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Chapter 10
After the Flood

MUSIC: (FADE IN) BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME

NARRATOR (V.O)

You're listening to The Blizzard of Osborn by Michael Sheen Cuddy.
Chapter 10: After the Flood.

MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE OUT).

Scene One: Ext. Stone wall in woodlands – Day.

SOUND: Wind in trees, birdsong

SLY

Make your long story short, we ain't got all day.

NARRATOR

From his perch up on the wall Memyselfandi looked down at Sly.

MEMYSELFANDI

Well, it so happens I was out, digging for mushrooms, when a great storm began to rage.

SOUND: Thunder, wind, slashing rain

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MEMYSELFANDI (cont.)

It rained so hard and fast the whole forest began to flood. The great dam at Hintervale burst, the river overflowed its banks and floodwaters rose swiftly.

SOUND: Explosion (dam bursting)

Giant boulders and logs came rushing down in the torrent.

SOUND: Tumbling boulders and logs

Needless to say, raging boulders are bad news for an Egging. Unfortunately for me I was in the low point in the valley and the nearest high ground was far away. But there was the wall! Before I knew it the floodwaters had swept me up so high I found myself bouncing and scraping against the wall.

I grabbed hold of a battlement atop the wall and held on for dear life until the storm died down.

SOUND: Water slowing to a trickle

When the waters finally cleared I looked down and saw just how high up I was. Then I realized I had a whole new problem: you see, I was afraid that, if I tried to climb down, I'd slip and crack my shell open.

SOUND: Birdsong

CASSIE (astonished)

You mean you've been stuck up on that wall ever since?

MEMYSELFANDI

Hmmm...yes, I'm afraid so.

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CASSIE

Oh my, how long have you been up there?

MEMYSELFANDI

Years, I'm afraid.

CASSIE

Years? How did you survive? I mean, don't you have to eat?

MEMYSELFANDI

You don't know much about Egglings, now do you?

CASSIE

No.

MEMYSELFANDI

You see, unlike most creatures, Egglings don't have to eat regularly. We take our nourishment from the sun—vitamin D mainly—for calcium. We absorb nitrogen from the air and other nutrients from multiple sources. Given a choice, we prefer mushrooms and wild onions, but since I've been stuck up here I've had to make do with lichens, moss, algae and the occasional worm, grub, or spider.

CASSIE

Eee-you! ...well, you must have felt very lonesome being stranded on that wall all by yourself for so long.

MEMYSELFANDI

Not really, I have this!

SOUND: Computer blip

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NARRATOR

Memyselfandi pulled a Swiper from his vest pocket and waved it in the air.

MEMYSELFANDI (cont.)

Besides, feeling lonesome is just that, a feeling. And like all feelings one can learn to unlearn them. If you set your mind to it, there are a million billion things you can look up on a Swiper that will take your mind off feeling lonesome.

CASSIE

Like what?

MEMYSELFANDI

Like Syndolinese, for example. Do you know how many pictographs and symbols are in formal Syndolinese?

CASSIE

No. I never even heard of it.

MEMYSELFANDI

Well, there are over 9,000 unique symbols. And that's just one language, mind you. In my years up on the wall, I resolved to learn as many languages as I could. Which is why I now know at least 13.

SLY

Thirteen languages yet all you talk about is yourself.

MEMYSELFANDI

I beg your pardon?

SLY

Look Benny, we gotta hit the road. It's been vivid.

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MEMYSELFANDI

Wait! Aren't you going to help me get down from here?

SLY

It ain't that high. Go ahead, jump.

MEMYSELFANDI

Maybe not for you, but all I have between my innards and my outards is a thin brittle shell.

SLY

Not my problem. Have a nice day!

MEMYSELFANDI

No! Please don't leave me up here alone!

SLY

How do you propose we get you down from there? If you're not willing to take a risk what do you expect *us* to do, fly you down on a magic carpet?

MEMYSELFANDI

Oh, I don't know but ... maybe you could extend yourself up here from the ground and I could slide down your back.

SLY

No way. One, I ain't tall enough to reach from the ground all the way to the top of that wall. Two, there ain't no way I'm gonna let you climb on my back!

MEMYSELFANDI

Well there must be *some* way you can help!

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CASSIE

I've got it!

NARRATOR

Cassie went over to a big tree covered with thick vines. She pulled on one of the vines.

CASSIE

I'll make a rope ladder from these vines! You can tie one end around that stone jutting up, then climb down the ladder!

MUSIC: 110120-Incidental-weave (fade in/out)

NARRATOR

It took quite a while for Cassie to weave the vine ladder. But she tried her best to make it strong enough and long enough for Memyselfandi to climb down from the wall. To pass the time as she wove she told Memyselfandi that after they helped him get down from the wall they planned to continue their journey to find the Emperor.

MEMYSELFANDI

Good luck with that! The Emperor doesn't welcome strangers. Unless you're extraordinarily special you won't get anywhere near the Emperor.

CASSIE

Well, Queen Mavis said I'm special.

MEMYSELFANDI

Queen Mavis? You mean to say you actually spoke to Queen Mavis?

CASSIE

Yes! She even gave me this to bring to the Emperor.

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NARRATOR

Cassie held the silver rhombus up for Memyselfandi to see.

MEMYSELFANDI

Mother of the Motherless Mothers! I am absolutely gobsmacked!

Hmmm ... I say, do you think would it be possible for me to join you?

SLY / CASSIE (simultaneously)

No! / Yes!

NARRATOR

Sly slithered away so Memyselfandi couldn't hear him.

SLY (whispering)

Cassie, I don't like this guy. I don't trust him. I have a bad feeling about him.

CASSIE (whispering)

But you don't even know him. How can you dislike someone you don't know?

SLY

Instinct. Snakes have a sixth sense. I warn you: this Egg will be nothing but trouble.

NARRATOR

Sly slithered back to the wall and looked up at Memyselfandi.

SLY

Look, Cassie will help you get down from the wall but you can't come with us to see the Emperor.

MEMYSELFANDI

Then you shall die without me!

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SLY

Hey, don't threaten us Benny, you're still stuck up on that wall. We'll just leave you up there if you get ugly on us.

MEMYSELFANDI

The point is, you three will never get through the Valley of the Narsies without an escort, namely myself. Most Narsies loathe snakes, the minute they see you they'll unleash their mongooses. They'll skin you alive and you'll end up as a fancy pair of boots flaunted by a Royal Peacock Narsie.

NARRATOR

Sly didn't like the sound of that.

MEMYSELFANDI (cont.)

And as for your little cat, I'm afraid she won't last very long without my protection. Narsies are famous for dunking cats into cauldrons of molten bronze to turn them into statuettes. Your little pal won't be a kitty much longer, she'll be a bookend in some Narsie's private library.

SLY

And how will you be able to protect us? You're just a big fat egg!

MEMYSELFANDI

I beg your pardon! I happen to be a Class V Interactor Technical Specialist. Do you speak Narsie? Or Verlese? Or Sembilda?

NARRATOR

Sly squinted at Memyselfandi, trying to decide whether he was bluffing.

MEMYSELFANDI

Without me to escort you, all three of you are doomed!

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MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE)

NARRATOR

Next: Venturing into the Valley of the Narsies, Cassie, Sly and Memyselfandi are seized and accused of poaching on the Count's land.

MUSIC: Blizzard Theme (FADE OUT)

[end Chapter 10]