



# Steamy Ink Press™

Maplewood's Whispers, from Ear to Ink

September 1603

Local Fashionista  
Has Low-Key  
Nuptials

Why do Skybeasts  
Suddenly Appear? A  
Trusted Source Tells All

Anlyth Missing  
for 3 Months: We  
Explain Why

A Spotlight for  
Maplewood's  
Most Talked-  
About  
Personalities

Steamy Ink Press™ is a division of Steamy Ink Publishing®. Now, with the proud sponsorship of the esteemed Breaking Bulletin Consortium, and in support of its vital work across the Freelands, our commitment to chronicling the captivating lives of the People of Interest who pass through our bustling town is stronger than ever as we enter our third year in publication.

We are dedicated to delivering unparalleled, in-depth revelations to the people of Maplewood about those people. What are their dealings? Their true motives? Their romantic entanglements? It remains our mission to provide the perfect conversation starter for lively conversation over tea with friends.

All submissions to:  
P. Anne Katullin, CEO

Advertising inquiries to:  
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Legal inquiries to:  
J. Titus Marianus, Consul to  
the Freelands



## Arcturus Aggrieved as Enraged Elf Penetrates Pitohui

Supporters of the town's most infamous adventurer couple, Arcturus and Pitohui, were dealt a devastating blow at Harvest Fest. In a sudden act of fury, Makhno, blinded by his hatred of Darkness and his heartbreak over Catori's departure, executed Pitohui right in the middle of the festivities. He then dragged him off to the edge of town to ring the final bell, ending a tumultuous chapter in the town's history.

Arcturus, who was not present for Harvest Fest, was spotted back in town a couple of weeks later. The distraught Septon has been spending a lot of time at the Spinning Jenny,

shoulders slumped and looking more annoyed than normal. He has also been noted to be drinking his sorrow



away and, in a truly bizarre turn of events, even laughing with his beau's murderer while he goes through his mourning period.

The event, as you can imagine, has ignited quite a bit of gossip. One source, speaking only on the condition of

anonymity- a trend we've noticed is quite popular when discussing anything Pitohui-related- stated, "I feel so bad for Arcturus, but... I mean, he was asking for it, wasn't he? You can't just run a Darkness church out in the open and stab Septons in town and get away with it." Another, also remaining anonymous, added, "I'm glad he's gone, personally. I mean, walking through town sometimes you could see him just standing there. Menacingly."

Some people are distraught over the ending of Pitohui's life. Jared, the head of the Maplewood branch of Arcturus' con't pg. 3

*In Loving Memory*



*Father Pitohwi*

## Makhno Murder, con't

fan club, wiped a tear from his eye as he said "I wish that they hadn't done it. I think Arc could have fixed Pitohui. I mean they had that truce, it was so close!"

In an attempt to get a comment, this reporter was able to catch Makhno leaving Cordon's workshop. When asked why he did it, Makhno simply stated that "it had to be done." His face grew cold when asked about the convenient timing and the recent alliance between the Seven and the Three, muttering only that "The Three let loose a bunch of live Sky Beasts in Kash'Allum." He then attempted to slam the door in this reporter's face before remembering that I was standing behind him, having snuck in through the window.

The final chapter of this relationship has been written, but the question of what the next volume holds for our favorite Septon remains to be seen. Some dare to dream of a revenge plot against the Chainbreakers; others are simply wondering if he will finally settle for a partner who doesn't come with a better fashion sense than most and the reputation of being a town menace.

One thing is certain: whatever his next move, we'll be watching his tragic, beautiful, and utterly public mourning period with bated breath.



## Lost

*One-Eyed Ferret. Answers to 'Furgle'.*

*Last seen attempting to burgle the Pheasant Plucker's Remains.*

*Reward offered in fresh baked goods, no questions asked.*

*See Pumpkin Brewbottom with any information*

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## Unlucky in Love, but Lucky in Life

While our quills are usually reserved for the most delicious of gossip, even we must show deference when fate turns cruelly on our biggest fan. It turns out that our beloved Lucky, a source of many a delightful tidbit, has fallen on a string of misfortunes in love that would test even the most optimistic of people.

The rumor mill has been churning, and it seems Lucky's troubles began with her wife, who is deceased in a tragic accident. Soon after her crush, the innkeeper Gerard, was reportedly seen with another undisclosed individual (rumors have it that is why he hasn't been seen working at the inn). THEN, her new friend from Varganien who she was courting turned into a Veilwalker and infected her! As if things weren't bad enough, her dear friend Catori left shortly after to go travel the world.

And yet, despite the universe's cruel series of heartbreaks, Lucky doesn't seem to be letting any of these things get her down. In a world where she has lost so much, she is not retreating but instead actively seeking to forge new emotional bonds with the people closest to her. Her quest for connection is a powerful, living testament to the idea that some spirits simply refuse to be broken.

# Tippy on the Rocks

It seems the whirlwind romance between Titus and Poppy has cooled, with sources claiming marriage negotiations have stalled. Rumors are flying that Poppy's increasingly erratic behavior may be to blame. Some say she's a different person entirely, while others claim she's just been a bit more... prickly... than usual, especially when it comes to her fixation on the Veilwalkers and the Entity. We hope this doesn't spell the end for this fan-favorite couple!

