

# BA Today

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## PART 2: The Mystery of the Missing Moonstone

by: Warren Rocksvold

*If you missed part 1, pick up a copy of last week's issue at the newsstand...*

"And that's when you saw the body?" I asked. The young girl grew pale and nodded her head.

"He was sitting in his chair by the window, slumped to one side. There was a gun in his hand and a note on his desk. As soon as I saw him I called the police. I didn't want to go in that room..." I could tell that the memory seemed to be taking its toll on her, so I changed the subject, planning to return to this once she had time to recuperate.

"We're there supposed to be any other people in the house this evening? Friends or family? Any kitchen staff? Gardeners? Butlers? Anyone?"

"Well," she pondered... "Yes. The cook, Amanda Eates, the butler, Joshua Meeks, and the gardener, Joseph Vines. Mr. Buchanan's family have all passed away and, even though he is...was a popular man, he never had guests at his house. I have no idea where they are."

"Thank you miss...?" I ask realizing I never took her name. I'm out of it tonight.

"Mundi. Alexis Mundi." she replies.

"One more question, Ms. Mundi. Was anything missing when you looked about the house? I know you said that there were many things misplaced, but was there anything that you can think of that may have been stolen?"

"Not that I know of..." she trailed off. "Maybe the silver wolf figurine from the den. I don't remember cleaning it..."

"Thanks. You may go now, but don't leave the city. I may need you for further questioning." I warn.

"Ok... See ya..." she says absently. She then turned and began the short trek to her car; a white Honda Accord. She seems to be an average college girl just trying to make ends meet. She definitely fit the look. She wore a plain pink tee shirt and a black zip-up hoodie with blue jeans and some black Converse high-tops. Her long brunette hair had been tied up in a ponytail. I watched her get into her car, grab a cd from her glove box, and drive back down the colossal driveway that led up to the house before turning to enter the enormous mansion for the first time myself.

I had work to do.

*.....to be continued next issue!*

## Teacher of the Week: Mrs. Ludvik

by: Tila Vines

Mrs. Ludvik is the spunky science teacher we all know and love. She teaches high school environmental science, forensic science, honors research & writing, creative writing, and chemistry.

### Where did you go to college?

I graduated from UAB with my bachelors degree in secondary language arts education in 1994 and a masters in the same field a few years ago. Additionally, I earned a second certification in science education.

### As most students know, you have a husband and two daughters named McKenzie and Maddie. What do you do with your family on your free time?

Maddie is away at college, but my family has recently become (very) addicted to watching The Big Bang Theory. I also enjoy thrift store shopping because I buy things to sell at a profit on Ebay and Amazon.

### Obviously, you love science, but what is your favorite area of science to teach? Why?

That would be like asking me which child is my favorite. I love each class and each subject for its own unique fascists.

### What are some of your hobbies?

I make jewelry and moonlight as a superhero fighting cancer.

### Finally, what is something about yourself that most students don't know?

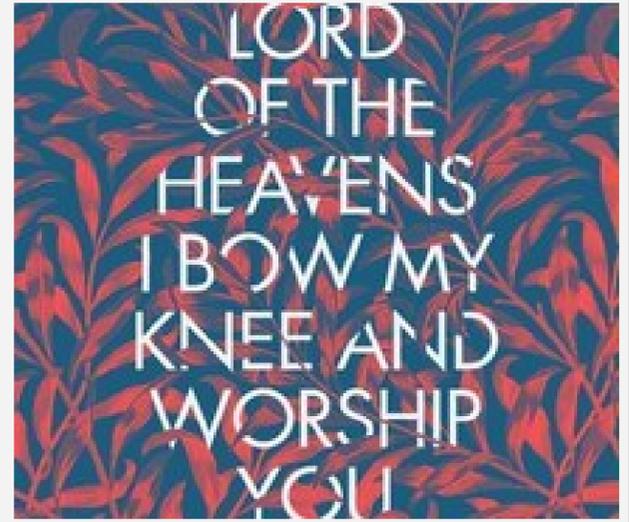
Because I had two beautiful and empowering natural, unmedicated births with my girls, I trained to become a certified doula (labor assistant). Because of this experience, I was asked to join a pilot program that a hospital in Tennessee was trying. Basically, I helped unmarried girls and young women who had no prenatal care and no birth classes by coaching them through labor using a program like Skype. I was available to them to be a "virtual labor coach" anytime- even in the middle of the night.



Mrs. Ludvik at Camp McDowell

## Stay Strong in Faith

by: Tila Vines



We all doubt our faith every now and then, and that is nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed of because we have all been there. For example, something bad could happen in your life and you think God has forsaken you. Or it may be something a little more serious, but regardless, it is natural to have doubts just as long you realize that He is the light and the truth. Here are a few ways to stay strong in your faith.

