

CHAPTER 20

'TRASH PICKER'



It was a gray and heavily cloudy Saturday outside of the cabin on the hill. The early winds 'SWA' 'SWA' 'SWOOSHED' throughout the forest creating a cold cold chill. Inside of the cabin- Alexis quietly sat upon her favorite stool roasting marshmallows within the furnace fire, while Henry sat in his smokers chair 'SNORING'- lower- and then much higher. Little Baby Squeaky Face rested to the right of her stool, as she daydreamed of playing Marco Polo with other kids within a blue sparkling swimming pool! She 'SIGH'ed deeply with her left palm rested beneath her chin.

"It's so boring- it isIf I were a regular kid I'd be out at the park right now- I wouldNot cooped up in some God awful cabin staring at some stupid wall- like a WALRUS!And I can't go to work 'til papa says soHow's that for the life of a Gate-keeper Little Baby Squeeky FaceYour so lucky that your an animal- you areNo one tells you what you can and can't do ...You play all day and eat whenever and whatever you feel like- you doNo stupid responsibilities whatsoever!It's the sweet life- it is!Golly gee- to be a rac must be really swelly!", She whined.

Alexus pulled a branch from out of the furnace with a hot roasted marshmallow attached to it- and 'BA' 'BA' 'BLEW', before she took a nice gooey bite from it- and did 'CHA' 'CHA' 'CHEW'. She then pulled the remaining piece off and tossed it on the floor before Little Baby Squeeky Face, who instantly began to get his 'NA' 'NA' 'NIBBLE' on.

"Careful now you!It's hot enough ta burn off your tongue- it is!.....", she warned- while 'LA' 'LA' 'LOOKING' around the cabin from left to right and back. **"...There has to be something around here fun that we can do ...Guess we'll have ta use the ole imaginator- we will"**.

[*Suddenly*] Little Baby Squeeky Face dashed off and disappeared into a big ole pile of newspapers- that laid near the door!

"HEY- where do you think your going!Your just gonna eat and run- are you!", wailed Alexis- as she gazed backwards toward the newspaper pile. The pile of newspaper 'SHA' 'SHA' 'SHOOK' about toward the south, before Little Baby Squeeky Face emerged a short while later with a white envelope hanging from within his mouth! He carried the envelope across the floor and dropped it off right in front of Alexis's long boots.

Alexus instantly locked her eyes onto the white envelope with the little red heart sticker and frowned twice as hard! She slowly picked it up and flipped it over, exposing her very own Awesome name written in pink ink. The little golden heart deep within her chest began to pick up the pace, as the deep frown 'LA' 'LA' 'LOOSENED' upon her naturally sour-looking face! The rainbow on her magical shirt began to 'GLIT' 'GLIT' 'GLITTER' yellow- it did!

"HEY- your one of those garbage collecting racs- aren't you!You just go around picking up things that people throw away!This here is- TRASH! But you just picked it on up anyways- you did!".

Alexus silently gazed down at the invitation in a captivated trance, as the curiosity within her little noggin began to 'DA' 'DA' 'DANCE'!

[*Suddenly*] Alexis's bushy eyebrows took a low dive! **"I don't want this stupid thing- I don't!So you just take it and put it back where you trash picked it from or I'll sling it into the fire- I will! That'll teach ya not ta trash pick anymore!"**, she barked- as the rainbow on her shirt continued to 'GLIT' 'GLIT' 'GLITTER' yellow. She shoved the envelope back toward Little Baby Squeeky Face and let it fall to the floor- she did!

Little Baby Squeeky Face 'SQUEE' 'SQUEE' 'SQUEEKED' out in protest- he did!

"I don't want the thing- I don't!So you just take it back ta wherever ya got it from!", she wailed out- as Little Baby Squeeky Face knelt down low in order to pick up the envelope and dispose of it. No one had to tell him twice- they didn't!

[*Suddenly*] Alexis's right boot slid forward a bit and covered up half of the envelope! Little Baby Squeeky Face 'FA' 'FA' 'FOUGHT' desperately to grab hold of it- but he couldn't, because Alexis's boot was in the way. He 'SCRA' 'SCRA' 'SCRATCHED' at the boot, but she just wouldn't move that big ole boat of a foot out of his way. It was like the girl was playing a crazy game or something- it was!

"GOLLY GEE!Your just not going to give up on this stupid party thing- are ya!Believe me- those things aren't as fun as their hyped up ta be!But if it'll shut you up- I'll show you what's inside of the stupid envelope- I will!Outta the way!", she chimed out- as she leaned over and picked up the envelope. She quietly 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCANNED' the envelope for a second or two, but swiftly hid it behind her back- when Henry sneezed out with a sudden and loud*'HA-CHEW'*!

