“POISON PEN”
So then I says to Jake, I says "You think that's bad, then boy, don't change the channel," and he's like—

Holy moly, what are you doing back here?!

---

The new volume of Random Encounter is starting! Get to work!

I ain't finished my coffee yet... just go!

You can't start a volume with bad out-of-character meta-humour. Watch me.
Hmph...

That school friggin sucks. They keep threatening to sack me, just for being a- well... you know.

A jerk?

No. Shut up.

I thought you didn't like it there anyway.

Y-yeah but... shut up! I'm really good at it so they shouldn't just fire me!

Cheer up Drake, it's not like you've got a long criminal record to worry about.

Oh my god, I hate you guys.

Hahaha! Ha ha ha ha ha!

Jerks.

Ppppppppbb!!

Dar-... g-gardelvian...

!!!

Y-you!!

Halt! Piperion!!!

You can't run from me!!

Darius! Stop! What are you doing?

That's a notorious trickster! We can't let her get away!

We've got more important work to do. Let the local patrols take care of it.

Drake...

Cracracracracrac...
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE?!

I THOUGHT HE WAS— HE'S A BLOODY GARDELVIAN ROYAL GUARD!! WHAT WOULD THEY BE DOING IN THIS PODUNK TOWN?

HOLD ON, THERE'S ROYAL GUARDS AROUND?

GEEZ, ABOUT TIME.

WH— WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!

SOME GARDENIAN ROYAL LADY IS VISITING DHARK'S. THERE WAS A LETTER A WHILE BACK—

OOH, WISH THEY'D TOLD US THE CORRECT DAY...

THE... ROYAL...

WHEN THE HELL WAS I GOING TO BE TOLD, HUH?!

...DIDN'T RYUSHIN MENTION IT?

MANA RYUSHIN...

HMM....

YOU!

YES? WHAT IS IT NOW? I TOLD YOU I AM STILL CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ASSISTANT MAGIC TEACHER...

6-9-GARD...EN... 6-9-GUARD... SHUFF...

ROYAL.... UGH.

I NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH... SHUFF— SHOULDN'T'VE RUN ALL THE WAY HERE...

UH, SURE...

WAS THAT SOMETHING ABOUT ROYAL GUARDS? ARE THE GARDELVIANS FINALLY HERE?

ARRRGH!! WHY AM I ALWAYS THE LAST ONE TO KNOW ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING?!
Well, the timing is a little off... I thought I mentioned something in the last staff meeting though.

I did not show up.

Yes, quite... well, since they'll be here soon, could you please...

...help me tell the others...

No, I suppose you wouldn't help.

I guess I'd better organise that.

So, grammar is an important part of your sentence! When you're speaking or writing, it helps impart what you want to communicate if you use it right!

There's a bunch of different ways you can structure a sentence, and it can really change the impact and feeling! Moving into practice, let's take a look at the much-maligned "passive voice".

Shut up!

Oh thank gods.

Drake, rude!!

I'd apologise but I don't intend to stop being rude, so-

Delta Morningstar! Come with me!

Haha, what did you do, Del? H-huh?

I don't remember doing anything...

You don't mind if I take her out of class, do you, Miss San?

Hmm...? Oh! Oh my. Please. Go on, Delta.

Um, am I in trouble, Miss?

Not if we leave fast enough.
Uh... W-why? What's going on?

Don't worry. You get to get out of class for a bit, congratulations!

You're not really allaying my fears...

Well... It's nothing major... The two of us will have to hide out for a bit. If you ain't seen, there is no problem.

Y'vee, there's a royal visit going on...

Clash!! Flint!! Hey boss, what's up?

For gods' sake put some clothes on!!

H-huh?!

Why do you care? We're naked! We're rhinocerops, why would anyone care?

Don't argue, just do it!!! Princess Gardenia is visiting!

But they don't even fit proper...

Does this look like the face of someone who cares?

Gods! That's them!! Hurry up!

Dear god, Altair... Please let me not screw this up...

Last-second greeting ceremony cram!!

C'mon, Taide! Now's the time!

Nooooo I'm not ready!
GREETINGS TO YOU. I AM SLAYER TAIDE WOLFE. ON BEHALF OF THE HEADMISTRESS OF THIS SCHOOL, I WELCOME YOU TO DHARK'S.

GARDENIA'S ROYALTY GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTS YOUR WELCOME.

