

The Journeyman

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JOSEPH LIBERTY POSSESSED BY DEMONS AS NIGHTMARES RETURN?

Joseph Liberty, leader of Blightfoot Ridge, owner of the monster hunting academy and, up until recently, vessel for demons. It has come to light that for many years, Joseph Liberty had been possessed by demons that drove him to build the dreadnaughts that roamed each major city in the land. These powerful creations boasted a large buzz saw and an even bigger, rapidly firing cannon.

The power sources for these abominations are not the Electronite that we have been led to believe, but in fact the demons drove Joseph to use tainted Jade stone as his fuel. For those who do not know, Jade stone is the precious gem from the elven ruins of Sirella, and is said to contain condemned souls of the nature elves that once dwelled there. It is also illegal to own under Amicita law.

The demons that plagued Joseph have been vanquished however, and his mental state is back to that of a sane man. The cleansing ritual was performed by none other than his own son, Tennerson Liberty, who arrived at the Caddington estate on the 27th of the 3rd month, 2390, along with his sister Charmaine Liberty and Thorne Darkroot. Thorne up until recently had been in exile due to Joseph's infestation clouding his judgement but has now been exonerated.

The ritual boundaries were drawn up by Tennerson and a group of mercenaries along with a guild by the name of 'The Tide' who aided them in first removing the demons from within their father, and then in dispatching with the foul beasts. The procedure nearly took the lives of both Joseph and Tennerson, but their lives were saved by local surgeons available at the time.

It is unknown at this time what caused the demonic take over, but it is certain that Joseph Liberty is nothing more than an innocent victim in all this, and should not be prosecuted for the actions of the demons that wore his face.

His actions were that of a puppet and the blame of any wrong doing falls onto that of the puppet masters; the Nightmares.

Now that the demons have been exercised and destroyed, the demonic hold over Joseph is gone, and he has set out to inform the lands that his creations have been tainted by the demons that once controlled him.

The demons in question have been rumoured to be connected with the releasing of a demon lord that had been imprisoned at the Caddington Estate. What this holds in store for the mainland is unknown at this time. The only thing this reporter knows for certain is that the evil that has been banished from Blightfoot Ridge is only a precursor for what lies in store for us all. There have been increasing reports of demonic encounters and supposedly they have released one of their most powerful leaders.

This increased demonic activity is a worrying sign indeed, but you can be safe in the knowledge that the demons that once inhabited the great, Joseph Liberty are no more, and he is again in control of himself, and we should see an increase in the overall condition of this prosperous town.

Without the aid of the group at the estate, The Tide and Thorne Darkroot, the Liberty family along with Blightfoot Ridge would be in grave danger. Thorne Darkroot is truly a hero of his realm.

WIGHT FORCES REMAIN IN MAINLAND

Many months ago we reported that Philippe Marsell, governor of the L'Enaroussian city of Jerrod's Front, made it illegal to persecute or kill the mindful-dead (known as wights) on L'Enarousse turf. It seems that promise is being upheld, as many undead creatures have recently been sighted roaming the streets of the coastal city. This has stirred up mixed emotions amongst the local, living population.

Despite the wights' frightful appearance, it appears that the creatures are yet to cause trouble and have, in fact, been assisting with many duties that aid in the defence of Jerrod's Front. However, that does not stop the question being asked, "What do they want in return?"

It is said that an official declaration of alliance is in the progress of being drawn up by Philippe Marsell and the wights. Only time will tell if this is a recipe for disaster, or the makings of a solid union between the frozen north and the mainland.

Article by Captain Edwin Smith (eyewitness)



L'ENAROUSSE CAPTAIN FACES CHARGES OF NEGLIGENCE AFTER ERIN PROULX'S DEATH

Captain Charles La Place pleaded “not guilty” when presented with a number charges of negligence in the L'Enarousse High Court of Jerrod's Front, yesterday. The 36 year old man was stationed at the Caddington Estate in February last year, and it has become apparent that Commander Erin Proulx was unceremoniously murdered this March under La Place's watch. The circumstances of Erin's death are still under investigation, and the fact that his body was burned shortly after his death mean that no post-mortem can be carried out. La Place claims that the Brotherhood of the Red Wolf are to blame for the murder, however there is no solid proof to support this.

Proulx's family are distraught at their loss, and are pushing for full charges against La Place. To add insult to injury, La Place had an urn containing Erin Proulx's ashes carted back to Jerrod's Front, along with a brief note apologising to Proulx's family for their loss. Enraged at La Place's lack of compassion, and failing to quickly provide a full report of how the commander died, Philippe Marsell had his personal guard fetch La Place from the estate and throw him into the dungeons beneath Marsell Keep until his sentencing which is due to take place in the coming weeks.



Above: Facing the gallows? Captain La Place

TREMORS SUBSIDE AS FAERIE KING AND QUEEN ARRIVE IN FARADOME

Seismic activity in the Amicita city of Faradome has apparently ceased according to local piskie, Twiggy Vines. Journeyman reporter, Jack Polemon, was fortunate enough to speak to the trader in a tavern at Jerrod's Front. He had this to say on the matter...

