DHS Comix
RANDOM ENCOUNTER

“BEYOND THE VEIL”
AN’ WHY AM I ORANGE?
AN’-AN’... MY N-NECK...
AN’... I HAVE NO PULSE.
OH.
I GUESS I KNOW WHERE I AM THEN....

WHOAH, THERE’S SOMEBODY WHO ISN’T COPING.
HEY, FRIEND! YOU JUST GET HERE?
I TH-THINK SO... I’M DEAD, RIGH’?
YEAH.
OHH, THAT IS A NASTY CUT. SORRY.

NGH... I REALLY SCREWED UP. P-PAIGE...
DAMMIT! I WAS MEANT T’ HELP HER, NOW SHE...
UM...

THIS PLACE IS REAL WEIRD, BY TH’ WAY.
SURE IS. WELCOME TO PURGATORY.
I'm Lani Kibon, by the way. I've been here a while. You need help? Just ask.

I went to school with a Kibon...

That's weird.

Oh, she was a bit weird, but—not that. Your eyes are yellow.

'Round here, people are the same colour all over. But you're—

...your eyes are different colours?

It's not tha' weird... is it?

It is here.

Oi! Lani!

Tella! Hey! We got a live one here! You what?

Whoah, that's a nasty cut.

He said he goes to school with Loki...

Bad luck, Phoenix Clanner!

What? No way.

First of all, she is a girl.

Second... oh hell, you didn't die at school, did you?

Well... y'know, comparatively...

No...

Secondly... oh, she didn't die at school, did you? Oh good... Good?

...how'd you know I'm Phoenix Clan?
I'm Tella Kiborn.

Sadly I was killed a while ago now. It was a tragedy.

And you... oh, high-necked shirt? You were hiding your clan mark? It's not very subtle. You've got those mismatched eyes, and you look just like your brother.

I don't look like my broth'r... which one?

Oh... hmm, I've probably said too much already. He wouldn't want me to tell.

Y'know Tal'n? I haven't seen him in so long! God I miss him, I... w-wait.

D... does tha' mean he's dead too?

Uh...

As far as I know he's not dead... right now. I haven't seen him in a few weeks.

Me neither.

Oh dear. Is this the first time you've died?

Yer askin' me tha' like it's a normal question...

Well, you're a Phoenix clanner, so it sort of is? You lot do revive over and over.

But... wha'? I'm here now...?

Yes, and you're one of the very few lucky enough to return to the land of the living from here.

Nobody ever told you? You Phoenix clanners are weird.

...I guess that's wha' Cera'ph Tal'n was talkin' abou'.
Yeah, it’s like... back in the mortal realm, your body is gathering energy. When it’s done, ban! You’ll pop right back, good as new. Well, except for some scarring.

Wait... then I c’n keep tryin’ t’save Paige! Lucky, eh?

But... damn. I dunno if I c’n. I already died once tryin’...

If it makes you feel better, most people do back down from immortals.

Yeah, they get heaps scared! Can’t say I blame ‘em, only nutters want to mess with a servant of the gods.

I... I’ve ne’er heard Phoenix. I dunno if I count as a servant of a god, y’know...

Um, but also... at the moment, I didn’t want people to know I’m a clann’r.

I think they might notice when you come back to life.

Ah.

You do seem worried. Would you like some help?

You can bring people from here back as ghosts when you—Tsst! Tsssst!!

Wha’ d’ y’ mean...?

Shut up, Lan! Don’t tell her that, don’t you remember what happened last time?

I think helping a Phoenix clanner rescue a friend is a little different than accidentally helping a halfie kill a Ceraph clanner.

I’m sorry I have no idea wha’ yer talkin’—

About?

Nevermind. Missed our chance anyway. Unless she’s as unlucky as Talon. Could see her again soon!
NOTHING, HMM?

ALL YOU NEED DO IS COOPERATE. WE'LL EVEN LET YOU GO HOME. WITH AN ENTOURAGE OF OUR PEOPLE TO ENSURE YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION, NATURALLY.

WE ONLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR REI. FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, PAIGE.

NOT TO WORRY, WE HAVE TIME.

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING CLICEH... WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU COOPERATE.

SIR!

*WHISPERS* HMM... IS THAT SO?

OH, I SEE.

