



March 1602

Steamy Ink Press^{5c}

Lifestyle news to share over tea

Back for another year of reporting the news you care about!

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A Lifestyle
Paper for the
Townsfolk of
Maplewood

Steamy Ink Press is a division of Steamy Ink Publishing (copyright pending). Our mission is to provide in-depth news to the people of Maplewood about the most entertaining topic: the People of Interest that flit through town. What are they doing? Why are they here? Are they single? We aim to answer these questions for you!

It is our goal to provide you a perfect conversation piece to share that pairs well with tea and great friends!

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Superficial Sylvan Socialite's Salacious Snowy Style Scandalizes Syphilis' Service

The marriage of Hisul to Pearl Silversmith turned into quite a situation last winter when Eoin of the Lightsworn showed up to the wedding in all white, overshadowing the unfortunate demise of the groom and disappearance of the bride.

This has sent shockwaves through Maplewood. Eoin has long been regarded as one of the top fashionistas of the Freelands, alongside Catori and Lotharwen. Eoin has not been spotted with the two all winter, and it seems that after this faux pas she has stepped away from the spotlight for some time alone this winter.

One wedding guest stated "The audacity to show up to a wedding in all white, but then to add a veil?! It's completely

classless." Another was quoted as saying "Even if it weren't a wedding, wearing white after Harvest Fest is such a no-no. She should know better."



Others have rallied to her defense. "The bride wasn't even wearing white, and Eoin pulled the look off." An unnamed adventurer stated "She had been wearing that outfit for months before she was even aware that a wedding was taking place. Plus that whole white wedding dress is entirely a Vleanoan

tradition, and an outdated one at that."

Unfortunately the wedding was cut short as Joy, filled with rage at being slighted by Syphilis, barged in to interrupt the nuptials and cause a riot that ended in a bloodbath, the disappearance of the bride, and the demise of the bridegroom. Unsurprisingly, no one is upset at that turn of events.

Eoin took the break to reflect and write a new book, "Enchanted Elegance: Blooms of Eveandra" in which she describes the many ways that flowers can be used to convey messages, emotions, and the best ways to arrange them (review on page 4). At the time of publishing, she was unavailable for comment.

Frozen Assets: Winter Slows Local Adventuring Economy

After many adventurers were noted to go to Varganien over the winter break, rumors started swirling that maybe the adventuring economy in the town isn't quite what it used to be. After investigation, it appears that many adventurers took the sword of Qa'Watie Kharn that was buried in the middle of the town field back to Varganien to Wahkarn. Why there was an excessive amount of highly skilled people required to do this task has yet to be determined.

"I mean, I don't blame them for going to Varganien" said local innkeeper Damiano. "It's like a shiny new toy and they all have the attention span of a caffeinated pixie."

This writer, while not an adventurer, must also admit to going back home to Civen this winter as I found it difficult to stay warm whenever someone would forget to shut the door at the Jenny and the inevitable draft would come through. Apparently it is fairly common for people to flock home as the Elemental ushers in the Yuletide season; an unnamed town constable referred to these adventurers as "snowbirds".

"Much like you, Poppy, not everyone likes to be cold all winter. Plenty of adventurers go back to their homes when the weather is less than favorable to relax and catch up with their loved ones. Strangely, the monsters also do not like the inhospitable temperatures and go into a sort of hibernation." He paused and looked

thoughtful. "Truthfully, we have *less* deaths when the adventurers are away."

When approached about the Brownfoxes leaving town for Yule and if they consider themselves snowbirds, Makhno is quoted as saying "Our home is on the F'ionne Aileen border with Gersh. It's colder than a hag's tit there."

Not all of the townsfolk believe being a "snowbird" is a good thing.

"After what happened to Pinedale when all the adventurers left, I've been watching the lake reeeeeeeal closely." Harriet, member of the Maplewood Historical Society, looked slightly worried. "I mean, it was glowing blue for a while back in the beginning of December. So far it's been quiet, but I won't sleep well until they are back and we have solid evidence that our town won't become another Freelands lake."

And, of course, there are those who resent people who don't stay to ensure the town safety.

"If they ain't able to handle the Elemental when she's in her frigid bitch phase, they don't deserve her in her hot girl summer phase." said a slight old woman, who at the time of her interview was making an Elemental shrine out of remaining snowfall. "May she smite them with heat blisters and ugly tan lines."

