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OH MY GOODNESS! DINAH! LOOK AT THAT!

HOW CURIOUS! I WONDER WHERE HE'S OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY!

WHY, HE SCURRIED INTO THIS HOLE!
DID HE COME THIS WAY? I THOUGHT SURE—
OH!.. PIGEY! THANK HEAVENS... IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
LIKE BIRD DROPPINGS FROM A BRIGHT BLUE SKY, HIGH ADVENTURE IS A CALAMITY THAT CAN BEFALL ANYONE AT ANY TIME, PITCHING HIM FROM HIS LIFE OF QUIET DESPERATION INTO ONE OF CARD-CARRYING PANIC. WHAT TURNS A TIMMIE INTO A HERO? PURE CHANCE, FRIENDS, PURE CHANCE.

TONIGHT'S VICTIM IS NAMED LEANDER. THAT'S HIM DOWN BELOW, SQUEAKING HIS WAY HOMeward AFTER A LONG DAY OF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

NOT EXACTLY KRUNCH THE BARBARIAN OR ZAK OF TIMBUKTU, I'LL ADMIT, BUT THESE DAYS YOU TAKE WHAT YOU CAN GET.

WELL, NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT SIT BACK AND WATCH THE WHEELS OF FATE IN ACTION...

UH-OH, TIME T'MOVE OVER.

NICE NIGHT FOR A RIDE, EH? UMPH.
HUH?

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE USES THIS ROAD Y'KNOW! I GOT SOME RIGHTS!

THIS STAIN'S GONNA BE HARD TO GET OUT, AND, UH, I WOULDN'T WANNA GET TOUGH...

PLEASE! I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY... AND I'LL BE GLAD TO MAKE AMENDS,

YOU WILL?

OF COURSE! IN FACT, I THINK I HAVE JUST THE ITEM TO HELP YOU FORGIVE MY MOUNT'S, AH, INDISCRETION!
NOW LET'S SEE, WHERE DID I PUT THAT? I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE IF I CAN JUST... AH! HERE IT IS!

PLEASE, ACCEPT THIS RING AS A TOKEN OF MY REGRET!

WELL! THANKS!

THAT'S MIGHTY GENEROUS OF YOU! REAL GOLD, TOO!

I'M A FAIR MAN!

...THOUGH PERHAPS I SHOULD MENTION THE CURSE...

OH NO YOU DON'T! -OOF!- I'M NOT GETTING STUCK WITH NO-UGH! -HEXED RING!

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVEN'T A CHOICE - IT CAN ONLY BE REMOVED BY MARRIAGE TO HEPHZIBAH, QUEEN OF THE LOST ISLAND OF GRZG, THE LAST RINGBEARER NEVER MADE IT, SAD TO SAY.

WELL? WHAT -OUCH!- WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

I'M SITTING ON HIM. THE COMPLETE CHANGE TAKES ABOUT A MONTH.

OH LORD...
But, I'm sure that one of your calibre will have no trouble at all, not like some ordinary man!

True... but still, if I just had some hint as to where this place is...

Oh that's easily done!

After all, you know where everyplace else is! Just go where everyplace isn't!

That makes sense...

And remember - my every good hope goes with you.

Yeah, I'll remember.

Ah, damn...

Now that's what I call a dirty trick!

The old caveat emptor at its peak! Disgusting!

Now you butt in! Where was your advice when I needed it?

I don't know where grizz is, or even if the Queen will marry me once I do find her! In fact, I don't know nothing...

I don't know how it looks from down there, but from up here it seems as though you could use all the help you can get!

So what am I gonna do?
...EXCEPT THAT I'M GONNA TURN INTO A BIG FAT LIZARD IF I DON'T GET RID OF THIS RING!

WELL, NOW MAYBE I CAN BE OF SOME SERVICE, TELL YOU WHAT, LEANDER...

YOU JUST HOP ON A SHIP AND I'LL PULL A FEW STRINGS—SEE IF WE CAN'T GET YOU TO THIS LOST ISLAND!

I DON'T KNOW, DOESN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH OF AN IDEA TO ME.

THINK OF THE ALTERNATIVE!

WHEN'S THE NEXT SHIP OUT?

AND SO THE NEXT WEEK FINDS LEANDER KNEE-DEEP IN HIGH ADVENTURE. MIDWAY THRU THE WEEK HE BEGAN TO NOTICE A SLIGHT SCALINESS OVER HIS SKIN, AND A TENDENCY FOR IT TO CHANGE COLOR AND BLEND ITSELF WITH THE BACKGROUND. HIS BODY TEMPERATURE BEGAN TO FLUCTUATE WITH THE WEATHER, AND VAGUELY HE PONDERED THE TASTE OF FLIES. LEANDER WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY.
A WEEK! ONE FOURTH OF MY TIME GONE AND, FOR ALL I KNOW, NOT A FOOT CLOSER TO QUEEN HEPHZIBAH THAN I'VE EVER BEEN! I THOUGHT THAT WIND-BAG MOON WAS GONNA DO SOMETHING, PULL SOME STRINGS!

Heh... WU-O-O-O!

OH LOR...
-KOFF!- I suppose so—  
FOR ALL THE -KOFF-  
GOOD IT'LL DO ME  
IF I DON'T FIND  
QUEEN HEPHZIBAH!

HELLO! MY NAME'S  
COLERIDGE. DO YOU  
THINK YOU'LL  
PULL THROUGH?

I'LL JUST HAVE TIME  
TO RECITE SOME  
POETRY! I'M SURE  
YOU'LL LIKE IT—  
I MAKE IT UP  
MYSELF!

