



For Your Garden

The

Poodle Mulch

Progress Report

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Sponsored by Karice's Peanut Butter Cups. They're irresistibly murderous!

Issue XXXII

The Misfits began this week outside of the grand bustling city of Rorus. With Livia having been kidnapped, Lucieth off trying to find her, and Merle and Andromeda off looking for dead bloated Elvises in the back alley behind the Walgreen, the party was a bit lean.

On the way into the city, the party was rejoined by Lucieth. Evidently, he had done some research while in Kentelly concerning the Defiled Lands and Slaverpoint. After some hard thinking, he had to admit that getting there and finding her while staying alive would be well nigh impossible, so he decided to get back with the others so he could get Roger to Garland and safety before they went after Livia. He apologized for being such an emotional puss while thanking the gods that the party didn't tie him down, cast zone of truth on him, and start interrogating him.

The party was approached by a hippie from the tent city asking if they wanted to join him and some friends in showing their love and appreciation for the All Creator. Nobody was interested, including Brynhildr, who didn't like someone saying that there was a god above Kharsallis. The Misfits decided to move on.

Phappiri said that she was to take the wagons filled with Cavoria Flowers to Kang Sahrl's Gladiatorial College. There, she would meet with Karice to sign off on the wagons and goods before ending the transaction. Now, have you ever seen a dog slobbering over a big juicy piece of steak? That's what Squirk looked like knowing that Karice was close. Getting Karice was another matter.

Phappiri didn't want anything to go down during the transaction, for there was the reputation of the parental units and their business to be concerned about. She also didn't want to have her face associated with any type of betrayal for the same reason, not to mention keeping her own reputation and herself safe.

The Misfits decided to use stealth to follow the caravan to gather intel. The caravan arrived at college. Phappiri and the guards led the wagons around back. Some riders arrived off the road, led by a female who was wearing a cowl. The hair on the back of everyone's neck rose. Could it be Karice?

After the deal was concluded, Phappiri led her men away and gave her report to the Misfits. Soon afterward, Karice took the wagon train out of the college and began working her way through back alleys toward some destination.

As the Misfits followed, they came upon a commotion where a non-wizard was getting harassed by some thuggeronies. The party decided to help and made a new friend in

Lykos, who happened to be in the service of the wizard council in Quillon. He and Squirk were now best buds! Lucieth wasn't so sure, though.

Anyhoo, the Misfits continued on and watched as the dastardly villain Karice led the caravan to Kaex Castle, home of mayor Blix Coyearson. His crest happened to be the striking cobra that Andromeda had seen when Karice brought her to her place for some lovin' some weeks ago. What connection did he and Karice have? (cue ominous John Williams symphonic theme music).

While waiting for Karice to come out, Noctis noticed a $\frac{1}{2}$ orc watching the castle with great interest. Noctis introduced himself as Lowell, and the man introduced himself as Garak, who happened to be the same tailor who helped Merle out in Bog Boldur in Sestillion. After a conversation in which he revealed an interest in the wizard problem, he decided to tag along with the Misfits. Another one for the pile, boys.

The Misfits had to face something they had little of . . . patience. After seeing three of their number fall in a battle that they were ill-prepared for, they decided that an all out assault on Karice's home would be unwise. Good decision, piggies! Margarita tried to waltz into the front door but was stopped by an alert asshole. I hate alert assholes, don't you?

That night, while marking time waiting for Karice to just show up and surrender, the party was alerted by Roger that one of his people was in a caged wagon on the street. Sure enough, it was a big black enforcer (one of kinds of dudes that tried to capture Roger to take him back home).

A bunch of light bulbs went off over some of the heads of the Misfits. They followed the wagons to a gladiator school called "The Trent School of the Sword". There, Roger proceeded to pony up the gold to buy the enforcer. Noctis bought a couple of gladiorettes, while Margarita got herself a fighter named Crixus.

The hostess for the gladiator negotiation and purchase was none other than Lady Gwencalon. Hmm. Wonder where y'all heard that name before?

They all marched to Phappiri's place for baths, din din, and winding down. Roger tried to speak to the enforcer, who seemed stiff in every way. He said he was there to find Roger and bring him back. With Noctis's help, Roger convinced the enforcer to behave himself.

The next day Phappiri and Squirk visited Ventrin, an elven wizard residing within the Spheres of the Arcanum, the wizards' guild of Rorus. They explained their concerns to the concerned wizard, who said he would speak with the head honcho Anderus. To everyone's surprise, Anderus said that he and the wizards would not pursue the Karice angle. Phappiri and Squirk left all sad and shit.

Eventually, Andromeda rejoined the party and got caught up on some stuff. They all got reports from Garak stating that Karice and some dudes had just returned to the castle on horseback. Bibbo verified that they eventually left and returned back to Karice's home.

Tired of all the him-hawing around, Margarita decided to sneak into the back of the house. She was noticed by a guard, who received a lovely parting dagger in the chest. While the guard cried like a little you-know-what, Margarita sneaked into the kitchen,

past some bakers, and upstairs. After working her way up to the top floor, she tried one of the doors, releasing a cloud of green gas into the hallway.

The last thing Margarita saw before she went night night was Karice opening the door, smiling, and saying "Hmmm. What do we have here?"