...WOULD YOU PLEASE OPEN THE GATE SO THAT WE MAY BRING THE CARRIAGE IN?

UH... UM, N-NO.

WHAT?!

UH! SORRY! I.....

THIS GATE HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE THE WAR OF THE BREAKING, WHEN HEADMASTER AHM SHUT OFF THE SCHOOL, TO PROTECT THE HEROES OF THE BREAKING, AND TO JOIN THE FIGHTING HIMSELF. WHEN HE LEFT, HE ASKED THAT THE GATE BE CLOSED UNTIL HIS RETURN...

UM, SO I MUST ASK YOU TO COME THROUGH BY FOOT. PLEASE, BE OUR GUESTS.

IS THAT SO... OH.

HOW DULL. VERY WELL THEN.

TAKE MY BAGS, WON'T YOU?

CLASH, FLINT? GO ON AND TAKE THE PRINCESS' THINGS TO HER ROOMS.

PLEASE, PRINCESS, LET ME TAKE YOU TO SEE THE HEADMISTRESS WHILE YOUR BELONGINGS ARE TAKEN CARE OF.

OF COURSE, WE MUST ACCOMPANY HER.

Y-YES, PLEASE DO.

YOU! WHY AREN'T YOU BOWING TO ME?

H-HUH?!

I, AH... I AM SLAYER WOLFE, ER... AS A TITLED HERO, I DON'T HAVE TO BOW TO ROYALTY...

"SLAYER" ISN'T A VERY HIGH TITLE THOUGH, IS IT?

UM....
SO, I'LL GET THE STUDENTS READY WHILE YOU GREET THE PRINCESS?

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WISE?

OF COURSE. IT WILL BE FINE.

I AM THE HEADMISTRESS, AFTER ALL.

BESIDES, TAIDE WILL BE HERE. THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN, I'M SURE WE CAN HANDLE IT.

I AM A HIGHER-RANKED HERO THAN WOLFE, IF YOU WANT IT TO LOOK MORE IMPRESSIVE.

NO, NO NEED.

WE WILL TAKE THINGS EASY. THEY WILL HAVE A NICE, CORDIAL, SHORT VISIT...

...AND THEN THEY WILL LEAVE.

WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE THAT PART TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

THE HEADMISTRESS'S OFFICE IS JUST UP HERE.

STAIRS?! I THOUGHT WE TOOK THAT ENCHANTED DOORWAY TO TAKE US STRAIGHT THERE!

UH, YES... THAT WAS AS CLOSE AS IT COULD TAKE US, SO WE JUST HAVE TO WALK A LITTLE FURTHER...

GOOD! SO GO IN AND ANNOUNCE ME, BOY!

A-ANYWAY, WE'RE HERE NOW.

AH, RIGHT.

UH, PRESENTING HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS MIA GARDENIA OF GARDELVIA.

PRINCESS MIA, MAY I INTRODUCE OUR HEADMISTRESS, MISS MANA RYUSHIN.

WHAT THE— YOUR BOSS IS A SIX-YEAR OLD?!

GUARDS, ARE YOU SEEING THIS? IT'S A SIX-YEAR OLD HEADMISTRESS!
I hope Mana's doing fine... maybe I should go check.

...I'm sure she's fine. I just want an excuse to go help with that instead of dealing with all this.

AAAAAAAA!!! It's a royal visit!

Oh my gosh I'm so excited!! Guys!! We get to see the princess!!

Hey, where's Del?

Hmm, that's a good point. Mr. Danclair?

Miss San said Piperion took her somewhere. That's all I know.

Oh. Hmm. I guess that's fine. A little weird, I'll have to verify why later...

But for now-

You! Dann!! Tuck in your shirt!

Claw! Straighten out your hair!
POOR DEL, HAVING TO MISS OUT ON THIS!
SETTLE DOWN, LOKI. THOUGH I DO WONDER WHY SHE’S GONE....

NAH, THA’S BORIN’. I WOND’R WHY SOME PRINCESS IS COMIN’ TO VISIT. THA’S RIGH’ WEIRD.

UNUSUAL INDEED. THE PRINCESS OF GARDENIA, VISITING A NEWLY-REOPENED HERO SCHOOL NOT EVEN IN HER COUNTRY. VALCROSS, IS THERE ANY NEED TO WORRY?

HM? I HOPE NOT.

NO, NO NEED FOR CONCERN. I AM HERE FOR ONE REASON.

