



For Your Garden

The

Poodle Mulch

Progress Report

November 23, 2019

Sponsored by Slaver's Axe Body Spray. Hmmm it makes you smell so good!

Issue XXVII

After saving the village of Tirialee from goblins and friends, the party was happy to be joined by a surprisingly cleaned up and sober Lucieth. He still had his trademark rough voice, but otherwise he looked a lot better. Someone said to check his socks. If they were clean, it meant he was aiming to get some.

Linus questioned the party about their loyalties and their reasons to come save him. Thankfully, the paladin's answer "the right thing" mixed in there somewhere. The Brightly lord suggested that if the party wanted to do the right thing that they go after Drakh and the slavers to release the other slaves there. The party, always on the hunt for more loot and, *ahem*, doing the right thing, liked the idea and agreed.

To Noctis's surprise, Lucieth had found some information about the Black Fist of the One. It seemed that the dwarven clan lived in the Dwarflands near the city of Gohe and that they were a religious bunch of some kind. The smoldering little kobald tucked that piece of info away for later.

Merle, being the nice barbarian who would never hurt a flea, let alone kill the queen of some bug critters, donated some gold to help the people of Tirialee. What a swell barbarian!

The next day, the party headed out toward the area where they had fought the slavers. They eventually came to an abandoned temple of some kind. Noctis and Valmine decided to do some stealthy investigation. Well, I should say they intended to. Noctis was pretty stealthy while Valmine sounded like a drunk guy walking through a china shop breaking things while singing the Star Spangled Banner.

The orcs outside the temple began taking shots at the druid/wolf and missed. Hey, at least the party TRIED to do some recon and scouting to form a battle plan before stomped in and began killing everything. Baby steps. Baby steps.

After killing the orcs, the Misfits converged on the big tent by the wall. Much everyone's surprise *gasp*, they discovered Drakh and a mind flayer. An intense fight began where Andromeda got a li'l chilly. The mind flayer attempted to teleport out of the area, but Squirk (who seemed to be much more effective than usual, for some strange reason) counterspelled him and kept him where he was.

Valmine had a bit of a problem when Livia summoned a bunch of berserkers. She didn't know who they were or where they had come from, so she began nipping at their heels. Nothing a little conversation wouldn't fix for the future ... you know, if Valmine were alive to talk about it. Sorry. Too soon?

The Misfits explored a door leading into the temple, from which had emerged some one-shot kill orcs. They found some humans, who were smart enough to ambuscade. After finding some tunnels and a small chamber with a ladder going up, the party prepared to pursue. Unfortunately, some four-armed bug humanoids appeared and attacked. The only thing more fun than killing a PC is watching them have to stand in line in a narrow tunnel doing nothing while the people at the front do the fighting.

Eventually, the party killed the bugs and the giant ants located in a large side chamber. Livia showed some compassion by holding off on killing the bug cow. Not Merle. Ticked at not having used Andromeda's body for sloppy sex in weeks, she dispatched the screaming bug cow. And that was that.

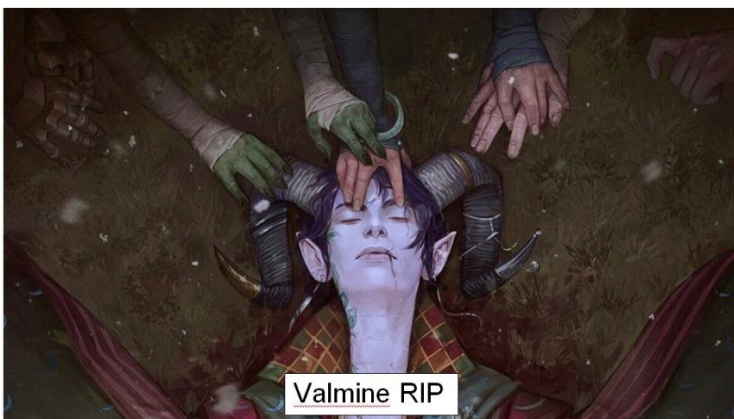
As the battle had raged, Valmine had climbed up the ladder and found a round portal. She opened it and stepped into the temple of a one-eyed orc god. Also, there were some $\frac{1}{2}$ orcs and an armored woman with a bunch of slaves. They didn't take too kindly to seeing an intruder and promptly beat the crap out of her.

Below, people noticed that Valmine was gone and the battle to get up the ladder without falling began. It was a hard-fought battle with Brynhildr and others falling and taking some damage. Need some proficiencies in ladder climbing, I suppose.

Anyway, as party members made it up into the temple, they found the slavers and their slaves (along with a new one that looked surprisingly like Valmine) exiting the temple. When the berserkers approached, the $\frac{1}{2}$ orcs grabbed Valmine and said they would run her through if they didn't back off. One does not simply tell berserkers to back off when they're raging. To them, it sounds like "You can't beat us in a fight, you stupid berserkers."

When the berserkers disregarded the warning, the slavers ended Valmine. At least, as she died, she enjoyed the consolation that she wasn't being skewered by those damned humans.

How will the party fare next week with a belly load of tacos? Will they be able to defeat the slavers and free the slaves? Will Livia make that Valmine's possessions find a good home? I think she will. Just remember. That's not how Curtis would have done it.



525,600 minutes

How do you measure the life of a woman?

In truths that she learned, or in times that she cried

In bridges she burned, or the way that she died.