



Battlerock Comics Presents...



ISSUE 04  
2023



# Maxima Warren

**T** FOR TEENS

From the pages of  
**FUTURE'S  
GUARDIAN**



# Are Your Mystical Tools Stuck In The Past?

The tools of the mystical arts may have been around for centuries, but that doesn't mean that they have to be antiquated.

Recent spells, counter-spells, and curses can all make essential tools like the living tome useless.

Our staff of seasoned mystics and alchemists can help enhance your mystical tools, re-enchanted faded artifacts, refill and refresh eternal flames, and check to make sure your potions are perfectly preserved for future use.

Set up a consultation with us before you make your next prophecy.

## Marty's Mystical Circle

2140 Demon Way, Downtown, Millennium City, MI

313-555-MRTY

We accept cash, Turakian Coin, Questionite, or Zen. We do not accept Foxbat credits!

*This is a fictional ad set in the world of Champions Online. This is not a real business.*

# Food So Good... It Should Come With A Cape!

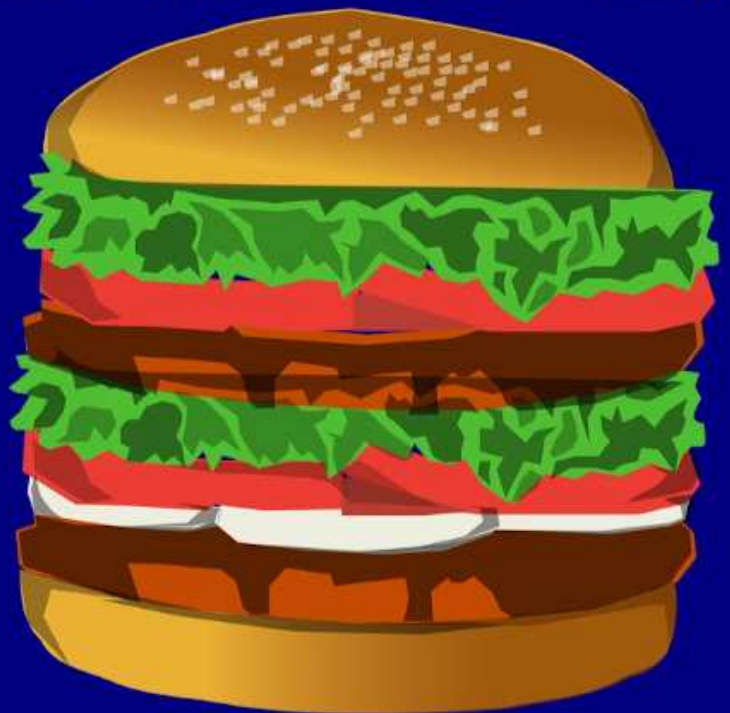
**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SUPERHERO TO BE SUPER-HUNGRY.**

**THANKFULLY, WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO THAT KIND OF CRISIS!**

**TRY OUR EXCLUSIVE ACE-HIGH CHEESEBURGER WITH TWO ALL-BEEF PATTIES WITH THREE KINDS OF CHEESE ON A GLUTEN-FREE BUN. A FULL HOUSE THAT WILL MAKE A FULL STOMACH!**

**AND REMEMBER, ALL ACE BURGERS ARE COOKED THE MINUTE YOU ORDER THEM. IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT.**

**ACE BURGER**  
City Center, Millennium City



*Ace Burger is a fictional restaurant in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real burger. Not a real ad.*

Welcome to the world of the Champions! A world where aliens, super-science, mysticism, mutants, angels, demons, and multi-dimensional monsters exist! A world that always seems to be ten minutes before Armageddon, and where heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

This is the story of one such hero...

# Maxima Wann

## "DOOMSDAY PRINCESS"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

BORN TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD, MAXIMA WANN WAS SPIRITED AWAY BEFORE SHE COULD FULFILL THAT PROPHECY.

SHE SURVIVES TODAY AND DOES ALL SHE CAN TO STOP THE NEXT BRINGERS OF DOOM FROM COMING ACROSS THE VOID.

Battlerock Comics Presents: Maxima Wann #4 is created using original characters in the Champions Online Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2009-2023, Gearbox Publishing. This story is an independent not-for-profit derivative work of the Champions Online Game. All original rights are reserved by Cryptic Studios and Gearbox Publishing. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. Gearbox Publishing is a trademark of Gearbox Publishing. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. Battlerock Comics is a subsidiary of Get Brutal Productions and makes no claim on the intellectual property owned by either Cryptic Studios or Gearbox Publishing. Keira Fyre is the creation of Theresa Setting and appears with permission.



*And so it shall be ...  
when day becomes night, and  
the moon becomes the abyss...*



*... the daughter will summon  
the great god and present him  
with the gift of life.*

*And this world will pass to the next.*



**NO!**



**\*HUH\* \*HUH\* \*HUH\***  
**D@MN YOU...**

**THE DREAM  
AGAIN...**



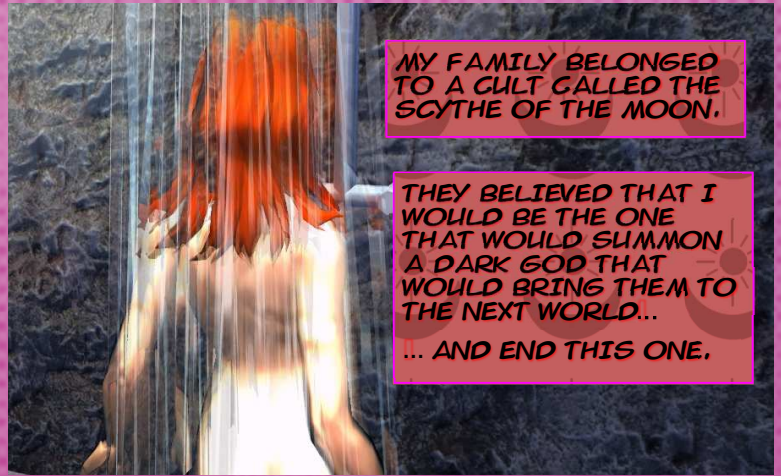
**THE PROPHECY  
THAT WAS  
STOPPED.**

**THE DOOM  
THAT NEVER  
CAME TO  
PASS.**



**MY NAME IS  
MAXIMA WANN...**

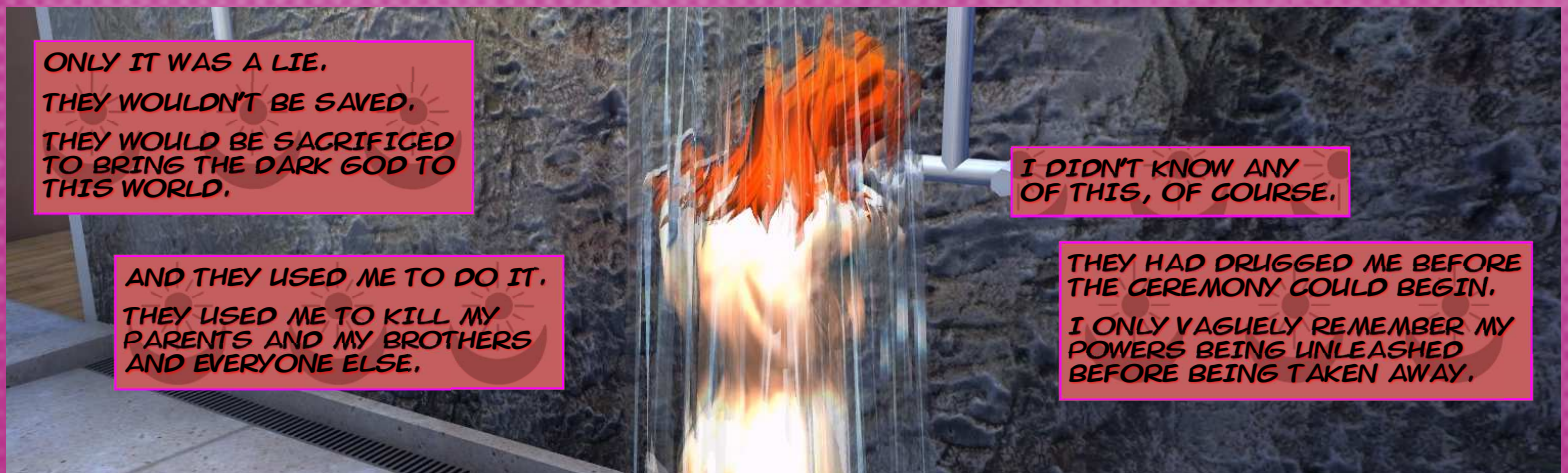
**... AND I WAS  
BORN TO MAKE  
THAT PROPHECY  
HAPPEN.**