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- The local blacksmith's daughter, who was betrothed to the baker's son, ran off instead with the baker's daughter right before the wedding. The two of them have not been seen since, rumors say that they may have gone to check out the disappearing cabin. Or maybe they just eloped elsewhere.
 - Someone is going around saying if you click your shoes together three times, spin around, and eat a myconoid spore you will go to the well and back. We do not recommend trying this.
 - Local ooze farmer Big Momma has a boyfriend after many years of running the farm by herself! Now is a good time to try to get a discount on some compost moss or body disposal services.
 - A reliable source states that they spoke with a dryad that says the apple trees are mad their apples were harvested too early this year. Apparently the trees are planning on making the apples extra sour for next harvest. Good news for those that like sour apples!

while
you
were
away...

WINTER TEA PARTY REPORT!

Lorelei's First Annual Winter Tea Extravaganza

Yonx's Superior Tea Party

A Prominent Civen Patrician braved the dangers of the Freelands to provide valuable dietary and life advice to her wayward daughters while attending Lorelei Levanestra's first annual Winter Tea Party. After advising her daughters on what foods they should avoid, such as brownies and chocolate balls, she spent the majority of the tea party conversing about the best ways to raise children. She set a wonderful example for the young elf and gave several pointers on how to teach her future brood to conduct themselves appropriately.

"Treat all your children as if you love them equally and make sure to have proper matches picked out for them, because Sept knows kids can't make their own choices." she advised.

"Otherwise they wind up in the freelands consorting with widowers and Vleano- people with questionable upbringing."

As if trying to prove their mother right, Poppy spent most of the party making snide remarks and eating sugary treats with no nutritional value despite the abundance of cucumber sandwiches, and Lynn busied herself with imbuing as much alcohol as possible. A fun time was had by all invitees, and the second annual Winter Tea Party is sure to be just as exciting!



After not being given an invitation to Lorelei's party, Yonx hosted his own party at the Steamy Ink Publishing storefront (with the owner's blessing given post event). Yonx's tea party consisted of guests who were shunned or chose not to attend Lorelei's party, along with being the spot for the after party when Lorelei's wound down.

"I heard it was superior." Enzo, who did not attend the tea party, told SIP when we asked around for feedback on it.

Another adventurer commented "It was a tea party. But I don't know if you can top the family drama that was at Lorelei's."

Yonx entertained his guests by playing the classic game of "Poison Roulette", in which one cup was spiked with Anesthesia and everyone drank from their cups at the same time without investigating them. Unfortunately, local Apothecary Wolfbane lost and was asleep for a good chunk of the party.

Yonx lamented his disappointment that he was unable to attend Lorelei's party, but surely this oversight will be fixed at her next soiree.

Enchanted Elegance: Blooms of Evenandra

Author: Eoin

To be Released in 1602

I recently had the delight of being given an advanced reader's copy of Eoin's upcoming book, Enchanted Elegance: Blooms of Evenandra. In it, Eoin details the different flowers that can be found in the nation and how they can be arranged to make meaningful and gorgeous arrangements.

Additional Quotes:

While occasionally dry, I found the way Eoin uses words to describe the art of the bouquet to be entrancing. In her own words "...art is an excellent reminder that art, at its core, can be a form of sacred worship—a way to honor the beauty that surrounds us and the eternal dance of life in all its forms" (page 21). She also states that "A floral arrangement comes to life when carefully selected flowers and foliage are thoughtfully placed into a container, guided by a deliberate plan" (page 36). Using floral design, Eoin describes a way to express an art form often gone unnoticed by those who don't appreciate the local flora or tend to the gardens at their homes.

Overall, Eoin paints a colorful picture of how to best express your affections to a loved one, your bitterness to an enemy, or how to appease the Elemental's sensibilities. It is well worth a read for anyone who has interest in the stories that flowers can tell.

- "Fresh bouquets, embodying the vitality of life and the cycles of nature, may be chosen to symbolize new beginnings, love, or tragically the transient beauty of existence." page 4

- "Unlike a dried bouquet, the life within a fresh bouquet creates a tangible connection with nature as the life that flows through those blooms still carries a bit of Her essence in them." page 4

- "All arrangements should have a focal point to attract immediate attention or interest while maintaining a form of communication on how to view the piece. Almost as if it is a story composed within a florally woven tapestry." page 61

- "These foundational elements and principles extend beyond floral design, permeating various art forms. Beauty, harmony, and expression emerge as inherent attributes of a well-executed design, creating an arrangement that not only pleases the eye but also communicates a meaningful theme or idea reflective of the artist's unique personality." page 37



Fun Flower Meanings

Begonias: Beware, warnings
Belladonna: Silence
Foxglove: Secrets
Iris: Valor, wisdom, faith
Chamomile: patience in adversity
Lavender: Distrust
Roses (red): Love

Sage: Wisdom, immortality
Thyme: Courage, strength
Violet: Watchfulness, faith
Lotus: Purity, enlightenment
Poppies: Eternal sleep, consolation
Marigold: Grief, jealousy
Sunflower: Adoration, loyalty

Dearest Reader,

Another winter gone, another gossip season coming in. It's actually rather difficult to find good gossip when you've been away for three months but I couldn't stop myself from sitting around the Jenny, digging into what trouble People of Interest were getting themselves into.