SEEMS WE'VE FOUND YOUR FRIEND.

YES, BRING HIM IN. I THINK SHARING A CELL WITH A FRIEND WOULD HELP HER HIGHNESS RELAX.

OR BEGIN TO RECONSIDER THINGS, ANYWAY...

ENJOY, DEAR.

PH-PHoenix....

AIIEEEEEE!!
PHOENIX! ARE YOU OKAY?

OW.

...HEHE. SORRY, BUT YOU HAVE A REALLY GIRLY SHRIEK.

P-PAIGE...?

YER OKAY! OH THANK GOD!

PHOENIX! WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU... YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD.

IT, UH...

THEY REALLY INJURED YOU, HUH...?

WAIT- YOU'RE NOT CUFFED?!

AH, YEAH. THEY THOUGHT 'THA' THEY KILL'D ME. BUT... I'M ALRIGH'.

YOU FAKE'D YOUR DEATH? WOW.

UH, YEAH.

DON' WORRY PAIGE, I'LL GET Y' OUT'A HERE.

...HOW?

HADN' WORK'D THA' PART OU' YET.

O! PRINCESS! I ALMOST FORGOT, THERE'S A-

...UH.... WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU- BUT YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU!!

WHAT IS GOING ON...?

APPARENTLY NOT.

I... LOOK AT HIM! HE WAS DEAD! COLD DEAD!

WELL. THAT'S EASILY FIXED.

JEZE! PLEASE DON'T-

THA' CAN'T HURT ME.

IT'S OKAY, PAIGE.

FIREBALL!!

PHOENIX!!

NOW. Y'GONNA LET US OUT 'A HERE, OR WE GONNA HAVE TROUBLE?!

HOW THE HELL ARE YOU UNINJURED?!

WH- WHAT ARE YOU....

OH GOD.

LORD, LET HIM GO.

UH... WHICH ONE'A US IS HE TALKIN' T'...?

GAVIN?

JEZE! MY LORD! PLEASE... THAT STRANGER'S NAME IS PHOENIX! HE'S IMMUNE TO FIRE!

HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

HE'S A GOD!

UHHH...
WHAT?!

PHOENIX, YOU... TH-THAT CAN'T BE... LORD FIRE GOD IS ON OUR SIDE... ISN'T HE?

I AM ON PAIGE'S SIDE. AN' IF Y' DON' BELIEVE ME... FEEL FREE TO LOB ANOTH'R FIRE SPELL.

UH, I WASN' EXPECTIN' Y' T' ACTUALLY DO THAT... BUT THERE Y'GO.

BUT... IF YOU WERE A GOD, SURELY YOU COULD LET YOURSELF OUT... R-RIGHT?

IT MAY BE A TEST....

GAVIN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DON'T LET THEM-

=ROAR!!=  AUGH-!!

C'MON, PRINCESS!

GET ON!

I- I-

MAN, AM I GLAD T' SEE YOU...

GET US OUTA HERE, BUDDY!

THERE IS SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH THAT SCHOOL HE CAME FROM...
WH... BUT ISN'T THAT... ORDERS FROM LORD JEZEL AND KING MYND...

HEY!! WHAT THE...

HEY, STOP! HOLD IT! LET THEM GO.

O-KAY. I THINK WE'RE FAR ENOUGH OUT'A TOWN, WE C'N STOP F' A BIT...

THANK YOU. PHOENIX... A-ARE YOU REALLY A-?

SWORE...

LIM... "COUGH" PHEW...

UGH, SORRY. THA' RIDE MADE ME A LITT' BIT...

-LURP.

LIM... CLAW OKAY? LOOK HURT, BAD HURT. OKAY?? I'M OKAY, THANKS SO MUCH F' R COMIN', Y' R A LIFESAV'R!

...YOU'RE NOT REALLY A GOD, ARE YOU?

HA, NO!
PAIGE, THIS IS SNATCH, HE'S FRM DHS TOO.

SNATCH, THIS IS PRINCESS PAIGE. WE'RE TRYIN' T' GET HER HOME PAST TH' MOUNTAINS.

THANK YOU FOR THE RIDE, SNATCH.

GOOD TIMIN', THA!

YER WINGS AN' HORNS AREWAY BIGG'R! Y' FISH' A LOT'A FOLK ON TH' WAY IN? NICE!