**MY FAMILY BELONGED  
TO A CULT CALLED THE  
SCYTHE OF THE MOON.**

**THEY BELIEVED THAT I  
WOULD BE THE ONE  
THAT WOULD SUMMON  
A DARK GOD THAT  
WOULD BRING THEM TO  
THE NEXT WORLD...**

**... AND END THIS ONE.**



**ONLY IT WAS A LIE,  
THEY WOULDN'T BE SAVED.  
THEY WOULD BE SACRIFICED  
TO BRING THE DARK GOD TO  
THIS WORLD.**

**AND THEY USED ME TO DO IT.  
THEY USED ME TO KILL MY  
PARENTS AND MY BROTHERS  
AND EVERYONE ELSE.**

**I DIDN'T KNOW ANY  
OF THIS, OF COURSE.**

**THEY HAD DRUGGED ME BEFORE  
THE CEREMONY COULD BEGIN.**

**I ONLY VAGUELY REMEMBER MY  
POWERS BEING UNLEASHED  
BEFORE BEING TAKEN AWAY.**



**AND THE VISION...  
THE EYES.**

**THE PROPHECY THAT  
HAUNTS ME TO  
THIS DAY.**

**THE NIGHTMARE  
THAT NEVER ENDS.**



**AND THERE'S ONLY  
ONE TIME OF THE  
YEAR WHEN THAT  
NIGHTMARE RETURNS  
REGULARLY.**

**THE BLOOD MOON.**

THE TIME OF THE YEAR  
WHEN A WOULD-BE DARK  
GOD, TAKOFANES, IS  
ABLE TO CROSS OVER  
TO THIS WORLD AND  
BLOT OUT THE SUN.

A TIME OF ETERNAL  
NIGHT, WHEN THE  
MOON TURNS RED.

A TIME WHEN  
DEMONS AND  
MONSTERS RUN  
RAMPANT.

A TIME WHEN THE DEAD  
COME BACK TO  
TERRORIZE THE LIVING.

AND THIS CITY IS FULL OF DEAD.  
LIVES LOST WHEN DETROIT WAS  
DESTROYED DECADES AGO.

THEY THINK  
THEY'RE EVIL.  
THEY'RE NOT.

I KNOW EVIL.

I SEE EVIL  
WITH EVERY  
NIGHTMARE.



WHAT TO WEAR...

I'VE BEEN TOYING WITH THIS OUTFIT. I KIND OF LIKE THE SEXY MAGIC LOOK.



HMMM... NOT TODAY.



**\*FWISH!\***



HOW ABOUT A LITTLE MORE TRADITIONAL?



**\*FWISH!\***

NOT... NOW.



I CAN ALWAYS PUT ON WHAT I WORE THE OTHER DAY WHEN I HELPED OUT ELITE ICE.\*



NO... I'M JUST NOT FEELING IT.

< \*FUTURE'S GUARDIAN\* #25 >

MINUTES LATER...

GOOD MORNING  
UNCLE.  
IS MY DRINK  
HERE?

GOOD MORNING,  
MAX. IT'S BY THE  
TABLE, AS USUAL.  
I STILL DON'T KNOW  
WHY YOU DRINK  
THAT INSTEAD OF  
COFFEE.

COFFEE IS NATURAL,  
PERFECT FOR  
MYSTICS LIKE  
OURSELVES.  
THAT STUFF YOU  
DRINK IS...

IT'S SOMETHING  
THAT HELPS ME KEEP  
MY ELECTROLYTES IN  
BALANCE.  
I SAW HIM AGAIN.  
THE NIGHT MARE.

I HEARD YOU  
SCREAMING UPSTAIRS.  
THE BLOOD MOON HAS  
BEGUN AGAIN.

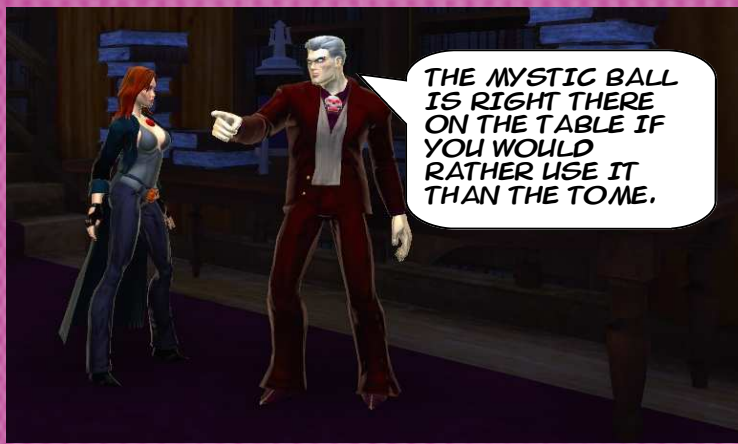
ETERNAL NIGHT...  
THE MOON TURNED  
RED... MONSTERS...  
GHOSTS... THE  
DEAD RISING...

YEAH, YEAH,  
I HEAR IT  
EVERY YEAR.

AS ALWAYS, THE LIVING  
TOME CAN TELL YOU ALL  
THAT YOU NEED TO  
KNOW ABOUT THE  
THREATS YOU FACE.

THE LIVING TOME ISN'T  
EXACTLY LIVE NEWS.  
IT'S MORE LIKE... MYSTIC  
WIKIPEDIA.  
AND SOMETIMES IT'S NO  
BETTER THAN USING A  
MYSTIC BALL.





THE MYSTIC BALL IS RIGHT THERE ON THE TABLE IF YOU WOULD RATHER USE IT THAN THE TOME.



NO... NO... THE TOME IS FINE.

I HAVE TO HUMOR MY UNCLE. THIS IS HIS MANOR AFTER ALL. AND HE'S THE ONLY FAMILY MEMBER I HAVE LEFT.



HE WAS THE ONE THAT SAVED ME WHEN THE CEREMONY BEGAN. HE AND WITCHCRAFT AND A TEAM OF MYSTICS WERE THE ONES THAT STORMED IN AND STOPPED ME FROM BRINGING THE DARK GOD OVER.

HE WAS THE ONE THAT TOOK CUSTODY OF ME UNTIL I BECAME AN ADULT. HE WAS THE ONE THAT SPONSORED ME FOR RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY. HE'S THE ONE THAT LETS ME LIVE HERE AND USE ALL HIS MYSTICAL TOOLS.



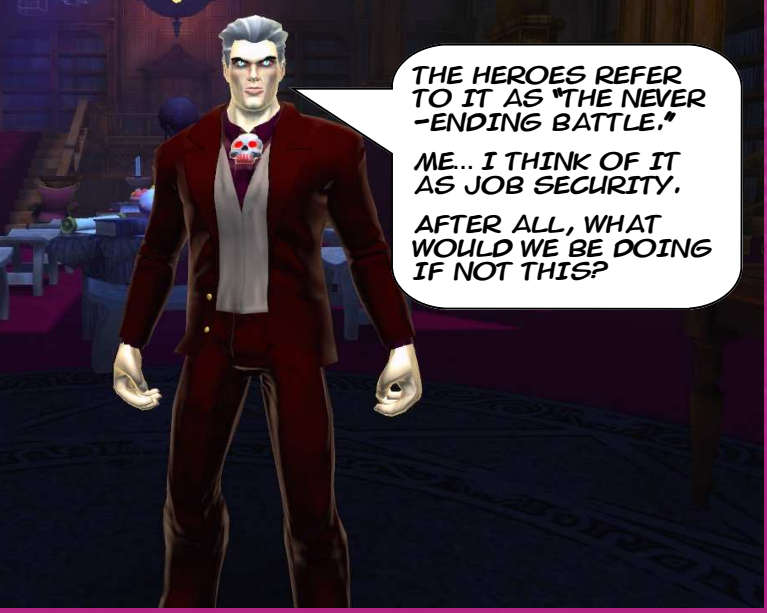
AND IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN GO OUT AND UPGRADE EVERYTHING.



