catholic citizens of Nijmegen. Apparently they will meet to discuss the financial state of the orphanage, but in reality, they will come to listen to Leopold.

Roel wants to meet with the head editor of the local newspaper, the Geldersch Dagblad. He wants to ask the editor some questions and look through older editions of the paper to find references to Mimi, if she was an actress, there must be reviews of her performances and advertisements for her shows. Roel also wants to come to the meeting of the

⁵ The group picked up the euphemism in one go.

⁶ In the real world her family pushed for a divorce in this year, the couple stayed married, but led separate lives after that.

⁷ Which makes him older than Queen Regent Emma by 6 years.

⁸ Successful Academics, law.

Board of the Old Orphanage, to make pictures of both the unknown Leopold and his supporters. Matheus also wants to come along. He thinks that another Catholic priest will not draw any notice in that company. Johannes agrees, he himself will attend the Board meeting, as a representative of the Bishop of 's Hertogenbosch, and Matheus could easily come along.

That night the party takes rooms in a hotel on the marketsquare of Nijmegen. Only Matheus stays in a convent, he goes to the convent of the Carmelites⁹, close to the centre of town.

Late that night Korneel goes to Café the Blaauwe Hand, where he wants to find out more about rumours in Nijmegen. He hears some rumours about a famous prostitute from years back. She was known as Black Mimi. This is the only Mimi the people in the Blaauwe Hand have heard of.

Session II

Nijmegen; Tuesday February 25th 1890

This morning the group wakes up and takes breakfast in the dining room of the Hotel. After some time they are joined by Matheus, who comes from the convent. The party makes some plans for the day.

Korneel wants to find out more about Black Mimi. Was she the same Mimi as the mother of Leopold? Why her nickname black, was she blackskinned? Korneel wants to do some research in the archives of the City Hall of Nijmegen. He wants to find documents which prove the existence of Mimi and Leopold. Willem wonders if Leopold is influential enough to forge papers proving his connection to the King. Marcus adds that Leopold might not be his real name.

Korneel finds no evidence of the existence of Leopold in the archives of City Hall. He goes on to the hospital as well, to look through patient records, to see if he can find a record of the birth of Leopold. He finds nothing there either. He wonders if it is because it was never there, or because someone took the papers away.

Marcus does some research into Leopold in records of several churches. He finds references to a Leopold, who is now six years old! He quickly concludes that this must be a different Leopold. Willem researches schools looking for Leopold. He also finds only a six year old boy. This must also be the wrong one.

Roel has arranged a meeting with Simon Langendam, the head editor of the Geldersch Dagblad. This is a very Catholic oriented newspaper with a mission. The head editor wants to use the newspaper to educate the Catholics on their rights in Dutch society and to illuminate all the discrimination still taking place and to arouse the feelings of the populace against those inequalities.

The meeting goes very well. Simon immediately takes Roel for a fellow Catholic and a supporter of Leopold's cause¹⁰. He tells Roel he also supports Leopold and his cause. Simon cannot tell much about Leopold's youth and background. But that is not strange. The Royal Court would have taken care of a woman like Mimi and made sure that there was no way for her to complain about her status or worry about money. She would have been able to raise her son in all privacy.

Simon invites Roel to come to a meeting of members of the Board of the Old Orphanage. All prominent Catholics of the city have a place on that Board and Leopold will come to speak that evening. Some of them are important supporters of Leopold. Roel says he would really like to attend that meeting.

Then Roel asks for old newspapers to read. He hopes to find articles about Leopold or Mimi. In newspapers from the period 1845 to 1851 he reads several very small articles about

⁹ Nowadays it is apartments for students and I lived in it for about three years.

¹⁰ A successful Charisma check

a “fallen woman” who gets into fights with other women and “passers-by”. The name of this woman is Black Mimi. This is all he can find on Mimi or Leopold.

The group comes together again and compare notes. They wonder whether the highest Catholic authority in the area is aware of Leopold and his plans and the support he has managed to gather. Korneel and Willem want to travel to ‘s Hertogenbosch and talk to the Bishop on this subject.

Matheus will go with Johannes van Hees to the Board meeting and Roel will accompany Simon Langendam. They will try to find out what they can. Korneel and Willem will take up positions at both entrances to the Orphanage, so they can follow Leopold to his home, as he leaves the meeting.

As it is only afternoon and the meeting will be later in the evening, Korneel decides to talk to the prostitutes of Nijmegen, to see what he can find out about Black Mimi. After some searching he finds a very ugly and old prostitute. She tells him she remembers the days in which Black Mimi was active on the streets. Black Mimi was as crazy as they get, she was called black because of her ravenblack hair. Once Mimi even clawed her with her bare hands and left a terrible scar. Mimi disappeared after some time. She said she had a new lover, a very rich man, who was stupid enough to marry her. She was never seen again, whether she still is with her husband, or lies dead at the bottom of the Waal, no-one knows or cares. Korneel asks the old woman if she knows about any children Mimi might have had. She tells him that any children probably went to the Orphanage.

