

The Windstone Chronicles

**Forecast:** Worst Solstice Storm in History All of the trails of the Copperbind are lost to mountains of snow. Stay inside!

## THE DEL MAR DAILY

JANUARY EDITION www.urbansunrises.com

## ALL THE NEWS WORTH TO PRINT IN THE SOUTHERN REACHES

## IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS, MY ASS



## A Nina Tale

Listen, it's not like I'm a cynic. I tend towards the more optimistic side of life. I've been called a bundle of joy, I'll have you know. I'm sure they used their whole mouth, not just out the side of it when they said it. I'm clearly delightful!

But I don't know why good deeds go punished!! Have you found this to be true too? I just wanted to do something nice for Windstone. He's been such a good friend, mentor even- and he's always reminiscing about those ol' Blue Mountains with a wistful look in his eye. Says, "I'll get back there one day, Nina, when all my work here is done. Might even take ye with me." Truly, it's the rogue's fault. I only set in motion a series of events that not even the most talented Plumed Oracle could have predicted. If the Blue Mountain "Master Bell Maker" would actually SELL his bells and let them out of the Blue Mountains, I could have ethically gotten my hands on one.

Sigh. Here's the thing. You can plan, and double plan, and unless you do the thing yourself, the thing is wide open to blunders, missteps, oversights, or other various snafus. And that's where I currently sit. Waiting for a group of adventurers, that Windstone has grown quite fond of, to retrieve the Snow Bell from up near Hollow Lake. That THE ROGUE lost, after he stole, err procured it, got a hold of it, if you will.

I don't know what's going to happen, but I can't help but think that "it's the thought that counts" was made up by someone like me, sitting in a similar predicament, and wondering just how they were going to come up with a spectacular and thoughtful Solstice Shimmer gift for their best friend. Or if the value of the "thought" was worth the trouble and the worry when things inevitably go sideways.

Well, wish me luck in getting my Snow Bell back. I can't wait to see the look on Windstone's face when he opens it on Shimmer morning!!

Nina's Stone & Sundry - by Farnis Wolfshire



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I won Solstice Shimmer!