I AM HERE... TO WRITE A BOOK ON HEROICS AND ADVENTURING!

.....

REALLY?

I WOULD NOT EXPECT A SIX-YEAR OLD TO UNDERSTAND.

YOUR HIGHNESS, I ASSURE YOU I AM NOT SIX YEARS OLD.
NO MATTER.
I WILL GO OUT AND MEET YOUR STUDENTS NOW. FROM THEM, I SHALL FIND OUT WHY ONE WOULD WANT TO BE A HERO, AND JUST WHAT GOES ON IN YOUR "HERO SCHOOL".

YOU WILL TAKE ME THERE NOW.

UMMMM.
GO AHEAD, WOLF.

AHEM... PRESENTING HER HIGHNESS, PRINCESS MIA OF GARDENIA.

SO... WHAT? IS THIS JUST YOUR TOP TEN STUDENTS? YOU SHOULD BE INTRODUCING ME TO EVERYBODY AT ONCE.

UH, YES. NINE STUDENTS IS ALL WE HAVE AT THIS POINT.... THIS IS EIGHT OF THEM.

WELL NOW, I CAN SEE I WILL EASILY BE ABLE TO FIND ALL THE MATERIAL I WILL NEED FOR MY BOOK ABOUT HEROES.

YOU'RE WRITING A BOOK ABOUT HEROES?!

YES... THE WORKING TITLE IS: "THE END OF THE AGE OF HEROES; WHY ALL CURRENT HEROES ARE ACTUALLY TOTAL NERD LOSERS".

IT'S A LONG NAME, BUT IT'S A WORK-IN-PROGRESS.

WHO KNOWS, YOU MIGHT EVEN CONVINCE ME THAT YOU'RE ALL NOT COMPLETELY TERRIBLE.

AHEM... IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, I AM SAVIOUR DHARFI VALCROSS, HERO OF THE WORLDSPLIT.

HMM, REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE FICTIONAL OR DEAD.

INDEED, I GET THAT A LOT. I-

WHAT?! HOLD ON A MOMENT-!

WHY IS THAT STUDENT NAKED?!

MOWR?
IT IS REVOLTING AND UNNATURAL!
WHAT, HIM?
SNARK!
UH, YES. THAT MAY BE TRUE FOR HALF-ANIMALS LIKE OURSELVES, BUT HE'S A FELIMARA.
I DON'T CARE WHAT NATIONALITY HE IS! HE NEEDS TO BE WEARING CLOTHING!

Cough Apologies, Your Highness. She means that fellow is a MONSTER, not a PERSON.
I DON'T CARE! GET HIM DRESSED!
Mowr? Problem solved.

Ooh, I LIKE you. What's your NAME?
Loki Kiborn, Your Highness. Proud Gardanian Citizen.
Oh, really? One of my SUBJECTS?
Then you should know to CURtsy, not Bow, and it should be much, much lower. TCH!
Huh?

Are there any other INADEQUACIES you would like to address in our STUDENTS?
Yes, of course.

They are all so BOORISH, you should all be in much more formal wear.
But lacking that, one would expect them to at least be FULLY DRESSED.

Y'know, she does raise an excellent point.
Tell that lady if she’s got a problem with the way I dress, I’m only to happy for her to leave.

Uhhhh...

Excuse me?! What’s wrong with not wearing a shirt, though?

Ugh, you have no respect.

You’re the one who has no respect, princess!

Ah! Forgive him, I believe he was raised in the wilderness.

HMF! All heroes... terrible... no respect... selfish... ignorant!

No, that’s what you’re like!

Nettle! SSSHH!!

Guards! Silence his rudeness!

Ugh...

Excuse me, saviour. Please control your student.

Nettle, please settle down...

Yes, Miss Valkross...

Ah, all right then, thank you. Now, the students have class to attend, so they’d best go... do... that.

Your highness, please feel free to follow if you wish to see what sort of classes young hero trainees take.

Indeed? I’m sure that will be enlightening.

Well, as long as somebody learns something in class here...
Well I'm sure learning who the most annoying person ever is. Congratulations to Princess Mia!

Uhhh... no offence, fellas.

Heh, none taken. Why do you think we're "helping set up" instead of directly guarding her highness?

Haha, nice. Wait, is that a good idea? What if something happens?

