



You are cordially invited...



February 14, 2008



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FEBRUARY 14, 2008

The Wedding of Manticore and Sister Psyche Underway



FEBRUARY 14TH, 2008. VALENTINE'S DAY, AND IT APPEARS THE MOST ANTICIPATED HERO EVENT IS UPON US:

THE WEDDING OF MANTICORE AND SISTER PSYCHE.

CREATED BY: CHASE ARGANLUM & CINDER FLAME. THANKS TO THE ENTIRE NCNG TEAM FOR THEIR SUPPORT



ALTHOUGH NEWS OF THEIR ENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN CIRCULATING FOR MONTHS, PLANNING FOR THE NUPTIALS HAS BEEN CAREFULLY GUARDED...

...UNTIL THIS MORNING, WHEN USHERS APPEARED TO TRANSPORT GUESTS TO THE STILL-SECRET LOCATION.



ALREADY A POPULAR HERO GATHERING POINT, ATLAS PARK IS NOW PACKED WITH HEROES.

UHH... GOTTA RUN GUYS.

I... I FORGOT MY KEYS



OUR WSPDR AFFILIATE HAS REPORTED A SIMILAR GATHERING ON MERCY ISLE.

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FIELD REPORTER FAITH NOTTINGHAM IS NOW WITH US IN ATLAS PARK.

TY HALL REPLACED BY AUTOMATONS. EFFICIENCY UP

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FAITH, I'M NOT SURPRISED MANTICORE MADE FRIENDS DURING HIS TIME IN THE ROGUE ISLES, BUT SO MANY?

30% WENTWORTHS: HERO PROPOSALS DRIVE D.I.A

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MOND & PLATINUM UP. DISCRIMINATING BRIDES CHO

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THAT IS TRUE, ROBIN, BUT THE FREEDOM PHALANX FACES SECURITY THREATS FROM THE RIKTI, NEMESIS, AND ARACHNOS ALL THE TIME.

NO VILLAIN STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST THAT

THEY'VE EVEN MANAGED ADMIRABLY AGAINST THE ENTIRE CELEBRITY NEWS FORCE

... INTERVIEW

HAS THE MEDIA COVERAGE BEEN THAT AGGRESSIVE?

... PREDATORY. AFTER "MANTICORE'S BACHELOR PARTY" PROVED TO BE A HOAX, THEY'RE MORE CAREFUL WITH THE FACTS, BUT NO LESS DILIGENT.

YES AT WORK: AFTER 3 YEARS MAGI VAULT DOOR ST

THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS A FASHION COUP OF SORTS IN ICON:

THE WEDDING PARTY WILL BE WEARING LAUREN ORIGINALS.

L BROKEN HOLLOW POINT ARRESTED DURING BRIC

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WE HAVE VIDEO FROM HER LATEST SHOW

FORWARDING TO THE BRIDAL DESIGN NOW

HIEST ... ASAT ... WILSON 600



BREATHTAKING



MOST ANALYSTS EXPECTED CARSON, FAMOUS FOR HIS WORK WITH OTHER CELEBRITY HEROES, TO BE TAPPED FOR THE JOB.

SERGE WAS A CLOSE SECOND.

