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# The Mystic Quill

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April 1015

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## Local News

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### Murder

by Winnow Askew

She was found dead a little over a week ago, her body broken and shattered. The entire town of Fennor was horrified as the news spread: a young woman, found dead on the outskirts of town. She could not have been more than twenty summers old, still innocent in the eyes of the world. It was obvious she had been murdered, her life taken without reason, by someone cold and without a love for beauty or innocence or compassion.

No one knew who she was, a stranger to this place, known known by none when asked, but her death

stirred loss in all.

Then they wondered who would do such a horrible act, who would not only kill her but leave her in field of fresh budding grass and flowers alone and broken? No one knows, but many speak of a stranger that walked through town on that beautiful afternoon. The stranger was called tall and short and none can remember the color of hair or eyes. They all speak of a steady pace as the stranger walked through the streets of Fennor, but no other details exist; this stranger simply a void in the world.

They say the stranger broke her, some say with bare hands,

while others swear by sword or magic. The confusion of witnessing such horror has left them in shock, unable to say more.

Save for that when the girl died, a child's ball fell from her grasp and the stranger picked it up and walked away.

### The Lady of South Bay

Written by Wade Wyrnstein

Witnesses report a hooded woman adorned in leather dispatched of a rather large group of brigands singlehandedly, reportedly these brigands each were stout and armed to the teeth.

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## *The Men on the Road*

by Fred Vermillion

I had made my way many miles when I saw before, but a few miles away, the town of Brenn. A nice town indeed, filled with people who appreciate a good teller of tales. And one must bring their best works to bear in a town so close to Crossroads, a hub of talent indeed. The day was soon about to end, the sun beginning its final descent to hide behind the earth for one more evening, as I closed upon the edge of town. Two figures stood on the outskirts of Brenn engaged in conversation. Normally I would pass with a simple greeting, perhaps some small talk, but something about this conversation caused my steps to pause and take notice of the two.

The first was tall, but not beyond a height of familiarity, his hair a light brown and well-kept. He was attired in the dress of a Scotian, but his clothes marked him as a man of wealth. Despite that his boots look well-traveled and covered in layers of well-earned dust.

A beautifully crafted walking stick provided a place to lean, as it was apparent he had some difficulty walking due to some previous injury to his legs. His voice had a rich quality to it, and I knew that he made his living by his words. Something about his very being spoke deep into mine and I simply knew this was a man of greatness.

As for the other, I cannot say much, for I realize as I write this I cannot remember details. I remember a full grey cloak and worn boots. Also his eyes, I don't know why this is so vivid, but the other's eyes were deep and dark, like staring into empty space. I have faced some dangerous situations; the Hydra of the Lisbeth Swamp; I have stood before kings and faced down an ancient lich. And this one moment unnerved me so that all I could do was hurry past as fast as I could without seeming panicked.

I hadn't made it more than a couple dozen yards away when I felt a change in the pressure of the very air, the feeling as if a storm was rolling through the area.

When I looked back I saw the figure I cannot remember standing alone, bending to retrieve a book from the ground.

The man with the walking staff was nowhere to be seen. Needless to say I made all the haste to the nearest inn and proceeded to drink most heavily for the next few days. Since then, I have felt as if some of my memories have been jumbled and if my stories are somehow missing something. I will admit I am still unsettled.

## *The Lady Of South Bay* (Continued from page 1)

They say she slew each of them with a single blow.

One witness is quoted 'her speed and grace was something from campfire stories. I've never seen that many men cut down so fast. If I would have blinked I would have missed it.

It would seem that there is someone watching over the small port town of Southbay, but why? Who is she? Will we see more of this hooded vixen? Only time shall tell.