Ah piffle. Darius and the cap'n are with her, and she's surrounded by heroes. Nothing's going to happen - unless you had anything in mind?

Hmm! Depends on how annoying she continues to be.

Haha! Oh man, c'mon, that was a joke! I didn't mean it!

Royalty never abides a joke.

So when I ask why you need to teach basic mathematics, that is no joke. Is this baby school or hero school?

Um... o-oh my! I would look at the time...

It's time for everybody to move on to their next class! Yes! Go on, have fun! Learn a lot and I will see you next time!

Um, excuse me, you're blocking the door. Goddess, do these guys get in the way...

What class takes place next?

Ah, histr'y, y'highness. Ugh, how boring.

See, this is why I'm a monarchist. Royalty is always right, even when they are incredibly annoying.

Excuse me!

Oops.
Ugh, this food is terrible!

Your Highness, this is boarding school food, not palatial food. It is to be expected.

Hmph! My quarters had better be higher quality than this!

Oh thank gods she’s leaving.

Is it just me or is Princess Mia incredibly annoying?

Nah, you’re also super annoying.

Not what I meant...

Her staying here to write a bad book about how crap we are is the worst!

Also, weird.

Bet the castle can’t stand her either...

Ah, of course. Dhark’s hero school is out-of-the-way, isn’t it?

Haha, seems legit.

Ugh, rude.

H-hey! Don’t sneak up on me like that...

Sorry...

Forgive me Sir, but shouldn’t you be guarding the princess...

I am.

I came to see if you were aware of the tricksters that are in the area.

Being that you are training heroes, I would expect that you would know about it and be taking steps to stop them.

OH, I WOULD NOT DOUBT THERE ARE TRICKSTERS IN MYLENOR.

BUT IT STRIKES ME THAT AS PART OF THE GARDENIAN POLICE FORCE, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, NOT OURS.

INDEED...

LUH, BYE?

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

AW DANG, I THINK THAT GUY THINKS I'M A TRICKSTER NOW...

HEY GUYS. FOOD STILL UP?

DRAKE! DELTA WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

OH Y'KNOW, AROUND. HERE AND THERE.

HEY, WHO FEELS LIKE COVERING MY CLASSES WHILE MIA'S HERE? TAIDE? SHAUNII??

PASS.

EH, SURE.

SWEET.

WHY?

LUH...

TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANNA KNOW.

OR IF YOU HAVE THREE EYES YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW. JERK.

YOU RECKON THAT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD ENOUGH EXCUSE FOR MANA?

PFT, ASK HER.

SHE WANTS TO FIRE ME ANYWAY, WHAT DO I CARE?

WHAT-REALLY??

ER, OOPS.

FORGET IT! YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING! ALL OF YOU, SHUT UP!

OH... IS THAT WHY MISS VALCROSS SITS IN ON ALL YOUR MAGIC LESSONS NOW?

AAAAAA LOOK AT THE TIME, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CALL A SUDDEN CURFEW FOR ALL STUDENTS. GET OUT.
EY DEL, WHERE WERE Y’ ALL DAY?
UMMMM.

HEY C’MON! YOU SHOULD TELL US WHEN YOU’RE SKIPPING OUT ON CLASS! I’D DEFINITELY HAVE JOINED OVER MEETING THAT JERK, PRINCESS JERFACE.
AH YEAH, SHE IS A BIT MUCH, ISN’T SHE?

SHE VERY HORRIBLE CATLADY.

HEY WAIT. IF YOU WEREN’T IN CLASS, WHEN DID YOU MEET THE PRINCESS?
HEHEH, WHAT?
UH, HMMM...

SAY, WHY IS SHE HERE, ANYWAY?
BECAUSE SHE’S MENTAL.

UMM, ACTUALLY SHE’S WRITING SOME SORT OF BOOK ABOUT HOW MUCH HEROES SUCK.

...WEIRD.
I REALLY WISH SHE’D JUST SOD OFF.
SECONDED.

GODS, WHY DOESN’T MISS RYUSHIN MAKE HER LEAVE?
AH, SHE CAN’T REALLY TELL OFF GARDENIA’S ROYALTY LIKE THAT...
OH YES SHE CAN.

DHARK’S HERO SCHOOL ISN’T TECHNICALLY A PART OF GARDENIA, SO THEY CAN’T ORDER HER TO DO ANYTHING.

