

Finsterland

THE TICKING OF THE CLOCK

A Finsterland adventure

by Georg Pils

SUMMARY

One of the characters' relations asks for their help. A watchmaker from their company, Benjamin Rodvaal, has disappeared without a trace. He was supposed to go to Tiercebourg, a small town far away. Mr. Rodvaal was supposed to repair the public clock on the town's bell tower. Sadly, Tiercebourg cannot yet be reached by rail or telegraph, even the stagecoaches rarely go there. Mr. Rodvaal was supposed to return a week ago.

When the characters reach Tiercebourg, the whole town is busy preparing for the biggest celebration of the year. It is the town jubilee, on the Day of Saint Sphairod, the settlement's patron. The saint's statue is paraded through the streets and finally returned to the temple. This year, there is a special guest: General Aristide de Coublay, a war hero and the town's most famous son. A group of machinators that were under his command during the Great War want to have their revenge on the hero and the town. The general has sacrificed their unit for nothing but his personal glory and while they were left to themselves, he received a hero's welcome. The machinators hid a time bomb in the saint's statue. The fuse was constructed by Mr. Rodvaal. When he found out what they were up to, he was abducted and held captive since then.

It is now up to the characters to prevent a pointless massacre and to bring de Coublay to justice. He has deceived the people of the town about his involvement in the deaths.

STORY STRUCTURE

First scene: The arrival

Second scene: The watchmaker's room

Third scene: Looking for clues in Tiercebourg

Fourth scene: The machinators' hideout

Fifth scene: The parade

CHARACTERS

Benjamin Rodvaal: The watchmaker – He is young, friendly and has curly ginger hair and freckles. His outfit is simple, yet practical.

Mirella Parraine: The hostess – She has a button nose and plaited blond hair. Her eyes are grey and she always wears a traditional outfit, i.e. a colourful dress, white apron and a headscarf.

General Aristide de Coublay: The general – This large man is rather handsome, though old. His hair is grey, his eyes are dark and he always wears his blue uniform.

Jean Lamontagne: The leader of the machinators – His hair is short and blond, he has only one eye. The other one is yet to be replaced. He is athletic and strong. One of his arms is artificial, as is his abdomen and lower body. He wears black clothes.

Adrien Solant: One of the machinators – He wears his hair short and brown. His eyes and hands are prostheses. He too wears black leather clothes.

Gilbert Dojanow: Another machinator – Dojanow is a large man with artificial legs and chest. He is bald and scarred, with grey eyes. More black clothes.

Aurélie Ranour: A supporter of the machinators – This black-clad young woman is sympathetic to the others' cause and mimics their look. She wears black clothes and has shaved her head.

Sphairod: The saint – Usually represented as a wiry man with long white hair, red eyes. He is usually accompanied by a swan.

THE TOWN

Tiercebourg is an old town with a city wall and an ancient temple. It is close to the Outre, a branch of the river Lase. It is currently expanding, with small textile factories springing up in the area. Right now, the working conditions are horrible. The companies try to undercut the major players from Chaissons and are doing everything they can to lower the costs.