I'M SORRY, UNCLE. I SOUND LIKE AN OVERGROWN BRAT SOMETIMES. IT'S JUST SO... FRUSTRATING.



THIS CITY... THIS WHOLE WORLD... IS REPETITIVE. EVENTS HAPPEN AGAIN AND AGAIN WITH NO RESOLUTION.



THE HEROES REFER TO IT AS "THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE." ME... I THINK OF IT AS JOB SECURITY. AFTER ALL, WHAT WOULD WE BE DOING IF NOT THIS?



U/MMM. MAYBE ENJOY THE AFTERLIFE?

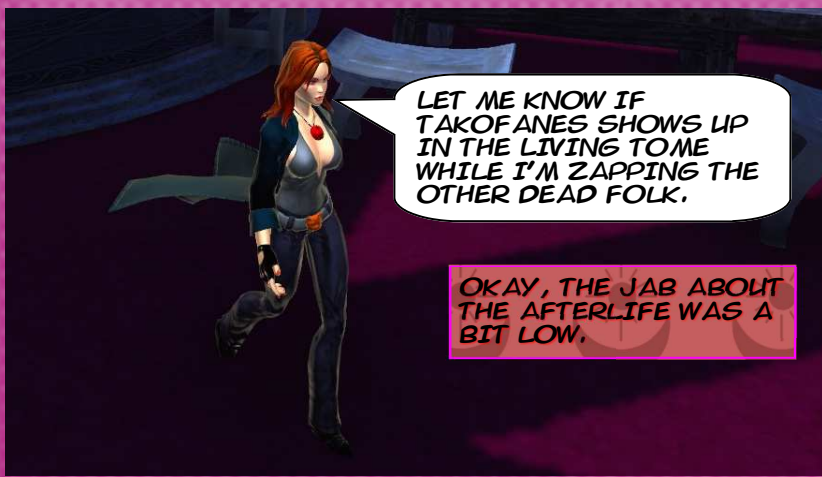


THE AFTERLIFE IS OVERRATED.  
TRUST ME. I KNOW.  
I WAS THINKING MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD BE DOING.  
I DON'T SEE YOU DOING MAGIC TRICKS FOR KIDS PARTIES.



AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING NOW?

THERE'S STILL A BLOOD MOON EVENT GOING ON, RIGHT?  
MONSTERS, ZOMBIES, GHOSTS... LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE.



LET ME KNOW IF TAKOFANES SHOWS UP IN THE LIVING TOME WHILE I'M ZAPPING THE OTHER DEAD FOLK.

OKAY, THE JAB ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE WAS A BIT LOW.



ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M THE REASON WHY HE'S DEAD.



HE WAS THE ONE THAT CARRIED ME AWAY FROM THE CEREMONY WHILE MY POWERS WERE STILL ON FULL AND SUCKED ALL THE LIFE OUT OF EVERYTHING IN THE AREA.

THAT INCLUDED HIM.

BUT, LIKE ALL MYSTICAL SPECIALISTS, MY UNCLE HAD A TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE.

A MAGICAL SPELL THAT BOUND HIS SOUL TO THE MANOR UPON HIS DEATH.  
AS LONG AS HIS HOME REMAINS, HE STILL EXISTS.  
A MEMBER OF THE UNLIVING HELD CAPTIVE TO HIS HOME, NOT AGING. NOT HURTING.

MILLENNIUM CITY, MI., U.S.A.  
JUST NORTH OF THE WESTSIDE DISTRICT

VICTOR WANN MOVED HIS FAMILY MANOR FROM A HUGE MANSION IN MASSACHUSETTS TO MILLENNIUM CITY AFTER THE FALL OF DETROIT.

HE SAID HE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THE FAMILY DRAMA.

TRUTH BE TOLD, THOUGH, I THINK HE SAW MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH MYSTICAL THREATS IN A NEW CITY FULL OF THE GHOSTS OF THE OLD ONE.

STILL CAN'T GET USED TO THE BLOOD HUE EVERYWHERE.

THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO WEAR THE RED OUTFITS.

THEY JUST... STAND OUT TOO MUCH.

WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT HERE...

ON PATROL  
MINUTES LATER...



SHE DOESN'T  
LOOK RIGHT.

EXCUSE ME, MISS?  
HAVE A SECOND?



RRRRR...

SHE'S BIG!



QUICK, QUICK,  
GET THE SPELL...



\*NNF!\*

THAT HURTS!

\*BOOOOOM!\*

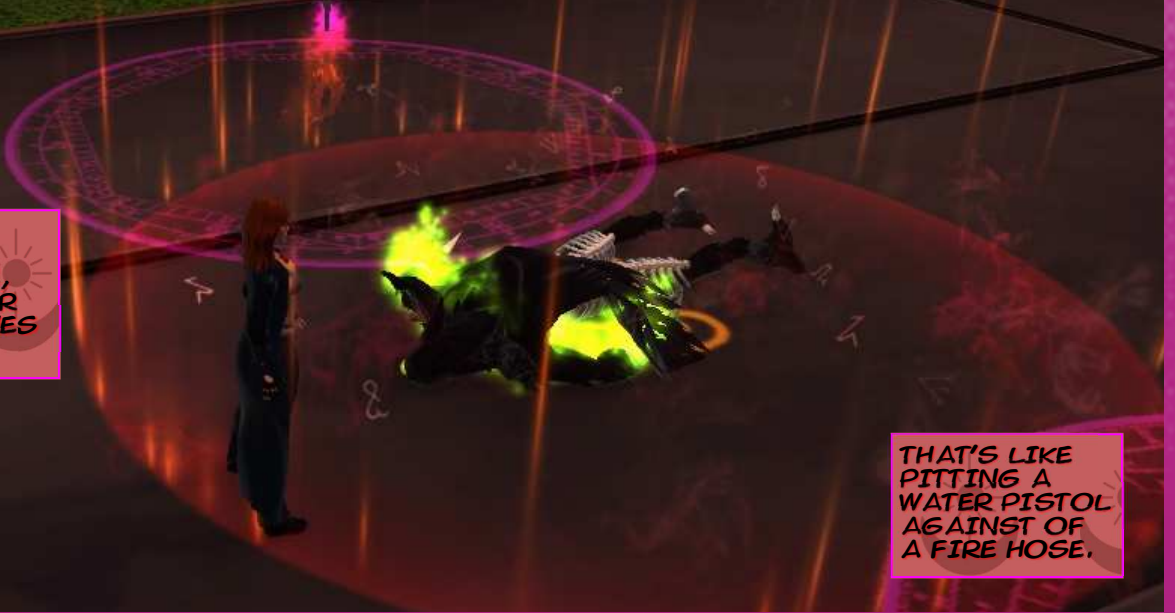


BUT MINE  
HURTS  
MORE!

\*KRAKOOOM\*

THESE MONSTERS  
ARE FORMIDABLE,  
AND THEIR MAGIC  
COMES FROM  
TAKOFANES.

BUT I AM A  
CONDUIT FOR  
CHAOS MAGIC,  
THE VERY POWER  
THAT TAKOFANES  
DRAWS FROM.



THAT'S LIKE  
PITTING A  
WATER PISTOL  
AGAINST OF  
A FIRE HOSE.



IT DOES HURT, BUT I HAVE A HEAL SPELL ON, SO EVEN THE SHARPEST ATTACKS WILL HEAL QUICKLY.

NOT TO MENTION MY POWER DRAWS THE LIFE FORCE FROM OTHERS.



SO WHILE THESE THINGS CAN HURT ME, I CAN HEAL MYSELF WITH THEIR OWN ENERGIES.





YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A TRICK-OR-TREATER.



BEGONE, MEAT SACK. THIS ONE BELONGS TO DEMON!

HELP ME, PLEASE!



THIS ONE ISN'T ONE OF TAKOFANES' MINIONS.