Later that night Korneel hides near the front entrance of the Orphanage and Willem takes up position near the servants entrance. Roel and Matheus enter with their respective hosts. The Board meeting is not that interesting. There is much talk about the financial aspects of running an Orphanage for about 30 children.

Afterwards a man of about 30 years stands up and delivers a speech. He looks very charismatic with his unruly black hair. The speech is very rousing and is about the bad position of Catholics in Nijmegen and the rest of the Netherlands. Then he unfolds his plan to take the throne after the death of his father, also a known friend of Catholics.

The speech gets a lot of positive response from the members of the Board and Johannes van Hees. Matheus and Roel are not so impressed however¹¹.

Roel wants to make a picture of the group around Leopold. Everybody loves to go on the photo, as this is still a relatively new medium.

Matheus wants to know more about the plans of Leopold. He tells Matheus that he has documents with which he can prove his claim to the throne. He wants to show these to parliament after the death of his father. So they will have no choice but to proclaim him. Furthermore, Leopold can count on the support of large parts of the populace, the members of parliament will certainly listen to the will of the people.

Roel asks some questions about the youth and mother of Leopold. It seems strange to him that no friends from his youth or his family seem to support his cause publicly. He answers that his mother and friends from his childhood definitely support his cause, but that they have chosen a life outside the realm of politics. He respects their decision by keeping their private lives private.

The meeting is really over now and in ones and twos the men leave the Orphanage. Outside Korneel sees a man exit the building who looks remarkably like King Willem III in his younger days. Deciding that this must be Leopold, he signals his colleague and they discreetly follow Leopold through Doddendaal and then through the Parkdwaarsstraat, towards the old city walls and the Kronenburger Park. Willem and Korneel move from shadow to

¹¹ They made their saving throws versus spell.

shadow until suddenly the world goes completely dark and they are no longer able to see anything.

Session III

Nijmegen Tuesday 25th of February 1890, 2200h

Korneel and Willem follow Leopold through the Parkdwarsstraat, when suddenly they are surrounded by darkness. They can see nothing anymore, where the street was illuminated a few seconds ago by the light from the streetlamps and the moon. Korneel does not understand what is going on and Willem thinks he has gone blind.

With one hand on the walls of the houses, Korneel tries to find his way. By means of whistling Korneel and Willem try to keep in touch with each other. Slowly they make their way forward. Finally Korneel manages to step out of the unnatural darkness into the normal darkness of the winter night. He is relieved to see he has not gone blind. Very bravely Korneel turns around and walks back into the darkness. He thinks Leopold is in there somewhere and wants to find him.

Willem also manages to walk out of the darkness. From the remnants of the old city walls he looks out into the Kronenburger Park. He wonders if Leopold went into the Park, but there are only drunken tramps in the Park. Together with Korneel he returns to the hotel. They confer with their friends about the happenings of that evening. Roel thinks Leopold must live in one of the houses in the middle of the unnatural darkness.

The next morning the group discusses what to do next. Willem has done some early morning research, the darkness of the night before is gone. Roel tells all about the meeting. Willem tells all about the events after the meeting.

Marcus and Matheus think that the darkness is the work of the devil. Leopold is obviously in touch with dark forces in his drive to achieve the throne. This scares Willem, if someone has sold their soul to the devil, how can ordinary mortals stand against that? Marcus and Matheus tell him to put his faith in God. Korneel wonders how Leopold was able to cause the darkness. Willem adds to that the rumours that his mother Mimi was strange as well, with her claws.

The group goes to do some more research. Roel thinks Leopold must live near the darkness and he goes back to City Hall to research the inhabitants of that street. Willem wants to do some more research into unnatural happenings, since Leopold is clearly unnatural. Marcus and Roel also want to investigate banks, since Leopold is receiving money to fund his cause.

Marcus finally has success with his researches. He finds the Association for the Betterment of the Catholic People. The association is in the name of Leopold van der Plas and has an address in Nijmegen, on the Waldeck Pyrmont Singel 25. This is a street in a very new and expensive neighbourhood, built after Nijmegen was allowed to extend beyond the city walls. Marcus wants to go to the address immediately, but not alone. Roel and Matheus accompany him. Korneel and Willem stay behind in the hotel, they are afraid they will be recognized as the followers of Leopold from the night before.

On their way to the house of Leopold, Roel, Marcus and Matheus see a lot of rats, which is strange, as this is a very new, modern and rich neighbourhood. They would expect this in the rundown homes near the harbour. When they arrive at the correct address, they see that the house lies directly next to a very large graveyard. A strange place to build a new home.

