



Steamy ink Press[©]

September 1602

Due to personal issues, our Editor in Chief is out of town this month.

Please forgive any grievous formatting or reporting errors, we've done our best but we aren't Poppy.

About Orcs or Some Shit

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Maplewood's Best Paper!

Steamy Ink Press™, written by the folks of Steamy Ink Publishing©, is your source for the most in-depth news about Maplewood's most interesting people. We delve into the lives of the adventurers who pass through town, uncovering why they're here and all of their secrets.

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Titus
(PLEASE CONTACT
LORELEI IF YOU
HAVE SEEN HIM)

Friends or Lovers or Foes?

A Deep Dive into Maplewood's Hottest Love Triangle

In recent days we have seen things escalate with a certain Sable Company bachelor, now married man. Once back in town what will happen when he learns he had two women fighting about him? The entire story as seen by a townsfolk is as follows:

Coinpurse, a man who has been seen flirting with faekin in the past was recently married to a non faekin female Cor. This marriage happened very suddenly and was celebrated by his friends and other townspeople, but was it really what the couple wanted? Are they even a real couple?

The two got married in June and haven't been seen together since, as right after, Coinpurse had to go handle "Paperwork" out of town. During his time away a certain faekin, Feyre, was seen reading the paper

during harvest fest and shouting and stomping off in anger to find sable for answers. Feyre had been spotted with Coinpurse several times



recently, laughing and taking his fox fur to wear and hold, were they courting each other right before his marriage to another lady? Was this why Evilynn would not agree to marry the new couple?

Rumors have it that Cor was promised a large dowry to marry Coinpurse, had this been

the reason the marriage happened so quickly, and does Coinpurse even know about it? Was this marriage one of love as they say, or was it a quick fleeting moment that was made more alluring by a large sum of coin?

All I can say is that hopefully when all that paperwork is done Coinpurse figures out what to do about the ladies in his life, and hopefully doesn't get a big head about having them almost fight in the tournament about him! Maybe we will see another divorce soon, maybe a fight, or maybe the whole situation will get resolved peacefully. Whichever it might be, let's hope we get to hear and see it unfold just like we got to see Feyre yell and storm out of the inn!

-Anonymous

Orcs, Part One

There is much to be said about our goblinoid foes, the orcs. That is why I am going to do a multiple entry series on these monsters beginning on the anniversary of the day

they burned Maplewood to the ground. One hopes that everybody can use this to better prepare in the future.

Orcs were once a much more common enemy in the Freelands. It used to be every morning the sound of drums would announce their charging into town looking for victims. The tragedy that occurred in 1600 when they gathered together and began storming across the Freelands brought the problem that they present into sharp focus. My tribe takes pride in hunting down some of these bands at night and wiping them out entirely to keep their numbers in check, so they cannot beset us as they did before.

The biggest trouble with orcs is that they always travel fast in large numbers. They roll over small groups and then keep pressing, so unless they are immediately met with a strong enough force they can quickly take apart unsuspecting individuals. The best and safest thing to do is stay and fight together with your tribe. Encountering a large group often confuses them and slows their normally rapid advance. A smaller or weaker group will only embolden them to attack without hesitation.

The next best thing to handle orcs is to not meet

them where their greater numbers can have a larger influence. Do not fight them in great wide open spaces where they can surround and overwhelm you. Draw them into the trees and eliminate them quickly as they come to you. Another alternative is to fight them in a narrow pass or heavily forested trail where they cannot surround you. The emphasis is to kill them quickly however, the longer the fight takes, the more danger you will find yourself in.

One particularly useful trick in dealing with orcs is the magical skill known as Dissipate. Many can cast it as it's not a particularly difficult spell. However, the true skill comes in being able to cast it as the horde is bearing down upon you. Orcs will not have the patience nor the intelligence to understand what has happened and will quickly seek out new victims, leaving you able to attack their often poorly defended rear.

One final word in dealing with orcs. Sometimes, orcs will have a drummer with them and once battle commences the drummer will begin furiously hammering away. The sound travels far enough that nearby bands immediately go into a blood frenzy and start closing on the area. As long as the drummer lives, the orcs will keep coming. This is an instance where a decent archer or a particularly well armed battle mage comes in handy in quickly ending a battle that can end up being a lot worse for everyone.

