

Aegarius Times

APRIL 524

THAYDON'S REST

PRICE: 3 COPPER

Queen Sauleen Kidnapped Local Heroes Commit Treason

Attention all Citizens! Our Beloved Royal Majesty, the Queen, has been kidnapped! Several days ago, the Queen was accosted by masked assailants who gated into her chambers and threatened her life in front of her personal guard. The Queen's Guard valiantly fought off the assailants and killed one of them, but when the other held a knife to Queen Sauleen's throat, he had no choice but to let him go so as to not risk her life. The kidnapper then disappeared with the Queen.

We have learned that the kidnappers were none other than our local citizen heroes AVI and RED. We do not yet know what prompted such a daring and treasonous act (or if they will survive long enough for us to find out - Editor).

King Killian Waker has vowed to scour the land and hunt down the Queen with everything at his disposal. He has dispatched spies, troops, and even the King's Guard to track the Queen. The High Wizards, as well as the Royal Court

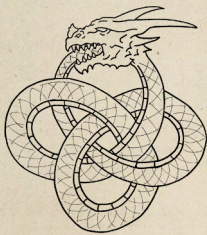
Mages, are using powerful magic to track the Queen's location. Her personal Wards should protect her, but if the Queen is harmed, the King has stated he will stop at nothing to see justice brought to the ones responsible.

The King asks that all good people of the Realm join him in the hunt. There will be a 50 Gold reward to any who brings the Queen safely back to Authorities, or 5 Gold to those who bring in her kidnappers.

Wanted:

Vallon Cromwell

For Conspiring against the King and the Kingdom, the Treasonous Proclamation against the King, and the Corruption of His Laws, Vallon Cromwell is now an Outlaw of the Kingdom and it is all Citizen's Duty to bring him in. 2 Gold Reward to anyone who captures him and brings him to the Authorities.



Wanted: AVI and RED

For Conspiring against the King and the Kingdom, and the Treasonous Kidnapping of the Queen, the Elves known as AVI and RED are now Outlaws of the Kingdom and it is all Citizen's Duty to bring them in. 5 Gold Reward to anyone who captures and brings them to the Authorities.

Magical Changes

Magic is beginning to show signs of changes; some subtle, some drastic. Spells are working differently, and the flows of mana are moving in strange currents. We do not know why this is, but we have heard that the Goddess of Magic has been freed from her prison and that this is causing the magic to shift.

New spell scrolls are being standardized by the High Wizards. One major change is that separate casting and learning scrolls are no longer necessary, and these new scrolls can be used as either. Even the spells of Nature magic have been altered.



MESSAGE FROM WILFRED
REBRANDING DRUG AS
BLESSING
CALL IT THAT NOW PLEASE

Battle of Oakcrest

In Oakcrest, deep within the earth, the drow sought to commune with their revered goddess, the Weaver of Shadows. Their plans were disrupted by Mumbaga the witch, who redirected the drow's giant spiders against them. Oakcrest found itself besieged by corrupted creatures, including undead minions and a corrupted dryad.

The valiant heroes of the town rallied against the threat. Bloom Clear, the drow ritual master, persisted in his efforts to summon the Weaver of Shadows, driven by a sense of duty and devotion to his people.

During the intense battle, the Weaver of Shadows was called forth into the mortal realm, wielding her ancient power to aid the heroes and cleanse the drow's spiders of corruption.

Anniversary of Fall of Valdarin's Gate


Four years ago, in 520, the town of Valdarin's Gate fell once again to dark forces, as it did so long ago. The heroes of that ancient place fought bravely and fiercely, but could not withstand the onslaught of Mumbaga's dark magic and her powers of corruption. The town was left behind, yet hope still remains that it will be reclaimed someday. Lord Marshal Dire, Baron of these lands, has stated he is preparing for an attack against Mumbaga soon. We hope it will be enough.

Templars of Purity

The stalwart (and overzealous - Editor) Templars of Purity have declared martial law and have begun seizing temples across the land from the Church of Light. Executing every enthromancer they come across, they have stormed into several towns in the past few weeks to kill or cast out those they deem evil, often leaving templars behind to guard the temple.

