



For Your Garden

The

# Poodle Mulch



Progress Report

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Issue LXI

Picking up from last week, our Private Country Infiltratin' Misfits made it through the deadly barrier that marked the border of the mysterious land of Boreoa. Of course, any invading Misfits must be met with laser shootin' sliver spheres YEE HAAAHH!

The spheres tried to warn the party to leave, but nobody tells the Misfits what to do. It didn't take long before someone attacked one of the spheres, and the battle was on. Things got dicey with the fight that was made a bit more confusing when the party realized that a warforged had come through the barrier behind them. Pesky warforges.

During the fight, the party realized that the spheres were not attacking Roger, Phillip, Ron, or Phil—the Boreoans. After taking some heavy laser damage and Lucieth going down, everyone managed to get the upper hand and take out all but one of the spheres just as a bunch of Enforcers on Pegasi appeared over the hill demanding surrender.

The Boreoans surrendered right away. After some himming and hawing, the rest of the party stepped down, and the battle was over. The warforged introduced itself as Unit 451, or "Quill" as it had been named by a mentor from Brightly named "Patience." Seems that Quill had paid a visit to the Labyrinth of Gates in search of a time containing gate address to other worlds created by Eldritch Titans long ago. By some HUGE coincidence, it looked like Quill and the party had something in common \*gasp\* What are the odds??

At first, the Enforcers were keen on forcing the party back on the other side of the barrier to the "outside" world. Of course, being who they are, the Misfits balked, explaining that they needed to speak to the Boreoan leaders about rustlin' up a few of dem dar bodies. Eventually, one of the Enforcers fetched an alpha (leader) from a nearby community. The alpha questioned the party further and decided that they should be taken to the capital community to meet the alpha primes. Ooooo.

Pegasi were brought for everyone to ride. Each of the flying horses were gray, which seemed surprising. The Enforcers and the Alpha weren't much help in explaining why they were the same color, or just about anything else the party asked about, although a couple of Enforcers seemed interested in the outsiders. Eventually, the group then took flight. For the next five days, they journeyed to the northwest coast of Boreoa.

Along the way, Quill showed it could paint and painted a picture of a Pegasus that was a different color than gray. Quill displayed the painting as it stood guard outside the party's tent one night, prompting a couple of Enforcers to come looking at the picture curiously. They two enforcers also spoke among themselves about what might happen to the rogue Boreoans and the party. They mentioned possible memory modification to remove all memories of the Boreoans from the minds of the outsiders. Yikes!

Once they had reached the capital community, the party was placed in a blacked-out box wagon and taken inside a building. Everyone gave up their weapons as per the Enforcers' requests. But not Merle. She and her weapon had formed a special bond. The kind that can only be found in French lesbian movies. Anyway, she wouldn't give up her vorpal honey and had to stay behind.

The rest of the Misfits were brought before three Alphas: A1, A2, and A3, who sat on high benches looking down on those who came before them. They were not happy about the outsiders invading their land or corrupting their citizens. The party explained their situation: Lucieth and his lycan friends in Garland had an incurable disease (lycanthropy) and that they wanted to acquire unprogrammed clone bodies. They would take them to Tarkoff, who would try to transfer Lucieth's and his own consciousness into the clone bodies as a test. If it worked, they would need more bodies to accommodate Dolly, the lycans of Garland, and possibly some of the vampires they were feuding with as a contingency of peace. As a side, Tarkoff would then show the party how to use the key and proper to open the gate to Foresting so that Andromeda could finally return home.

Also, the time had come for Lucieth to begin experiencing the effects of his lycanthropy, and he needed to be restrained for three days. The Alphas agreed to restrain him and watch to see him change so that they would understand his dilemma. Meanwhile, the party (minus Roger, Phillip, Ron, and Phil), were placed in a large room with cots and a bathroom, where they would wait until the three days had passed.

Alpha A3, who seemed to be at odds with his compatriots, visited the party. He revealed the concerns of the Boreons, chief of which was the outside world learning more about the Boreoans, which might attract invasion or otherwise unwanted attention. He seemed amenable to Squirk's point that the Boreoans could learn and grow by interacting with the outside world, but he knew that the others in the council would not agree.

A3 also revealed that the Boreoans were in a crisis. To make clones, they need a little bit of genetic material from a disease-free subject. When the Boreoans came to be thousands of years ago, they had a large supply of bodies in suspended animation that they drew the genetic material from. Over the years, the original bodies were used up so that there are only two left now. Each body can supply enough material to make about two thousand clones, meaning they could make about four thousand more before they were out of material. At this rate, they may survive another thirty years.

The most viable options that A3 had proposed was to either acquire new, willing bodies or begin creating clones with genitalia and intermixing with the outside world's people to increase the population. Unfortunately, the other Alphas had overruled their fellow council members, saying that mixing with the outside world was out of the question.

Squirk mused aloud about Lucieth's uncursed people in Garland and whether any would be willing to give themselves up for use by the Boreoans. A lot of "what ifs" for such a huge ethical dilemma. The possibility of using criminals sentenced to death, but A3 said that, still, they had to agree to being used.

Didn't think I'd make it easy on ya, did ya?