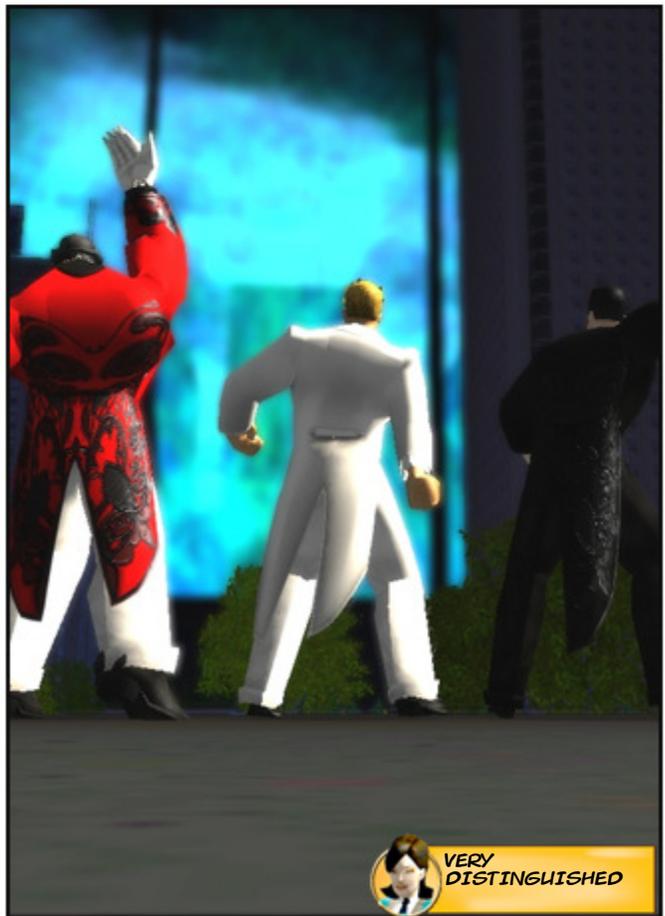
LAUREN...



WE REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED. LAUREN BEGAN AS A SIMPLE SEAMSTRESS, WORKING HER WAY TO HEAD TAILOR IN INDEPENDENCE PORT'S ICON.



ONLY SOMEONE OF HER SKILL COULD WORK THE DURABLE HERO-FRIENDLY FABRICS INTO SUCH DELICATE LACE DESIGNS.





ATTENTION TO
DETAIL HAS ALWAYS
BEEN ONE OF
LAUREN'S
HALLMARKS. HERE
WE SEE SOME
TRADITIONAL HERO
COSTUMES
SPORTING NEW
ACCESSORIES FOR
THE CHEST AND
HIPS



EXCESS PLUS



HEARTS PLUS



ANGELIC PLUS



COSTUMED HEROES AND
WEDDING PARTY THROWING
RICE, CONFETTI, AND ROSE
PETALS AS THE GROOM
PROPOSES...



FORESHADOWING OF
TODAY'S EVENT, PERHAPS?

LOVE IS IN THE AIR, ROBIN. I
PREDICT MANY MORE SCENES
LIKE THIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE...



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THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME ACTIVITY AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE. THIS MIGHT BE IT!

WHADDAYA MEAN I'M NOT ON THE LIST?

OF COURSE I'M ON THE LIST!

I'M SORRY MISS, BUT ORDERS ARE ORDERS.

PORT: INVESTIGATIVE, RIKTI: UNDERCOVER MASS FIR BOLS EXODUS; WHO'S GUARDING THE HENGE P... CITY



BUT ... BUT DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I PAID FOR THIS DRESS?!

I USED UP ALL MY TOKENS IN ISSUE 10!

NOT MY PROBLEM.



OF COURSE NOT, MR. NPC-LISHER. YOU'RE SPECIAL. YOUR COSTUMES COME STRAIGHT FROM THE "CAN'T MAKE AN NPC UNDER 8' TALL" DEVS.

PLEASE DON'T BREAK THE 4TH WALL...

AND PLEASE STEP OFF THE LEDGE BEFORE YOU GET HURT.



JUST BE CAREFUL, FAITH. STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN AROUND HEROES

OF COURSE, EVERYONE AT PNN REMEMBERS MONICA'S LOSS, NOT FAR FROM THIS VERY SPOT

BUT I'M AT A WEDDING. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

DON'T FEEL BAD.

YOU'RE PROBABLY TOO SHORT TO SEE THE CEREMONY ANYWAY.

Y HALL REPLACED BY AUTOMATO ... COUNCIL PROTESTS NEW LEA ... YOLIE





EVER VIGILANT



SO... POSITRON'S OFFICIATING THE WEDDING.
IS HE A MINISTER?