“We were seeing about three quakes a day, they gradually got worse. The elven council ordered everyone to arm themselves and stay inside at night after a mile-wide crater appeared in the Garden of Zanthan, which we were told was some kind of rift like those in the ruins of the city of Netherlye. People are saying the quakes were responsible for creating the rift.

Beyond the arcane barrier that surrounds the city, vampyres skulked about at night, not killing anyone, just rummaging unseen through their belongings or carts on the road through the Victory Fields. I heard they wanted some old book.

One day the quakes just stopped and the purple fluid that filled the rift hardened over like ice, the vampyres outside the city also disappeared. I'm not sure if it has anything to do with it, but shortly before a faerie in a flowing, white dress rose from the portal.

She's in a bad, physical state and being looked after by Nytalaria, one of the elven elders. People are saying she's the faerie queen, Azhara Lightborne, and she left Terminarium because her faerie-nephew, Astrad left Faradome and went back to his father, Venstrim, the king of the black-hearted vampyres in the faerie world.

We're still waiting on an official statement from the elder council, however everyone is just pleased that that things are returning to normal.

The faerie folk certainly seem happy to see their queen, and indeed their king who returned a while back, however his memory was apparently wiped by Venstrim thousands of years ago. He's in rehabilitation at the moment.”

Despite numerous ravens being sent to Faradome to request a statement from the elder council, the Journeyman is yet to receive an official response.



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THE BROTHERHOOD STILL AT LARGE?

The Brotherhood of the Red Wolf are notoriously unpleasant folk, who until recently were led by Morgan Hanstez, the king of Netherlye. Hanstez was assassinated last year at the Caddington Estate, as I am sure most of our readers are aware. The claimant of this feat is (or was) Erin Proulx who supposedly snuck into the Brotherhood camp on the estate and challenged Hanstez to single combat, defeating him in a legendary showdown and scattering the rest of his forces in terror. Many thought this would be the last of the Brotherhood, with their ruler dead and their forces crippled, but alas, this was not the case...

The feast was joyous, stories were told, ballads were sung and the Lord Commander told his tale of ridding this world of the vile Morgan Hanstez.

The celebratory feast held at the estate saw many people attend, not least of which was the late Lord Commander himself, Erin Proulx. Most of the mercenary group hired by the L'Enaroussian army attended and a wide variety of other people were present too.

However, this merriment didn't last long; the noise of chanting arose from outside the tavern, and sat outside inside a ritual circle was a figure clad in black and red Brotherhood robes, and a skeletal mask – the same style of mask worn by the Brotherhood cultists that served in the Red Wolf army. The chanting continued and panic erupted throughout the feast. People did not know what to do with themselves; a few people tried attacking the circle to no avail, but after a few more moments the chanting stopped. Darkness exploded from the circle knocking back anyone close, and the figure had seemed to have disappeared into thin air. Erin Proulx dropped dead.

This was not the last of the action as another black-clad figure seemed to materialize from the darkness. This assailant has now been confirmed to be an immensely powerful demon lord who has risen in the form of Morgan Hanstez and is supposedly the fifth Vulperan Demon Lord, who according to legend led the demonic Nightmares in their war against the elves during the first age.

This move from the Brotherhood of the Red Wolf shows that they are extremely dangerous and maybe an even bigger threat than before. In any case they are not to be trifled with. Consider this; if they can summon forth demon lords to kill whomever they wish, is anyone truly safe?

Article by Jacob Vance (eyewitness)

CARNIVAL MURDER MYSTERY FINALLY SOLVED?

Papa Ophelius' Cabinet of Curiosities recently departed from Springford Rise and despite concerns regarding the numerous murders that frequently occur when the carnival is in town, the people of this quaint region were apparently sad to see the troupe leave.

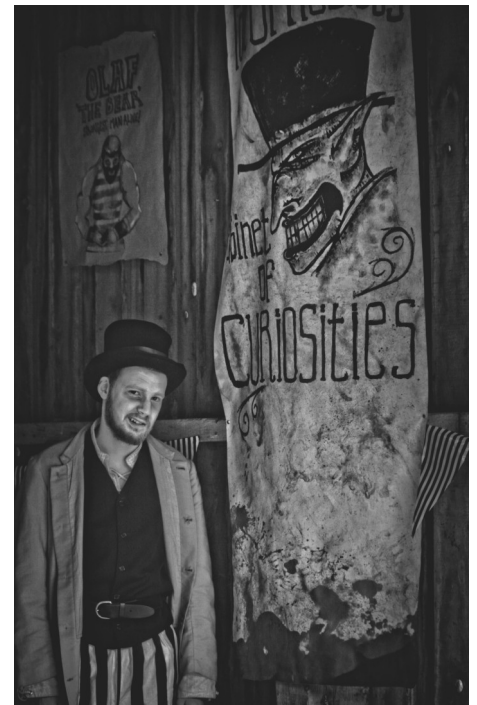
Some say that Papa Ophelius (the troupe's ringmaster) is as old as the race of the elves, others say that he is simply a mortal man with a few clever tricks up his sleeve. Whatever he is, he sure puts on a good show, as I, Journeyman reporter Karl Franz, found out when I attended the final performance at Springford Rise.

