

**THE WEDDING OF LOUIS AND CHOCOLATE**  
by Max Wild



## **The Participants in this drama:**

**The bride** --- Chocolate Harmony, Schaumburg's baby sister, is a member of the House of Harmony. Harmony House has long been connected with the defense of the planet Orisha, the Orishan High Command. She could have chosen, by Orishan custom, to remain a member of Harmony House after marrying Louis LaHug, but instead chose to take on Lou's surname. Chocolate is skilled in the healing arts and is a guidance counselor. Whenever anyone is depressed, they always cry out, "I need Chocolate," and she comes rushing to their assistance.

**The groom** --- Louis LaHug, is a member of a different House on Orisha, also long associated with the Orishan High Command. Louis is technically the same rank as Schaumburg in the military, a captain, but chose to be Schaumburg's second-in-command for the mission to Earth that started in the Earth year 1947, and ended May 5, 2003. Louis currently works as a firefighter for the Pawtropolis fire department and continues assignments as an operative for the Orishan High Command. There are rumors Louis will be assigned to be Captain of his own squad of Orishans, known as a Hug. Louis is a member of the Orishan Naval Command that also administers the space fleet of flying saucers. Louis has also been known as the "pirate" of Schaumburg's group, because he is famous for "procuring" things when needed in the field. He discarded his phony hook, a practical joke to gain sympathy from the females.

**Schaumburg**, --- the best man, is also a member of the Orishan House of Harmony. His House is very old and prestigious on the Planet Orisha. Schaumburg is a Captain in the Orishan Elite Bear Forces and is also currently the Better Bear Bureau Chief on the planet Earth, for which he is compensated well. He works as a free-lance reporter for The Daily

Times of Pawtropolis, going by the pseudonym of Scoop Schaumburg. He married the Wizard Millennium (Leni) before he traveled to Earth in 1947.

**Andy Adorable**, --- groomsman, who is actually Schaumburg's little brother, is technically a member of the House of Harmony, but he has chosen to keep his surname of Adorable. Orishans at the orphanage in Pawtropolis (where Andy was raised) named him. Andy's family history is beary complicated.

**Galahad**, --- groomsman, whose surname is unknown at the time of this writing, is from a House of unknown origin. Further details about Galahad's origins will become clear as the story of this wedding is revealed. All we do know are two things: He's sweet on Betsy, Lou's little sister, and he is a knight in shining armor. There are rumors that he is a part of the House of Harmony, but that cannot be confirmed at this time.

**Millennium**, or Leni, a Wizard of the Mystical Order of the Golden Paw, is matron of honor. She is a member of the House of Grace. The House of Grace is an ancient Orishan House long associated with the Mystical Order of the Golden Paw. Her house is much older than Schaumburg's House. Leni, like Chocolate, could have chosen to keep her maiden name when she married Schaumburg. Instead, she chose to take on her husband's name after marriage, and is now a member of the House of Harmony. Leni owns a farm just outside Pawtropolis called Toleni, the site of the wedding. There she raises herbs for her apothecary shop, "Hocus Potions." She also cares for unicorns, owls, and a baby dragon, baby seal, and her llama, Dolly.

Leni's little sister, **Lavender**, bridesmaid, chose to be an apothecary merchant in Pawtropolis, and is also studying to be a lawyer. Lavender came to Earth and was captured by the evil Arjogun (a.k.a. the alien grays) before she

was able to start her career at the apothecary shop called "The Growly Orishan." The Arjogun enslaved her for several years and that gave her a beary growly disposition. However, ever since she met Andy, her demeanor is milder and more pleasant. Andy and Lavender have been dating for about one year.

Finally, **Betsy LaHug**, --- bridesmaid, is Lou's little sister, a member of the House of LaHug. Betsy, unlike her big brother Louis, plans to become a Wizard like her sister-in-law-to-be, Leni. She will soon be attending the Wizard academy on Orisha. She is barely out of her teen years. She has been associated with the Schaumburg Hug for just a matter of days.

Besides the wedding party, the wedding ceremony itself was performed by one of the most distinguished beings in the universe, the Master Wizard, Nerwonduh. Nerwonduh has been a friend to Orisha for hundreds of years, and has been a longtime friend to the Schaumburg Hug on the Planet Earth. His role in this wedding is not only as the being officiating, but was instrumental in preventing the wedding from being called off (more on that later).