YES, FOUGHT MANY GUARD! THEY SURPRISE TO SEE SNATCH. IS GOOD!

I'M SO RELIEVED WE ESCAPED! THANK YOU BOTH, SO MUCH.

ONLY... WITHOUT SUPPLIES, I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL MAKE IT VERY FAR...

IT OKAY! GO FIND SOME FOOD, WATER. IT EASY! ANYTHING ELSE TO NEED?

I REALLY NEED A NEW SHIRT, IF Y' RECKN' Y' COULD FIND ONE...

GOOD! CAN SMELL HOUSE NEAR DOWN ROAD. SNATCH WILL BE QUICK, OKAY?

THANK YOU!

YOU KNOW, AS IT'S THAT DIRTY, YOU COULD ALWAYS GO WITHOUT YOUR SHIRT.

OH-?

I WOULDN'T WANT T' GET SUNBURN'!

ON TOP'A EVERYTHIN' ELSE THA' WENT WRONG T'DAY, THA' WOULD JUS' BE TOO MUCH.
HERE!

AW, THANKS SNATCH, YOU SAVED US AGAIN!

UMM... C'N I GET SOME PRIVACY WHILE I GET CHANGED?...

HEY SNATCH, WHY'D Y' COME OUT AFT'R ME, ANYWAY? SHOULDN' Y' BE AT SCHOOL?

CLAW HELP SNATCH LAST TIME!

AM, THAT'S SWEET...WHY'D HE CALL YOU "CLAW"?

OH, AH, THA'S JUS'... A NICKNAME. FR'M SCHOOL...

ANYWAY... WE'D BETT'R MOVE ON NOW, RIGH'? WE'RE REAL CLOSE NOW!

LET'S GO!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SAV DID THA'...

ME NEITHER... THOUGH I WONDER HOW HE BEAT US TO THE CITY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WELL, WE WEREN' EXACTLY FAST, AN' HE HAD A HORSE.

I HOPE MARAT'S OK... IF HE WASN'T IN ON IT TOO. I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOU CAUGHT UP IN THIS WHOLE NESS, PHOENIX.

WELL, I'M NOT SORRY!
HMM... I WONDER IF THEY ARE COMING AT ALL.

HAVE FAITH! MARAT SENT WORD THAT-

AH! LOOK! THERE'S SOME MOVEMENT... NOW WHO'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE... TWO HUMANS AND A MONSTER, RIGHT?

DO YOU SEE THAT, KAZ?

LOOK SHARP, THEN.

SREETINGS, TRAVELLERS!

OUT'A TH' WAY, WE GOT PLACES T' BE!

OH YES? WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?

A PLACE CALLED NONE'A YER BUSINESS!

PHOENIX... HM?

THEY ARE WEARING THE CREST OF REI. I THINK THEY MAY BE HERE TO MEET US.

OH, IS THA' RIGH'?

SO IT IS YOU!

IT IS AN HONOUR, YOUR HIGHNESS. I AM WRATH SINCLAIR, AND THIS IS KAZ EVANS.

THIS IS MY COMPANION, PHOENIX, AND HIS MONSTER FRIEND SNATCH.

HI! SORRY ABOU' BEIN' RUDE... BEEN A LONG TRIP!

NOT AT ALL! WE'RE SO GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO LEAD HER HIGHNESS HERE, YOU'RE A REAL HERO!

I DO HOPE IT WASN'T TOO ROUGH A JOURNEY.

Lim...

OH, DON'T WORRY. IT'S NEARLY OVER. LET'S JUST FOCUS ON GETTING YOU HOME.
Oh yeah! Where did you get that cool sheath, anyway?

UH... SAME PLACE I GOT THE SWORD.

Yeah.

Eesh.

At least it doesn't look like it came from him. That's good.

...Yeah.

I've still no idea what is with this sword though.

I wish I could just give it to somebody else and forget about it!

But at least J-Jake hasn't been appearing in my dreams anymore...

That's a blessing.

I haven't had any dreams at all lately.

Well now I'm jealous.

Hey guys! You headed to class?

Yeah, guess so.

Try not to sound so excited, hah.

Tell you what, I'm jealous of claw right now. She doesn't have to go to class!

