

JOE BENITEZ'S

No. 4

Benitez · Steigerwald

Lady Mechanika

\$3.99^{US}
FEB 2015



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Evening. High above Hemlocke Bay just outside of Mechanika City.

FWP FWP FWP
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I AM NO' COMFOR'ABLE WITH YOU DOING THIS ALONE, LOVE. NO' ONE BLOODY BIT.

THIS SHOULD BE A SIMPLE TASK. GET IN, LOOK AROUND, GET OUT WITHOUT ANYONE THE WISER.

IF I AM GOING TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, MR. LEWIS, I AM FAR MORE CONCERNED WITH THIS CONTRAPTION OF YOURS.

LOVE, THA'S THE ONE THING YOU SHOULD NO' WORRY ABOUT'. THE LEWIS WING WILL GET YOU TO THE SHIP SAFE AND SOUND. AND THA' IS A PROMISE.

FOR YOUR SAKE, MR. LEWIS, I HOPE YOU'RE CORRECT. CHEERS!

GOOD LUCK!

AND TAKE CARE OF THE WING! IT'S MY ONLY ONE!!!

CLK

BOLLUCKS!

BLOODY LEWIS!

COME ON...COME ON!

FZZZZZ
SHHZZZZZ



FLOOOOP!!

YOU ALWAYS
COME THROUGH IN THE
END, MR. LEWIS.

PERHAPS
IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
WISER TO
BRING HIM
ALONG.

WOOOOSH

STEADY...

HIS FAMILIARITY
WITH BLACKPOOL'S
PROCEDURES AND
PROTOCOLS MAY
HAVE PROVEN
USEFUL, EVEN IF
DATED.

BUT LEWIS IS
NO FIGHTER.

WHILE I HOPE TO AVOID
DETECTION ON THIS VENTURE...

...THAT MAY NOT
BE POSSIBLE.

SIR, PER
CHANCE, CAN
YOU SWIM?

WOOOOSH

WHOAI!

NGH!

HNGH!

HALT!

WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

THRASHH

WHAAAAAAA?!

THANK!

APOLOGIES.

HOPEFULLY I CAN
MANAGE WITHOUT
ANY MORE...

GOOD EVENING,
MADAME.

GOOD
EVENING,
SIR...MIGHT
YOU KNOW
HOW TO
SWIM?

EXCUSE
ME?

AAAAAAAAGH!

EXPOSURE TO
UNTOLD PERILS
SEEMS TO BE AN
UNAVOIDABLE
FACET OF MY
DAILY LIFE.

I SHALL HAVE TO START MR. LEWIS IN SOME
RUDIMENTARY HAND TO HAND TRAINING IF
HE PERSISTS IN WANTING TO ACCOMPANY
ME ON ALL OF MY UNDERTAKINGS.

AS IT STANDS NOW, HE
WOULD ONLY SERVE AS
A LIABILITY DURING ANY
REAL PREDICAMENT.



NOT THAT I'M UNGRATEFUL FOR HIS ASSISTANCE.



AND, IN TRUTH, HIS COMPANY.

THOUGH HIS OVERLY FAMILIAR AFFECTATIONS AND UNSOLICITED VISITS CAN BE EXCEEDINGLY TIRESOME.

I MUST ADMIT HE HAS AN UNPARALLELED AFFINITY FOR MECHANICAL GADGETRY.

A MOST USEFUL TALENT WHICH HAS SERVED ME WELL MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.



WHA--?

PARDON ME...



WOULD YOU MIND TERRIBLY IF I BORROWED YOUR OUTFIT FOR THE EVENING?



AAAAHH!



ONCE AGAIN I HAVE MR. LEWIS TO THANK.



AFTER HEARING A CHANCE COMMENT ON THE DIFFICULTY IN CONCEALING THE MORE SINGULAR ASPECTS OF MY PERSON...




HE HAD A UNIQUE GIFT COMMISSIONED SPECIALLY FOR ME.



GLASS LENSES.





I'M SURPRISED HE REMEMBERED
CONSIDERING HE WAS RATHER
PREOCCUPIED WITH THE BOTTOM
OF A BOTTLE AT THE TIME.

NEVERTHELESS,
HIS GIFT IS HIGHLY
WELCOME.

THE LENSES DO IMPAIR MY VISION,
AND CAN BECOME UNBEARABLY
PAINFUL IF WORN FOR LONGER
THAN A FEW MINUTES.

BUT THEY
AFFORD ME
WITH A PRICELESS
AND OTHERWISE
UNATTAINABLE
OPPORTUNITY.

THE ABILITY TO HIDE
IN PLAIN SIGHT.



MY LADY!
THERE YOU
ARE!

?



YOU ARE LATE!
I FEARED YOU WERE
NOT COMING.

SIR, FORGIVE
ME, BUT I BELIEVE
YOU'VE MISTAKEN
ME FOR--



I HAVE
BEEN HERE FOR
SOME TIME NOW,
WAITING FOR
YOU...

...LADY
MECHANIKA.

I TOLD
YOU I WOULD
DO WHAT I MUST TO
FIND MY SERAPHINA
AND BRING HER
HOME.

MR. GITANO?
BUT...BUT HOW
DID YOU GET
ON BOARD?

I ACQUIRED
AN INVITATION,
OF COURSE.

THERE IS A SECTION
ON THE THIRTEENTH LEVEL THAT
IS BARRED TO ALL GUESTS. TWO
MEN STAND ON GUARD BEFORE
A LOCKED DOOR.

I'VE EXPLORED
THE REST OF THE SHIP AND
FOUND NOTHING ELSE OF
SIGNIFICANCE.





I FEAR I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOU, MR. GITANO. I BELIEVE I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.

OF COURSE. SHALL WE GO SEARCH THIS RESTRICTED AREA TOGETHER?

I HAVE NO NEED FOR YOUR APOLOGIES, LADY MECHANIKA. WHAT I DO NEED IS YOUR ASSISTANCE IN FINDING MY DAUGHTER.



MONSIEUR NAPOLEON SEEMS OVERLY EXCITED. EXCUSE ME WHILE I GO FETCH HIM. I WILL RETURN SHORTLY.

BEP BEP

HAHAHAHAHA

PARDON ME, M'AMSELLE. I HOPE MY LITTLE JESTER WAS NOT BEING TOO MUCH OF A NUISANCE.

OH, HE'S NO NUISANCE!

ARLIGUINN!

I AM QUITE FOND OF HIS COMPANY.

AV AKAI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE CHAVI!

SAME AS YOU, DADRO. I AM HERE TO HELP SERAPHINA AND ANGELO!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DANGEROUS IT IS HERE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US?

I DO NOT CARE. I HAVE TO HELP.

BAHI COME ALONG. LADY MECHANIKA IS WAITING.



A LOVELY SOIREE, IS IT NOT?

?

UH...YES. YES, IT IS. QUITE LOVELY.

MASQUERADES ARE ALWAYS SO... INTRIGUING. YOU NEVER KNOW WITH WHOM YOU MAY BE CONVERSING OR DANCING.

INDEED.



WHY, YOU YOURSELF MAY BE AN INFAMOUS VILLAIN UNDER THAT MASK! OR PERHAPS A FAMOUS ADVENTURER!

WHA... HOW DID YOU--?

OH!



WHAT A PECULIAR LOOKING PENDANT! DOES IT HAVE SOME RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE, A RELIC OF SOME SORT?