

Expanding Horizons: Enchanted  
Chapter 26

*Eris tries to empty Tria while Meridith sets her plan in motion.*

Minerva was still catching her breath as Meridith approached the small sea of milk she'd created. Sweat poured over her body in waves to cool her down, but it would be a while before the sorceress's heart stopped racing.

"*What... What's that for...?*" the sorceress asked through lack of breath, staring at the strange crystal.

Staring out over the expanse of milk, Meridith took in the scent. Her demeanor was changed and Minerva's unease was worse than ever. Nobody was cursed without good reason.

"Thar's heaps of magic in this milk ye produced for me..." Meridith breathed. The red crystal was held aloft like an offering. "This gem is goin' to soak it all up into somethin' I can use for tha mountains!"

"*Mmnggh... My bellyyyyy...*" A groan drifted from Eris's arms. Tria remained engorged with dairy, distended and bloated by Minerva's vengeance. "*I...I don't feel right...*"

Concern poured from Eris's eyes as she coddled the ballooned fairy. "Minerva, how could you... Look at her! She's... *Goddess, she's massive!*" Her arms had to keep repositioning themselves to keep the fairy's impressive weight aloft.

*SLOOOSH*

*SLOOOOOOSH*

"*Nnngh... Too fuuuuull...!*"

Watching the fairy's tiny hands and feet flail uselessly against the sunken bulges of skin made Eris's heart flood with compassion. Slowly one of her hands approached Tria's chest, where a breast the size of half a grapefruit sat waiting and stretched across her spherical form.

"H-Here... Let me try..." Eris gently squeezed the mound to coax milk through a swollen nipple.

*SQLCH!*

*GUUUUURGLE!!!*

"*M-MMMMM!!!! No!! N-N-Nnngh no!! Don't squeeze me!! Don't squeeze me!!*" Tria begged, everything shuddering at the application of pressure. "*I feel like...I'll pop!! I'm too full! I'm too full!!*"

Eris's gaze shot to the sorceress collapsed over her breasts. "*MINERVA, YOU BULLY!! SHE'S AS BIG AS A WATERMELON!!*"

"For the last time, she's FINE!!" Minerva waved a hand, not wanting to take her eyes off Meridith. "Give her some time and it will work its way through her system. Who knows; maybe all that milk will give her enough magic power to fulfill a request or two of yours."

The idea put several images into Eris's head. They were enough to make her subconsciously tighten her embrace on the fairy out of latent desire.

*GUUURGLE*

“*Mph!!! ERIS!! E-ERIS!!*” Tria squeaked, flesh squeezing up and around her head from the pressure around her midsection.

“*Sorry!!*”

*Splash!*

Meridith knelt over the milk. Gentle and slow, she extended her arms into the cream until the crystal was submerged. Muttering made her lips move fast and incomprehensibly despite Minerva’s best attempts to listen. The remaining effects of her orgasmic release were still taking their toll on her body. She wasn’t certain she could put up a fight if the need arose, whether physical or magical.

She started to ask, “What are you--”

Dull redness emanated from the crystal. Energy ebbed and flowed, reflecting in the dwarf’s eyes as she looked on. Her silvery beard fell into the dairy but she paid it no mind. Across the milky lake, Minerva watched as it began to shimmer. Pinpricks of sparkling light drifted up from its surface as if it were releasing thousands of tiny stars. It glowed with a silvery majesty before gentle ripples flowed toward the crystal.

Meridith’s mutters grew more feverish. The gem’s glow intensified in her grasp. Minerva didn’t need to be told it was absorbing the latent magic from her release.

*GUUUUURGLE*

“*Nnnnnnghhhhhh, Eriiiiis...*” Tria moaned. “*My body...doesn’t feel riiiiight...! Something is wroooong...!*”

“*Shhh... Shh shh shhh... It’s alright... We’ll get you emptied... I promise... But I think...something is happening...*”

The air was alive with crackling energy, enough to make the girls’ hair stand on end. Minerva’s heart raced with regret at giving the dwarf such a vast amount of milk. Nothing good could come from a gift this magnitude.

It was concentrating more around the crystal. Creeping closer and closer. Minerva watched as the shimmer across her milk faded the further away it was from Meridith. Every bit of magic was being drawn in, leaving plain dull dairy in its wake. It was almost strange to see ordinary milk in such a capacity.

*SHOOOOM!!*

All at once, with an air-trembling jolt, the energy ceased its movement. The shimmering was gone. The magic had been absorbed. Meridith stood up, eyes glowing as she looked upon the treasured gem within her grasp. It glowed with a red-hot intensity of a sun that was blinding among the dark underground.

Meridith’s voice almost cackled when she held it aloft. Milk dribbled from her beard to leave a trail as she walked several paces back from the basin. “This... This will be *more* than enough...”

A sense of doom cast a shadow over Minerva. She motioned behind her. “Eris... *Eris...! Come here.*”

“Why?? So you can pump more milk into--”

“*ERIS!*”

The harsh snap quieted the scholar. Lugging Tria’s sloshing body, she came to Minerva’s side in silence.

Minerva could not escape her feelings of dread. The aching in her breasts was not of pressure and milk, but of dread. “Meridith... Can you please tell me what you plan on doing with that...?”