### Derwin Mundy of Denstine

Nearly a decade ago, my uncle Ulricht and some of his mining friends was hired by the Pelain Mining Consortium to work in the D'Gaile Mines. Along with 'bout a dozen or so other fellers, he left with the clothes on his back, a small bundle, and his pickaxe. After 'round a month or so, a messenger came and delivered a smidgen of his signing bonus here back home, which was great heaps o'help for me ma and me pa. Bad news is we ain't heard much from him since. Pa passed during the famine which was came of no surprise to anybody plucking out of them caves to pay for a master. With most of our best miners still not returned from D'Gaile, the best mines here in Denstine near the foot of the Scotian Mountains are not doing much of a thing.

Sure ole Uncle Ulricht is a mighty fond of a strong brew e'ery now and again, he never has a foul word to spit 'bout nobody and he keeps his hands to himself, unless provoked. So,

we's got no figgering 'bout what's might be with his absence. Ifn anybody else has kith or kin that hired on with 'em, we'd love to hear anything that might give us an idea of what happened.

### Anticipated Altercations

by Theon Oni

Stressing the importance of being prepared for any circumstance that may occur, local man, James Donner told reporters Monday he carries a dagger on his person at all times in case he ever needs to escalate a situation. "I never leave home without my Blade, because you just don't know when someone might mouth off to you in a bar and leave you with no choice but to turn a minor altercation into a tense life-or-death scenario," said Donner, noting that he keeps his weapon in an arm sheath should the need arise for him to respond quickly, and with deadly force, when he is angered by a perceived slight. "Look, I hope no one ever tries to hit on my wife while I'm within earshot, but in the real world, things like this

do happen. Sometimes you only have a split second to react and make things exponentially more dangerous." At press time, sources confirmed Donner was walking up next to a man whom had cut in front of him at the market several moments earlier.

### Generous Narcissism

by Theon Oni

Demonstrating a total absorption in himself and his anatomy, narcissist Jesse Serrano is convinced that total strangers would actually want his organs, sources confirmed Thursday. "It was easy enough to sign up for the trial, so I figured, why not?" said the pathologically self-obsessed man, who reportedly sincerely believes that people he has never met before would be willing, even grateful, to have his liver, heart, or lungs replace their own. "I mean, it's not like I'm gonna need my organs when I'm gone."

(Continued on Page 4)

To my dearest friend, Dorothy:

I had written you a letter over a month ago, but the carrier was unable to deliver it to you. I had expected you to return from your travels this past Saturday, but nobody I speak with has seen you. I decided this may be my best attempt at reaching you.

You have provided me with wonderful friendship since we first met. I have always valued the time we've spent together, and you always know how to make me smile. You have brought much happiness to my life, and I cannot thank you enough for being there. It has been so long since I have seen you, and I miss you in just a heartbeat! Is this love that I am feeling? I believe it is. I have long wanted to know what love is, and I believe I have found it in you.

I was so distressed upon the discovery that you are espoused. I know that it may not be appropriate for me to be saying these things to you, but I can't fight this feeling anymore.

I know you do not love him. I know you are not truly happy with him. I know you can be happy with me. What is the point, if you don't have love? Whatever you have, it's just not enough. You are traveling to get away - you're walking around but you're going nowhere. Come back to me.

Before I met you, I had been waiting for a girl like you to come into my life. And now, when I look into your eyes, I see all my dreams come true. Because of you, I do not want to find anyone else. I promise you, until my life is through, I'll be loving you forever. I am the one who wants to be with you; deep inside I hope you feel it too. If you do not want me, please tell me. If you do, I will wait for you - I will wait as long as I need to. I will be there for you. These six words I swear to you! I hate that you are away. Here I am, alone again without you - and I cannot stand it!

You are my best friend. In a world without faith, you're what I believe.

I know we have only known one another two years, but it seems like we've always been, and always will be, thick as thieves. Time won't ever drag us down. I am here. I am waiting. You know where to find me.

I love you.

Kenard



(Continued from Page 3)

The raging egomaniac, certain that everything inside another person's body would be greatly improved if it were his, also told reporters that he already donated blood.