Bet she's living it up in some castle right now.
AND HERE WE ARE!

OK, WOW.

I SENT WORD AHEAD SO YOU'D GET A PROPER WELCOME, YOUR HIGHNESS.

WELCOME HOME, PRINCESS PAIGE.

AND WELCOME TO YOUR COMPANION...

PHOENIX.

PHOENIX, AN HONOUR!

AND, UH... YOUR MONSTER?

SNATCH, A FRIEND OF PHOENIX'S.

A PLEASURE.

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR WRISTS—!

YES, I WAS DETAINED BRIEFLY IN OBERON, BUT... PHOENIX SAVED ME.

KAZ AND I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO REMOVE CLIFFS, SORRY.

THIS WAY, PRINCESS. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM, AND YOU CAN GET CLEANED UP.

SIR PHOENIX, PLEASE COME THIS WAY. WE'LL GET YOU CLEAN AND SETTLED AS WELL.

WHU' ABOL' SNATCH?

MOWR.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM. C'MON PAL, LET'S GET YOU SET UP IN THE GUARDHOUSE WITH US.

IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO THE KITCHENS.

MOWR!
HERE WE ARE. YOUR BATHROOM IS JUST OFF THE BEDROOM THROUGH THERE. YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST ASK MILLA.

HELLO!

I RECKON A BATH'LL DO YOU GOOD. NOT THAT I'M SAYING YOU SMELL, ONLY-

NOT THAT I C'N THINK... CH, CLOTHES!

UM, YES, THEY'RE BY THE DOOR.

Y-YES, I NEED THEM T' COV'R MY NECK...

OHH, FANCY.

CH, OKAY, IS THAT A CULTURAL THING, OR--?

CH, OKAY IS THAT A CULTURAL THING, OR--?

PLEASE?

I'LL FIND SOMETHING. I'LL LEAVE IT IN THE BEDROOM FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

I'LL FIND SOMETHING. I'LL LEAVE IT IN THE BEDROOM FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

THANK Y'.

LUMM SO IS THERE A MIRR'R OR SOMETHIN'--?

OH, FANCY.

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT.

THANK Y'!

PHEW.

I'M SO GLAD WE MADE IT....

I WAS SO WORRIED WE WOULDN'T, BUT...

TOTALLY WORTH IT.
TH... THESE CLOTHES ARE...
ACTUALLY REALLY COMFY! HAH!
LITTL' TOO FANCY F'R ME THOUGH, HEH.
HOPE I'M WEARN' EVERYTHIN' RIGH'...

UHH, HELLO? COME IN?
OH GOOD, THE CLOTHES FIT! ARE THEY OKAY?
OH, YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE SHOES! ARE THEY THE WRONG SIZE? I'LL GET NEW ONES AND-
UHH, HEHEH NO, I DON'T WEAR SHOES...
WHAT? OH BUT YOU MUST! IT'S REALLY NOT... USUAL, TO GO BAREFOOT IN FINE COMPANY...

I'D RATH'R JUS' GO SEE PAIGE- I MEAN, HER HIGHNESS.
BUT SHE'S MEETING SOME IMPORTANT DIGNITARIES, AND YOUR SHOES...
IF I WEAR TH' SHOES, UM... HMM.
CAN I WEAR LIKE, PART OF TH' SHOES, AN' Y' TELL ME WHERE PAIGE IS?

ONE COMPROMISE LATER...
YOU SAID THESE WERE CALL'D SPATS, HUH? THEY'RE OK.
HER HIGHNESS IS DOWN THROUGH HERE. YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T INTERRUPT... BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN WAIT OUTSIDE, RIGHT?

MAYBE...
MAYBE NOT.
OH, HELLO PHOENIX!

EXCELLENT TIMING.

I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO MEET THESE PEOPLE I WAS JUST TALKING TO. THEY WERE THE ONES WHO SENT GAVIN TO COLLECT US.

OH REALLY?

YOU KNOW, I BELIEVE IN GIVING PEOPLE SECOND CHANCES, SO I'VE JUST PRESENTED THEM WITH A CHOICE. SUBMISSION...

OR EXILE.

PH-PHOENIX... THAT'S HIM, THAT'S THE ONE--

LORD HAVE MERCY... WE- WE THANK YOUR HIGHNESS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. I DO EXPECT AN ANSWER BY MORNING.