Their leader, Solar Demonty, has been seen in this area, and we assume they will eventually make their way to Thaydon's Rest. Prepare accordingly.

Hothorn's
**MERCANTILE
SHOPPE**



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Penelope's Quill

King Chaos?

The smell of breakfast was still faint in the air. A bustling tavern on a spring morning, tables full of patrons. Smiles peering up at me as I make my way from table to table, introducing myself and hearing stories of fact and fiction, some more embellished than others.

In the corner of the tavern, beyond the sea of smiling faces and exploding laughter, sat a man in green with a serious demeanor. He introduced himself to me as Magistrate Rakoos. I sat across from him, hunched over my book, ready to listen to what he had to tell me.

According to the Magistrate, after the King had legalized Chaos, he promoted Rakoos to Lord Steward, a fine title many would die for. Did the King intentionally do things in this order for a specific purpose? Some think so. Some think the King himself has chaos, which many still see as the most evil thing one can possess.

It is also rumored that the King and the Queen have been living in separate castles, which makes one wonder "Why?" Is it marital problems? Do they have different decoration styles they don't agree on? Does the King really have chaos?

Classifieds

Are you a capable miner looking for an opportunity to help fellow Miners and find pack loads of precious ore?? Well, you are in luck! The Copperware Clan Mining Cooperative is now allowing capable Freelance Miners access to their mines!! The CCMC is in need of capable workers to assist with the various needs of their Mines. In return you will have access to all the ore you can find... at a reduced price. This opportunity of a lifetime can be yours!! All you need to do is register with Kreglabar Copperware or another representative of CCMC as a Freelance miner. Further details to be discussed at that time.

Greetings travelers

The birds have told me that you all plan to return to your home Grove. My work in Oakcrest has come to a close so I thought I'd do a little traveling... I've grown to like many of you and I figure I can do the most good fighting the good fight by your sides .

Truly and eternally,
D.I.E.

To all who serve Shadow and Chaos: Beware! The Freemen are just folktales, but we are very real. My men and I shall find you, noble and commoner alike. We shall root you out and destroy your evil magics. We are your doom. Long Live the Queen! -Shadow-Breaker

The TRUE God of Light shall return, and will destroy the Shadow Lord and his minions. The Circle of Jyran will bring about his return, yet we need more help. Seek out Sollingrave

To the druid that has been mouthin' off about us pissin' on trees: We still be looking for ya! We have dedicated our lives to having a good scrap and givin' others what for! If ya won't come face one of us for a good fair fight we um... maybe we go drink all the ale in the tavern and go take a long Piss on ye silly little druid trees! Ya that's maybe what we gunna go do. Be ready, ya slanderous treehugger! -the Bearded Brawlers

Lefty Says: Hidden omens, treacherous hearts, obscure realities now. Look inward every day.

THE DRAGON'S HEAD TAVERN

Offering the finest food and drinks in Aegarius!

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Delicious Bites by Cerydice

It's spring time, and lots of various plants are making their way to our plates for the season. Rhubarb is delicious when baked into pies, cakes and other pastries.

Collect the stalks in the spring before they get too bitter in the summer months. Here's a recipe for some Brown Sugar Rhubarb Cookies I hope you will make and enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- a/s cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 1 ¾ cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup finely diced rhubarb

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees F. Beat brown sugar, butter, vanilla and egg together in a large bowl. Add in the dry ingredients. Beat well until dough forms. Add your rhubarb and beat again.

Form balls about 1-inch in size and place on a parchment lined baking sheet.

Bake cookies for 12-14 minutes or until baked through.

Cool cookies on a baking sheet for 2 minutes, then remove them and finish cooling on a wire rack.

Enjoy!

In Thaydon's Rest where shadows creep,
Beric Forrester does vigil keep.
A poet bold, a hunter rare,
With silver axe and silent stare.

From lineages of trees he came,
But poetry became his flame.
Yet tragedy, a bitter cost,
In moonlit woods his father lost.

With axe in hand, he roams the night,
In search of beasts that howl and bite.
"The Silver Axe," they call his name,
A lone wolf in his endless game.