## From Our Readers

### Close Conversations

by Theon Oni

Saying the pair was making everyone nearby feel uncomfortable, onlookers stated Wednesday they were disgusted by local couple Tyler Meacham and Caitlyn Ashford's habit of interacting in public.



"Oh, just look at that gross couple over there, making eye contact and generally acknowledging each other's presence—don't they realize there are other people around?" said restaurant patron Collin Hicks, who was seated at a table next to the shamelessly communicating couple, one of dozens of eyewitnesses who expressed their revulsion at the twosome engaging in loud, impassioned chatting in crowded stores, parks, and on busy walkways. I've tried to pretend like I don't notice all the smiling and laughing, but even when I look away

I can still hear the sound of them discussing all sorts of topics with one another. It's fine if they have this kind of back-and-forth in the privacy of their home, but doing it right in front of dozens of strangers just trying to get through their meals? It's sick. I've got kids with me—just think of what message this is sending them." Hicks added that some couples must just get off on the idea of other people watching them converse.

Our card for the Month of April is...

The King of Swords, reversed

Where the Queen of Swords excels in the knowledge of people, the King of Swords excels in the knowledge of things. He stands resolute at the head of his table, the epitome of the phrase "Knowledge is Power".

The King of Swords is the word of Law in the tarot, his judgement unwavering and his expertise beyond question.



Normally a fair and just ruler, his reversal causes the King of Swords to become stern, strict, and cruel. He becomes mistrusting and hypercritical, seeing enemies on all sides waiting to plant a dagger in his back.

The reversed King of Swords reminds us that although the law must be upheld, we must do so with clear logic and rationality, and not and not out of vengeance or cruelty. Never lose the humanistic quality of the King of Swords.

## Help Wanted

### WANTED

Tree removal, looking for a strong back or two to remove a large tree from my property. Inquiry at the Metals Exchange in Brenn.

### WANTED

Ten pieces of silver are being offered for the capture of Gilliam Redman, wanted for petty larceny and general mischief. The reward will be paid on return of Redman to the town of Allowen.

### WANTED

For theft is one Cullum Stonebreaker. Fifteen silver pieces will be paid to what party that returns Cullum, alive and unharmed, to Stonebreaker Masons in Sorvan. Sometimes a boys just got to be learned, so if you need to thump him on the head once or twice, I and his ma won't mind much.

Buying any books, tomes, scrolls, or treatises. Please contact Jamon Hexton of Grey Haven for a good price.

Are you a daring adventurer who spends her days crawling through the dirt and muck of some lost ruin?

After you've pillaged the remains of those dark places do you often find yourself with things you really don't need? Then come to Treasured Things in Brenn. We buy anything, no questions asked.

If you are a father of an attractive young woman then I need to warn you about a scoundrel named Kharm Freeholder. This dastardly villain has recently charmed my daughter, stolen her honor, and fled with her reputation impugned. He was last seen in Wyndover and riding hard north. If you love your child, lock her away until this rogue has been dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Help Wanted - Farmer: Looking for someone skilled in turning weeds and dirt into something else. See Wes in Illveresh.

The songbird has not returned to her nest and the air is filled with the sound of hundred birds.

### Looking for Love

I will know who he is when I see him and he shall remember me in that moment. One thousand lifetimes have separated us but this is the end of an Age and our next kiss shall shepard in the final nights and the start of a new dawn for all.

### Looking for Love

My name is Fern and I'm looking for the right lady to bring into my life. She needs to be able to love me, and enjoy hard work on my farm and help me raise my five boys. They need a mother in their lives. So if you might be interested leave a response for me here in the Mystic Quill.

Help Wanted - Odor Judge: Fancy yourself having a keen sniffer? Maybe a position at Scent-Sational is for you. Come meet Carl by the stables in Illveresh at Saturday at the third bell, for an introductory interview.