...REALLY? NOW THAT’S WEIRD. BUT AH, THE SCHOOL IS SURROUNDED BY GARDENIA THEN, SO IT’D BE A BAD IDEA TO ANNOY THEM.
BAD IDEA...?
OOH, I THINK I JUST HAD THE WORST IDEA!

DO YOU THINK MIA WOULD LEAVE IF WE GAVE HER A TASTE OF HER OWN MEDICINE? I BET YOU COULD OUT-ANNOY HER IF YOU TRIED!
OH MY GOSH THAT IS THE BEST IDEA.
HMM. I HOPE TODAY IS A BETTER DAY THAN YESTERDAY...

UM... KNOCK KNOCK?

AH, MISS MORNINGSTAR. PLEASE, COME IN.

I HEAR YOU WEREN'T IN CLASS YESTERDAY.

UMMM, YYYYYAH....

AND I WON'T BE IN CLASS WHILE PRINCESS MIA IS.

...HUH? AND WHY IS THAT?

AH, WELL, FUNNY STORY... REMEMBER THAT "QUEST" YOU SENT ME ON A WHILE BACK?

I MET THE PRINCESS WHILE I WAS IN GARDELVIA, AND, UM, WELL....

I MAY HAVE ASSAULTED HER A TEENY BIT.

WHAT?!

IN MY DEFENCE SHE WAS BEING AwFUL!

I-

HM. ALL THE FACTS DO CHECK OUT.

WHY IS SHE HERE, ANYWAY? 

SIGH-

THOUGH AT THE TIME THE REQUEST DID SEEM HARMLESS.

OH... HM. HOW LONG WILL SHE BE HERE?

I'M NOT SURE.

PLEASE WAIT IN MY OFFICE A LITTLE LONGER. DHARFI WILL BE HERE MID-MORNING, AND WE WILL NEED TO DISCUSS YOUR SITUATION WITH HER.
WHAT CLASS DO WE HAVE FIRST? MONST'R CLASS.
HM.... WHAT DO YOU THINK-

GOOOOOOOD MORNING!!

YOU'RE LATE.
PSH, NOT EVEN. HEY, WHERE'S DEL?

SHE'S PROLLY SKIPPIN' AGAIN.
DANG SHE'S SMART...

DO WE HAVE A PLAN OF ATTACK FOR MIA?
NOT REALLY. I WAS GONNA PLAY IT BY EAR.

OH YEAH! SNATCH, TAKE THIS.
MOW?

THE PRINCESS WANTED YOU TO WEAR SOME DAMN CLOTHES, SO THERE YOU GO.

MAWR??
AW, IT REALLY BRINGS OUT YOUR EYES.

C'MON, LET'S GO TO CLA--....

GOOD MORNING TO YOU.
UH, YES.

....A DRESS?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MAN.

SNATCH IS MALE.
BUT YOU... OH, VERY WELL. IT IS BETTER THAN GOING AROUND NAKED.

MY, AM I GETTING SOME INTERESTING MATERIAL FOR MY BOOK...

One thing is becoming increasingly clear. Everybody is an idiot except for me.
Right... the coast is clear. Now for that most important mission...

Coffee time!!

Morning, Drake.

Heya Taide. What're you doing here? Isn't it time for your class?

Hmmm? Oh, ha! I'm "sick".

Like you, right?

Ha!

Sick of Gardnerian royalty, maybe. It's a kind of sickness.

Anyway, I've got letters to write.

I'm still trying to track down that one person for fixing the school enchantments.

Oh yeah... did you get anyone to cover your class, though?

Welllllllll

Good morning! We'll be covering monster class for you today!

Are you qualified?

Well this one time I stepped on an Oyan's tail - hoo boy, you'd think they're dumb and docile but man can they rile up!

Ooh, ooh, tell 'em about the time you met that Snaketaur and mistook her for a lamia!
Wolfe gave us a lesson plan. We'll go through some things you should not do around chaotic monsters.

Hm. This should be enlightening.

Haha, remember when we went to the Isalon caves? It was full of all these beholders, and—

Focus... focus... what would most annoy the princess? What does she hate?

A-ha!

Loki, what're you thinking about?

Uh-huh

Oh! Princess Mia doesn't like shirtlessness, does she?

And of course this is like the only day those rhinos have ever worn clothes.

Um. Hello? Please no talking, we are trying to teach and stuff.

Sorry! I was distracted by Nettle and Bluff's naked bare chests. So shameful. Who would go around shirtless like that?