TH-THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

LORD PHOENIX, YOUR GRACE, THANK YOU...

HAVE YOU BEEN TELLIN' PEOP! I'M A GOD?

NO, I THINK THEY MUST HAVE HEARD THAT FROM GAVIN, I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE SENT WORD.

I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM THE CONTRARY THOUGH, IT AMUSES ME HOW CAREFUL THEY SUDDENLY GET WHEN THEY THINK I'M BACKED BY A GOD.

I THINK IT'S GOOD, SEEMS TO BE MAKING THEM ALL EITHER BACK OFF OR LEND THEIR SUPPORT.

SURE. IT'LL BE GOOD RIGHT UP UNTIL GOD HEARS ANY GETS ALL ZAPPY.
Lord Phoenix isn’t known for lashing out, and his magic isn’t really “zappy”.

Anyway, you do seem oddly resistant to fire magic, so— Uhuh...

Hehe, don’t worry about Gavin’s friends, okay?

I’m glad you’re here. I need to talk to you about something important... We need to speak privately, so now’s the perfect time.

What’s tha’?

Princess Paige!

Oh, sorry... Queen Paige!

And this must be Prince Phoenix!

...Nha?

That’s not— Of course! You wouldn’t be married yet. Still, if you’re engaged, he’s still be a prince, and you the princess, yes?

Uh... Wha’ are they talkin’ about...?

It was so lovely of you to follow tradition, having a male escort you home and marry, just as our founder did.

Such a perfect way to start over now that we’re free.

...Marry??

Uhuh that something I wanted to talk to you about... I um, that is... Did you um.

We should talk in private. Can I meet you later in the gardens? Someone will show you the way.

O—Okay...
HAHAHA! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE A 'NARA! NAH, WE DON'T GET MANY TRANSFORMING MONSTERS ROUND THESE PARTS!

GLAD WE COULD SCROUNGE UP SOME NICE CLOTHES IN YOUR SIZE. LOOKS GOOD, MAN!

THANKS!

THOSE CLOTHES AREN'T TREATED, SO DON'T TRANSFORM IN THEM, THAT WON'T END UP WELL...

...HMM?

PITY WE GOT NO MIMICS AROUND HERE.

HMM??

EVERYBODY SAYS THEY HAVE NO MAGIC, BUT THEY HAVE A LITTLE BIT. THEY CAN TREAT CLOTHES SO THAT THEY TRANSFORM WITH THEM. IT'S PRETTY WEIRD, BUT COOL.

WERES CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TOO, RIGHT?

NAH, I THINK WHATSOEVER THEY'RE WEARING AT THE TIME ALWAYS TRANSFORMS WITH THEM. SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT?

BUT ANYWAY... OH HEY, PHOENIX!

UH... HI?

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK A LITTLE SCATTERED.

I... UM....

SOMEBODY SAID I'M MEANT T'GET... MARRIED.

HAHA, WHAT? YOU'RE....

HAHAHA OH DEAR, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

I SUPPOSE YOU MUST HAVE HAD A ROUGH TIME IN THE DESERT. PRINCESS PAIGE MUST NOT HAVE GIVEN A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

STILL DIDN'T GET A CHANCE... SHE WANTS T' TALK A'BOUT IT LATER, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHA--

HAVE A SEAT, DEAR.
Rei isn’t an ancient country, but it’s not really that “new” anymore. It was created just after the Worldsplit.

The world was broken and raw, and our founder Rei went in search of a land fit to raise a new country.

Accompanied by her companion, the hero Hind, they carved a nation from the unforgiving wastes, fighting off monsters and raiders at every turn.

Rei founded a country where all would be welcome to seek sanctuary from the harshness of this new world.

Rei became the queen, and Hind stayed at her side. The country became Rei, and apart from that business with Jezel, it’s been pretty good the whole time.

Rei and Hind got married and lived happily ever after, with like four or five kids. As they prospered, so did the country.

So there you go. It’s good luck for Paige to follow what Rei did.

That’s why I told Marat he had to make sure to hire a bloke hero. Hope that helps.

Wait, so Marat was yer friend?

He is my friend. We fought together in the Reinan army for independence.

...I’m sorry to hear Gavin wasn’t so trustworthy. But did you have any other questions?