OH... I... UMM... JUST WANT TO KNOW HIS TITLE...



I DON'T KNOW, HE COULD BE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

OR MAYBE A SHIP'S CAPTAIN?

DOES A SUPERGROUP CAPTAIN QUALIFY?

DOES IT REALLY MATTER? WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?



SO I CAN SHOW PROPER RESPECT NEXT TIME I DO HIS TASK FORCE.



LIAR. NOBODY DOES POSITRON'S TASK FORCE MORE THAN ONCE.
NOT WILLINGLY, ANYWAY.



OK. YOU CAUGHT ME. I'M A NECROMANCER.

I WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PRIESTLY POWERS TO DISPEL MY MINIONS



OH... THAT'S ALL?



A VILLAIN? EXPLAINS WHY YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT POSI'S TASK FORCE....

SO... U.M... HOW'S THE WEATHER IN THE ROGUE ISLES?

CLOUDY. NEVER RAINS, BUT ALWAYS CLOUDY.



THEIR WORRIES MUST BE SO DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN...



I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WORE THE SAME THING...



I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WORE THE SAME THING..



ALWAYS REMAINING PARAGONS OF DECORUM.

MOMENTS LIKE THIS ARE WHY I SUPPORT THE PVP COMMUNITY.

WOO! FREEBIRD! FREEBIRD! PAAARRRTT AYYY!

BUT THERE'S NOT EVEN A BAND?

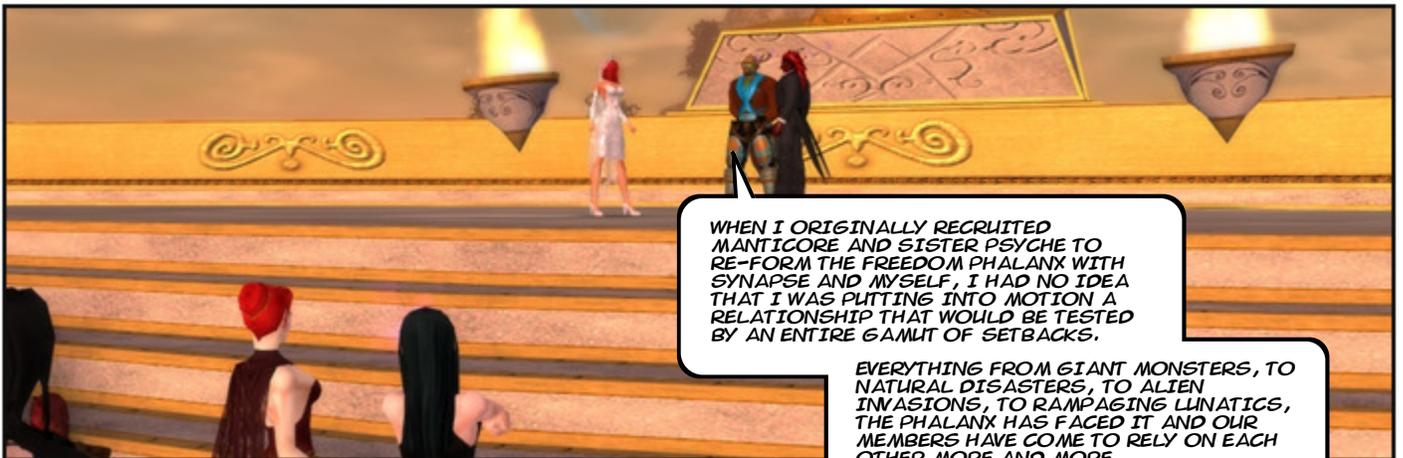
PLEASE EX, ENABLE MY POWERS FOR 5 SECONDS.



SORRY, BUT THIS ONE'S MINE.



WAITING FOR THE MOMENT IT BEGINS...



