

# Maelstrom LARP Primer

Welcome to Maelstrom, a survival horror live-action roleplay experience that will test you in every way—physically, mentally, and emotionally. Set in a Gothic high-fantasy world steeped in darkness and danger, Maelstrom is designed to challenge even the most seasoned players. Every choice matters, and every action counts. Here's what you need to know to begin your journey.

## Player Challenges

Maelstrom pushes players beyond standard LARP challenges, requiring them to overcome a range of physical, mental, and emotional obstacles. You'll encounter:

- **Physical Challenges** – Combat encounters with monsters and hostile forces.
- **Mental Challenges** – Puzzles and intellectual trials that test your character's wit and cunning.
- **Emotional Challenges** – Roleplay-driven moments that delve into personal and often dark themes, testing your character's resilience and fortitude.

The diversity of these challenges demands preparation, adaptability, and resilience—especially as night approaches.

## Core Mechanics: HP and Mana System

The foundation of Maelstrom's gameplay lies in its dual **HP and Mana** system, both crucial to your character's survival and progression. **Health Points (HP)** represent your physical vitality—your buffer against the physical dangers lurking in the Maelstrom. **Mana**, however, drives every action you take. Every skill, ability, and tradeskill use costs mana, which means resource management is key. Combat actions, tradeskills, and utility abilities all draw from your mana pool, requiring you to carefully budget your resources to endure the lurking horrors that await you.

## Survival Horror Elements: Body and Mind

Survival in Maelstrom goes beyond mere physical endurance; it's about balancing body and mind against mounting horrors.

- **Exhaustion** – Your character's energy and stamina will be taxed throughout the game. Maintaining peak performance requires you to rest safely, eat, and drink regularly, reflecting the toll that survival takes on the body. Without these things, your ability to combat the threats facing you will be diminished.

- **Sanity** – In a world filled with unspeakable sights and morally gray decisions, your character’s mental resilience will be tested as well. **Sanity** tracks the toll of what you experience as you delve deeper into Maelstrom’s dark world. Every eerie encounter, dreadful sight, or questionable act may erode your mental stability, impacting how your character perceives and interacts with the world. The longer you survive, the more your character’s humanity may be challenged, testing their resolve and potentially reshaping them.

Together, these systems immerse you in a suspenseful atmosphere where even a small misstep could mean losing more than just HP.

## Nothing is Permanent

In Maelstrom, impermanence is a defining feature of the game. Resources and skills degrade over time, making sustainability a constant struggle. In Maelstrom, **loot** that you find on adventures or from fighting monsters is the only truly permanent asset. Spellbooks, tradeskill recipes, and scrolls degrade with time, requiring players to adapt constantly. To use a scroll more than once, it must be recorded in a Recipe, Spell, or Technique book; otherwise, all scrolls are single-use only. **Spellbooks expire annually** forcing players to continually search for new supplies and replacements to keep their skills sharp and their powers active. **Tradeskill scrolls come with limited uses** but can be transferred to new recipe books when an old one expires. Mastering this delicate system of ephemeral resources is essential for players who hope to thrive within the ever-shifting landscape of Maelstrom.

## Daylight vs. Nighttime

The time of day in Maelstrom profoundly influences gameplay and survival strategies.

- During the **daylight hours**, you’ll find relative safety for gathering resources, crafting, and exploring outside the main settlement. These daylight hours are your opportunity to prepare for the night ahead, creating tradeskill items, forging alliances, and fortifying the town. **Green and Blue tabard** creatures – representing lesser threatening creatures – will be roaming the town.
- When **night falls**, everything changes. The Maelstrom forces become aggressive, and venturing out alone or even in pairs is highly dangerous. At night, **Blue and Black tabard difficulty** monsters emerge, while **Green tabard creatures**—representing lesser threats—are nowhere to be found. The night demands you band together around fires, fortify your defenses, and work with allies to fend off attacks. Every decision and action becomes more intense as you struggle to survive until dawn.

In Maelstrom, survival is a matter of grit, ingenuity, and teamwork. Every challenge—from physical combat to mental endurance and emotional resilience—will test your resolve, and the unique mechanics of impermanence, sanity, and resource management ensure that the world is constantly evolving. As daylight turns to night, and relative safety fades into peril, your character's story will be shaped by the choices you make and the allies you keep close. Embrace the uncertainty, steel yourself for the darkness, and step into the world of Maelstrom prepared to push the limits of body and mind. Here, only the strongest and most resourceful will last through the night.