

Ypδcraftia

Monthly Single Edition Spin-Off

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Amare Posseshav

Leading up to the Turkey Bowl in Ocean City before Thanksgiving 2018, Sons and Daughters of Witches Knights' Academy students had the annual tradition of asking for and then possibly receiving a date to the professional skillball game. Paul Tachpachiwi stood in his dorm room in front of his mirror admiring he fine, but not overdressed look. He wore a t-shirt endorsing a heavy-metal rock band and dark blue jeans. The students were not required to be in their armor uniform as it was the weekend. He felt reassured his shoes were sure to tell the girl of his aspirations that he was a logical candidate with their loose fit, high price, and brand recognition. He sprayed cologne onto his wrists to quench his frayed nerves. He *had* to possess his crush. He then left his room, which was arranged in a safe manner, taken to absurdity. Even though it was less space efficient, Paul had taken apart his bed and put the mattress on the floor so there wouldn't be a chance of rolling off his bed mid-sleep and falling a devastating two feet onto a carpeted floor. Paul, like his room, had to have his well-being aggressively assured. Self-preservation was very important to those with Tachpachiwi blood. Paul was on his way to the Recreation and Entertainment Ward to find his beloved, who was most likely lifting weights, when he soon realized he was walking along side Gregory Pouncer. Gregory wore a shirt with a joke on it where there was an elephant studying and a monkey. The monkey had a speech bubble which read, "But you never forget?"

Gregory foolishly asked, "Where are you going?"

Paul replied, "To lift weights."

Gregory happily replied, "Oh neat, I am going to ask Roberta to be my Turkey Bowl date."

Paul could have sworn he and his clothing turned white, he stopped walking, and someone within earshot broke a pane of glass, when he heard what Gregory said. Roberta Bellum was a very tough girl who picked fights at great frequency and with little cause. More than that, she was Paul's crush. Paul started walking faster, as if he was a scared animal running from a

vicious predator fueled only by an animal drive to secure his primal needs no matter what values he had to defile. Gregory called after him, "Why are you going so fast?"

Gregory, who was shorter, started trotting after him. Bernard Nowits emerged from a bathroom and yelled after Gregory, "I can run much faster than you!"

Paul felt he had received some twisted form of salvation when he arrived at the weightlifting room markedly before Gregory. Roberta was there alone without a spotter. She was bench pressing an obscene amount of weight. She was still wearing her armor, as she was almost always ready for a potential attack. When she had finished her repetition, she put the weight back on its rack. Paul approached her and chivalrously asked, "Would you like a drink?"

She replied, "No, I am building my dehydration tolerance."

Paul wondered why anyone would think that would improve their safety or health more than it would hurt as he replied, "Makes sense."

She then asked, "Haven't seen you in here much."

Paul replied, "Yeah, I always worry my spotter is going to mess up and I'll be terribly injured for life."

He blushed with the equivalent pain of his village burning down by orcs when he finished sputtering this embarrassing truth. She giggled and replied, "You have to show your spotter who is boss in a fight first, so they don't try to pull one over on you."

Paul wondered if it was indeed worth risking something as important one's health by fighting in order to prove one's superiority. He then asked, "Do you have any plans for the Turkey Bowl?"

Roberta replied, "I have never much cared for pro sports, too many rules to be natural, but I will be going."

Paul asked, "Would you like to go with me?"

She had a look of consideration before replying, "I'll think about it."

Gregory soon arrived and started courting Roberta with flirtation of video game Skillball simulation. On the other side of the room, Paul started lifting five-pound and then ten-pound weights, nothing that had the microscopic chance of hurting the long healthy future he

coveted for himself more than anything. Gregory soon asked, "Would you like to be my date to the Turkey Bowl?"

Roberta glanced at Paul, realizing he had overheard this. She apprehensively replied, "I'll think about it."

When Paul's muscles ached, he left the weightlifting room and head for Sophie Beauty-Totaltruth's office. Sophie was one of the two first-year wizards and the Academy's Recreation and Entertainment Department Head. Paul knocked on her office door. He heard Concernous Nutters on the other side complaining about there being more male sports teams than female sports teams when Sophie finally got an opening to say, "Come in."

Paul entered. He asked Sophie, "When would be a good time to talk in private?"

Concernous angrily spat, "Rude. It is rude to ask someone present to be excluded from the conversation."

Paul then agreed, "Fine, whatever." Before explaining, "I have this crush on someone and I fear losing her. I was wondering where Amare Posseshav lives."

Sophie, incredulous, replied, "The dwarf maker of love potions? They are a Forbidden Power. I cannot allow you to go through with whatever you're planning."

Paul argued, "You have never experienced my pain, so you don't have the right to tell me what should and shouldn't be done."

Sophie replied, "You should not greed anyone's affection."

Concernous replied, "You are being disrespectful, you aren't respecting the man's broken heart."

Paul argued, "I really need this. I am terrified of losing her."

Sophie argued, "Love potions are a Forbidden Power, bravery is magical."

Concernous remarked, "Yeah, 'if she really likes you then you have nothing to fear' is the greatest lie in history."

Sophie replied, "I am not asking him to be loved in return, I am asking him to be brave."

As he approached Morheiss's office, Paul kept telling himself, "be brave, bravery is magical" again and again in his head. Morheiss was the other first-year wizard and the temporary First-Year Baron. Paul gagged when he saw the poster on Morheiss's office door. It was of a gander floating in the sky surrounded by clouds and the text read, "To serve heroism is all I seek in life." -Gandwater (Wiz. 1405-1498)". Paul considered Morheiss a hypocrite for claiming to have nothing bad about him and advertising it like a campaign slogan. Paul realized he would have to cut a deal with Morheiss to get the location of Amare Posseshav. He heard Sophie's voice in his head again and the words, "Be brave, bravery is magical."

Paul turned away from the door and walked away. He felt lonely as he walked by himself back to his dorm. He walked past a series of stained-glass windows. Rain was tapping against them in a gentle drizzle. He turned to look out the window. There he stood for many minutes in sadness. He had true bravery. He was afraid, but he continued.