Also present are such Orishans as the famous Jack Davis, warrior from the Wizard Wars on the planet Jamzabal and Leni's former boyfriend; the Mayor of Pawtropolis, Montgomery (known affectionately as 'Monty'), Perry Purple, managing editor of the newspaper that employs Schaumburg and Andy, The Daily Times of Pawtropolis; all the reporters and employees of that newspaper; all the members of the Pawtropolis Fire Department, where Louis and Chocolate are employed; and many others too numerous to be named here.

## Chapter 1 A Wedding Begins

**T**HE flowers bloomed in all the colors of the rainbow on the farm in Toloni as Leni

performed her magic on the waterfall just before the magical wedding ceremony.

Almost every Orishan on Earth and many humans were present for the big event. April 17, 2004 marked one of the largest social events in the history of Pawtropolis --- of the planet Orisha, really. Louis LaHug, second in command of Schaumburg's Hug from the planet Orisha, made his final preparations to wed his beloved Chocolate Harmony, Schaumburg's baby sister.

The Orishans, aliens that look like the human toy teddy bears, had been planning the wedding for weeks. Nerwonduh, the Wizard tiger from the planet Bengali, performed the ceremony.

Leni, Schaumburg's Wizard wife, cast a spell on the waterfall in the unicorns' forest near her farm so that it formed a magic bridge made entirely of sparkling blue water. This allowed the wedding party to march toward the center atop the flowing water bridge where the ceremony took place. Louis and Chocolate were to be married at the crest of the water bridge, on the waterfall. It all seemed very spectacular to the few humans present at the ceremony. Among the humans were Samuel Arctophile, newly named managing editor of The Daily Press of Montreal, Illinois and his girlfriend Amy Sampson, ace reporter at the same paper. Other humans attending included Cheryl, Armando and Jose Cruz. Cheryl and Sam met years before, while she searched for her lost husband Armando. Jose is the young couple's son. Other humans present included Sam's good friend and fellow journalist, Fred Steinfeld, and the mysterious military man known as Commander Black. Another tall human, Frank Largetooth, wept openly as the ceremony began. Frank had traveled the farthest, coming from his native Alaska to attend.

Suddenly, the wedding party slowly marched up the magical water bridge.

Chocolate glowed with joy as she carried her lilac bouquet hand-picked by Lavender. Leni believed that if Lavender had her way, everything in the wedding would be colored either purple or lavender. But Chocolate wanted a wedding with all the colors of the rainbow.

Chocolate wore Leni's wedding dress, something borrowed. The famous Orishan dressmaker, Maxine Clark, designed the traditional dress with lacy bodice. Chocolate also wore Leni's pearl necklace with one added piece of jewelry --- the crystal butterfly. A special note here about the crystal butterfly. It is not actually jewelry, but a living being, a gift from the mysterious Orishan known as Bartholomew. More details on the butterfly later.

Everyone was dressed in formal attire with the exception of Galahad. Galahad clanked around in his shining armor and cape. He also carried a red shield with a heart and a rose for love.

The huge crowd hushed silent as Nerwonduh raised his paw to begin the ceremony.

"To all beings gathered here in love, welcome," Nerwonduh began. "I have a beary strange tale to tell you all. This wedding of Louis LaHug and Chocolate Harmony would not have taken place had it not been for the quick thinking of the members of Schaumburg's Hug of Orishans. The story of this wedding ceremony actually starts one week ago."

As Nerwonduh performed the wonderful ceremony, he thought back to a week ago, when the trouble started:

**L**ENI, Andy and Nerwonduh were on the planet Orisha, Earth Date, Saturday, April 10, 2004. They were in the Great Hall of the Records of the Mystical Order of the Golden Paw. The hall was lined with ancient tomes, lit by many candles, and included some dusty computers. Leni and Nerwonduh were there to

research the family history of Louis and Chocolate; to be sure everything was in order for the wedding, and the joining of the two Houses of Harmony and LaHug.

Andy was just there to learn more about his own family history.