Um. Ok. That sounds like a personal problem.

What the hell, Loki! What is your problem?! You're acting like Mia!

Princess Mia.

That jerk, Mia!

Excuse me?

Heh, perfect.
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?
YOU ARE A Rude, HORRIBLE LADY!
I SEE.
GUARDS? SEIZE HIM.

WHAT?! NO, DON'T DO THAT!
OOF, WOLFE WON'T LIKE THIS....

TOUCH ME AND I'LL--!

...AH, WE'RE UP A BIT FAR FROM THE GROUND, HUH? THERE'S NO PLANTS OR ANIMALS OR BIRDS AROUND.... I CAN'T USE MY POWERS....

HERE, KID.
HEY!

LET ME GO! GET YOUR HANDS OFF!
EH, YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG FOR SUCH A LITTLE FELLOW. ISN'T HE, DARIUS?
RRRGGH!!

AAAAA LET NETTLE GO!! OR HE GO NUTS AND KILL US ALL!

HUH? WH--

OH MY GODS DID YOU JUST SEE--
BOSS....

HEY! WHAT'S THE PROBLEM! WHY ARE YOU LETTING HIM GO? I SAID SE--... IS THAT A FACIAL TATTOO? I--... WAIT.

ARE YOU A GUARDIAN?
YES.
ERRRGGH.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS, I-

LIM, SORRY SIR.

OH! MY MARKINGS ARE BACK?! HEHE, THAT'S GREAT!

WHY, WERE THEY UH, GONE? EARLIER?

AHAAHA... WHAT? N-NO...

HEH, THERE GOES THE PRINCESS.

FANTASTIC! LET'S CELEBRATE - CLASS DISMISSED!

THANKS, SIR! YOU'RE THE BEST!

OOH, AWESOME!

...WHY DID YOU DO THAT? I DOUBT MIA'S LEAVING THE WHOLE SCHOOL...

YEAH, BUT I THINK I HATE TEACHING.

I THINK I HATE WAITING... THIS IS MORE BORING THAN YESTERDAY WAS...

KNOCK KNOCK...

HI, MISS...

GOOD MORNING DELTA.

OUR DAILY MEETING WILL BE A LITTLE MORE CROWDED THAN USUAL.

FIRST WE WILL NEED TO DISCUSS DELTA, AND MIA.

AND... MIA...

YES, AND-?

Y-YOU!!
HELLO, YOUR HIGNESS. MAY I HELP?
TH-THAT TRAIPSE!! SHE'S A CRIMINAL! SHE'S THE ONE WHO ATTACKED ME!! GUARDS!
STOP. HOLD ON THERE, YOU WON'T BE TOUCHING OUR STUDENT.

ALSO... WHAT?
AH, YOUR HIGNESS, PLEASE CALM DOWN, WE CAN DISCUSS THIS...
LIKE HELL WE CAN! I AM NOT DISCUSSING ANYTHING OF THE SORT WITH A SMALL CHILD PLAYING AT BEING A HEADMISTRESS!
GRAB THAT TRAIPSE ANY WAY YOU CAN!

GO THROUGH THE STAFF IF YOU HAVE TO!
UM.

WHAT...?
OH, DID I NOT MENTION THAT THE SCHOOL HAS MAGIC TO PROTECT ITS STUDENTS? IF ANYONE MOVES ON THEM INTENDING HARM, OUR STATUES WILL STOP THEM.

YOU- YOU ARE ENGAGED IN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AGAINST THE ROYAL GUARD! RELEASE US AT ONCE!!
...WHY WOULDN'T THE STATUES HAVE GOTTEN US EARLIER, WHEN WE ACCOSTED THAT GUARDIAN?
YOU WENT FOR.... HM! DID YOU TRULY INTEND HIM HARM?
...I THINK THERE'S NO NEED TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION!
Look, we don't want to cause an incident.

But Dhark's Hero School is our dominion. We welcomed you here with open arms, and you have abused our kindness by attacking our students. I think it would be best for you to leave.

You are harbouring a criminal who assaulted Gardanian royalty!

Delta Morningstar, you...

I'm sorry!!

Your Highness, I am so sorry! I was just trying to defend my friend but... I shouldn't have kicked you! I'm sorry!

That's not good enough! But thank you for reminding me you're also guilty of assisting the criminal Maze Tasman!

