



The

Poodle Mulch

Progress Report

June 13, 2020

Sponsored by Multi-Personality Deviled Ham. It'll be sorry it called you a worthless half orc piece of shit!

Issue XLIII

Our favorite band of DnD hillbillies, fresh off of acquiring a new mission to save some friendlies, set off east toward the Wildlands. They arrived at the dwarven/elven city of Suveei and didn't do much in particular. Jigglyn Pi did some performing and earned some decent coinage, but no fake gold fiddle.

The next morning at breakfast, a dwarf carrying two huge bulging sacks on his back stopped on his way outside to ask for Brynhildr's blessing on his long journey. He even gave Bryn a couple of rubies for the church of Kharsallis. When he departed the tavern, a pair of other dwarves sitting nearby went after him. Since they weren't trying to surrender to anyone, Merle didn't feel the need to slay them.

By the way, Dolly kept making some snide comments about Merle's hypocrisy in slaying a surrendering dwarf after busting her balls about hating dwarves. Kind of makes a $\frac{1}{2}$ orc who's just had a sex change operation think, huh?

Anyway, the Misfits decided to check in on the dwarf with the sacks to make sure he was okay. They came to an alley, where the dwarf was accosted by the other two. Andromeda, who is the kind of barbarian who gives mercy to surrendering dwarves, went to help. After a very short battle, the bad dwarves were downed and stabilized.

The dwarf who had been attacked by the thieves had dropped sack, spilling several gems that looked exactly like the ones used by Karice to hamper Squirk's spellcasting. Squirk was all over the dwarf, whose name was Pockle. Seems that Pockle and his brother have a mine in the Gerimlis Hills in Dockrawlin.

Pockle had heard through the grapevine that a woman named Karice in Rous was paying many times more for the stones (called Soran Stones) than they were worth. He was hoping to cash in by journeying to Rorus and selling them to Karice. After some magical thought detection and hard questioning, Squirk and friends were able to discern that Pockle was not part of the conspiracy, rather just a dwarf trying to score an opportunity. The Misfits relieved Pockle of his stones but gave him some armor and other goodies to kind of make up for it. Pockle wasn't too butt hurt and left promptly.

The Misfits were able to come to the conclusion that the gems were probably not complete, meaning they still had to be enchanted to become the magic dampeners that they are meant to be. Squirk decided to hire someone to send some of the gems to Filoriac after speaking to him. The rest of the gems would be destroyed eventually.

Thorokin also revealed to the party that he had received news from his master that he wanted to pass along to the party. First, Brighkly had declared war on Blackmel. Next several cities in the Barony of Criksrad have passed formal laws preventing wizards from

practicing their magic unless sanctioned by the local government. Lastly, it has been confirmed that followers of Avizor are helping to make Soran Stones.

After picking up some supplies, the Misfits left Suveei for Mearish City. That night, Thorkin expired, the dark essence of his spirit fleeing his broken human vessel. Right when Merle went out to dispose of the body, some giants attacked. Only a round into the fight, Squirk was already pissing and moaning about teleporting out. That's why I love you guys . . . your confidence. Soon, the giants were defeated.

That night, Livia experienced something interesting. Being held in a comfortable room in Grue's tower in Vusjak, she was visited by a beautiful woman named Ezelda. She said that Lucieth was a friend. She asked Livia questions concerning what she thought about the others saying they were her friends. Ezelda also asked what Livia's intentions were toward Lucieth. She made it clear that he was off limits. She also promised Livia that she would do everything she could to ensure her safe release.

The next morning, the Misfits set out and reached Mearish City in the evening. They scoped out a local tavern called the Grimtooth Cavity. Squirk, Lykos, and Merle popped in on a local wizard and had a chit chat about the disease and conspiracy against the wizards. They were promptly invited for dinner a little later.

Bryn chatted with the head priest of the local temple of Kharsallis and asked about the Wildlands. She discovered that place, which many believe is a preserve for the gods, has been surrounded by a barrier since before recorded history. Spaced along the border of the land are tall black towers called T'Lea Shafts. Engraved on the surface of the shafts, in different languages, are stark warnings not to pass.

On the way back from the temple Bryn noticed a mousy woman in glasses following behind. She stopped and engaged the woman, who identified herself as Hurura. She admitted that she was looking for Bryn and her companions, for she was sent by Qa'Suul to travel with them.

Noctis and Bolinda found an agent of the Wyvern's Sting. Noctis wanted the girl to travel to Barrackus to deliver some information, but her price was too high. Pissed, Noctis left her with the check. That'll show her.

Back at Grimtooth's Cavity, the party was introduced to Hurura, who demonstrated that she could change personalities quicker than Squirk can talk about anything on her mind. After discovering that the devil occupying Hurura's body was not the same one who had been inside Mr. Flynn or Thorkin, Merle was able to discern that Hurura might calm down after a go with some sexy Pat action. She took Hurura to a brothel and paid for the "Dad Pants Special".

At din din, Squirk told the first wizard and his two companions the entire story of the conspiracy. They were enthralled and thanked her and Lykos for the information, adding that they would have to become more involved in events going on to the south. Unfortunately, the wizards were unable to provide much detail about the barrier surrounding the Wildlands, saying that anyone who had gone through was never seen again. They also said that they and generations of wizards before them had tried to use magic to penetrate the barrier and even scry past it, but to no avail.

The next morning, the Misfits decided to throw caution to the wind. They left Mearish City and went to the barrier. A dwarven knight, part of the Brotherhood of the Barrier, tried to warn the party off, explaining that they would not return. Squirk would not be swayed, even if it meant using Hurura as a guinea pig. Hurura's body, after all, was not going to last very long anyway. Hurura touched the invisible barrier with her pinky and winked out of existence.

Squirk tried sending Bibble through, and it disappeared. She reconstituted her owl, but it had no knowledge of where it had been to relay to its master. Jillyn even summoned a griffon and sent it through but lost mental communication the moment it passed through the barrier.

After a few more moments of thinking about it, the rest of the Misfits charged through into the lush forest. They arrived to see Hurura and the griffon alive and well. They looked back the way they came. Instead of seeing low flat grassland and the dwarven knights, they saw a lush forest.

Gathering everyone together, Lykos tried to use his helm of teleportation. Each Misfit received an extremely painful bolt and wound up on their asses . . . right where they had been. They were trapped within the Wildlands, cut off from the rest of the world. May they rest in peace.

“It’s a booby trap!”