-Shelaz Snowpike

A Dissertation on the Relevance of Fallacies in Reporting

Some Shit.

-Enzo and Gordon

Dear SIP Readers,

First I would like to thank everyone who has supported my mayoral campaign. I appreciate your contributions immensely.

I'm sure many of you have heard something along the lines of "Lucky wants to destroy the lake." This is a gross oversimplification of a potential plan to deal with the veilwalker threat within the lake.

The general idea was that since the circle of corrupted trees seemed to be negatively affecting the veilwalker goo, if we contaminated the lake with the same corruption we could kill the veilwalker infection within the lake. Afterwards, the Druids would work together to restore the lake from the corruption.

After running an experiment, it seems that the corruption doesn't destroy the goo, but more so stunts its growth. Good information to have, but not good enough to make destroying the lake worthwhile. We are still figuring out how to implement this info to our benefit.

All in all - please do not panic. No one is planning on taking drastic action without proper precautions and evidence that it will work in our favor.

If you have concerns, feel free to come find me and I'm happy to discuss this with you further.

- Lucky



So, first Arcturus harassed me into helping him summon the Hallowed Chantry, and now Lorelei has batted her eyelashes at me to get me to explain to those of you that weren't paying attention what happened.

Here's what you need to know:

Thanks to Paladin Arcturus we successfully summoned the Hallowed Chantry to Maplewood! That is good.

But the Veilwalkers keep attacking people as they try to get to it... this is bad.

The Hallowed Chantry exists in opposition to the Sacred Tabernacle (more on that later) and is the home of messenger creatures called "Illuminated Ones" that function as go betweens between mortals and the Sept (see "messenger creatures"). If you enter the Chantry you are removed from Illumina to... somewhere else, and there are snacks. Gharr was particularly enamored of the snacks. It's also hotter than a fire archon's (redacted).

The illuminated ones can deliver messages to and from the Sept while you're in it. This is your chance to talk to your god and get an answer.

Now about the Sacred Tabernacle.

Item 1: it did not exist before the Shattered Mind Plague. The entire point of the plague was to mess with our minds enough to believe it had always existed, and therefore make it exist.

Item 2: UNLIKE the Chantry, the Dark Three can actually enter the Tabernacle. Anyone who has the desire to punch grak in the crotch, here's your chance, you just need to find it and enter it.

Item 3: it also exists to foster communication between the Dark Three and their followers. But without the pesky middle beings. Apparently being an utter bastard has its perks.

In either case, letting a Veilwalker have access is apparently a BAD IDEA! DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!

I now return you to your regularly scheduled tea.

-Sigos

Lustful looks. Loving gestures. Attitudes clashing- is this the beginning to a new romance here in Maplewood? Recently, a certain leader of a tribe Z and a certain commander of a prestigious mercenary company T have been seen sharing gestures some would describe as love stricken! Some have even stated that they saw the pair give a tender kiss last feast, sharing a confectionery together!

Rarely now are T and Z seen together in the same place, perhaps indicative of other....more sordid activities in places no one can see? Only way to find out is to keep watching!



Folks I had an epiphany. I've had 15 maybe 20 of them in my life before, most people have only had one MAYBE 2 big ones if they're lucky. I'm a magnet for them, it's my blessing and my burden. I just see things others miss. I knew it was coming too. There are signs if you know what to look for. I was in the Jenny having a chicken fried steak, best of both worlds fried like chicken and corn fed Maplewood beef. So I'm eating my steak and drinking my Barnes Apothecary honey ginger tea to relax and a feeling comes over me. Just an jumps into my brain unprovoked. "It's 8:08 pm." Just out of nowhere, hadn't looked at a timepiece all day. So I asked the innkeeper "Hey out of curiosity what time is it?" and he looked and said "Just turned 8:08 Mr.Barnes." Somehow I had just known. So I finish up my steak and tea and bang again a thought "You should go for a walk" Normally after dinner I go right back to working in the apothecary but I had been hitting a wall with my latest swirchel formula so I thought why not. I just

took off walking not having a destination. Found myself in the woods and my brain went "Turn right." just like that "turn right" so I turned and that's when I saw the Illuminated! Right there off the trail and it said "Come with me." So I did and it took me to where more Illuminated were and then I went into a place and there was a winged Illuminated and we spoke. He offered me to eat ambrosia and I did and as I took my first bite I had the epiphany, a reveletaion even. Watermelon mint! Barnes Apothecary watermelon mint switchel now joins our already popular cucumber basil and lemon flavors of Barnes Apothecary Switchel concentrates. It's got all the vinegar, sugar and 14 minerals and vitamins you need for peak performance in a hot day, you just add the water! Now in 3 refreshing flavors.