I was astounded by the jugglers, the strong-man, the three-eyed 'Id', the mimes and the fortune teller (who successfully recited more about my past than I have ever told any living soul!). Two new recruits, a pair of piskies, wowed the audience with their capacity to channel emotions into the crowd.

I managed to catch a quick interview with the Papa himself and questioned him about the cloud of murder, that until recently, followed the carnival to every hamlet, city and town. He had this to say...

"Some group of adventurers at the Caddington estate found the murderer, a twisted old clown that called himself Choppy. They executed him...apparently. The clown wasn't even part of the circus, the weirdo just put on a clown costume and stalked us. He caused a damn nuisance to the wonderful performers and people who come to see my show. I would have thanked the schmucks for dealing with the wannabe clown, however they began messing with performers, trying to kill them too, stealing from us, squabbling amongst themselves. We had to pack up and get off the estate quick-like."

It seems the imposter-clown has indeed been apprehended, for this visit saw no murders take place in Springford Rise. Who the mysterious band of adventurers are that have prevented further deaths, by ironically murdering the killer himself, will remain unknown. If the carnival is in your town, it's never been safer to roll up for a spectacular time!



Above: Papa Ophelius



BECOME A PATRON OF THE FUTURE!

Recent developments in Blightfoot Ridge concerning political, economic, and technological shifts, have left a vacuum just waiting to be filled by enterprising and intelligent people such as yourselves.

But just what is this vacuum, you may be asking? Project: Cockatrice, the latest leap in possibilities, concerns the construction of an "airship", a vessel that can float not in water, but in the very skies! While this was long thought impossible, the College of Engineering - with creative direction by none other than Thorne Darkroot, outlaw-turned-hero - has proven it possible. All that the project needs is investors, engineers, and artisans of all fields.

You may ask yourself exactly why it would be worth devoting your own time, money, and resources, to this project. But consider the implications of such a creation: exploration, transportation, cartography... all revolutionised! Merely as a proof of concept, the implications are massive. Imagine in a few decades time, where such airships are commonplace; an entire industry revolves around this one project, and your original investment gives you shares in all this! Surely the opportunity is too good to pass up?

Investors are asked to donate a minimum of 30 Llandies, or an equivalent value of the resources required for construction.

Wood, ore, and cloth, all will be required. Butinore, Brillithor hide, darting sphene, primordial sapphires, and solid bloodstone are much harder to come by, but donations of these materials will be met with great rewards!

All investors will receive shares in the airship, dependent upon their donation, and those who donated the largest amounts will have their names carved into a golden plaque placed both on the airship and in the College of Engineering.

Artisans and engineers are also requested to lend their services to aid in the construction of the airship. Carpenters and metallurgists will be in particular demand. Your services will be rewarded adequately, and shares in the airship are guaranteed for those who dedicate enough of their time and skilled work.

All who are willing to become a patron of the future, send your Llandies, resources, and/or skills to the Ridge. Take any money and materials to the Tutela Syndicate Bank, request to deposit them into the vault of Roystan Banks, and then write your name and place of residence on the form given to you by the bank manager.

They have all been informed about the process and will be able to answer any queries you may have.

Any who come to aid in the construction process, go to Room 381 in the College of Engineering, where you will be asked to fill in varying levels of paperwork, depending on the circumstances of your work.

Given enough investors and workers, Project: Cockatrice could be completed within the next 6 months! Do not wait to find out how successful it was, become a patron of the future now!

Article by Simon Ferric, Journeyman Reporter of Blightfoot Ridge.



Above: An artistic depiction of the airship

KENTON BLAKE BLAMELESS FOR FAIRDALE DISASTER

Kenton Blake, fiancé to Charmaine Liberty, has recently been freed from imprisonment at Jerrod's Front. Blake was held responsible for taking an infected, female comrade to the city in August 2389, the woman died in a local tavern, rose from the dead and began attacking the locals. The infection quickly spread amongst the citizens, and despite attempts to contain the mindless-dead the city guard were overwhelmed.

Blake admitted he received warning about the infection from mercenaries at the Caddington Estate prior to taking his comrade to the city for medical aid, however a lack of solid proof led him to believe that the notion of the dead rising was farcical, and understandably so.

Blake is remorseful and accepts that his decision has costs thousands of people their lives.

A further witness also came forward and stated that further mindless-dead were sighted near the city the day before Blake arrived, it is said that the city guard were warned, however no action was taken on the report due to disbelief that dead men were wandering the borders.

Blake is set to return to Blightfoot Ridge in the coming weeks where he will be married to Charmaine Liberty.