The small group hangs around a bit in the street, eyeing the house. It is very large and new, like all houses in this street, but it is strangely rundown. The yard is overgrown with weeds, the paint is peeling, the windows are dark. No-one has lived here for a long time, even though this house is meant for a family with some servants. The group wants to inspect the

house further. As not to attract too much notice, they go around the back and enter the backyard.

From the backyard the group can look into the house. They see that all the furniture is covered with cloths, against the dust. This house is abandoned. Then Marcus wants to try the kitchen door, to see if they can enter that way. Then they are discovered by a servant from the house next door, nr 23. She asks them what they think they are doing. Marcus answers that he is interested in purchasing the house and wonders if he can talk to the owner. The servant tells them that there has been no-one in the house for a long time and she does not know the owner. Roel then asks after the many rats. The servant does not take this well and chases the group away.

The group goes on for some investigation of the graveyard, but they find nothing of interest.

Willem and Korneel have been drinking beer, and after their 3rd glass suddenly realise that they haven't talked to the local police yet¹². They decide to do so immediately. From the police they hear that there is to be some sort of Catholic rally the next day at the end of the afternoon.

Session IV – The Finale

Nijmegen; Wednesday 26th of February 1890, late in the afternoon.

Leopold van der Plas will hold a Catholic rally at the quay along the Waal on Thursday afternoon. Willem and Korneel are worried this will lead to a revolution and they want to kill Leopold before a riot can start.

Roel, Marcus and Matheus are on their way back to the hotel from the Waldeck Pyrmont Singel, the home of Leopold. Matheus is unsure about the future. He uses his bible to prognosticate something about the future. What he reads is not very encouraging, it is about soldiers of King David abandoning him and his cause for King Absalom. This fills him with fear. Shall members of the small party also abandon their cause?

Willem and Korneel want to kill Leopold before or during the speech. So they go to the quay to check out the area in advance. When they arrive there, they see Leopold enter the offices of the Geldersch Dagblad, the newspaper. They cannot pass up this chance, so they move around the back of the building and find an open window. They hear Leopold talking to Simon about the rally of the next day. The more they listen to the mellifluous¹³ voice of Leopold, the more they become convinced that Leopold is the right man for the throne¹⁴.

Willem and Korneel are now convinced that Leopold is the true heir to the throne. The marriage of the King and Mimi was legal. All his claims are true and his case is just. The only thing in the way of his ascending the throne is Queen Regent Emma and her daughter Wilhelmina.

When Roel, Marcus and Matheus return from their expedition to the Waldeck Pyrmont Singel, they find Willem and Korneel gone. They checked out of their hotel rooms. The small group goes to the police to report their friends as missing. At the police station they hear that Willem and Korneel have been there, asking about the Catholic rally of the next day.

Without accomplishing much the group returns to the hotel. Now that they know of the Catholic manifestation, they want a meeting with Simon, head editor of the Geldersch Dagblad. The office of his newspaper is on the quay and they think that the rally will be held there. After they arrive at the office, it becomes clear that Simon is having a meeting with

¹² Yes, wisdom can be found in alcohol.

¹³ I just love this word.

¹⁴ They both failed their saving throw against spells and are now under the influence of Leopold, although Leopold is not aware of this.

Leopold. Marcus discreetly leaves, so he can follow Leopold, as he leaves the meeting. Roel and Matheus stay behind to talk to Simon.

After a while, Simon is free to meet with Roel and Matheus. Simon completely trusts Roel, as a fellow supporter of Leopold's cause. He asks Roel if it is possible that he will take pictures of the rally tomorrow, for posterity. Roel readily agrees and it turns out that Leopold will speak from a balcony at the Geldersch Dagblad office and Roel will take pictures from an adjacent balcony. Roel agrees and will be at the office the next afternoon. Matheus will be in the crowd and cheer Leopold on. It occurs to both Roel and Matheus that Simon seems to be under the influence of something every time he talks about Leopold. His eyes keep getting glassy.

In the meantime Marcus pretends to be peeing against a wall¹⁵. Leopold exits the office of the Geldersch Dagblad and passes him without noticing him. Leopold gets into a small carriage. Marcus follows the carriage through the small and steep streets onto the marketplace. There he also boards a small carriage and follows Leopold. He eventually ends up at the house on the Waldeck Pyrmont Singel. Not being able to do much there, Marcus returns to his friends in the Hotel.

In the hotel, Matheus and Roel are busy preparing for the next day. Roel is using his chemicals to make a bomb, to kill Leopold during the speech. Matheus is busy with writing an inflammatory speech to counteract the words of Leopold. Marcus wants to have the military police on hand, to quell the riots, which will certainly occur. So he goes to the police station to inform them of his fears.