Why Do We Still Publish This Guy???

Supportive Listening

Provided by
Shandeen Maris,
Chosen of the
Stranger

**Specializing in Ghost Problems and
Grief Resolution**

Free and Available by Appointment

Confidentiality Guaranteed

A well known local Consul to the Freelands, Jason Titus Marianus, has recently joined up with this very group. As adventurers may be aware, when joining up with a group who is less well-off than yourself, you tend to help them out monetarily (at least to begin with) if they need it. Our beloved Titus has been great about this, but it extends beyond just our group.

He has recently been heard to donate a great sum to the Moonlight Sentinels, almost a million coin. This writer had no idea he even had that much, which is saying something, as I'm the CFO! He has also been helping out the Chainbreakers on the down-low, and been seen giving items to Cordon for free. Is it possible there is more between those bald guys than meets the eye? Is he dying and trying to get rid of all of his money before passing on? Hopefully not, as then he'd be leaving his young twins without any trust fund to keep them cared for.

Increase in Legionnaire sightings?- A concerned citizen

There has been an increased sighting of legionnaires showing up, usually around Saturday evening. Continuously more aggressive as the weeks come forward, I am concerned at the rumors that they are beginning to assault and even push out monsters and people alike. Friend from Civen says that they're going nuts trying to figure out some sort of tribunal? Just be on the lookout

The Court of Lambs would like to know who you select to be the winners of our next contest. Vote based on whatever criteria you choose from the following candidates:

Catori

Rex

Mahkno

Valdunar

Poppy

Eoin

Kythaela

Lotharwen

Gharr

Audra

Enzo

Micah

Send entries via Crimson Courier to the Court of Lambs or SiP. The winners and their prizes will be announced in next month's SiP

Dearest Reader,

Poppy

How could you do
this to me? I thought
we were friends "

Did I suck up the paper
enough for you to come back?

You gave me no training at all beyond
"write articles." I don't know how
the printing press works! I did

everything you asked of me and told
no one about you donating all of Sigas'
alchemicals to the Elven Temperance
League, and THIS is how you repay
your BEST FRIEND???

NOT. COOL.

p.s. Love you please come back

Yours truly,

Madam Mapleleaf

Once upon a time, there was a silly little rich faekin. She grew up without a good example of what friends should be. You see, our redheaded faekin friend wasn't used to people sticking around any longer than it benefited them. The rich little faekin lived in a wonderful place, with everything she could possibly want, but it wasn't enough. Eventually our friend developed wanderlust, as faekin are wont to do.

The rich little faekin, Penny, decided to leave her perfect home and go on a trip. She happened upon a wonderful place, and met some wonderful people, who eventually became some wonderful friends. She still wasn't too sure what these friends were sticking around for, however, and tended to keep her distance. Eventually, she realized that maybe, just maybe, her friends do like her for who she is. After enough time, she even got a boyfriend with the encouragement of her best elf friend Laurie.

It took her even more time to open up and to actually call him her boyfriend, but soon enough she did. She seemed to be relaxing into her friend group, and feeling a sense of belonging, but it was not to last. You see, after a relaxing trip

to the Hollow Pantry, Penny and Laurie were attacked by gale stalkers. Laurie wasn't able to help her, and before she knew what was happening, Penny was gone.

The Best Elf Ever and Her Silly Faekin Friend

Laurie spent days and nights searching everywhere for Penny, posting wanted posters all over town, and harassing every townsfolk in sight. No one had seen Penny. Laurie was so concerned she tried sending letters, but didn't get one back she could understand. It seemed to her that Penny was never coming back. What neither of them knew is that the friendship they had built along the way was the real treasure, and would have saved them both - if only Penny hadn't run away. Finally, Laurie got a letter back. Penny had died.

In the end, Laurie died of a broken heart.

The End.



MISSING

Penelope Anne Katullin

Hair: Red

Eyes: Red

Height: 5'4"

Last Seen: Her Bedroom, Midnight on 8/4

If anyone has seen her, **please contact Lorelei**