HE'S AN ACTUAL DEMON FROM A DEMONIC GANG CALLED "DEMON".

\*FWOOOSH!\*

\*DRAAAAAAAWWWW\*

WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO GO ALL-OUT ON HIM!



NOOOO!!! CURSE YOU, WITCH!

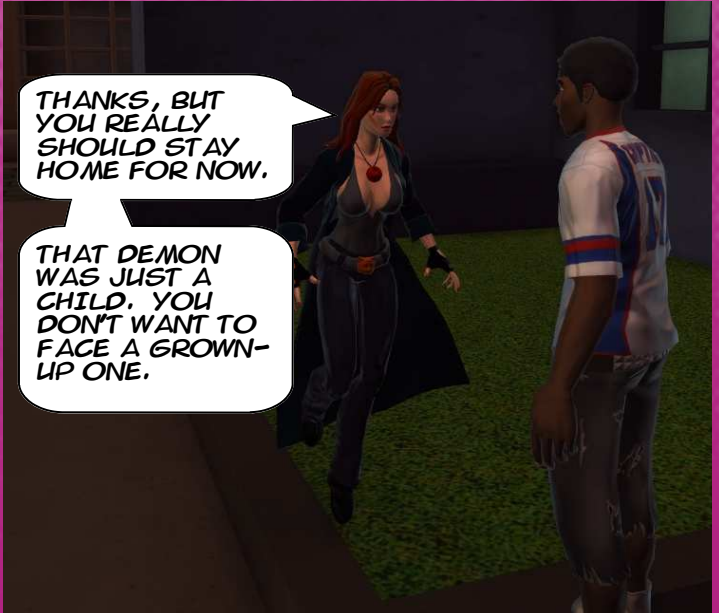
\*KRAKOOOM\*



THANK YOU. REALLY!



YOU'RE, LIKE, THE COOLEST I'VE EVER SEEN. THE WAY YOU TOOK THAT THING DOWN AND ALL!



THANKS, BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD STAY HOME FOR NOW.

THAT DEMON WAS JUST A CHILD. YOU DON'T WANT TO FACE A GROWN-UP ONE.

HOURS LATER...



IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR DAYS.



THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH ETERNAL NIGHT...



... THERE'S NO REAL SENSE OF TIME.



OH GOD...

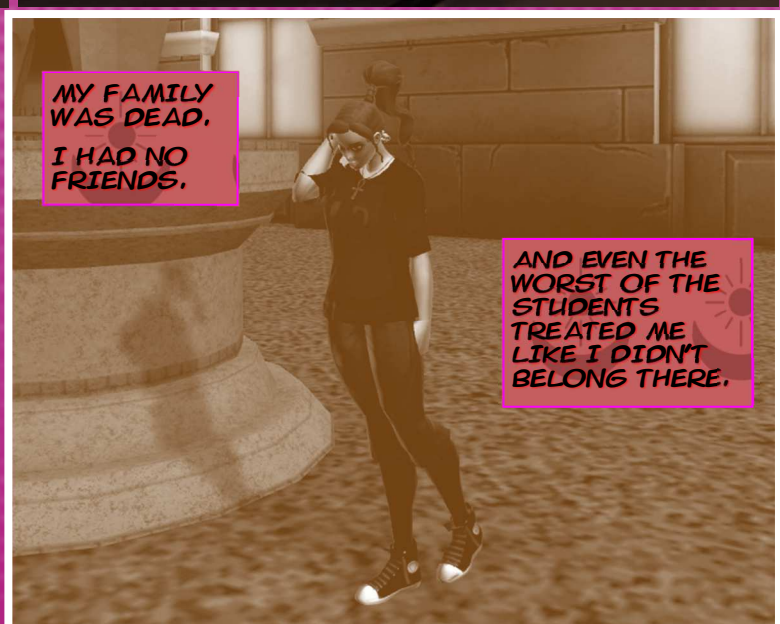
... THERE IT IS.



RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY.



ARE YOU LOST, PRINCESS?  
YOU CAN'T EVEN DRESS RIGHT FOR CLASS!



MY FAMILY WAS DEAD,  
I HAD NO FRIENDS.

AND EVEN THE WORST OF THE STUDENTS TREATED ME LIKE I DIDN'T BELONG THERE.




STILL... HAVE TO  
PAY MY RESPECTS  
FOR THIS TIME OF  
THE YEAR.



**\*MEOW\*!**


RAVENSWOOD  
THANKS YOU,  
MAXIMA WANN.

**\*FWOOSH!\***



CHILDREN CAN  
BE SO CRUEL,  
CAN'T THEY,  
MY CHILD?

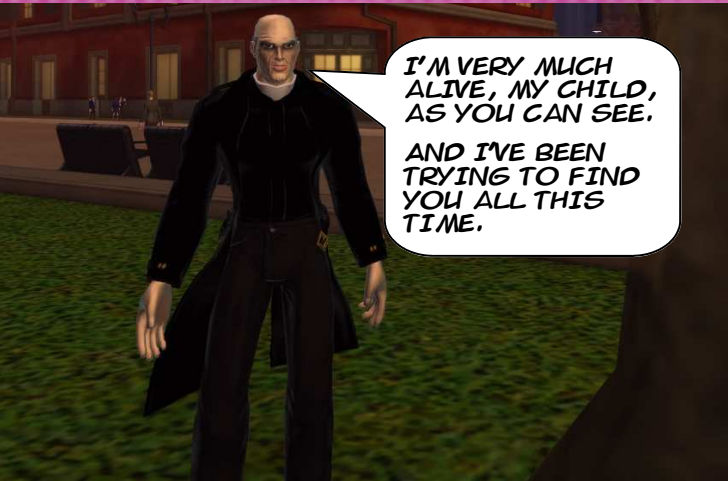
WHO?



JUST AN OLD  
MAN WHO USED  
TO BE YOUR  
NEXT-DOOR  
NEIGHBOR.



BISHOP CREY?  
BUT... BUT YOU  
CAN'T BE!  
YOU'RE DEAD!




I'M VERY MUCH  
ALIVE, MY CHILD,  
AS YOU CAN SEE.  
AND I'VE BEEN  
TRYING TO FIND  
YOU ALL THIS  
TIME.



BUT... MY UNCLE... HE SAID  
YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE  
DIED IN THE CHURCH.  
HE SAID--

-- YOUR UNCLE!  
FEH!  
YOUR UNCLE WAS  
CAST OUT FROM  
THE CHURCH.



DID YOUR FATHER  
NOT TELL YOU  
THAT VICTOR WAS  
FOUND GUILTY  
OF HERESY AND  
CUT OFF FROM  
YOUR FAMILY  
AND BANISHED  
FROM SALEM?





MY CHILD, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU EVER SINCE THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT.

WHEN YOUR UNCLE SENT WITCHCRAFT AND THE OTHER MYSTICS AFTER US, WE THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO KILL US. AND THEY ALMOST SUCCEEDED.


UNCLE VICTOR SAID THAT YOU HAD DRUGGED ME THAT NIGHT...

THAT YOU FORCED ME TO UNLEASH MY POWER ON EVERYONE.




LIES, MY CHILD!  
ALL LIES!

YOUR UNCLE WAS THE ONE THAT HAD DRUGGED YOU.  
WE WERE TRYING TO STOP HIM.