He's a little kid!

Kid?! The headmistress here is a kid! And I will not leave on the say-so of a child!

...You are saying if the headmistress was not a child, you would listen?

Ha!

Absolutely! If you stop being the headmistress— no, if there was an adult in charge, then I would happily leave your... "school."

Mana! What are you thinking?!

M-miss?

Don't worry, I know what I'm doing.

Eeh, though please don't freak out.

Focus... and—

Hmph. I wasn't sure that'd work.

There... now would you please—

Aaaaah! Trickster!!
M-MANA? YOU...

UHH! SHE IS NOT A TRICKSTER, YOUR HIGHNESS. SHE IS... UNIQUE.

IMPOSSIBLE!

I'D GO WITH "UNLIKELY".

BUT IT IS TRUE, I AM NOT A TRICKSTER.

THIS POWER IS MY OWN.

YOU SHOULD TREAD CAREFULLY. MY SCHOOL IS FULL OF THE UNIQUELY POWERFUL.

SO LEAVE. NOW.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO HAVE MY STATUES ESCORT YOU AND YOUR GUARDS OUT.

HMMPH. DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

I DID SAY THAT IF AN ADULT TOOK CHARGE OF THIS SCHOOL THAN I WOULD LEAVE. EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE CAUGHT ME IN A TECHNICALITY, I SUPPOSE I SHALL LEAVE.

MY LADY! THIS PLACE IS FULL OF TRICKSTERS!

INDEED. ALL THE MORE REASON TO LEAVE.

THIS CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF LATER.

I WOULDN'T MAKE ANY THREATS IF I WERE YOU. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE US.

OF COURSE.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THERE WAS A PROBLEM THE MOMENT I SAW DRAKE PIPERION NEARBY.

WHY WOULD THAT BE A PROBLEM--?

N-NEVERMIND. WE HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT.

AH- AND HOW DID YOU--?

NEVERMIND.
SWEET SOLA! PRINCESS MIA IS GETTING KICKED OUT?! 'BOUT TIME!

WHAT TH- WHO IS THAT?

FAREWELL, PRINCESS GARDENIA.

HEADMISTRESS RYUSHIN.

HUH?? DID SHE JUST SAY- MISS RYUSHIN?!

HM? YES? HELLO.

BUT HOW ARE YOU- WHY DO YOU LOOK- IT DOESN'T MATTER.

BUT IT DOES!! WHAT THE HELL?!

ALL THAT MATTERS IS MIA IS GONE.

AND...

QUIET SNATCH WEARING A DRESS?

UHH, SOMETHIN' I' DO WIT' MIA...

OH...Kay?

THIS WHOLE INCIDENT PROBABLY COULD HAVE GONE BETTER. BUT WE'LL MOVE ON FROM HERE WHEREVER WE NEED TO GO.

RIGHT THEN EVERYBODY... DON'T YOU HAVE CLASS? TCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

QUIT GAWKING AND GET BACK TO CLASS!
Let's talk about ranks and titles!

Around here, you obviously got all your birth and marriage titles or whatever like Earl, Duchess, Princess, etcetera.

And all yer religions got their own titles, like Priest, Healer, High Priestess, Vicar, and so on. Because you know, doctors ain't much of a thing here. You wanna go with "healer" and make sure you got a God backing you.

I can't even pretend to remember all of 'em. Tricksters just call each other "cousin" - so much simpler.

Apart from all that, we also got heroic titles you can earn by doing... heroic deeds! Woo!

Save a bunch of folks from a specifically undead threat? Thank you, "slayer"!

Helped out at the worldsplits? Well along with the gift of immortality from Gaea (man what is that even about), hello "saviour"!

There's a bunch of others you know, but I can't remember them, either. Pssh, Heroes.

In my experience, only right idiots care if you forget their titles.

But if you lay claim to a title you didn't earn... hoo, boy. People care! Heroes' guild goes nuts about that sort of thing, even for non-heroic titles. Pack of jerks.
OH GOD! P-PRINCESS MIA IS HERE?! WHERE CAN I HIDE?!

THERE IS ONE PLACE IN DHS SHE WILL NOT LOOK...

THE STAFF QUARTERS!

WOW, THIS IS EVEN MESSIER THAN THE STUDENT QUARTERS.

ACTUALLY... COULDN'T I JUST HIDE OUT IN MY ROOM?

I DUNNO, PROBABLY.