...Yer founder was a scaler?

Well sure! But as most of her descendants married humans, there ain’t much scaler left in the bloodline. Did you have any important questions?

...This whole time y’ expect’d me t’ marry Paige?? And have four or five kids??

Hahaha! I’d say you’re getting ahead on yourself with that last bit, young man!

Wha?!

Of course you’re both too young to marry just yet. But there’s nothing wrong with you getting engaged.

Oh my gods and goddesses, that would be so romantic!
SO PHOENIX, I HEARD AN INTERESTING RUMOUR THAT YOU'RE A GOD.

WHA? I'M NOT!

WELL, REGARDLESS, WORD AROUND GRAY IS THAT YOU ARE. IF YOU'RE THE PRINCE, I BET THEY'LL KEEP RIGHT OFF.

THAT'D BE NICE FOR THE PRINCESS, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM WHILE WE REBUILD.

OH GEEZ, SORRY. IGNORE THAT, DON'T WANT TO PRESSURE YOU OR NOTHING.

IT DOESN'T MATTER, THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS...

DO YOU LOVE PAIGE?

I... I DON'T KNOW...

AN' IF SHE WANTS A PRINCE, I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

HM? CAN'T STAY.

HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL...

...YES?

HEY. YOU SAID YOU'RE GOING TO GO TALK TO THE PRINCESS, RIGHT?

YEAH...

I'D BETTER GO.

THANKS, MSTR' WRATH.

ANYTIME!

HEY, SNATCH.

HMM?

RECKON WE CAN SNEAK INTO THE KITCHENS AGAIN?

NO!

MRAHahaha!
Hi... Oh, hi Phoenix!

Thanks for coming.

I'm sorry I didn't get to say this earlier, I...

Heh, I don't know what to say...

I've loved all the time we've spent together, even the really awful parts!

I was worried when I first met you. With this whole tradition about princesses marrying their companions, I was scared that we wouldn't get along. But now...

I'm scared because...

I love you.

Will you marry me?

I...

Phoenix...?

I don't... Paige, I don't know if that's a good idea. I really, really like you, but...

But?...?

Paige, y' don't know me.

There's... there's a lot I've been hidin' about myself. An' I really ought'a go back t' school, anyway, an'...

That doesn't worry me, Claw.

C-claw-?!
CLAW? THAT'S WHAT SNATCH CALLED YOU, RIGHT? YOUR SCHOOL NICKNAME?

Y-YEAH, BUT--

PHOENIX, THEN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE TOTALLY OPEN WITH ME ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE TO. I UNDERSTAND, GIVE IT TIME...

BUT AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, I KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW I LOVE YOU.

LOOK... GETTING MARRIED... IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT HAS TO HAPPEN RIGHT AWAY. A LONG ENGAGEMENT IS WHAT I'M ASKING FOR. YOU CAN GO BACK TO SCHOOL, AND WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER, SLOWLY.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH SCHOOL, AND IF WE STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY... THEN WE CAN WED.

I MEAN... IF... IF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO.

HEY, NO, PAIGE... THAT'S NOT IT...

IT'S JUS'...

PAIGE, I--... YER LOOKIN' F'R A PRINCE, AN' I'M-- I'M NOT REALLY...

I'M NOT A BLOKE.

WHAT? THAT'S WHY--... OH PHOENIX! THAT DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL TO ME!

Y'-- WHAT?!

REALLY, I KIND OF WONDERED, AFTER EVERYTHING WE'D BEEN THROUGH I Wasn'T SURE... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? BOY, GIRL OR ANYTHING ELSE... THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME!

THE REST OF THE KINGDOM MIGHT CARE, BUT NONE OF THAT CONCERNS THEM! I KNOW YOU ARE MY PERFECT PRINCE.

I LOVE YOU, PHOENIX.

PAIGE... I LOVE Y' TO!
PRESENTING OUR SOVEREIGN, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS PAIGE.

AND HER FIANCÉ THE CROWN PRINCE PHOENIX.

Y' DIDN' T TELL ME IT' D BE SUCH A BIG CEREMONY...

I TRIED TO!

I SAID THERE' D BE A BIG FEAST.

I' M STILL LOOKIN' FORWARD T' THA' PART.