WHEN I ORIGINALLY RECRUITED MANTIGORE AND SISTER PSYCHE TO RE-FORM THE FREEDOM PHALANX WITH SYNAPSE AND MYSELF, I HAD NO IDEA THAT I WAS PUTTING INTO MOTION A RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD BE TESTED BY AN ENTIRE GAMUT OF SETBACKS.

EVERYTHING FROM GIANT MONSTERS, TO NATURAL DISASTERS, TO ALIEN INVASIONS, TO RAMPAGING LUNATICS, THE PHALANX HAS FACED IT AND OUR MEMBERS HAVE COME TO RELY ON EACH OTHER MORE AND MORE.



WHAT TOOK A WHILE FOR ANY OF US TO NOTICE THE RELATIONSHIP THAT GREW BETWEEN MANTIGORE AND SISTER PSYCHE.



IT WASN'T UNTIL MANTIGORE'S "BETRAYAL" WHERE HE WENT UNDERCOVER IN THE ARACHNOS ORGANIZATION AS A MOLE DID ANY OF US REALIZE THE BOND THAT HE AND PSYCHE SHARED.

THE ONLY PERSON TRUSTED WITH THE SECRET OF HIS BETRAYAL WAS SISTER PSYCHE, TO THE POINT WHERE SHE LET HERSELF BE KIDNAPPED AND TORTURED IN ORDER FOR HIS PLAN TO SUCCEED.

IF THAT'S NOT TRUE LOVE, FOLKS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.



I FEEL FORTUNATE TO BE THE ONE STANDING BEFORE THESE TWO TODAY. OF ALL THE GREAT HEROES THIS CITY HAS TO OFFER, IT WAS A GREAT HONOR TO BE ASKED TO SAY A FEW WORDS HERE ABOUT THESE TWO HEROES. I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT WITHOUT EITHER OF THEM, PARAGON CITY WOULD NOT BE STANDING, YOU AND I, WE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE. PARAGON CITY, AND ALL OF US, OWE THESE TWO OUR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS. IT IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO TO COME OUT HERE TODAY AND WISH THEM THE BEST ON THE BEGINNING OF THEIR LIVES TOGETHER.



THEY HAVE INFORMED ME THAT THEY HAVE WRITTEN THEIR OWN VOWS, AND SO I WILL NOW TURN THIS OVER TO MANTIGORE....

MANTIP?



FROM THE START, OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN BUILT MORE ON PURE EMOTION AND HONESTY THAN IT HAS ON WORDS.

I COULD NEVER HIDE MY FEELINGS FROM YOU, WHICH ESTABLISHED A FOUNDATION OF TRUST THAT BLOSSOMED INTO SOMETHING SPECIAL AS THE YEARS ROLLED BY.

WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD AND FACED SO MANY CHALLENGES TOGETHER. IT SEEMED THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS A NEW CRIME TO STOP OR A NEW THREAT TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM.



I BEGAN TO THINK THAT WE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO ANOTHER LEVEL. THEN THE RIKTI WAR CAME INTO OUR LIVES AND IN THE AFTERMATH I JUST WANTED TO HOLD YOU AND TRY, SOMEHOW, TO MAKE EVERYTHING ALRIGHT...BUT IT WASN'T FULLY YOU.

I COULD SENSE THAT OUR PSYCHIC BOND WAS STILL THERE, BUT THINGS JUST WEREN'T THE SAME.



WE GREW APART FOR A TIME, BUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU NEVER CHANGED, BUT YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT. WHEN YOU WERE RETURNED TO YOUR OWN FORM I REJOICED WITH YOU AND MY HOPE SPARKED ANEW.



IRONICALLY, IT WASN'T UNTIL LORD RECLUSE DAMPENED EVERYONE'S POWERS THAT I TRULY UNDERSTOOD WHAT I FELT FOR YOU. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON I SOUGHT OUT DURING THAT DARK TIME?



