

Authorities fear Messenger Owl vigilante will encourage rebel forces

Luella Flynn

With his sleek costume and electrified voice, the Messenger Owl looks more like a ColorCast movie star than a rebel. But rebel he is, according to Enforcer General Tyr Otley. And a military threat as well. “His lies have stirred up confusion among Safe Lands nationals,” General Otley said.

But in an exclusive interview with the Owl, the rebel vigilante claims to be protecting Safe Lands nationals from lies the Guild has been heralding for decades and promises to get the people answers, something enforcers have been unable—or unwilling—to do.

“It’s preposterous that anyone would believe such claims,” General Otley said. “Our Safe Lands Guild has always served our nation well. The Owl is nothing more than a coward in a mask who uses tricks and lies to try and discredit our leaders.”

These “tricks” General Otley refers to is the Owl’s method of hijacking the ColorCast so he can speak to Safe Landers. But as to the lies he is accused of, the Owl said some things that shocked Safe Landers. Here is a transcript from a recent ColorCast interruption:

“This is not an error. The Messenger Owl has truth to deliver to the people of the Safe Lands. Truth brings freedom. Listen well. Liberations are not filmed live. They are prerecorded and edited so you hear only what the Guild wants you to hear. This ColorCast is a tool for the Safe Lands Guild to tell lies. The Owl speaks the truth. There are not nine lives, but one. Make yours count.”

Such wild claims speak to longstanding concerns many Safe Landers hold dear. “This Messenger Owl hit the nail on the head,” *C Factor’s* Eris Mirandel said. “He said just enough to scare a lot of people. I mean, what if he’s right?”

And many believe he is. There have always been rebel groups in the Safe Lands, but never has anyone managed to communicate to the entire population at once. And his method brought instant fame. Vendors in the downtown Midlands were selling T-shirts bearing the Owl’s face until enforcers shut them down. And over the past few weeks, copycat graffiti groups have sprung up throughout the Safe Lands, especially in the Midlands. They claim to be helping the Owl spread his message.

“He’s going to get answers,” a man who calls himself Little Owl said. “We’re finally going to find out the truth about a lot of things.”

But it’s been several weeks now since the Messenger Owl first interrupted the ColorCast with his warnings, and he has yet to reveal the truths he promised.

Meanwhile, enforcer presence has grown, in the Midlands especially, with patrol units pacing every street corner, armed and waiting for the Messenger Owl to make an appearance.

“We will catch this shell,” General Otley said. “And when we do, Safe Landers will see the truth.”

Hoping to avoid a full-blown crackdown, the copycat groups have retreated back to a task and play mentality. But there is little evidence that they’ll be gone for long.

“We just need to give enforcers a few weeks to calm down,” Little Owl said. “Then we’ll be back.”

But will the Messenger Owl ever give Safe Landers more than cryptic warnings? Will he actually reveal any truth? Or is he, like his copycat owls, going to grow bored and go back to task and play like the rest of us? Only time will tell. But the longer he takes to prove his warnings true, the less Safe Lands nationals are interested. For the Messenger Owl, time is running out.