HEHEH....

I MUST CONFESS, I' M NOT REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

HUUH? WHY NOT?

WELL.... YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL, YOU'RE HEADED OFF TOMORROW... I' D RATHER TIME DIDN'T PASS AT ALL.

ANYWAY, IT'S MAINLY POLITICAL. THE FOOD WILL BE GOOD, BUT THE COMPANY WILL BE DULL.

MAY WE ESCORT YOU TO DINNER?

PLEASE DO!

YOUR HIGHNESSES!

I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT WAS A SURPRISE HOW QUICKLY EVERYTHING'S BEEN PULLED TOGETHER.

OH, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR A LONG TIME!

SO PRINCE, YOU'RE HEADED OFF IN THE MORNING? THAT'S A PITY.

YEAH, WELL....

YEAH WELL YOU AND SNATCH WILL BE NEEDING AN ESCORT BACK. I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO LEAD THAT MISSION.

THANK YOU, WRATH.
C’MON, PRINCE! WE’VE GOTTA GET ON THE ROAD!

I’M COMIN’!! HOLD YER HORSES!

YOU WOAH! FORGET ME, RIGHT?...

YOU KIDDIN’?

BYE PAIGE. 

GOODBYE! HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY!

SEE YOU LATER, YOUR HIGHNESS!

HOW LONG TAKE TO GET HOME?

OH, IT WILL BE A FEW WEEKS AT THE VERY LEAST. WE’LL GO THE LONG WAY AROUND, FOR SAFETY. NO RUSH, YEAH?

I’M HAPPY SO LONG AS NOBODY TRIES T’ MURD’R ME AGAIN.

EASY TO PLEASE, HUH? WELL PRINCE! I PROMISE I WON’T LET THAT HAPPEN!

HEH, WOND’R WHA’ TH’ HEADMISTRESS’LL SAY WHEN WE GET BACK, HUH SNATCH?

MM. YOU THINK SHE NOTICE SNATCH BEEN GONE?

LIH... HAHA, PROB’LY!
Why don't we tell these fine folks why we don't tell people how to get out of purgatory anymore?

Oh god, I'm really dead...

Yeah, sorry.

But-- no...! My family is in danger! I wanted to save them, I had to-- hell! Is there any way I can help them now?

Heheh.

Well, there is one way, but...

What? How! Tell me, please!

It might not be any good to you. You need to find an elemental clanner.

What?

Of course they only come here when they die too.

But if you are touching one when they regenerate, you go along with them.

But... it's only to the place that they died, not you. So it's not really--

Perfect!

I killed that clanner who killed me! Now where the hell is he...

Uhhh... what

Well hey it's always good to meet another-- uh--

You!!
TRICKSTER! YER GONNA PAY F’R KILLIN’ ME!

NO, YOU’LL PAY FOR KILLING ME, CLANNER!

...THIS IS GOING TO GET WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.

CAN’T BELIEVE THAT TRICKSTER MANAGED TO PULL FREE BEFORE EXECUTION... HE’S A BIG ONE, WE’RE LUCKY HE ONLY GOT CERAPH SPINE...

HIS NECK’S HEALED UP. I THINK HE’S COMING TO.

WHAT THE--?!

I’LL KILL YOU AGAIN, CERAPH CLAN!

AND THEN IT JUST KEPT GOING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN HERE AND THE LAND OF THE LIVING, URRGH! SO MESSY.

IT WAS TERRIBLE.

IT WAS A LITTLE BIT HILARIOUS.

WELL SURE IT’S FUNNY NOW. BUT LET’S NOT DO THAT AGAIN.
YOU ACTUALLY THINK MY ETIQUETTE
CLASSES ARE WORKING?

I HAVE ABSOLUTE FAITH IN OUR STUDENTS.
THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.

REALLY THOUGH... SO YOU'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT CLAW?
HANGING OUT WITH A PRINCESS AND ALL?

NOT WORRIED AT ALL.

MEANWHILE

YOU TOOK A MONSTER INTO
MY KITCHEN?!

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M Madder ABOUT THAT OR
ABOUT YOU BRINGING WRATH DOWN HERE! YOU
KNOW HE'S NOT ALLOWED IN MY KITCHEN!!

IT- IT SEEMED LIKE A
GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME!