

# True City Times

A L L T H A T F I T S I N P R I N T \* S P E C I A L E X T E N D E D E D I T I O N

## QUEENS IN A NUTSHELL

- **Cymnea:** Cold and forbidding, but efficient.
- **Faiella:** Oberon loved her best, but so did Rebma.
- **Rilga:** Unruly pirate wench.
- **Clarissa:** Redheaded temper and temperament.
- **Dybele:** The prettiest and most rapid of them all.
- **Lora:** Mother of traitors, died cursing the King.
- **Harla:** Lasted just long enough that we remember her name.
- **Paulette:** Long live the Queen!

## the queen's gambit



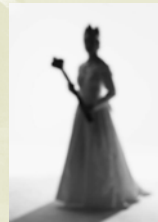
Everyone knows the Queens' Rhyme,

*"Annulled,  
died,  
divorced,  
went her own way,  
ignored,  
beheaded,  
survived unto this day."*

But what of the Queens themselves, those curious creatures that captured the imagination and, at least temporarily, the heart of good King Oberon?

We've consulted records, anecdotes, fact, and popular fiction on each Queen's life and rule, only to boil it down into the hard-hitting, fact-

finding approach you've come to expect of the True City Times.



The women behind (and a little beneath) the Throne

Those few who still remember the brief reign of Queen Cymnea remember most the dour portion of her can-do attitude. While her grim, sometimes bleak expression was daunting, it must be recalled that she had

very little of the comforts we now enjoy to recommend her to the One True City.

But her hatred of Faiella, now, that was a legendary kind of hatred, the slow burn of jealousy. The Lady of the Greenwood, beloved of Lir of the Sea, gave her heart to Oberon, and Oberon gave his in return, leaving Cymnea with a cold, drafty castle and rumoured, an unwanted son.

Under pressure from Cymnea's family, Oberon claimed a pox on them and their houses, and annulled his and Cymnea's marriage "ab initio," or from the beginning, making all that

*continued on page 2*

## unicorn sightings?

Where has that most magical beast, symbol of the True City and its royal blood, been hiding? Has it been hunted to extinction, or has it shunned the Grove and the Greenwood for a different clime? Watchers (based on the sensationalist history, The Book of the Unicorn published under the

pseudonym "Dwor King") have been combing the locale for clues as to this mysterious and most private creature. The True City Times has received independent confirmation that the last sighting was but three days after the Great Exile, concurrent with the rejection of the Celestial City treaty and its liege, Prince Thomas.

## court digest

This week celebrates the Quincentennial of the end of the Siege of Rebma by the Baroness Calypso, and the

ensuing case on prisoners of war as brought by Duke Cardonyx of the Moonriders, decided in Rebma's favour.



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## the queen's gambit (continued)

had happened in the centuries since their happy day null and forfeit.

Free to marry Faiella, Oberon did in haste, a haste, it is said, born of the burgeoning belly of his love. While snide rumours brought by Cymnea's family suggested the child's father was Lir of the Waves, or even the forgotten Prince of Cymnea and Oberon's own blood, the child was born royalty. Oberon's love Faiella, however, did not survive the childbirth, and Oberon had the young one

“... His grief was too great to see Faiella's eyes looking at him from his son's face...”

sent away for fostering, as his grief was too great to see Faiella's eyes looking at him from his son's face.

In an abrupt departure from the sizzling passion of his now-deceased love, Oberon's fancy took to the high seas, in the form of Rilga, a pirate lass who had been terrorizing the port of Palacio, a small community in Begma.

The romance was literally a whirlwind, a dance of partners suited to each other only while in motion. Rilga's desire to sail kept her away from the tapestries and duties in the Royal Nursery, whereas the King's desires were perhaps more domestic.

The sorceress Clarissa was Oberon's fancy, and in divorcing Rilga (during a raucous storm) he sought solace in the fiery tresses and charming manner of

the apprentice wizardess to old Dworkin, hunchback and castle curmudgeon. Unlike Rilga, who left the populace and her son to their own devices, Clarissa took a more concerned approach, creating a system of apprenticeships and guilds to maintain a level of consistency in Amber's trade. Her many tirades on the role of women outside of the bed or spell chamber wore thin on Oberon's monarch, and after calling his bluff, she left, and has never been seen since.

Oberon did not mope for long, finding himself lost in the platinum and gold of Dybele's charms. Dybele's system of courtly favour grew both the realm's knighthood and standards of chivalry. Finding no interest in courtly love, Oberon grew bored and began seeing the sisters Lora and Harla,

eventually taking Lora as wife and Queen at Dybele's death of old age.

Lora's tenure as Queen was a fecund one, and her children are still notorious. Princess Elaine the Fallen, Prince Morombath, and Prince Haven the Ruined, While Prince Morombath is credited with the creation of our system of posts and messenger boxes, it is overshadowed by the (at best) *controversial* love shared by his siblings that lost their mother her life, and gained her sister a brief chance at the Throne.

Harla abdicated the Throne when it was found she was infertile, and the King's new wife, Paulette, is a breath of fresh air in a kingdom that could use a woman's touch. Harla still resides in the castle as chatelaine or steward, while Queen Paulette starts to wield her Majesty!

## prince kaathān: a first glimpse of the future?

True City Times reporters have investigated the rumours of a new Prince of Amber brought to the King's attention by his pet wizard, Dworkin. While not the first time his Majesty has been surprised by the survival of one of his

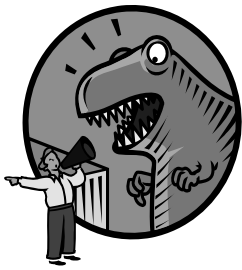
by-blows, this revelation is made especially poignant by the mother: Queen Rilga. While no evidence exists as to how King Oberon feels about having divorced the pregnant pirate, questions of succession begin to bubble like foul gas from

the new sewer system. How will Queen Paulette take this potential rival for her attention? Does Prince Bernaise, favourite for the Throne feel threatened? Will a reason be found to invalidate the new Prince's claim? Keep reading!



The wizard  
Dworkin

# weirmonken warnings



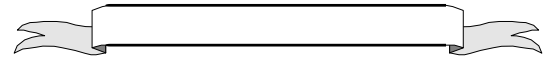
The cry and fury of anti-shapeshifter rhetoric!

**W**ith the slow decline of humans and the increase in sheer humanity and humanoids within the True City, the number of

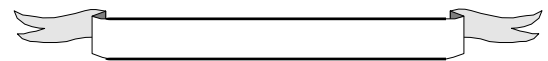
“hate crimes” against certain segments of the population continues to grow. Anti-

shapeshifter rhetoric is at an all-time high, as is panic about the Weirmonken ambassadorial staff, who have repelled three attacks this week alone.

The True City Times wants to alert the public that there is no risk of accidental lycanthropic contamination from the Weirmonken, as their abilities are inborn and non-contagious. Please do not hesitate to speak with the Royal Physician, Lord Haaken on this matter if you have any further concerns.



hear ye hear ye!  
let it be known, the pledge  
betwixt the fair  
Lady Ysaba Gentry  
and the wise  
Prince Sophos of Begma  
will be held in the  
Parthenon Gardens  
day of the hawk  
month of white clouds  
year of his majesty 3946



## isles of the sun: surf this turf!

**T**he Korrigans, the Sunny Isles’ annual tribute to the sea is again amongst us. Tests of hunting and prowess upon the water culminate in the great feast of Aeaea, and the drinking of the crystal cup.

On your first day of surfing, we recommend choosing a locale with smaller waves. Do not hold your surfboard in a position where a wave could knock it

against your face and head. Hold the board out at arms length with a hand on each fin. Jump over the oncoming white water as you walk your way out.

Hunting in the Isles is a matter of having a good net, a strong back, and a hat to shade your eyes. There is meat in abundance under the auspice of the Sun Goddess. Only the golden bloodfish is rare, and that

is because it is sacred to and raised solely by the Priestesses of the Sun. As their spawning grounds are guarded by the Queen’s Guard, you needn’t worry about accidentally coming into contact with its burning blood.

As for drinking the brew of the crystal cup, don’t forget, Lord Bayle supplies the wines this year!

“Do not hold  
your surfboard  
in a position  
where a wave  
could knock it  
against your  
face and head.”

## julian and the wild beasts

**N**ow playing at the Parthenon, this romping tale of morality features lively, graceful singers, earthy but soaring songs, and a sense of breathlessness that culminates in the young singer, Ivy Mirkwood’s best aria, “I enjoy slaughtering beasts/and I think of my relatives constantly.”

The raw emotion in this work, plus the effects on the hounds and hawks combine

to make the Parthenon’s “Masterworks” series one that sets a mark beyond any its competition could hope to beat. Their selection of pyromancy for the “Burning of Garnath” sequence is beyond compare.

For a playwright who all but totally eschewed the urban setting, “Julian and the Wild Beasts” proves that sometimes the best place to find the forest is outside the trees.

## von liechtenstein on crusade against anjou but both stopped by pig

**T**he Canterbury Tournament was nearly ignored by gamblers and audience until the rumours of a grudge re-match between the two current tourney leaders was revealed. “Anjou won at Scithia and Ypolita,” notes Emelye Theseus, “but von Liechtenstein is the crowd favourite.”

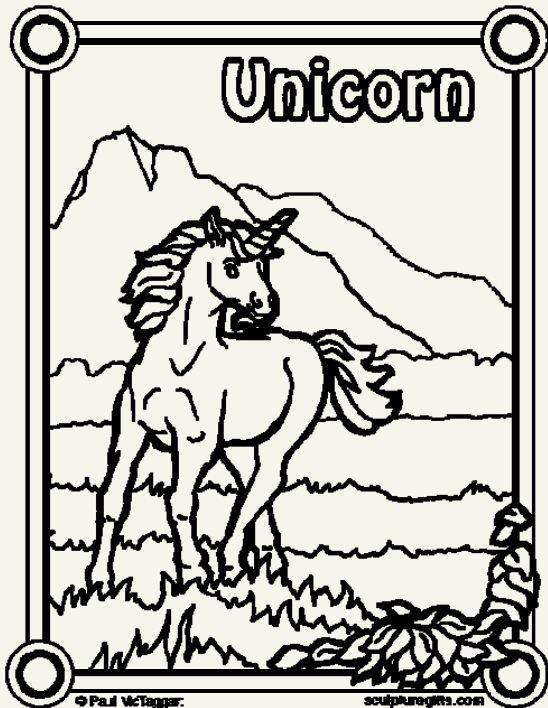
“Half the guys in the league could not knock a knight over if they had a straw one riding a lame, blind horse,” Duke Hoyle (who was backing von Liechtenstein) explained. “It was almost like we didn’t believe they had the strength to hold a lance.”

Count Creon argued for Adhemar of Anjou’s ingenuity. “It was really important to beat them -- so they could see there was no doubt,” Creon’s master said. “We knew how to push von Liechtenstein after already laying him flat twice.”

To the dismay of the circuit, the match was called after an enraged wild boar entered the fields, scattering the judges and participants.

Spiced pork will be on the menu at the Tourney of Poitiers.

# kid's coloring & activity space



## True Or False: VAMPIRES

Circle the Answers!

1. Vampires are inherently evil. TRUE FALSE
2. Vampires are always a kind of undead. TRUE FALSE
3. Vampire skin is unnaturally pale and cold to the touch. TRUE FALSE
4. A stake through the heart is the only way to cause a vampire's permanent death. TRUE FALSE
5. Sunlight causes nearly instant combustion and is nearly always fatal. TRUE FALSE

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True

## how to dress like a prince

First, choose the appropriate Prince to model yourself after...and without dropping names, let's call the different types Prince X and Prince B. Prince B is a master of dressing for the public. He chooses clothing that will impress the people that are going to see him. The primary objective of his outfit says that he is a Prince at all times. Prince X is the gentleman who wears clothing which serves simply a functional purpose.

Prince B knows clothes should not make the man;

they should be the man. If what he selects is simple rather than striking, he may appear in the same clothes as often as he likes, as long as they are fresh and appropriate to the season and the object. Prince X likes to wear costumes.

The Prince should have a number of well-tailored, perfectly fitting outfits for romantic ventures that require looking like he cares. These should be the finest-made, most stylish clothes he owns (i.e., the ones that make him feel most confident.) Prince B

will wear his colours in a subdued fashion, as accessories more than a rule. Prince B chooses outfits that are harmonious with his attributes, goals and mission. Prince X aggressively shows his colours in everything he dons.

Prince B dresses for leadership, control and direction. True leaders instill calm, as well as leadership and discipline. Prince X dresses for power and fear. Prince B uses his "business suit of armour," trusting to his impressions

to make a statement, whereas Prince X might wear actual armour.

The staff of the True City Times believe there is nothing better than a well dressed gentleman, but that a Prince is several steps ahead of any mere gentleman. As our expert advisor, Sir Geoff Tuck says, "Fashion was not exiled with the Princess Elaine."