After being spotted getting rather close in the inn last year, T was sighted at P's residence several times over the winter despite the fact "She never really entertains people at her personal villa", according to a rather chatty source. "It's quite the little scandal in our friend group." Personally, I believe the real scandal is that P has her own personal villa away from her family estate and I just found out about it.

E recently spent the winter writing and publishing a very interesting paper on the proper arrangement of flowers and the most aesthetically pleasing way to incorporate them into everyday life. Flower fashion is a new development here that may just move her up in the world, perhaps to the level of Lotharwen or Catori? Although I can't imagine the pinnacles of style would even dream of wearing white to a wedding.

After being seen bravely putting themselves on the line to try and evict a tea party from using the meeting room of the Embassy before winter, the same Constable was nowhere to be seen when the bazaar was taken over later that same day and bravely defended by W. Where are their priorities? Clearly it is with tea, as Constables have been seen frequenting tea ceremonies labeled as "Superior Tea Parties" by Yonx the snow goblin. Perhaps they are scouting him to join their clearly slim ranks?

After a friend was invited to a rather pedestrian dinner party without her consort, she spilled a lot of interesting details to me on the newest additions to the Chainbreaker s. It turns out K is absolutely obsessed with knowing everything M is doing, going as far as only reading the bits of SIP that he is mentioned in. . . Unusual, considering they are actually related.

T was also seen at this dinner, also without a consort, and heard asking questions during Truth for Truth about "sleeping" with people. These questions did not seem to garner the response he was hoping for, as most of the replies were "I don't know, I'm sleeping!" Perhaps T is referring to intercourse and is insecure about his abilities (or perhaps lack of experience) in the sexual department?

B has still not been seen around town, and the Firekeepers are starting to look pretty sparse. Anyone looking to join up with an adventuring group is encouraged to send a message to them, care of Catori. They are not actively recruiting as far as we know, but this writer believes they could use more people in their party as more friends make for more fun. There is likely a rigorous interviewing process, please be ready for anything if you apply. If anyone sees B, we still need a cat rescued from a tall tree. B, if you are able to rescue the cat, please bring them to Poppy and Abacus' cat rescue.

This writer has it on good authority that cult masks, once placed on your face, do not come off. Please, for the love of the Sept, do not try on any strange masks you may find in the woods. If you do, it will likely be stuck there forevermore. Please note, SIP does not take responsibility for any mask placing choices made by others. SIP will not be responsible for medical bills or emotional damages incurred by placing strange cult masks on your face. All cult mask placing is undergone at mask placer's risk.

Yours truly,

Madam Mapleleaf

Fashion Advice: Patch the Holes in Your Clothes!

As the spring rolls in and the adventurers return, it's time that we discussed something important: maintenance of one's clothing. After I noticed a certain Consul who won't be named had several holes in the back of his undertunic, it came to my attention that many of the People of Interest in town have patchable holes or tears in their garb. "Have you SEEN how many times I get stabbed in a day? Why would I wear my good clothes?" Titus smarted back at my comment mentioning how he complains about having nothing to spend his money on but can't just go and buy a new undertunic from one of the many local tailors. It then came to my attention later that another prominent person had holes in their pants.

Readers of SIP, to this I must say: Really? The residents in our town deserve better. The People of Interest provide assistance to many of us, are often rewarded with coin, and then instead of contributing back to the economy and supporting the local businesses they penny pinch and won't do something as simple as throw a couple copper at someone to sew a patch onto a tunic. This should not and cannot stand. Next time you see someone who has a tear or hole in their clothing, you should direct them to one of the tailors with an open waiting list who can fix it for them.

Listen I'm not defending Hisul or anything, but the marriage is sacred and weddings should be respected. Did it benefit him to marry into Clan Silversmith? Maybe but all marriages have power dynamics and benefits in them. Everything I heard was that he was madly in love with his bride, enough to risk the anger the adventuring elite of Maplewood by ending his summer fling with that fortune teller they all go to. (She's a single mother by the way. Won't say who the father is.) That's why they killed him; the adventurer class needed a show of power." You hurt one of us, we kill you." That's all they ever do, that's expected. But to do it on his wedding day? That's just in defiance of the Sept. I'm sure some will say "Oh he's a genocidal maniac who was going to invade Terra" Wake up, he was MARRYING A TERRAN. How can he want to kill them all when he was marrying one? And invading? The dragons held the land they call

Terra now way before Terra was a thing. No the adventuring Elite don't care about that, he was spitting in their face and opposing their secret hold on the town and had to die. That's what those adventurers do. They kill anyone who questions them and try to make us Sept fearing Maplewoodians live in fear. It's like that mind plague that was going around and had apparently infected everyone and then just disappeared one afternoon? Suspicious that it was only after everyone had already bought gloves. Look who benefited. The tanners! I never caught the plague though. You know why? Pine needle tea. I drink a cup with breakfast lunch and dinner. It keeps your immune system up.