When an Orishan couple weds, they have to have their papers in order. Their birth certificate, graduation diplomas, Licenses to Hug, etc. All this is necessary so that they can determine the proper lineage of the couple to be married and record for all time under which House the couple will live. Many Orishan couples choose to live under the bride's House, instead of the Groom's --- unlike on the Planet Earth where the human woman usually takes on the man's surname.

Nerwonduh took down a small disk from the record cabinet and activated it. A beautiful holographic tree in green and brown hues sprang up before their eyes.

"What's that?" Andy asked.

"That's the Harmony House family tree," Leni explained. "It contains all the members of the House of Harmony, including those who have come before us. The brown leaves represent the Orishans who have died. The green ones are for living Orishans."

Nerwonduh manipulated the controls of the Orishan computer to make the family tree larger for all to see and read the names written on the tiny leaves. It seemed to be solid, not an image.

Suddenly, the brown leaves began to fall off the tree.

"What's wrong?" Andy asked.

"Nothing, young Orishan," Nerwonduh explained. "That just means that I have chosen to take the Orishans who have passed away off the tree to make this less complicated for us."

The tree grew larger and all could read the leaves on the tree.

"Look, there's Schaummy's leaf," Leni said.

“And here is Andy, only why are there two leaves right on top of each other?”

“Let me see that,” Nerwonduh said. Nerwonduh carefully examined Andy’s leaf.

Meanwhile, Leni searched the branch with Schaumburg and Andy carefully, with a perplexed look in her blue eyes.

“What’s wrong, Leni?” Andy asked.

“I don’t see Chocolate’s leaf,” Leni said.

“What?!!?” Nerwonduh growled, now growing alarmed. “What do you mean?”

Nerwonduh tried fruitlessly to find Chocolate’s leaf.

“Maybe that leaf under mine is Chocolate’s” Andy guessed.

“No, Andy,” Nerwonduh said. “You were born after Chocolate. Her leaf should be ahead of yours on the tree. And there should only be one, not two. The only time there are two leaves in the same place on an Orishan family tree is when there are twins.”

“You aren’t a twin, are you?” Leni asked.

“As far as I know I’m not,” Andy said, half-joking.

Leni laughed at Andy’s joke. Then she suddenly stopped. “What if you are a twin? And why isn’t Chocolate’s leaf here?”

“Oh my,” Nerwonduh said. “This is not good. We cannot perform this wedding if we cannot verify Chocolate’s origins. This won’t do at all.”

Andy took the holographic leaf behind his own, and pulled it away to read the name. “It says Galahad,” Andy said.

Nerwonduh looked at Leni in surprise.

“What can all this mean?” Leni asked. “Why isn’t Chocolate’s leaf here? And why does Andy have two leaves on his branch?”

**A**T the same moment, in the city of Pawtropolis, Scoop Schaumburg banged out a story for that day’s newspaper.

Perry Purple ran to Schaumburg’s comput-

er.

“Stop what you’re working on, Schaummy,” Perry shouted. “We’ve got a real mystery on our hands. This is front page material for sure.”

“It’s okay,” Schaumburg said. “I’m done filing this story anyway. What’s up?” Schaumburg punched a huge button on the Orishan computer to send the story to the composing room.

“We have just learned that two Orishans have disappeared from Pawtropolis,” Perry said.

“Go on,” Schaumburg said.

“Upon checking out the two individuals, I have learned that those two Orishans don’t exist according to their family trees. They are from different Houses and unrelated to each other. It seems their leaf is missing from each of their trees in the Hall of Records on Orisha. But when I spoke to their families, they, of course, have been members of their families for many years.”

“That is mysterious,” Schaumburg said. “Give me the names and contact info. I’ll get right on it.”

## Chapter Two Chocolate Disappears

“Dear brothers and sisters in the Mystical Order of the Golden Paw, we are gathered here to join in holy matrimony two beings who love each other beary much,” Nerwonduh said as he looked at the wedding couple who faced him. Nerwonduh also glanced at the audience seated behind the couple.

“In an Orishan wedding, it is traditional for the bride to publicly offer a gift to her groom,” Nerwonduh said. “What have you brought for your dowry, Chocolate?”

Chocolate took off her necklace of pearls with the crystal butterfly attached.

“I give my beloved this token of my affec-