



Hearthcast.com Season 5, Episode #197
contribute@hearthcast.com
<http://www.facebook.com/hearthcast>
@hearthcast @hearthcastfreck @hearthcastrewt



Show Intro

[Cinematic Intro]

[F] Hello and thanks for joining us on Hearthcast, Episode **#197** for patch **5.4** made possible by Openraid.org

Our Topic for this episode is **Warcraft Gift Guide for 2013**.

[Intro Music]

This is **Freckleface** and I play* a **Goblin Hunter**.

This is **Rewt** I play* a **Goblin Warlock**

We are a podcast for the Casual World of Warcraft player.

Coming Up in Episode #197 of Hearthcast:

- StarCraft II gamer receives US pro-athlete visa
- LFF - Blizzard Bans A players account, and what's up with Anduin?
- Hey Blizz, don't miss the social market!

What's New with You?

Freckleface: Ran Throne of t4w metas, so one step closer to Glory of the Cataclysm raider. Also started working on "glory of the Hero" (wotlk dungeon cheeves). Mage is 88!

Rewt: Very busy IRL week, but did manage to get in a World Boss Tour with Kiri and some others from OpenRaid.

Main Content - Warcraft Gift Guide for all levels of obsession

Brought To You by OpenRaid.org. Openraid allows players to form both cross realm and local raid teams for scheduled or pick up runs for current and old content. Check out openraid.org

It's that time of year again, where we tend to buy gifts for people in our lives.

If you're not sure if that special someone on your list is a WoW Fan, use this quick guide to let you know:

- They call their schedule their 'rotation'.
- They ignore things that don't sparkle when they're out and about.
- They get up really early in the mornings just to farm while everyone else is asleep.

- They measure how much they would get paid at their day-job in current chinese gold prices.
- They thought the "Hoarders" TV show on cable was about World of Warcraft

Now having confirmed that they are indeed WoW players, it is vitally important that you give them a proper gift - one according to their level of play.

	Game	Pets	Mounts	Stuff	Equipment	Swag
New Player	Battle Chest - \$5, MoP, \$10	Show them where to buy cheap pets, and tell them about the neutral AH	Teach them about faction mounts.	Heavy Leather Ball, Paper zeppelin, savory deviate delight	Gaming Mousepad	A shirt or hat with the WoW Logo on it. Or maybe a sticker/ keychain until they are ready to wear something.
Casual	Past box sets for their shelves	Run dungeons with them for rare drops	Run dungeons with them for chances of mount drops	Items that MoP Rares Drop (176)	Gaming Headset	A neutral WoW Shirt, non faction specific
Semi Hard Core	A box set that still has a bonus item in it	Nightsaber Cub	Get them into OpenRaid for Meta Achievement Mounts	Help them get a complete Tmog Set for their toon	Gaming Mouse	100% faction specific shirt
Hard Core	All past box sets, or any promotional material	Ethereal Soul Trader	Sandbox Tiger	Run ICC with them weekly and pass on all loot	Gaming Keyboard	Latest BlizzCon stuff
Extreme	Autographed copies of the game on Ebay	Murky (2005 blizzcon pet)	Spectral tiger mount	Buy them a fully geared level 90	Gaming Chair	The unwashed shirt of Chris Metzen, stolen from his hotel room at Blizzcon.

We have a ez-guide spreadsheet posted now on our website along with this very Episode.

[Casual News]

StarCraft II gamer receives US pro-athlete visa

The world's first professional StarCraft II gamer has been granted a five-year pro athlete visa for the United States, making Kim "viOLet" Dong Hwan the first of his kind.

viOLet was one of the first gamers to apply for the P-1A visa when they were introduced in July. The new paperwork doesn't mean that he can live permanently in the U.S., but it does mean he'll be treated like other (more traditional) athletes, able to easily enter the country temporarily to participate in tournaments.

[LFF - Blizzard Fails]

Don't Try This At Home - Buy a 300K gold mount and get your account suspended!

A WoW Player collected all the gold from all the toons he had on his server and bought a 300K mount of the

Black Market Auction House. The next morning, he found his account was suspended, and he was accused of breaking the Blizzard TOS/EULA by buying gold. After many rounds of discussions with Blizzard, he was then told his account was suspended for “suspicious activities”... discussions continued, with the player repeatedly telling Blizzard exactly what he had done, and that he had not done anything illegal. After over a week of back-and-forths, Blizzard suddenly unsuspended his account, told him his account had clearly been compromised, refunded all his gold (the 300K) but allowed him to keep the mount.

Anduin

During the Cataclysm time frame, Anduin is coming of age and is learning to fight. He joins you in some skirmishes and realizes his potential as a priest. In Mists, he has been kidnapped when the ship goes down near Pandaria.

So now when you ding 85 and go to Stormwind, you get both sets of quest from Varian, which leads to some awkwardness....

[Hey Blizz!]

Don't Miss The Social Market!

Blizzard has a minor identity crisis going on. While the game is intended to be a social one, it thrives on closed social circles -- AKA, a guild -- and doesn't do too well in open social arrangements -- AKA, Raid Finder.

Blizzard has given us tools to make content consumption easier - LFD, LFR, etc - and taken the burden of group forming away from us (anyone remember trying to form a group for a dungeon?)

Blizzards' own remarks at Blizzcon regarding the 100 person battletag friend limit indicate they don't fully understand how social networking has integrated itself into the game. (you have more than 100 friends? How many FB friends do most people have - several hundred, because they add their acquaintances and people from many different circles.) Twitter, Live Feeds, Twitch.tv, podcasting... just to name a few.

So, Hey Blizzard, here's some minor suggestions for you not to miss the social market:

1. Let us link our armory pages to a social media hub. Let us auto tweet achievements or other things about our characters.
2. Auto-interact with us on Twitter. Have a WoWBot send us grats when we do something special.
3. Send us Push Notifications about different things:
 - a. Server Statuses
 - b. Breaking News
 - c. Items we're watching on the Auction House
4. Sell to us. We buy your products already. Let us know of an upcoming item for sale, with the chance to make an in-app purchase right there.
5. Give us redemption codes to turn into NPC's in game for an item.
- 6.

The stereotypical WoW player doesn't exist anymore. We're here. We're socially engaged, and we're waiting for you.

Show Wrap Up

Thanks for listening to another episode of Hearthcast!

Here's what we're looking forward to:

- Next contestant on Hearthcast AOE. If you are available for 15 minutes between 6-9p eastern time on a Thursday and would like to challenge Rewt or Freckleface, send us a message through speakpipe on Hearthcast.com

Go check out:

- Vote2Kick (Synrgy, Akari, Eclipse, Drethan; <http://twitch.tv/vote2kick>)
- Wow Podcasts Subreddit <http://www.reddit.com/r/wowpodcasts>
- Other podcasts

(F) You can be part of next week's show by sending us your questions, comments, or any other feedback. Send an email to contribute@hearthcast.com, tweet me @hearthcastfreck or Rewt @hearthcastrewt, like our Facebook page, or send us a voice message on hearthcast.com through Speakpipe - no registration or installation required.

(R)We'd again like to thank our sponsor OpenRaid

Find Hearthcast on iTunes, Stitcher, or just drop our RSS feed into your favorite podcasting app.

Until next time, this has been Rewt - And FreckleFace - from hearthcast.com