NONSENSE! EVERYONE LIKES  
POETRY! LISTEN: "IN  
XANADU DID KUBLA KHAN  
A STATELY PLEASURE-DOME  
DECREE:" A RATHER  
NICE BEGINNING, DON'T  
YOU THINK?

OH YES-KOFF-VERY  
NICE, WOULD YOU  
MIND SLOWING DOWN  
A BIT?

NOT AT ALL! ALL THE  
MORE TIME FOR POETRY!

HEPHZIBAH? WHY,  
WE'RE PRACTICALLY  
THERE! IN FACT...

Actually I don't  
much care for...

WHERE ALCHE, THE SACRED  
RIVER RAN  
THROUGH Caverns  
MERELESS TO MAN  
DOWN TO A  
SUNLESS SEA."  
I DO THINK THAT'S WELL  
PUT! MORE COMFORTABLE NOW?

"SO TWICE FIVE MILES  
OF FERTILE GROUND  
WITH WALLS AND TOWERS  
WERE GIRDLED ROUND  
AND THERE WERE  
MANY Meaningless LINES LATER...

MUCH BETTER.  
THEN I'LL CONTINUE.

I'D SAY YOU'RE  
DOING ALL RIGHT!  
NOW FIND THE  
QUEEN AND YOUR  
TROUBLES ARE OVER!

I'LL HAVE TO  
ADMIT, THINGS  
SEEM TO BE  
WORKING THEMSELVES OUT.
Y'know, I really didn't think it'd be this easy! I thought...

Look out!
OH LORD...

UHNN...

AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T TAKE MY CLICKBLADE!

@lik!
OOF!

CHIG?

WELL, HERE GOES...

FUDD!

GOTCHA!

MADE IT! NOW TO FIND MY WAY OUT OF HERE!

WHOOPS!
...THE QUEEN...?

YES, THE QUEEN... AN ENORMOUS BLOB OF PROCREATING FLESH!

I GOT A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS...

Uh-oh.

IF YOU'LL WAIT JUST A MINUTE I CAN EXPLAIN! ALL I WANT TO DO IS MARRY THE QUEEN.

DID SOMEONE SAY... MARRY?
YES! I DID!

AND IF I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED?

BUT... BUT YOU HAVE TO! OTHERWISE I'LL TURN INTO A LIZARD AND... IT'S YOUR CURSE ISN'T IT?

SO THAT'S IT - THAT OLD RING IS STILL AROUND! WELL STEP FORWARD AND I'LL REMOVE IT FOR YOU!

ABOUT TIME! I'M GETTING PRETTY TIRED OF THIS!

MY PLEASURE!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! YOU AREN'T PLANNING SOMETHING DRASTIC ARE YOU?

NO! HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

GRAB

FOR WHOM?

CHOMP!

AAIEEEE!
DAMMIT! I COULD HAVE DONE THAT MYSELF!

AH...HELL! YOU AND YOUR DAMN CURSE!

ALL THIS HAS BEEN FOR NOTHING!

YOU MEAN I'M GONNA STAY THIS WAY? IT'S PERMANENT?

WELL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

THUK

PLEASE! CONTROL YOURSELF!
YOU ARE PART LIZARD—MAYBE IT WILL GROW BACK!

THUK

KRUNGH

WHAP!

THAT DOES IT...

I THINK I'VE TAKEN ABOUT ENOUGH...
WELCOME BACK, LEANDER! FOR AN AMATEUR, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE COMING OUT ALL RIGHT! MUCH BETTER THAN I THOUGHT YOU WOULD!

IN FACT, YOU MAY FIND CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO BEING PART LIZARD! YOUR HAND FOR INSTANCE...

YEAH—I HEARD ALREADY.

GLAD YOU MADE IT LEANDER! NOW I CAN FINISH THAT POEM...

JUST TAKE ME HOME, COLE RIDGE.

YOU MAD, LEANDER? FOR AWHILE.

THANKS...

WHAT NEXT, LEANDER? WHEN YOU GET HOME? NOT MANY JOBS FOR A LIZARD MAN.

WELL, THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO...

...I'M GONNA KILL ME A MERCHANT...

AND SO WE FIND THE TURNED WORM ISN'T THE SAME ON BOTH ENDS! WHAT'S NEXT? WHO CAN SAY?
This is where the captain was last seen. Think there's been trouble?

I'm picking up some high energy output on the meter. A very powerful radio type transmission close by... might tie in with the captain's disappearance.

Could be. We'll know when—wait a minute!
COVER YOUR SECTOR AND BE BACK HERE IN AN HOUR!
YOU'VE COME AT A BAD TIME, SAYRE. THE GNOMES WERE PREPARING AN ATTACK ON EARTH WHEN THEIR OWN PLANET WAS ATTACKED.

NOW AS SOON AS THEY'VE GOT BACK ALL THE TROOPS THEY'D TRANSPORTED TO EARTH, OUR ONLY LINK WITH HOME WILL BE SEVERED!

SO WE'RE TRAPPED HERE!

RIGHT—UNTIL THIS WHOLE PLACE CRUMBLES DOWN AROUND US DURING THE FIGHT ON THE SURFACE.

WHAM!

RUMBLE CRACK CREAK
THE TRANSMITTER BUILDING!

OYAY!

CLICK CLICK

HAAAA
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE'S CAPTAIN PHILLIPS?
YOU BASTARD!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE WAITED!

HE'S DEAD!

PAW

DUM DUM DUM

POW

BLAM

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