Found an interesting plant but don't know what to make of it?

It's possible Kythaela Brownfox can help.

Also willing to process certain plants into useful components for a small fee. Plant identification free of charge, if it is within her ken. (Tips appreciated)

If you cannot find her, messages may be left at the Pheasant Plucker.



POLL:

Who is the Most Desperate for a New Beau?

**Arcturus:**

In Mourning over Pitohui.

**158**

**Makhno:**

Ghosted by Catori.

**96**

**Enzo:**

Dumped by Lapis. Again.

**81**

**Titus:**

Dealing with Poppy's Drama

**68**

*Dearest Reader,* Your faithful correspondent, while enjoying a rare quiet afternoon in the library, overheard a rather harrowing chronicle from another well-known scholar, the thought-to-be-missing Anlyth. It seems she wasn't missing at all but was actually serving an apprenticeship. "Well, that's boring," you say. But of course, I wouldn't just bring this up if Anlyth had been indulging in quiet study and not being surrounded by drama worthy of its own ballad.

Anlyth, as you know, is a person of great intellect and a love for the quiet life of research and learning. Her troubles in her apprenticeship began when she was approached by a charismatic, but (it turns out) profoundly manipulative individual we shall call "Anya." Anya, it seems, held a pattern of behavior toward another kind-hearted apprentice, Tilly, in which she would praise and give her loads of affection one day and then talk trash about her to others the next. Tilly, a true and trusting soul, consistently dismissed her own doubts that Anya was doing this and believed their friendship was genuine.

The truth, however, came to light during a seemingly pleasant supper. While Anya had spent the last fortnight busying herself with frequent missives sent via courier to a senior scholar, Tilly discovered that Anya had been chronicling Tilly's every word and action in these missives, twisting her every movement into a cruel joke or a sly complaint. This betrayal, as you can imagine, caused Tilly to visibly shut down, and Anya's attempts to gaslight her- and apparently leave half-eaten food all over the shared quarters, how did they not know from the way she lived like she was raised in the Dell?- only confirmed her true colors.

The drama, however, did not end there. As the apprenticeship drew to a close, Anya's behavior escalated. She walked out of Tilly's mock presentation and did not return, a shocking act of unprofessionalism. To make matters worse, on the day of the final presentation to the scholar's council, Anya's deceit was revealed for all to see: she had plagiarized Tilly's final thesis, and the house's leadership quietly switched the presentation order to buy themselves time to handle the scandal, creating a sense of confusion and chaos for all involved.

It is a tale that speaks to a profound lack of emotional awareness and, perhaps, a deep-seated fear of letting people close to you. This author, for one, believes that a certain editor might benefit from taking a moment to look inward, and to recognize that some relationships are not meant to be a game of emotional chess, but a place of genuine connection and maybe that is why everyone thought Anlyth was missing and not merely furthering her education.

And so, my dears, Anlyth's tale serves as a somber warning. Some people, it seems, view their peers not as allies, but as tools to be manipulated, and the world not as a place of mutual support, but as a ladder to be climbed. In the end, it seems that Anlyth learned a very important lesson at her apprenticeship indeed- to be sure to pick her friends carefully and not just allow herself to be a footnote in their stories.

*Yours truly,  
Madam Mapleleaf*



## Lothapis: The Shocking Surprise Wedding

A talented artist captured this perfect moment of X'Nor officiating the marriage of local favorite fashionista Lotharwen and our favorite nosey druid, Lapis.

After Lapis' famously on-again, off-again relationship with another certain Firekeeper- we're sure Enzo is just thrilled for them!- it's delightful to see Lapis finally settling down with such a charming and elegant elf.

"Oh, it was just so lovely! I saw them from across the way, and you could just feel the love radiating off them." Elaina, local town

seamstress, was heard saying at the Jenny. "It really gives a woman hope that love is out there."

And while a few cynical readers may say that this is staged, or perhaps even completely misinterpreted, this author refuses to believe that anything other than pure love could be captured in such a perfect image.

"I saw them with my own two eyes. They just... they looked so happy." Fimble, local president of the Lapzo shipping club, sighed with resignation. "I was so sure it was going to be them though, you know? Lapis and Enzo. It was our town's epic love story! And now... this?" the president's eyes misted over the more they discussed the news. "I think I have to go for a very long walk in the woods to process it."



SIP has some more juicy relationship gossip! Joy, High Priestess of Draconus, has been seen spending a large amount of time in Munta'Saf. While she claims her visits are for sourcing ordeals, her persistent curiosity about the city's most reclusive resident has led us to a shocking conclusion.

The Pox, High Priest of Nox, is a famously private and probably unhinged individual. Yet, our sources report some similarities between the two. Could their creative madness have sparked a divine romance? We can only assume their date nights would consist of a poison-tasting tour and discussing the finer points of

existential dread.

It seems our lovely priestess has finally found a partner who can truly appreciate her unique sensibilities. A toast to the happy couple!