Alexis opened up the envelope and pulled out a thin colorful card. Upon the front of the card was a flight goggle wearing ferret- a small red airplane he did sit in, he was dressed in a black leather vest and burgundy scarf- that flapped to the rear within the airplane wind. The message below read;

.....FLY ON THROUGH

"Golly Gee!", she sang out- before flipping the card over and 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCANNING' the time- place- and date. The party had already begun- it had!

Little Baby Squeeky Face 'SQUEE' 'SQUEE' 'SQUEEKED' with joy!

"SH'HHH- keep it down!Are ya trying ta wake papa up- are ya.....", she shushed- as she rotated the card and marveled at the invitation once more. It was a real party and she had been personally invited- she had! **".....Golly Gee!I bet you they're just having tons of fun right now!To bad we can't go though!I promised papa that I'd stop playing games- I didSo we can't go any- ways, cause another broken promise will really throw my Karm off- it willNOPE!can't afford it- I can't"**,

[*Suddenly*] The loud and ringing childish laughter of her peers began to 'ECK' 'ECK' 'ECHO' within her ears like an ice cream truck, as she watched the dancing furnace flames turn into dancing kids! **"Maybe we could just check things out for a min- we could!But not one single game will we play, no matter how fun they appearWe can't go breaking our promises- we can't!"**, she reasoned- as the laughter began to fade, along with the dancing kids.

Alexis stood up to her big ole boots and glanced back at Henry, who continued to 'SNA' 'SNA' 'SNORE' within the comfort of his favorite comfy smoker's chair*when the man slept- he slept!* She quietly 'STA' 'STA' 'STEPPED' to the left of her stool- a step or two, then turned towards it and stretched her arms forward- with both palms touching together.

[*Suddenly*] The little golden heart deep within her chest began to 'BA' 'BA' 'BEAT', as it covered within a golden electricity that traveled up and through her arms like power lines! Her emerald green eyes rolled into the back of her head as they filled with the electricity and a thick beam of golden energy did burst forth from out her hands- striking the stool

like a bolt of lightning! Seconds later- the electricity disappeared and her eyes returned back to their normal green glare, as an identical Alexis now sat upon the stool- 'STA' 'STA' 'STARING' into the furnace flames with a zombified stare!

"You sit here and roast marshmallows 'til I get back- you do", ordered the real Alexis.

"YES ALEXUS", replied the zombie-eyed Alexis- in a robotic voice, before she grabbed a marshmallow from out of an open bag and stuck it on the tip of a near resting branch. She then placed it into the furnace flames.

"Come on you- and keep quiet!...", ordered the real Alexis- as she glanced over at Little Baby Squeaky Face. She then turned and slowly 'CRA' 'CRA' 'CREPT' over to the door and slowly 'CRA' 'CRA' 'CRACKED' it open- she did! **".....Let's hurry- we mustGotta get back before papa wakes up from his first afternoon nap"**.

Alexis quietly shut the door and quickly 'DA' 'DA' 'DASHED' off into the forest- followed by Little Baby Squeaky Face. Seconds later- a blinding red light appeared and illuminated the inner forest like an explosion!

[Suddenly] Henry's eyes 'BA' 'BA' 'BLINKED' open and shut, as he sat up within his recliner chair and 'SCRA' 'SCRA' 'SCRATCHED' his butt! He felt really bad for barking at her earlier- but she had to understand, that a Gatekeeper's job was a solo act- and definitely not meant for a whole band.

"Are you hungry Child?", asked Henry.

The zombie Alexis sat silently- and did not ever reply, she just sat roasting marshmallows with that distant gleam within her zombified eye.

"Look- I know that your upset right now, but what I ask of you is for your own good- it is A bit of self restraint is the gate to wisdom, you'll soon see- you willAnd just because your trapped in a little girl's body it doesn't mean that you have to act like one- it doesn't". The zombie-eyed Alexis did not respond.

"I can see that your still fairly upset with me- but once you get a bowl of my hot mushroom and cheese soup in you, why you'll feel much better- you will ...Just as soon as I- II finish up wit my early afternoon nap", reasoned Henry- just before he leaned on back within his chair and yawned. He continued to watch the zombie-eyed Alexis silently 'RA' 'RA' 'ROAST' marshmallows within the furnace flame- a bit more, until he fell back into his slumber and began to 'SNA' 'SNA' 'SNORE'.