## **GM Announcement**

### **Between Event Actions**

In an attempt to allow your GM's more time to write more consistent and higher quality updates for the player base, we are asking that PC Between Event actions be kept to the most important one or two things. We realize that some things may require multiple steps, and we will do our best to accommodate, but many players are asking to do a lot of different things to fill up/maximize their actions between events because "there should be time for it all."

Things we would like to see players choose to do: Pick a destination of travel where you would like to do things (Ex: Going to Redpoole and crafting/listening for rumors around town/researching the elven story regarding the origins of all of life) [NOT going to Redpoole and Yardsmuth and Brenn and Sorvan and...]; or just pick an action you are doing (Ex: Tracking bugbears to their lair and scouting the surrounding area); or tell us whom you are doing whatever with (Ex: Following around Jacob [Marvin Lastnameson] and doing whatever he does). And just like you do for training, if you are doing something with someone else, make sure you both remember to put each other's name on your sign outs.

Long story short, we would really appreciate it if you focused on the most important things for BE actions.

### **Sign-outs**

The deadline for filling out your Sign-out and Item Creation Forms remains 15 days after the end of each event. Our CBD, Econ, and GM staff is going to be more firm in enforcing this policy this season. Without notice from the players, or prior approval from the CBD/Econ/GM for being late, sign-outs received after that 15 days will not be receiving their requested/learned skills, tags for items

wanted crafted between events, and (potions/toxins/alchemy/weapons/etc) that they are might possibly miss out on between event actions. This serves as a reminder of a policy that has been in place, and a warning that it will be enforced.

Thanks! DW - GM1

## **GM Rulings**

### **Healing Overnight**

All PCs that got some sleep, or spend the night unconscious, heal one Body Point at Dawn unless under the effects of something that prevents healing.

### **Left alone at zero Body Points**

If your PC has been dropped to zero Body Points and has been left where no PCs or NPCs can see you, after ten minutes of playing unconscious you may crawl away from where you were dropped until encountering another PC or NPC, at which point you fall unconscious again.

### **Player Banks**

During events players may make deposits and/or withdrawals from their player banks by having their PC visit a nearby town's bank and performing their transactions with the acting Econ Marshal on duty. Overly complex, or extremely large transactions will be approved/handled on a case-by-case basis as time and/or funds are available.

### **NPC Duty**

You can now sign up ahead of time for NPC duty. Go to [kanar.org](http://kanar.org) and click NPC signup form to the right of the picture.

### **SP and XP**

SP will no longer be awarded. Players can gain additional XP for NPC time and doing extra work for staff, like showing up to BLD and Quartermaster work days.

## **CBD Announcement**

So here we are. The new season is upon us and I want to take a minute to cover sign outs with you. In the past we have made an attempt to process every sign out that comes in and at times even causing unneeded stress on my staff and myself in the process.

We will be following a very clearly spelled out policy when it comes to sign outs. Sign-outs that are received by the CBD after the 15 day deadline will not be allowed to gain skills on said sign-out.

So it is imperative that if you wish to purchase a new skill for your character that you submit a sign out within 15 days. Players are limited to 4 skills per sign out. Please note that failure to list who taught you a skill or list that you wish to learn that skill in town will result in you not being awarded your skill/s. These things must be listed on your sign out.

I am looking forward to 2015 and think it will be a great year. Thanks in advance for your assistance in this.

### **The Game Staff**

GM1: Dan (DW) Walker

GM2: Eric Stark

PM1: Natham Niemi

PM2: Leigh J.

CBD1: Shane Cantrell

CBD2: Leigh J.

Econ1: Joe Brescol

QM: Tashi O.

MQE: Kaitlin (Liz) Berezcky

### **The BOD Staff**

President – Jeff Harvey

Treasurer – Dave Angel

Secretary – Erich O

Player Representatives – Maria Kehoe and Eric Thornburgh

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