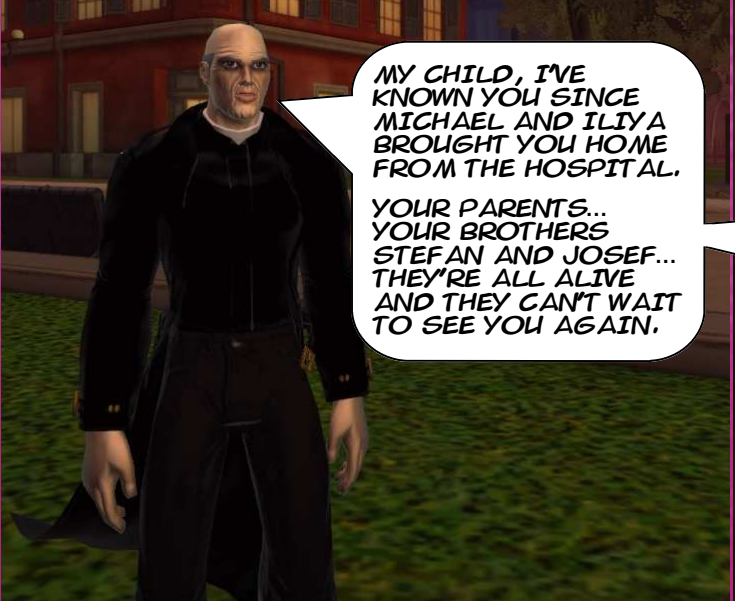


I DIDN'T IMAGINE MY FAMILY'S FUNERALS.  
I WAS THERE, SO WERE A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE.  
I WENT BACK TO THE CHURCH AFTERWARD. IT WAS A CHARRED RUIN.



THE CHURCH DID BURN DOWN, THAT PART IS TRUE.  
BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR UNCLE.  
AND YOUR FAMILY'S NOT DEAD. THEY'RE VERY MUCH ALIVE.

THAT CAN'T BE!  
THEY WERE DEAD. I SAW THEIR BODIES!



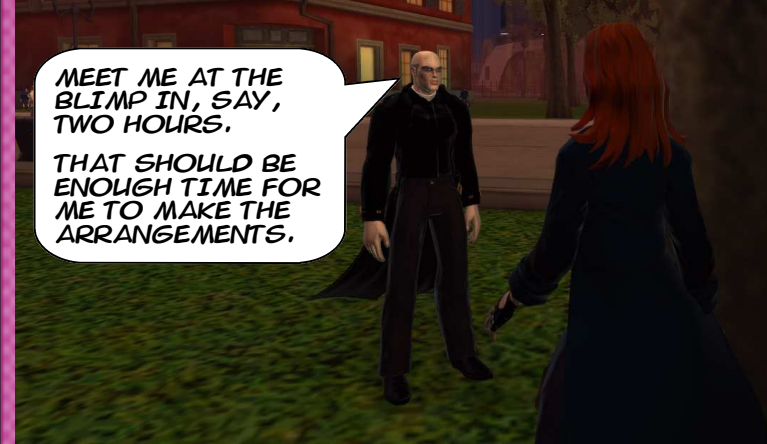
MY CHILD, I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE MICHAEL AND ILIYA BROUGHT YOU HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL.

YOUR PARENTS...  
YOUR BROTHERS STEFAN AND JOSEF...  
THEY'RE ALL ALIVE AND THEY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.




H-HOW?

A MORE PERTINENT QUESTION TO ASK IS WHEN I CAN TAKE YOU TO THEM.  
AND THE ANSWER IS WHENEVER YOU ARE READY, MY CHILD.




MEET ME AT THE BLIMP IN, SAY, TWO HOURS.  
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS.



IT CAN'T BE REAL!  
MY FAMILY'S STILL ALIVE?



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, MAXIMA?




BISHOP THOMAS GREY IS A MANIPULATIVE, LYING, B@STARD!  
HE'S THE ONE THAT FORCED YOU TO UNLEASH YOUR POWERS!



I ENDURED A LITERAL HELL TO SAVE YOU FROM HIM... AT THE COST OF MY OWN LIFE I MIGHT ADD!

AND NOW YOU JUST WANT TO GO OFF WITH HIM?



FUNNY, BECAUSE HE BLAMED YOU FOR ALL THAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.

AND HE DID BRING UP THAT YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF THE CHURCH.



YES, I WAS EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE SCYTHE OF THE MOON.

BUT NOT BECAUSE OF HERESY.

IT WAS BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT GREY WANTED THE WANN FAMILY TO BE!



I READ THE ORIGINAL PROPHECY.

IT SAID THAT THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHOSEN FAMILY WOULD BE THE BRIDE OF THE DARK GOD.

WHEN I LEFT THE CHURCH, YOU WEREN'T EVEN BORN YET.



IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT YOUR PARENTS WOULD HAVE ANOTHER CHILD AFTER STEFAN.

SO I ASSUMED THE PROPHECY WOULD NOT COME TRUE FOR ANOTHER GENERATION.



I KNEW WHAT GREY WANTED FROM A DAUGHTER OF THE WANN FAMILY. THAT SHE WOULD KILL EVERYONE IN ORDER TO BRING THE DARK GOD HERE.

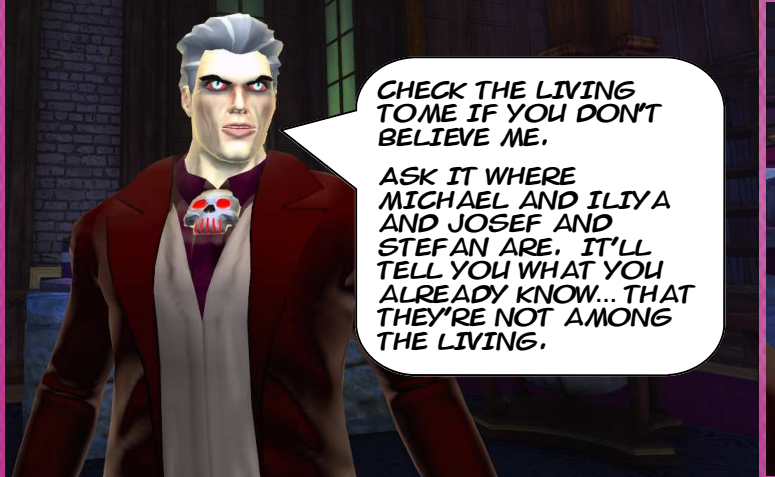


BUT BISHOP GREY SAYS THEY'RE NOT DEAD.

AND YOU BELIEVE HIM?



I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE.



CHECK THE LIVING TOME IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME. ASK IT WHERE MICHAEL AND ILIYA AND JOSEF AND STEFAN ARE. IT'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW... THAT THEY'RE NOT AMONG THE LIVING.



NO... I'LL GET THE ANSWERS I NEED FROM HIM IN PERSON.



I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME TO YOUR RESCUE THIS TIME, MAXIMA.

IF YOU'RE RIGHT, I WON'T BE THE ONE THAT WILL NEED TO BE RESCUED.

Are you special?

Do you have unusual powers or gifts?

Do you suspect that you can do things make you different from others? Read minds, fly, show incredible strength, see or know things that others cannot?

You may be someone with either meta or mystical abilities.

If so, Ravenswood Academy is here to help.

Ravenswood Academy is a fully-accredited secondary-school institution located in Orchardville, MI. The Academy is one of the most highly-regarded independent educational institutions in the United States, and is frequently viewed as one of the top secondary school institutions in the world.

Founded in September of 1989 by Kristina Pelvanen following the tragic death of a young superhero, Ravenswood Academy aims to provide top-quality instruction in both standard academic fields as well as training young meta and mystical humans in the best and proper use of their powers and abilities.

In addition to the first-rate superhuman and mystical training regimens, the faculty at Ravenswood Academy consists of highly-regarded professionals throughout a wide variety of individual fields, and students at the Academy are frequently capable of delving deeply into highly specialized fields of study that would be otherwise impossible for the average high school.

More than seventy-five percent of Ravenswood graduates go on to become registered heroes or move on to a productive career working through prestigious government agencies such as PRIMUS and UNTIL.

In addition to their main campus in Orchardville, Ravenswood Academy also has a branch campus in Millennium City, just one block away from the Renaissance Center and the center for all heroic activity for the city. It is not uncommon to have members of the Champions pay a visit to the campus to meet with and help teach Ravenswood students.

Scholarships are made available to students on both a by-need and an academic basis. There are a number of scholarships exclusively reserved for metahuman and mystical students who are incapable of paying tuition. We believe that if a metahuman or mystical student has a true financial need, they should **never** be denied instruction at Ravenswood.

If you or your child has meta or mystical abilities, contact the administrators at Ravenswood Academy for a free assessment and evaluation.

# RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY

[www.Ravenswood.edu.mill](http://www.Ravenswood.edu.mill) 888-555-LEARN

This is an advertisement for a fictional educational institution in the world of Champions Online as provided by Cryptic Studios and Hero Games. Any similarities between this an any real-world institution of the same or similar name is merely coincidental. You don't need a diploma to know that this is not a real ad



# Crump's Costume Shoppe

**Premium Costumes and Costume Pieces  
without paying premium costs!**

Return to the days when heroes didn't deal with expensive designer tailors out in the open, but instead with a neighborhood shop that got you whatever you needed to make your super-suit stand out and functional. You can have all the bells and whistles you want, but without designer names and without the designer costs.

Crump's small team of tailors and tailor apprentices will work with you to make sure you look your best when you are fighting crime or saving the day. Your satisfaction and privacy are guaranteed before you leave our store!

Ask about our costume exchange program! Turn that confiscated armor or weapon into a free upgrade!

**303-555-7463**

**City Center, Millennium City, Mi.**

This is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. This is not real.

Frankie Stein says...

"ME USE

**iron Wax**

**AND SO YOU TOO!"**

**It's not easy being an undead monster powered by electricity.**

**It's okay for your clothes to be tattered and stitched, but the shiny things that keep the electricity going need to be kept clean for them to function.**

**iron Wax keeps your cybernetic implants polished longer than most leading brands, and can be used on any kind of armor coating or plating.**

**And it's economical. One dab on a cloth and you're good.**

**So why waste your time with common wax products? You deserve the best. You deserve iron Wax!**

*FRANKIE STEIN - RE-ANIMATED MONSTER*

Look for **iron Wax** at all hero supply stores.

THE BLIMP... THE HIGHEST POINT  
IN MILLENNIUM CITY.



BISHOP  
GREY?



I'M OUT HERE BY  
THE LEDGE.  
COME JOIN ME.



JUST TAKING IT ALL  
IN, MY CHILD.  
IT'S BREATHTAKING!



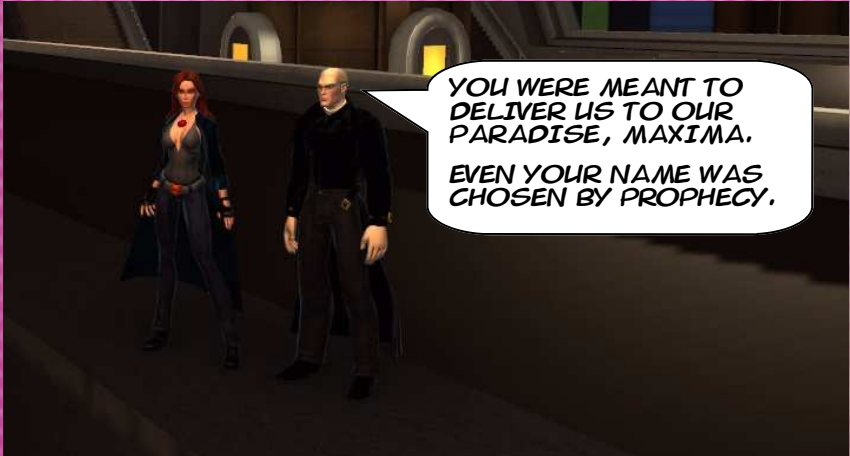
FROM HERE YOU CAN  
SEE EVERYTHING.  
ALL THE BUILDINGS.  
ALL THE SPIRITS.  
THE GRAND DESIGN  
IN PLAY.




JUST LOOK.

EVERY ONE OF THOSE LIGHTS ARE PORTALS THAT TAKOFANES HAS OPENED UP TO BRING THE DEAD TO THE LIVING.


NOT UNLIKE THE GRAND PLAN THAT WAS MEANT FOR US.



YOU WERE MEANT TO DELIVER US TO OUR PARADISE, MAXIMA. EVEN YOUR NAME WAS CHOSEN BY PROPHECY.




MAXIMA... MEANING "THE GREATEST". THE GREATEST GIFT FOR OUR GOD TO HAVE.



MY PARENTS... STEFAN AND JOSEF... WHY HAVEN'T THEY TRIED TO REACH OUT TO ME ALL THESE YEARS?


YOUR PARENTS ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU, MAXIMA. YOUR BROTHERS AS WELL. THEY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.



I WENT THROUGH YEARS OF BEING TEASED AND TORMENTED BY PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT THAT I KILLED EVERYONE I KNEW!


THE GUILT! THE GUILT I CARRIED WITH ME, THINKING I KILLED MY WHOLE FAMILY!

ALL PART OF THE PLAN, MY CHILD.


A close-up shot of Bishop, a bald man with a shaved head and a black coat, looking towards the Living TOME, a woman with long red hair wearing a dark blue coat and a red necklace. Bishop is speaking.

WHAT KIND OF A GOD WOULD ALLOW THEIR "BRIDE" TO THINK THAT SHE MURDERED HER WHOLE FAMILY?!?  
WHAT KIND OF PLAN WOULD TORMENT SOMEONE NEEDLESSLY LIKE THAT?

MIND YOUR WORDS, CHILD!  
YOURS IS NOT TO QUESTION THE PLAN PUT BEFORE US BOTH.

A medium shot of Bishop and the Living TOME on a rooftop at night. Bishop is in the foreground, looking back at the Living TOME who is standing further back.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.  
YOUR FAMILY IS WAITING.

A medium shot of the Living TOME on a rooftop at night, looking towards the camera.

IF MY PARENTS AND BROTHERS ARE STILL ALIVE, THEN WHY DIDN'T THE LIVING TOME TELL ME THEY WERE?

A medium shot of Bishop and the Living TOME on a rooftop at night. Bishop is on the left, looking up at the sky. The Living TOME is on the right, looking towards Bishop.

ALL WILL BE MADE CLEAR SOON.

IT WILL BE MADE CLEAR HERE AND NOW.  
WHY DOES THE LIVING TOME SAY THAT MY FAMILY IS STILL DEAD?

A wide shot of Bishop walking away from the Living TOME on a rooftop at night. Bishop is in the distance, walking towards the left. The Living TOME is in the foreground, looking after him.

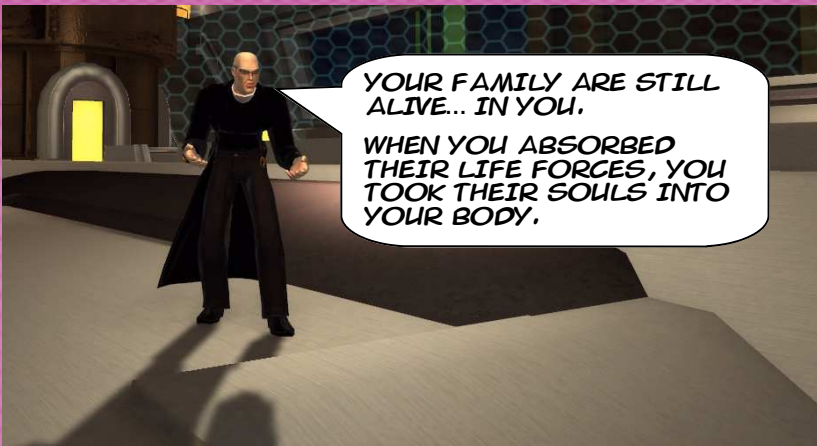
ANSWER ME, BISHOP.

ANSWER ME!





YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL YOU ANSWER ME.



YOUR FAMILY ARE STILL ALIVE... IN YOU.  
WHEN YOU ABSORBED THEIR LIFE FORCES, YOU TOOK THEIR SOULS INTO YOUR BODY.

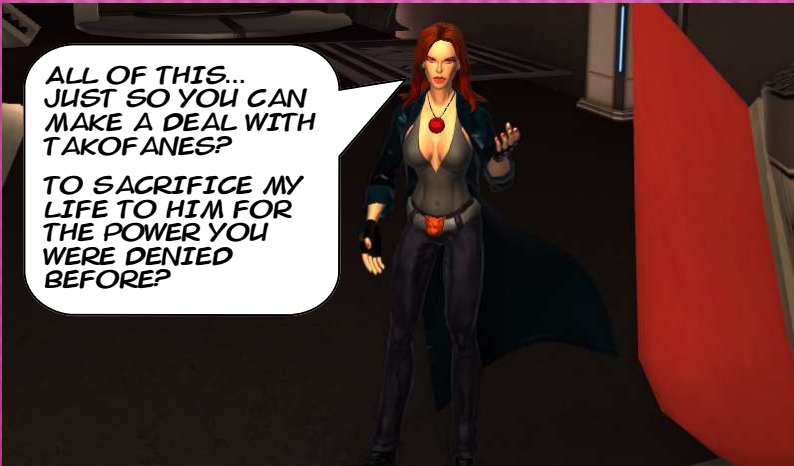


YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO CARRY THE CHURCH WITH YOU, TO DELIVER THEM TO THE NEXT WORLD.