But 'neath the stars, his heart finds peace,
In tales of joy, in tales of grief.
For Beric's words, both wild and free,
Spin tales of hope for all to see.

In Thaydon's Rest, where legends blend,
Beric Forrester, till shadows end.
A poet, hunter, both heart and bane,
In verse and steel, his saga reigns.

-B.F.

Murzul Returned

Murzul, the deity of disease and decay, has been reportedly freed from his ancient prison: a small jade rat statue. Murzul's release was preceded by a ritual that unleashed him from his confinement. The ritual, a spell of greater chaos dispelling was aided with the powers of a ley line and a ritual foci.

Not far from the ley line of Oakcrest, there was a battle between soldiers fighting for Kyranthia and followers of shadow. The servants of the Shadow Lord seemed poised for victory, outnumbering their opposition three to one, until they were struck by a sudden and debilitating illness. The night before the battle, both sides were in good health and spirits, but when dawn broke, the servants of the Shadow Lord found themselves afflicted by a mysterious plague-like illness. Rendered incapacitated, they were easily overcome by Kyranthia's forces.

Murzul's resurgence has cast uncertainty, some fearing he may align with shadow. However, along with the return of Alyndria, goddess of magic, this heralds a time of change and hope.. The people of the land must remain vigilant and united for only through courage and determination can they hope to overcome the shadow cast by Nil'Gadol, the Shadow Lord.



Mysterious Circles

Several weeks ago, glowing circles of ethereal light began appearing around graveyards in the area. At night, dangerous ghosts of various sorts emanate from this circle, attacking the living and at times, dragging them back to the circle to kill them. Avoid the graveyards if you can, especially at night. Any knowledge about these circles that proves helpful would be gladly rewarded.

Library Ward Replaced

A spirit has placed a new ward on the library of Thaydon's Rest. This spirit has revealed itself to those who could speak to it as a Watcher. This Watcher spirit seems only interested in collecting knowledge for the library and protecting it.

It seems that any writings left within the library (and seemingly, other things) become a permanent part of it, unable to be removed or damaged. Knowledge added to the library seems to strengthen both the spirit and the ward. This seems to be a good thing for those who are adept at writing and learning.

THE RAG OF TRUTH

TELLING THE TRUE STORIES OF THAYDON'S REST!

CALL TO ACTION

IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I WRITE THIS, BUT I'D BE REMISS IN MY DUTIES IF I DID NOT INFORM YOU ALL. DURING OUR TIME IN OAKCREST, WE WERE GRANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK A SINGLE QUESTION OF THE GOD OF KNOWLEDGE. IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, KNIGHT INQUISITOR TOBIAS ASKED IF HIS MAJESTY, KING KILLIAN WAKER, WAS A PRACTITIONER OF CHAOS. 'HE WHO KNOWS ALL' GAVE HIS REPLY IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS; YES.

WHAT I HAVE LONG FEARED IS UNQUESTIONABLY OUR REALITY. THE PRETENDER KILLIAN WAKER AND HIS ALLIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF OUR LATE KING TEROS MONTEL AND PRINCE ARYS. THE PRETENDER HAS ACTED FIRST. HIS DECREE LEGALIZING CHAOS WILL BIND US ALL IN SERVICE TO THE SHADOW LORD. I APPLAUD THE BRAVE RESPONSE OF THE TEMPLARS OF PURITY. AND I PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE INQUISITION WITH THE COURAGE TO RESIST. THE PRETENDER INSULTS THEM BY INSTALLING A CHAOS INQUISITOR AS THEIR LEADER. KEEP STRUGGLING INQUISITORS, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

