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<Gravidly Obsessed>

by <Growing Desires>

## Chapter One

We both finish food and I start cleaning the apartment over, it doesn't take too long, I spend a lot of time making sure the place is clean and manageable, most of the time. Anna says her goodbyes just as I finish cleaning so I decide to spend some quality time by myself in the shower, this time undisturbed thankfully.

I get dressed, I do my hair and satisfied for now, I make my way into town.

The student accommodation we live in is within walking distance of town, only a five minute walk until you reach the main street with the shops. The town itself has been catered to students more over the years because of the draw that the university has, more student flats, more student centric shops and lots more students walking around the town in general.

I wasn't sure where I was going exactly but there were always new shops popping up on the high street. I set my sights for the comic shop first, to appease Anna. I pass a myriad of coffee and vape shops before I round the corner to enter the market square where the comic shop is located and something catches my eye.

*Hmmm that is new.*

A peculiar sign draws my attention first, a giant wooden carved sign that has been painted a vibrant set of Amazonian colours, the colours made to pop more against the dark stained wood used. The sign reads “Forest Fortune”. I start to approach this new unit and try to look inside on the approach, but the windows are tinted black, there are only hand painted white lettering on the outside, “New” and “Now open”.

*How peculiar.*

The door itself is closed and just as my hand touches the handle the door is pulled away from me, I jump as does the person on the other side of the door. A plump woman in her mid-50s.

“Oh, sorry Hun!” She apologises. “I didn’t see you there, welcome! Come in!”

I walk past the older woman, I don’t know how but she looks like she has been around the world many times, her skin looks coarse, weathered and her hair looks grey before its time almost. She does seem like the type of woman who would just get on with something without any fuss. Her outfit looks like she is a game hunter from the early 20th century in Africa, a deliberate choice no doubt.

I look around and am struck by the wonderful layout of the small unit, lots of vines and aesthetic choices have been made to make it seem like one half of the shop is a rainforest and the other appears to be more of a sandy desert area.

*Someone has spent a lot of time here.*

“Name’s Amber, I’m the owner and you are my first customer of the day, first customer ever actually!” She beams.

“That makes sense, it’s before two, this town doesn’t usually get out of bed until three. Students mostly” I chuckle.

“I did think that would be the case, thankfully I opened twelve until nine.”

“Well, I love it here, the aesthetic is amazing.” I say, looking around, captivated by the decor.

“Me and my husband tried our best to capture the look of the world. We are explorers and age has caught up with us, his knees are shot, and my back isn’t the best so instead of getting stuck in South America or Tunisia we decided to bring them here.” Amber casts her hands towards each side of the shop. “We both have been explorers for the past thirty years and the stuff we have seen has been incredible. Take a look around and see what trinkets we have! I am sure you’ll be as captivated as I was at your age.”

“Wow, thirty years, that is impressive that you’ve been travelling around the globe for that long.”

She nods. “It was wonderful but now we have a new chapter in our lives to start, and you are the first person to see it.” She looks at me like a light bulb just went off in her head. “Hey, tell you what, 50% off, just for you.” She looks at me excitedly.

“Honey, we are a shop, we are trying to make money here.” A deep voice calls from the rear of the shop. A similarly old man appears from a door leading to, presumably, the stockroom.

Much like Amber, this man looks similarly world weary, he too has the same outfit on, clearly a theme they are trying to push. He looks incredibly handsome and I can tell that he would’ve been an incredibly attractive man but now he hobbles into the shop with a brace around his left knee and again like Amber, the life at home seems to be catching up to him, some pudge forming around his torso.

“Oh come off it Tony, this is our first customer.” Amber responds.

“I appreciate it a lot Amber, but Tony is right, you are new here, I wouldn’t want to take advantage, I’ll pay full price, I might be a student but I do have enough money. I swear”

“Well look at you! So sweet, tell you what, let me show you the really special stuff.” Amber

turns towards the counter and leads me over to the desk. “We weren’t sure what to do with these things yet, I think they are the best things we have here but I think someone as kind as you should get first look at these.” Amber ducks under the till and pulls out a box of trinkets.

These look much shinier and intricate than the stuff on the shelves, clearly the couple looked after these. There are a few things here that look amazing but there was one thing in particular that caught my eye. What looked to be an idol of fertility, usually these statues depict a short and stubby woman made of stone with a large head and a pregnant bump but this one is much more unique in design. The statue looks to be golden in colour, the woman looks lifelike, the image of a slender woman with long smooth legs and a big bump sticking out of her torso, her naked and heaving breasts are resting on the round orb sticking out of her middle, somehow even getting the detail of her skin being pulled from the weight of her boobs. The level of detail is insane. Around her middle I also notice that she has a necklace, there is an emerald in the idols necklace. It looks wildly out of my budget but something is calling out to me about it.

“So, this one, eh?” Amber picks up the female statue and hands it to me.

It is surprisingly weighty, holding it in my hand I feel a buzz of excitement, where it should feel cold and metallic, instead it feels warm and supple, it feels almost as if I am touching skin.

“By the look on your face, I’d say yes.” Amber lightly laughs. “This is from a remote village in Brazil, as you can see the craftsmanship is incredible, the best piece of life-like art we have ever come across, it was said that this statue was given to women when it was their time to conceive, it was also said that it always worked. It came into our possession because the village it originated from had lost it, the story goes that raiders came to the camp and in the chaos this was lost to time. The village, without their idol was unable to continue on, the women of the tribe were barren without the idol it seemed.”

“That is horrible...” I can’t help but say.

“Well, that is just how the story goes, the stories are often quite hyperbolic in nature.” Tony reassures me.

“Well, it is beautiful.”

“Planning on children yourself?” Amber asks.

“Eventually.” I nervously answer.

“I think this idol might have different plans for you.” Amber jests.

My legs start to tremble.

*Just imagine... No. Not here.*

“How much?” I try to move the transaction along.

The two huddle together and start to discuss before turning back to me.

“Well... How about £500?” Amber timidly says.

I pull my card out and place it on the desk eagerly. The couple smiles.

I pay and quickly leave before excitement gets the better of me and I wish Amber and Tony the best of luck. The two are very happy with their first sale.

Holding the trinket in my hand I look at the detail of it closer now and notice that even little dimples are present on the statue, toes, fingers, nipples even! Someone spent a long time creating this work of art and I can’t stop staring or rubbing the gravid middle. The idol appears to be carrying multiples, maybe triplets based on the size.

I try to put it out of my mind and place it carefully in my bag before I make for the comic shop.

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