Editors note: We decline to print the next paragraph, as it is an obvious ad for his pine needle tea business and he paid for us to publish an opinion article.

Battle Tidings With Emeric Barnes

Birth Announcement: Rosidian December 1st, 1601

This month we bring news of a "Joy"ous occasion- on December 1st, 1601 Joy welcomed the first baby dragon in known memory, christened Rosidian, to the world. A healthy red and black scaled drake, "Rosi" was born surrounded by friends and family to much fanfare.

Currently the child is in drake form for the sake of survival, but is officially the last living baby dragon to exist in Novitas. Joy asks that people stop asking her for her child's blood, and SIP would like to point out how uncouth it is to ask the mother of a newborn for the baby's blood instead of congratulating them and offering to get them a diaper service.

Joy plans on making Rosi's birthday a holy day. When asked for motherly advice, she advises to never put your fingers near a baby dragon's mouth without watching, make sure to bathe them in moonlight whenever possible to increase their bond to Draconus, and make sure to have a massive cult to protect your baby dragon. "It takes a cult, not a village to raise a baby dragon!"

Congratulations to the happy parent!

"Apparently one of the adventurers is in love with an innkeeper at the Jenny. A weird pairing of occupations, but love blossoms regardless I guess."

After a local Grandmother told me the above comment while drinking a pint in the aforementioned Jenny, I came up with a list of potential couples this could be referring to:

- Dante (ie Pretty Boy) and Lance: Have you ever seen them in the same room? I didn't think so. This screams "secret love affair", especially since they seem to hate each other.
- Poppy and Viola: I spend an awful lot of time bribing them to do things like not look when I want to steal someone's food. Maybe I'm in love with them and don't know it?
- Shelaz and Miranda: Another couple never seen in the same room, but both seem to enjoy the same quiet company and food tastes. Perhaps fate will bring the two together some day?



Path Walkers: at your service.

A new local organization, called The Path Walkers, have begun making a name for themselves! When asked what they stand for, one replied:

"We are here to help guide and counsel those of good intent on their paths in life, be they physical or metaphorical, until they discover their natural place in life and, or after, death."

Recently this has included counseling ghosts, helping people with relationship matters, and helping lost travelers find their way through the local woods.

"Depending on which Path Walker you talk to, you will find different levels of help that can be provided. More experienced Path Walkers might be able to assist with the most aid, while a newer Path Walker might seek help, or handle less-complicated matters."

Don't expect them to fight for you though- their goals lie in shedding the least amount of blood possible.

If you are in need of counsel, aid, or guidance, seek them out! You'll know them by the spiral they wear and their introduction to you.

Dear Sophie,

I don't like my present living situation. I was going to live on the surface of Terra because I heard there were going to be some openings there, but that didn't pan out. What about the strange cabin? Does anyone live there? If I can get there first can I claim it for myself?

Sincerely,
Looking for Cheap Housing

Real Estate
Opportunity
or Blatant
Disregard for
Self
Preservation?

Dear Looking,

So sorry to hear that your planned move didn't work out! It seems that there were many people who were planning to move to the surface of Terra recently but it didn't work out due to quite the scandalous wedding.

As for the strange cabin, are you looking for an eccentric home in which you may wake up someplace new every day? Do you crave adventure and excitement? Are you flippant about the value of your life? Then this may indeed be an exciting real estate opportunity. That being said, strange cabins do come with downsides. Your work commute will vary wildly day to day, you will likely have to do significant remodeling, and the resale value may not be as high in a couple years if the sleek new Evenandaran housing designs continue to rise in popularity.

According to our legal department, you may invoke squatter's rights on an abandoned building. If someone presents with a deed to the property, you will need to either buy the deed or take the owner to court. Do keep in mind that the cabin moves and housing laws may vary from nation to nation.

Finding a new abode can be very challenging and stressful, and we wish you the best of luck!

And if you are looking for any alchemicals or bows to defend your new abode, stop by...

Wolfbane's Apothecary

Selling alchemical and health beverages



Now Selling Archery things at good prices:

- Bows..... 100-300 Coin
- Arrows (Yew or Rattan)..... 5-10 Coin
- Sharp tips..... 5 coin (w/ leather 7 coin)
- Metal from Blacksmith..... 10 Coin