THIS IS WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE: MY KING DIED IN VALDARIN'S GATE AND A USURPER & ENTHROMANCER SOILS HIS THRONE. HER MAJESTY QUEEN SAULEEN IS THE BLOOD OF TEROS MONTEL. SHE IS THE RIGHTFUL MONARCH. I, VALLON CROMWELL, PROFOUNDLY REJECT ALL AUTHORITY CLAIMED BY KILLIAN WAKER AND HIS PET CHAOS INQUISITOR AND CALL UPON ALL GOOD LORDS AND LADIES OF KYRANTHIA TO FIGHT, TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE. TO ALL THE COMMON FOLK IN THE FIELDS AND SHOPS, TO THE GOBLIN RAIDING PARTIES AND ORC WARBANDS, THE MAGES IN THEIR TOWERS, TO THE DWARVES IN THEIR MINES AND TO THE FAE OF THE FORESTS. DO NOT HIDE FROM THIS CONFLICT. DO NOT RECEDE TO THE SHADOWS. DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELVES TO BE VICTIMS OF THIS TYRANNY. I PROCLAIM TO YOU ALL, THIS IS THE HILL TO DIE ON. THIS IS WHERE WE MUST UNITE AND FIGHT. FIGHT FOR THE BLOOD OF TEROS MONTELL OR ELSE YOU'LL BE GROVELING IN THE MUD FOR MERCY FROM HE WHO IS UTTERLY VOID OF IT.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, MY FUTURE IS AN UNCERTAIN ONE, BUT I CAN NO LONGER STAND IDLY BY.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN,
VALLON CROMWELL
CONSTABLE OF THAYDON'S REST
SQUIRE TO SER TOBIAS OF THE INQUISITION
WIELDER OF THE SWORD OF LIGHT

IN THE MAELSTROM OF CHAOS, AMIDST WARRING PROVINCES AND HORDES OF UNDEAD, THE CIRCLE OF JYRAN, A HALF-FORGOTTEN GROUP OF PALADINS, HAVE COME TO A TROUBLING CONCLUSION. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE HERO, VALLON CROMWELL, WHO CURRENTLY WIELDS THE SWORD OF LIGHT IS UNWORTHY OF SUCH A SACRED RESPONSIBILITY. FUELED BY THEIR BLIND AND UNYIELDING DEVOTION TO THEIR CAUSE, THEY CONSPIRE TO CLAIM THE SWORD FOR THEMSELVES, CONVINCED THAT ONLY A PALADIN FROM THE CIRCLE OF JYRAN SHOULD WIELD ITS POWER.

MISGUIDED BY THEIR OFTEN DOMINEERING SENSE OF DUTY, THEY BELIEVE THAT BY WRESTING THE SWORD FROM UNWORTHY HANDS, THEY CAN RESTORE BALANCE TO THE REALM AND ENSURE THAT JUSTICE PREVAILS. BUT IS IT TRULY THEIR PLACE TO JUDGE WHO IS WORTHY OF WIELDING THE SWORD OF LIGHT? AND WHAT CONSEQUENCES WILL THEIR ACTIONS UNLEASH UPON THE WORLD THEY SEEK TO PROTECT?

SOLLINGRAVE AND HIS ORDER ARE MISTAKEN. VALLON IS MORE THAN JUST A WARRIOR; HE IS A SYMBOL OF HOPE, A BEACON OF LIGHT IN A WORLD THREATENED BY CHAOS. AND AS LONG AS HE STANDS, THE FORCES OF DARKNESS SHALL NEVER EXTINGUISH THE ETERNAL FLAME OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT BURNS WITHIN HIM.

WITH A HEAD GLEAMING LIKE THE MORNING SUN, VALLON STRIDES FEARLESSLY INTO THE FRAY. HIS EVERY STEP A TESTAMENT TO HIS UNYIELDING COMMITMENT TO PROTECT ALL THAT IS GOOD AND JUST. BUT IT IS NOT JUST HIS STRENGTH IN BATTLE THAT DEFINES HIM. HIS UNWAVERING COMPASSION AND BOUNDLESS COURAGE INSPIRE ALL WHO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS, REMINDING THEM THAT EVEN IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING DARKNESS, THE LIGHT SHALL ALWAYS PREVAIL.

AS THE SHADOWS DEEPEN AND THE HOUR OF RECKONING DRAWS NEAR, VALLON STANDS FIRM, HIS SWORD GLEAMING BRIGHTLY IN THE GATHERING DARKNESS. FOR HE KNOWS THAT EVEN IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS, THE LIGHT WILL ALWAYS SHINE BRIGHTEST IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO DARE TO DEFEND IT.

BERIC FORRESTER
THE SILVER AXE