TRULY, DEEPLY, AND WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING I TRUSTED YOU. THE REST OF THE WORLD ONLY SEES THE ACTIONS I TAKE. THEY VIEW ME AS THE LOOSE CANNON OF THE FREEDOM PHALANX WHO TAKES RECKLESS ACTIONS WITHOUT FULLY CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES.



YOU HAVE ALWAYS SEEN ME DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE THE THOUGHTS AND SENSE THE FEELINGS BEHIND THE ACTIONS. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE, THE ONLY ONE, WHO KNOWS I HAVE A PLAN.

EVEN WHEN IT WAS A PLAN LIKE 'I HAVE TO KILL STATESMAN', WHICH MUST HAVE SOUNDED CRAZY AT THE TIME, YOU SAW MORE THAN THE REST AND YOU TRUSTED ME.



I'M NOT KNOWN FOR MY HEARTFELT WORDS, BUT THAT IS THE SIDE OF ME YOU BRING OUT. I'M SURE EVERYONE IS EXPECTING SOME SARCASTIC REMARK.



THE TRUTH IS THAT MY REAL DESIRE IS SIMPLY TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH YOU.



I HOPE THAT IN THE YEARS AHEAD WE CAN CONTINUE TO DEEPEN THIS EMPATHIC BOND, BECAUSE TOGETHER WE ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE SUM OF OUR ABILITIES.



MY DARLING JUSTIN,



HAVING BEEN ON THIS WORLD LONGER THAN MOST, I HAVE SEEN MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE OF BOTH JOY AND SORROW. YET IN ALL THOSE YEARS I NEVER FELT THE KIND OF JOY THAT YOU BRING TO MY LIFE. MY ABILITIES GIVE ME A WINDOW INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE HUMAN PSYCHE.

I SEE PEOPLE'S INNER-MOST THOUGHTS AND I FIND THAT MOST MINDS ARE GOVERNED BY SHADES OF GREY. THE DAY I MET YOU I REMEMBER WATCHING YOU IN ACTION, LOOSING ARROW AFTER ARROW WITH SUCH CLEAR PURPOSE IT WAS LIKE A BEACON OF PURE LIGHT AMONG THE SHADOWS



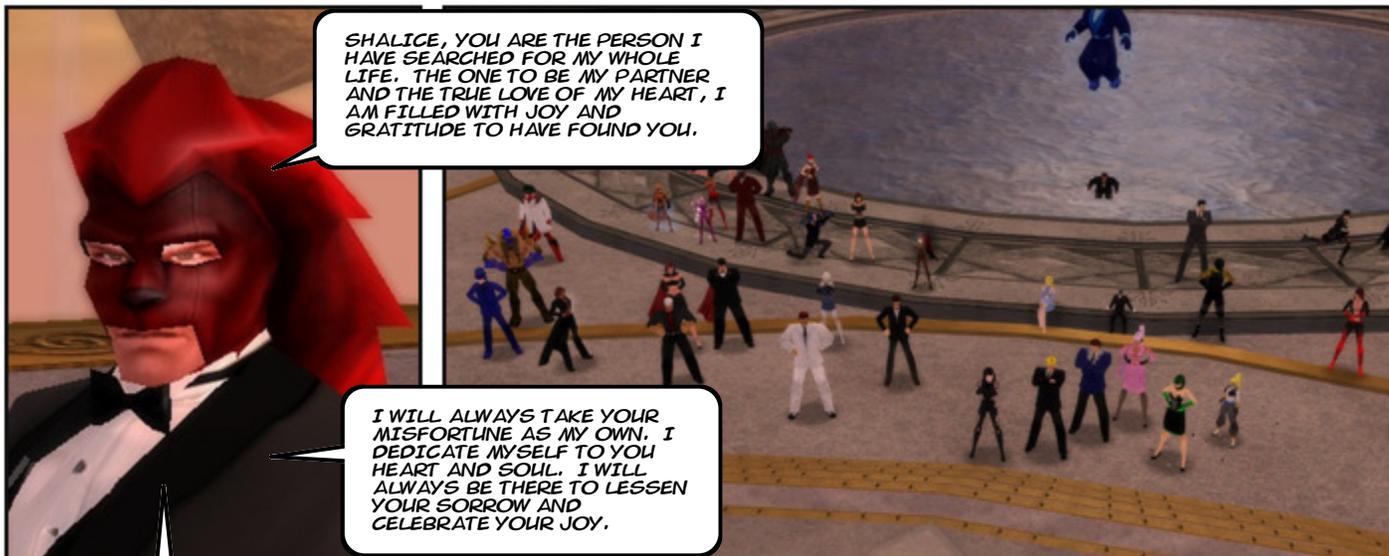
WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH OUR OWN DARK TIMES. AFTER THE RIKTI WAR I KNOW YOU FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO RELATE TO A 'ME' THAT WASN'T 'ME'. I DISTANCED MYSELF FROM YOU, FEARING THAT OUR CONNECTION WAS LOST UNTIL I COULD RETURN TO MY OWN BODY.