*Clap clap!*

***Tink-cling!***

***Cling-cling!***

Meridith summoned several clockwork golems. They appeared at the girls’ side within moments. Metal claws secured their wrists in place.

“*H-Hey!! Minerva!!*” Eris cried out.

“*Meridith!! What are you--*”

“Oh shut up.” She was far from the tender old woman they’d met so recently. “I said I would help ye get out of these mountains... And I will. But I need a little help in doin’ tha same.”

“*What?? I thought--*”

***THUD!!!***

***RRMMMBLLLLL***

She slammed her foot into the ground. Vibrations followed, heralding several spires of crystal to sprout forth. They came together at a point in front of her chest to create a small hollow. Hair drifted around her face as she placed the charged crystal among them, its energy flowing into the crystalline forms to illuminate their faces.

***RRMMMBLLLLL!!***

Eris whimpered as the mountains shook. “*M-Minerva...! I don’t like this!*”

She pulled at the golem to no avail. Her strength was yet to return enough to put up a fight. “*MERIDITH!!! WHAT--*”

***CRAAAACK!!!!***

The world heaved with a lurching jolt. Shattering rock pierced Minerva’s ears and they cowered from the trembling mountains above.

***WHOOOOOSH!!!!***

Sounds like a rushing river filled the cavern. Minerva feared a flood was coming until she saw the basin of milk draining away. The fluid’s level was lowering at an astounding rate.

“*Where is it all going??*” Eris shouted.

Staring at the accursed ebbing aura of Meridith before them, Minerva whispered, “I wish I knew...”

***WHOOOOOSH!!!***

The milk drained away within less than a minute. Gaping chasms and crevices revealed themselves at the bottom of the basin as the cause. Brighter than ever, Meridith’s crystal pulsed

with red light. It sent throbbing veins of red through its gem podium and across the floor in flashing patterns of lightning. Countless golems looked around in worry at the falling debris.

**Clank-ding!**

**Ding-ding!! Clang!**

“*Enough!!*” Meridith yelled, pushing one away hard enough to make it topple as it tried to pull her from the crystal. “*I’ve had enough of yer blasted overbearing care! I can’t wait to bury ye lot along with this blasted mountain!!*”

**RRMMMMBLLLL!!!!**

**“MMMMNNGH!!!”**

Intense moans flew from Tria as the shaking jostled her skin-stretching contents. Minerva’s milk bubbled and frothed inside of her, pushing her tightness further.

*“Minerva she can’t anymore take this!!”*

*“I know! I’m trying to--”*

Meridith’s voice boomed through the cavern when she threw her arms open. “**COME FORTH!! TAKE THIS OFFERING, ANCIENT ONE!! AWAKEN!!!**”

**RRMMMMBLLLL!!!!**

**CRAAAAACK!!!!**

The ground tossed them several feet into the air when a titanic maw opened in the middle of the basin. Splitting it in half, it yawned with a darkness capable of swallowing anything unlucky enough to fall within.

*“I really must thank ye for yer help...”* Meridith hissed to Minerva.

Yelling over the commotion took every bit of Minerva’s lungs. The golems at her sides were beside themselves with panic for the humans. “*I thought you said you were going to help us get out of the mountains!!*”

**CRAAACK!!!**

Manic delight was plastered on her wrinkled face. “*I am! But not without helpin’ myself to do tha same!!*”

**HSSSSSSSSS**

Steam rose from the chasm. Looking beyond, Minerva’s eyes widened to see a red glow rising like a tide. It pulsed in time with Meridith’s crystal, growing in strength and frequency.

Meridith’s voice rose over the chaos. “*But it’s a bit difficult leavin’ when yer cursed to dwell beneath the mountains for tha rest of yer days... However...”*”

**CRAAAAACK!!**

**FWOOOSH!!!!**

A fiery, magma-dripping claw shot from the crevice. Large enough to crush a house, it slammed into the bottom of the basin to find purchase. A hulking mass of molten rock slowly rose from the depths, filling the cavern with wavering heat.

*“Ye can’t be cursed to live somewhere that doesn’t exist!”* Meridith howled in triumph.

**FWOOOOOSH!!!!**

The air hissed and popped when a mighty being of fire and lava was born of the earth. Lanky, nightmarish limbs carried its body like an ape made of glass and molten rock. A towering titan of a blazing inferno dripping with earth-melting droplets. The glow was blinding as it climbed into the basin, baking the atmosphere and sucking oxygen from the room. And remnants of milk boiled away into vapor.

*“I TOLD YOU WE COULDN’T TRUST HER!!”* Minerva shouted over the roar. Eris was too busy hugging her face into Tria out of terror to respond.

Meridith, on the other hand, stood in the rushing torrent of heated air as the fiery beast approached on all fours, over fifty meters tall. Jagged teeth of crystal lined its jaw beneath two ember eyes.

*“COME FORTH, MY TITAN!!”* Meridith commanded over the panicking sounds of golems. *“COME FORTH AND TURN THESE MOUNTAINS TO RUBBLE! FREE ME FROM THIS INFERNAL HELL!!”*

(.Y.) (.Y.) (.Y.) (.Y.) (.Y.)

*What happens next?*