1. Remember that God is always there. Even in your worst and darkest times God is there watching over you whether you know it or not.
2. Do a daily devotional. Even just one verse can make a difference in your day and how you view God. It's amazing how one simple prayer can affect your entire day.
3. Get involved. There are many ways to get involved with Christ. For example, get involved with a local church youth or even Teens for Christ here at BA!
4. Talk to someone. It is great to have someone to confide in about a struggle you are dealing with or even to have someone to praise with! If you don't want to get personal with the conversation just simply say you need prayer with someone you trust.

**Colossians 3:16** – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”*

**Gamer's Corner:**  
**Bound by Flame**  
 by: RJ Coleman



Image courtesy of gamestop.com

In this dark, heroic, fantasy RPG, you play as a mercenary who is possessed by a hellfire demon. In the grasp of the demon, you must choose between the demonic power within you, and your humanity. Should you give your soul to the hellfire demon, or repel the demon and develop truly heroic skills. During battles, enemies will be fearsome and terrifying, which will tempt you to give a bit of your soul to the demon that possess you in order to gain more power. But, as the demon gains your soul, your physical transformation becomes more obvious. Depending on your choices, and the grasp of the demon, the chapters offer different experiences, expeditions, and situations. As you progress in the game, you will start to master the basics of combat, assassination, and eventually fire magic.

In *Bound by Flame*, you are a warrior of the Pure Blades. The Pure Blades are a group of mercenaries known and feared throughout Vertiel. In the game, you have the options in the craft system to create and improve your armor. Also, you will be able to craft new pieces of weapons. Improving your armor and weapons will not only personalize your appearance, but also your skills and your combat style. Available to you is a whole array of strikes and moves, and according to your specialization you also have skills and special powers that should help to overcome your opponents. In *Bound by Flame*, real time battles combine tactical skills, dynamics, and showmanship. You can choose to take a stealth approach and attack with a melee attack, or just throw yourself into the midst of the undead and attack.

Finally, the way you interact with the demon influences your character and the story. Also, the way you build friendships, romances, and rivalries with others. Some may even abandon you or turn against you if what you do violates their principles. Be careful not to offend your favorite companion. The decisions you make affects the way the story unfolds. The decisions vary through the development of your character to the way you interact with the demon. The choices are all up to you.

Agree? Disagree? What game would you like to see reviewed in the next issue? Email [batodaygames@gmail.com](mailto:batodaygames@gmail.com)

**Word Search Answers**



No peeking!

**Private School Probs** by: Casey Burnette



**2014 Beta Club Induction** by: Staff Writers

On Monday, April 21, 2014, current members of the National Beta Club at Bessemer Academy held a ceremony to induct new members. Beta Club is a national honor society that promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students. The ceremony includes a review of the expectations of the society's members, a recitation of the standards of Beta Club, and each inductee is awarded a Beta Club badge which is pinned on by a current member. Rising 7th graders and rising sophomores will be tapped into junior and senior Beta Club early next fall.

Congratulations to our new inductees! New members of our senior chapter are as follows:

- Seniors: Rhett Franklin, Kaitlin Gafnea, Emily Posey, Miranda Sims, Kelsey Vanderslice, Lucas Vining, and Zac Wade
- Juniors: Austin Jordan, Trent Jordan, Cole Morgan, Caroline Parker, Chase Smith, Abani Varner-Williams, and Kaleb Wingard
- Sophomores: Justyn Barnes, Lauren Burton, Johnnie Lea Early, Dalton Ethridge, Peyton Garmon, McKenna Higdon, Kaelyn Lawley, Chelsi Lucas, Braxton Payne, Pate Shaw, Alex Smith, Kourtney Standfield, Justin Venable, Brianna Vigne, Sydney Watson, and Sam Webb

Congratulations as well to the inductees to our junior chapter!

- 8th grade: Samantha Linholm, Michael Medders, Cassidy Nolan, and Michelle Roberts
- 7th grade: Morgan Brobston, Emilee Franklin, Baleigh Jones, Madelyn Leverett, and Alexandria Thompson

At graduation, active members in good standing have the privilege of wearing a Beta Club stole and honor cords with their gown during the ceremony. In addition to our new inductees who are seniors, current members who will be graduating next month are Allison Carroll, RJ Coleman, Sammie Jo Fleming, Emily Gilbert, Emily Harrison, Jacob Hollingsworth, Jake Merritt, Cary Moore, Matt Kyker, Noah Napier, Bailey Stephens, Shelly Sykes, Jamie Tully, Tila Vines, Abby Watson, and Warren Rocksvold.