BUT NOW I KNOW THAT OUR BOND IS NOT BASED ON ANY ONE SIMPLE ASPECT OF WHO WE ARE. MY WORLD IS OF THE MIND AND I SOMETIMES LOSE MY CONNECTION TO THE PHYSICAL REALITIES BEFORE ME.



I STAND HERE BESIDE YOU TODAY BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE HAS EVER MADE ME FEEL SO CONNECTED TO THE WORLD, SO ABLE TO TAKE ACTION WHEN NECESSARY





SHALICE, YOU ARE THE PERSON I HAVE SEARCHED FOR MY WHOLE LIFE. THE ONE TO BE MY PARTNER AND THE TRUE LOVE OF MY HEART, I AM FILLED WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE TO HAVE FOUND YOU.

I WILL ALWAYS TAKE YOUR MISFORTUNE AS MY OWN. I DEDICATE MYSELF TO YOU HEART AND SOUL. I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO LESSEN YOUR SORROW AND CELEBRATE YOUR JOY.



HERE BEFORE OUR FRIENDS, THE OPEN SKY, THE ENDLESS SEA, AND THE ANCIENT EARTH, I GIVE YOU THIS RING WHICH REPRESENTS THE HARMONIOUS BLEND OF TWO SPIRITS, FORMING A STRONGER WHOLE. CARVED FROM THE SAME METAL AS THE RING YOU GIVE ME, IT BINDS US FOREVER.

JUSTIN, HERE BEFORE OUR FRIENDS, THE OPEN SKY, THE ENDLESS SEA, AND THE ANCIENT EARTH, I GIVE YOU THIS RING WHICH REPRESENTS THE HARMONIOUS BLEND OF TWO SPIRITS, FORMING A STRONGER WHOLE. CARVED FROM THE SAME METAL AS THE RING YOU GIVE ME, IT BINDS US FOREVER.



WITH THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, AND KEN'S 24 HOUR INTERNET MINISTRY, I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE...

YOU MAY NOW KISS THE BRIDE!



OH HOW TOUCHING, THE FREEDOM PHALANX THINKS THEY CAN SECLIDE THEMSELVES AWAY AND HAVE A NICE PRIVATE CEREMONY. WELL, NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!



VILLAINS! MINIONS OF ARACHNOS! FOLLOW ME TO VICTORY!



I JUST KNEW YOU COULDN'T LET ME HAVE THIS DAY TO MYSELF RECLUSE!



HEROES! LETS TAKE THESE PLINKS DOWN SO I CAN GET ON WITH MY HONEYMOON!



LORD RECLUSE'S FORCES
HAVE CRASHED THE
WEDDING!



THE FIGHTING
IS INTENSE



NO QUARTER
IS ASKED.

TAKE IT EASY
GUYS, THIS
TUX IS A
RENTAL!



NONE IS
GIVEN.

EASY!
EASY!





HUSBAND AND WIFE BATTLE TOGETHER, COORDINATED BY A REINFORCED TELEPATHIC BOND

HONEYMOON.
HONEYMOON.
HONEYMOON.

JUSTIN! IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT?

YEP. YOU?

I'M THINKING: IF MY WEDDING DRESS GETS EVEN A SINGLE SNAG, I'M MINDWIPING SOMEONE BACK TO LEVEL 1.

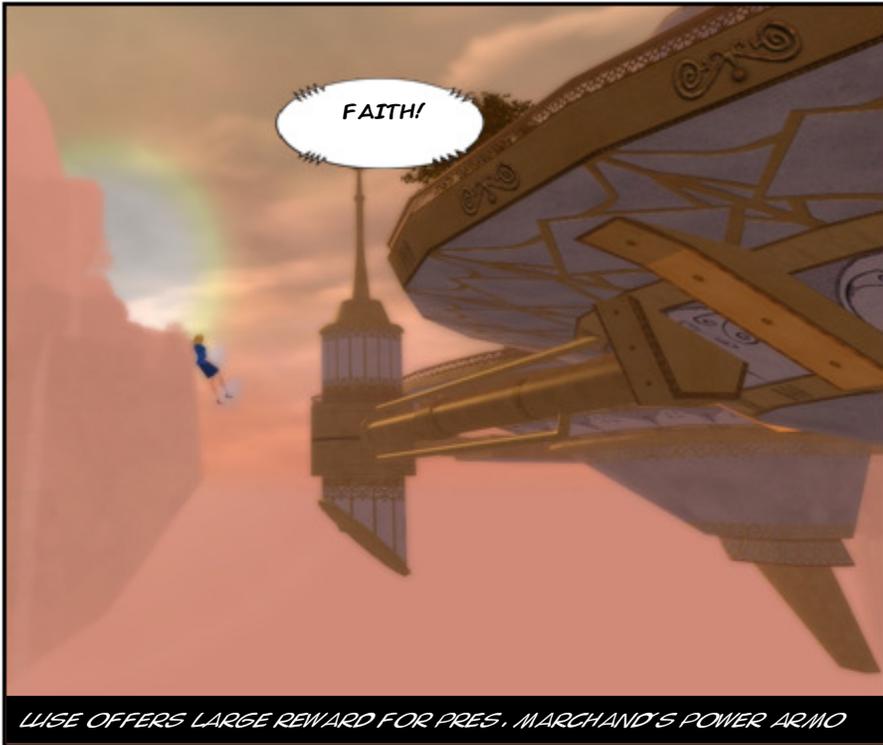
HONEYMOON...







IT APPEARS THAT THE HEROES HAVE GAINED THE UPPER HAND, BUT IN THESE TIGHT QUARTERS, TELLING FRIEND FRO..



FAITH!

LUISE OFFERS LARGE REWARD FOR PRES. MARCHAND'S POWER ARMIO



FAITH!



I SAID I'D BE CAREFUL.

LORD RECLUSE HAS BEEN DRIVEN OFF! IF I HURRY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET AN EXCLUSIVE!

HOW MUCH FUEL DO THESE RAPTOR PACKS HAVE, ANYWAY?

RVOLVES PROTEST SPAY PROGRAM



THIS IS FAITH NOTTINGHAM SIGNING OFF!

RICKER UNION STANDOFF CONTINUES FOR BETTER DENTAL COVERAG



SYNAPSE SEARCHES FOR HIS NEXT TARGET

SO MANY BACHELOTTES, SO LITTLE TIME

THANK HEAVEN I'M A SUPERSPEEDER

BACK ALLEY BRAWLER ALWAYS CRIES AT WEDDINGS

PART OF BEING A HERO IS KNOWING YOUR LIMITS

...OR MAYBE NOT...

LIGHTHOUSE'S ULTIMATE PVP SURVIVAL GUIDE:

AND WHO WAS LEAKING RUMORS TO THE PRESS, ANYWAY?

AND THEN THE HONEY MOON WILL BE...

HIDE