OBVIOUSLY YOUR UNCLE RUINED THOSE PLANS WHEN HE WHISKED YOU AWAY FROM THE ALTAR BEFORE THE CROSSING COULD BE FINALIZED.

BUT EVEN THOUGH THE PROPHECY IS RUINED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL REMAIN DEAD.

WE CAN STILL REUNITE YOU WITH THEM... THROUGH TAKOFANES, AS HIS BRIDE.

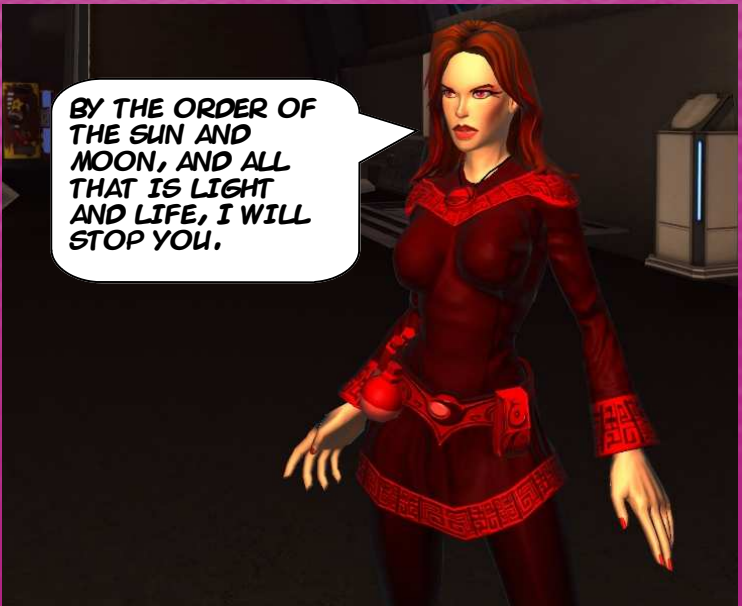


ALL OF THIS... JUST SO YOU CAN MAKE A DEAL WITH TAKOFANES?

TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE TO HIM FOR THE POWER YOU WERE DENIED BEFORE?



I DON'T THINK SO!



BY THE ORDER OF THE SUN AND MOON, AND ALL THAT IS LIGHT AND LIFE, I WILL STOP YOU.



**YOU WILL DO NOTHING, CHILD.**



**\*FWISH!\***



**VICTOR RUINED THE GRAND PLAN BEFORE, BUT HE'S NOT HERE TO HELP YOU!**



**\*ENF\***

**\*FWISH!\***



**YOU KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN!  
YOU KNEW MY MAGIC WOULD KILL EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH!**



**\*ENF\***  
**YOU DIDN'T SURVIVE.  
YOU RAN!**

**\*FWISH!\***



**THAT WAS ALWAYS PART OF THE DIVINE PLAN.  
SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO WELCOME THE DARK GOD HERE AND TO PRESENT YOU TO HIM AS HIS BRIDE.**



AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED MY REWARD THIS TIME!



\*KRAKOOOM\*



IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE?



I'LL SHOW YOU REAL MAGIC.



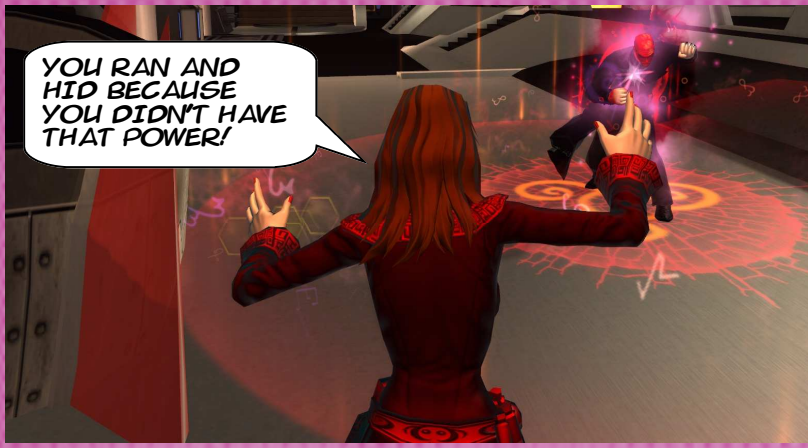
\*KRAKOOOM\*



WITCHCRAFT WAS ABLE TO GUARD HERSELF FROM MY UNCONTROLLED MAGICS.  
SO WERE THE OTHER MYSTICS THAT JOINED HER IN STOPPING YOUR DARK GOD.  
BUT MY UNCLE COULDN'T CAST SUCH A SPELL AND CARRY ME AWAY AT THE SAME TIME.  
THAT'S WHY HE DIED.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?  
STOP IT!

\*DRAAAAAAAAAAWWWW\*



YOU RAN AND HID BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT POWER!



IF YOU WERE TRULY BLESSED BY YOUR DARK GOD, THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO RUN.



\*AKK!\*

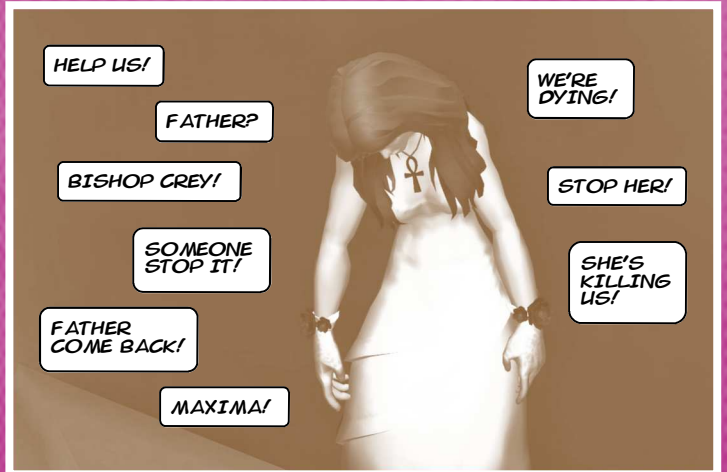


\*THUD\*



HE'S DEAD.

FOR A SECOND TIME, I FIND MYSELF PAINED BY THE DEATH OF SOMEONE I KNEW.



HELP US!

FATHER?

BISHOP GREY!

SOMEONE STOP IT!

FATHER COME BACK!

MAXIMA!

WE'RE DYING!

STOP HER!

SHE'S KILLING US!



THE MEMORIES OF THAT DAY ARE FLOODING IN. DRAWING IN HIS LIFE FORCES SHOWED ME WHAT I COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHEN I WAS DRUGGED.

HE WALKED AWAY AS HIS FOLLOWERS WERE DYING. HE WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE AS I KILLED THEM WITH MY UNLEASHED AND UNCONTROLLED MAGICS.

SOME TIME LATER...

I JUST HEARD FROM WITCHCRAFT. SHE SAID GREY HAD DIED OF A HEART ATTACK.

APPARENTLY GREY SUFFERED FROM A HEART DEFECT THAT WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM USING ANY KIND OF POWERFUL MAGIC SPELLS.

I COULD FEEL HIM DYING, UNCLE. I COULD HAVE STOPPED IT... BUT I DIDN'T.

NO. YOU COULDN'T HAVE STOPPED HIM FROM DRIVING HIMSELF TO DEATH LIKE THAT.

GREY SEALED HIS FATE WHEN HE OFFERED TO GIVE YOU TO TAKOFANES. THE LICH KING WOULD HAVE NEVER GIVEN HIM THE POWER HE WANTED.