That night Willem and Korneel arrive in The Hague. As agents of the state they manage to get access to the Queen Regent and the Crown Princess. They convince the Queen Regent and the Crown Princess to come with them, as King Willem III now lays dying and wants to see his wife and child one last time. Tearfully Emma and Wilhelmina follow the two agents, first into a carriage and then into a train carriage, reserved for members of the royal family.

As the train leaves the station of The Hague, Willem and Korneel close the doors of the carriage and begin their grisly work. They have thrown coins to decide who will have to kill 10 year old Wilhelmina. They both feel rather bad about this, but they feel it is the only way for Leopold to get his due. It is for the best of the country. Korneel gets to kill the Queen Regent. With one stab of his dagger, she sinks to the ground, mortally wounded. Willem tries to kill the little Princess, but he misses and she gets away. He tries to stab her again, but she keeps slipping through his fingers¹⁶. Wilhelmina sees her mother dead and tries to flee the carriage, she notices the closed and locked doors. She then tries desperately to get out through the windows. Korneel manages to grab her and kill her with one strike¹⁷.

Willem and Korneel try to make the scene look like the work from militant, socialist republicans, who want to violently end the monarchy in the Netherlands, as outdated and undemocratic¹⁸. They do this by pinning notes to the breasts of the victims with the murder weapons. Then they escape into the dark winter night.

The next day Roel, Marcus and Matheus are rather nervous about the plans they have to carry out that day. They hear rumours that the Queen Regent and her daughter are killed. There is no one left to rule the Netherlands, after the death of the King. The party dismisses these rumours and concentrate on their work. Only Marcus suspects that the disappearance of Willem and Korneel might have something to do with this.

¹⁵ If you let women play men, the most horrible stereotypes about men come to the fore.

¹⁶ An embarrassing time to fumble, twice.

¹⁷ This was truly a horrible moment in the game. Everybody felt very bad about this.

¹⁸ Another powerful force in Dutch politics at the time.

Then the afternoon approaches. Roel stands on the balcony of the office of the Geldersch Dagblad, taking test pictures of the other balcony, where Leopold will hold his speech. Both Marcus and Matheus are below, on the quay. There is already a rather large crowd in attendance and the quay keeps filling with people who want to hear what Leopold has to say. Then Leopold appears and starts his speech.

Soon after Leopold has started his speech, Matheus tries to heckle him with another speech and the use of a spell¹⁹. He is too late however, Leopold has already swayed the crowd with his arguments. The crowd boos and hisses at Matheus. Then Matheus forces Leopold to show his true nature, through another spell.

Leopold cannot resist the divine influence behind this spell and his mask falls off. His eyes become red and blazing with rage, his hands turn into huge claws and on his back two huge bat-wings unfold. The crowd on the quay starts to panic and frantically try to get away from the horrible demon. The military police cannot see Leopold and think that a riot has started. They charge into the heaving crowd, adding to the panic. People try to get away and some of them fall into the icy river Waal.

Roel remains level headed on his balcony. He throws the selfmade bomb at Leopold. It falls short, but still detonates with a huge flash, a fire and lots of smoke. Matheus use the mighty wrath of the Lord as a hammer to push Leopold off the balcony into the flames of the bomb. He succeeds, but then the strange phenomena of the local darkness appears again. Roel is not deterred and shoots into the darkness, hoping to hit Leopold. Matheus immediately calls on the Lord to drive away the darkness, and it does so.

Leopold seems to have disappeared, the group can find no trace of him. Later that day they go to his house on the Waldeck Pyrmont Singel and break in. they find quite few papers concerning Leopold, his parents and his birth. It would seem that Leopolds claims were right. He was the legitimate son of Mimi and King Willem III. The party burns it all.

With their mission accomplished, the party returns to The Hague.

Aftermath

After the terrible death of the Queen Regent and the Crown Princess Wilhelmina, the health of King Willem III takes a turn for the worse and he soon dies as well. This leaves the throne of the Netherlands empty. The closest heir is Duke Adolphe of Nassau, a German Duke. He will inherit the throne and crown of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will remain part of the Netherlands for quite some time.

The disappearance of Leopold has taken the sting out of the Catholic resistance movement to Protestant dominance in the Netherlands. In time the situation will improve.

Willem and Korneel have disappeared into obscurity and they are never heard from again. As punishment for the vile deed of murdering an innocent child, they have to go through the rest of their lives with completely black hands.

Roel, Matheus and Marcus manage to get back to The Hague, are shocked by the death of the Queen Regent and the Crown Princess, but with the support of Prime Minister Mackay they manage to get a reward for their contributions to the fall and discrediting of Leopold. They have unremarkable careers in the political circles of The Hague, especially since they themselves don't want to draw attention to their connections with Willem and Korneel.

¹⁹ Enthral