THE DARK GOD PROPHECY... YOU SAID YOU KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT IT. GREY MADE IT UP, DIDN'T HE?

PARTS OF IT. THE SCYTHE OF THE MOON WAS REAL, WORSHIPPING THE GOD OF THE MOON.


BUT THE GOD OF THE MOON WASN'T A DARK GOD LOOKING TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD.

SHE IS THE SISTER OF THE EARTH, AND SHE WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO THREATEN IT.



THE "GOD" THAT CREY PLEDGED YOU TO WAS ONE OF THE FAILED GODS OF THE QLIPOTHIC REALM.

AS LONG AS CREY HELD ALL THE TEXTS AND FORBADE HIS FOLLOWERS FROM READING THEM, HE COULD CLAIM THEY WERE STILL FOLLOWING THE GOD OF THE MOON WHEN THEY WERE REALLY FOLLOWING A FAILED LESSER DEITY.




UNTIL YOU FOUND OUT THE TRUTH, AND THE "THOUSAND YEARS" REFERENCE?

THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE FAILED GOD TO BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TRY ANOTHER CROSSING.




THANK YOU, UNCLE.

FOR WHAT?



FOR TELLING ME THE TRUTH, AND FOR TRUSTING ME.



YOU'RE MY FAMILY, MAXIMA.

I MADE THE MISTAKE OF TURNING MY BACK ON FAMILY BEFORE AND IT COST ME MY LIFE.

BUT NOW I'M THE UNDEAD LORD OF THIS FAMILY'S HOUSE, AND AS LONG AS I AM, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK.



WHY DON'T YOU  
GO UPSTAIRS  
AND GET SOME  
REST?  
THE BLOOD MOON  
IS STILL GOING  
TO BE AROUND  
WHEN YOU GET UP.



THAT SOUNDS  
REALLY GOOD.  
THANK YOU,  
UNCLE.



MY NAME IS MAXIMA WANN.

I WAS RAISED LIKE A  
PRINCESS, BORN BRING  
ABOUT A NEW PARADISE.

BUT I FOUND OUT THAT  
WHAT I BELIEVED WAS A LIE.  
I WAS MANIPULATED BY MY  
FAMILY AND BY THE MAN I  
THOUGHT I COULD LOOK UP  
TO AND TRUST.



BUT I WAS SAVED BY MY  
UNCLE AND BY SOME REALLY  
POWERFUL HEROES.  
THEY GAVE ME A NEW LIFE  
AND A NEW PURPOSE.



AND I AM NOT  
GOING TO LET  
THEM DOWN!

EPILOGUE



BE QUICK.  
I'M WORKING.

CODE: NERO.  
THE CONTRACT IS CANCELLED.



ARE YOU CERTAIN HE WANTS TO CANCEL?  
I HAVE THE PERFECT SHOT.

CLIENT IS SPECIFIC.  
CONTRACT IS CANCELLED.  
STAND DOWN, KEIRA FYRE.



PITY... I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING IT.



NEXT TIME, PRINCESS, I WON'T ANSWER THE PHONE UNTIL AFTER I TAKE THE SHOT.



IT'S DONE.  
THE CONTRACT ON MAXIMA HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

THANK YOU.

END(?)



# "HE WHO CHRONICLES..."

*Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.*

## Salem Sentinel Press

### Sleepy Suburban Cult Massacre, 1 Survivor

By all accounts, the small town of Devana was no different than your ordinary Massachusetts community. It had your average middle-class neighborhoods, schools, grocery stores, and even a non-denominational church.

But this town also held a dark secret that culminated in a bizarre ritual that was meant to bring about the end of the world. A secret that resulted in the deaths of an estimated two-hundred followers.

According to town officials, more than half of the community were followers of a cult known as the Scythe of the Moon; a church with its roots in Slavic pagan beliefs. Members of this cult believed that the end of the world would soon take place, and that it would involve a teenaged girl chosen by their god.

Last Thursday, the church of the Scythe of the Moon was raided by several mystical agents led by Witchcraft of the superhero group The Champions. The raid broke up an attempted Armageddon ceremony that involved a sixteen-year old girl whose name has been withheld. The girl was rescued by her uncle, a former follower of that cult, but sadly died during the rescue.

The church building itself caught fire during the confrontation, but, according to Witchcraft, everyone inside the church with the exception of the teen were already dead.

"The girl was forced to cast a spell that drained the life force of everyone in the area," said Witchcraft. "By our understanding, she was drugged before the ceremony took place so she could not resist. The spell was powerful enough to drain the lives of all those in attendance except for those of us who could cast protection spells."

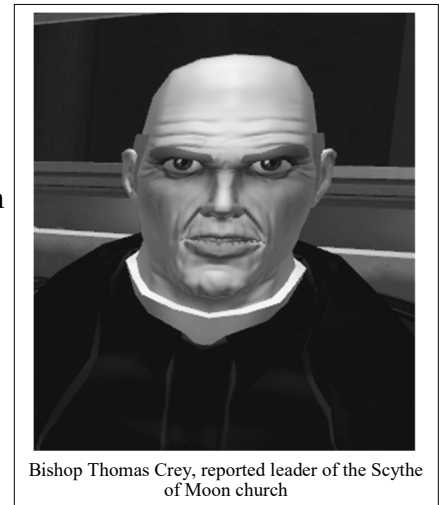
The girl's uncle, who himself was a mystical consultant, could not cast such a spell to protect himself and still carry his niece to safety. He succumbed to the spell once he got the girl outside of the burning structure. His name has also been withheld at the request of Witchcraft.

The church was led by Bishop Thomas Crey, who had been in charge of the cult since 1979. Although his body has yet to be found, it is suspected that he died with the others.

Anna-Maria Sanborn, the former mayor of Devana, said that by all accounts, the followers of the Scythe of the Moon were ordinary citizens with normal routines.

"A lot of people here worked IT jobs," said Sanborn, who was not a member of the cult but also had nothing bad to say about the followers before this incident. "They were just your ordinary, hard-working Americans who go to church on Sundays like everyone else. It's just that their church was not your traditional one."

Sanborn said Bishop Crey gave all the appearance of your friendly neighborhood minister.



Bishop Thomas Crey, reported leader of the Scythe of Moon church

*Continues on next page...*

# "HE WHO CHRONICLES..."

*Continued from previous page...*

"He oversaw charity events. He reached out to other members of the community, even those that were not followers of his church."

Witchcraft said that the Scythe of the Moon did not behave like a typical cult religion.

"This group gave all the appearance of mainstream religious organization," the mystical superhero said. "This included a church structure and ceremonies. They didn't conceal themselves in secrecy and shut themselves out from others."

The only difference, according to Witchcraft, was when it came to their believed day of redemption, when their chosen "bride" would present herself to their god.

"Most of the followers didn't know the details of the ceremony. They were only told that their time was coming and that this teenager would be the one to help deliver them to the next world."

Sanborn said that the followers in the community were incredibly generous near the time of the ceremony, giving away belongings and selling off valuables.

"It just seemed like they were preparing to go somewhere and that was odd," she said.

According to Witchcraft, it was that act that caught the suspicion of officials.

"When cults are preparing to enact their final days, the followers will always sell off or give away their belongings. Some of them will update their wills, or they'll outright give away their homes and cars and their prized possessions. They will make no plans after the planned day and will even cancel doctors appointments and proscriptions."

The names of those killed in the ceremony are still being withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

By all accounts the teenaged girl will be checked out and then released to a guardian for care until her 18th birthday. As she was drugged and thus not in control of her actions, no charges will be filed against her.

*Salem Sentinel Press, 2014*

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# CHAMPIONS ONLINE BLOOD MOON

## THE FALLEN HEROES HAVE ARISEN!



THE DARK LORD TAKOFANES HAS SUMMONED THIRTEEN FALLEN HEROES FROM THE BATTLE OF DETROIT.

THEIR SOULS ARE BOUND TO THIRTEEN PORTALS WHICH YOU MUST SEVER BEFORE THE ARMIES OF THE DEAD DESTROY THE WORLD OF THE LIVING!

GIVE THE FALLEN HEROES PEACE AND SAVE THE WORLD FROM A DARK PROPHECY.



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