

[b]Chapter 3: Aftermaths and Prospects[/b]

[b]April 1, 2013[b] *[i]Partially Cloudy. Low Humidity. High/Low: 9/4°[/i]*

[i]Gazelle's Story[/i] Time check: Around... 5, 6?

Jezelle idly scratched her head as she shambled along back to her residence, a little bit lost for answers on this current development and having difficulty connecting the dots here; the main three aspects of her mutation thing she'd summed up as a spatial thing, even though it seemed a bit of stretch.

Now the strange morphing thing she could do, and now this crazy burst propulsion thing... well it proving to be a challenge... she wasn't sure how space/time stuff worked, so she didn't know if spontaneous burst propulsion or modifying her features like clay fitted.

In a way, the morphing felt like she was merely warping the outer shape, resculpting herself, and she supposed if space determined the area someone occupied, perhaps it sort of fitted? Though she wasn't even going to try to figure out why it let her change the colour of herself too, she'd likely need some quality time with Google to figure it out.

The jumping thing... well... maybe... Nope, that one was going to have to wait too, she knew all about the equal and opposite action and reaction stuff, but not quite how it tied in with a space/time theme. Possible it wasn't even space/time related, unlikely as it is to have more than one main source of power, at least it was only theoretically two at most right now.

All of this craziness was starting to give her a bit of a headache, as she certainly wasn't enrolled in the right subjects to be qualified to properly think about all this crap.

Who exactly could she go to for answers though? Suddenly having the mysterious desire to learn about space/time physics is the kind of thing that raised suspicion, especially when she seemed the sporty type that she was.

Her main options consisted of her circle of friends, Caine or Berkins, and Berkins would be an act of desperation considering she probably had a black mark against her name with his group now. Caine might've dabbled a little bit considering the sheer diversity of metas, but... doctors didn't really need space/time physics to help them treat patients...

She grabbed her head and twisted about in frustration, as all these complicated thought trains were hurting her brain, made worse by the fact she seemed to be compounding a problem rather than fixing it.

For now, she decided to give her head and her body a bit of a rest, opting to teleport without fanfare straight into her bedroom so she could go for yet another shower to wash all the dirt and sweat off. After that, she figured maybe trying to catch up on the inevitable piles of homework she no doubt had.

Once more the Jeztornado reared its head in the shower, swiftly sweeping a towel up again in the aftermath to dry off after the blindingly fast little stunt. Water just seemed to fall slower to her eyes lately, which gave a bit of a strange awareness of the downpour of water in a shower since she had to work around it.

But nevertheless it wasn't anything to worry about, just a minor irritation or impatience; Jezelle discarded her towel and reequipped her underwear, teleporting back into her room to get yet another outfit -though one less orientated around jogging.

Once appropriately attired, Jezelle went about starting up her computer and collecting some text books to get her mind up-to-speed again with college life; the last few weeks wasn't exactly a holiday, but it was almost if not more distracting than one.

[b]Marina Goes Downtown[/b]

It was very awkward. The owners (The Phillips) were furious about their ruined roof, and were adamant that Marina be responsible for the repairs. Getting this sort of thing sorted out ended up were her being taken to the police station and put in holding.

Marina insisted it was an accident. She was trying out her jumping power without realizing just how effective the rebound would be. She apologized and said that she would do what she could but with the aquarium rebuilding she was temporarily out of a job. she then volunteered To help repair the roof herself, it was the least she could do. She then mentioned that all she had intended was to go down to the post office to pick up a letter. here she produced the letter in question that stated there was a letter for her. She stated then that she should have taken The bus like a normal person. it was around here she stopped her testimony. She morphed to her natural humanshape, complete with blonde hair and green eyes. She roughly approximated her body shape, and was unable to form fingerprints or even blemishes on her skin, she also formed a leotard and skirt for modesty. Having to manually morph human form since the con was a hassle, but at least she was getting faster at it. Though she still wasn't very precise. Still she was proud that it only took her a few seconds to morph now.

They left her in holding for a while. A long while. Really. This sort of thing wasn't easy to sort out. A meta dropping into someones roof and cause a couple thousand dollars worth of damage? The typical misdemanour charges didn't really cover that...

//A few minutes into her incarceration

Marina was sad, she never expected her day to turn out like this. it was poor judgement on her part to try and bounce at all. She needed to make sure to limit her jumping height in the future and never do so in a crowded city or even suburban area. If she got out of here, she'd just go with the stretchy hands method of transportation, if it worked in anime it could work for her. But for now she was in here. She took a look at the other people they had in holding.

At first she was too distracted and beating herself up over her mistake to notice anything. The fact that she was banging her head on the wall may have had something to do with it too. But she stopped after a few minutes to look around.

Notice: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $2 - 1 = 1$

It's a simple cell. A bench, grillwork and all sides. Light came in through the narrow windows set near the roof. There were some other cells in the area. The bench was wood on metal legs, all bolted down to floor. There was a small toilet and sink in one corner. The light was behind a grill as well.

[Marina Stuff goes here]

Marina's cell was fairly plain, like all cells are. She grew restless, but with nothing to do just lay on the makeshift bed in the cell. It had been a while since she last sat down to just think. The last few weeks have certainly been hectic, melting in Trevor's house, a mall, learning about these strange powers, the evil bugs...getting a girlfriend...she was still surprised about that one.

It was her actions in the aquarium that almost got her and Albie killed. Her actions that led to her and Erin getting captured by the bug queen. Her fault she busted that roof...She went to the con and somehow survived a terrorist bombing flattened under a boulder, most people would have died from that. Also some fragment of herself was now lost in the wreckage, she stopped worrying about that piece by this point.

She considered her cell, many openings, any one of which she could squeeze through...but no....bad thoughts...She wasn't a fugitive, it was just an accident...no need to make this worse. She lay down, the morphed skirt was hard to maintain, so she just went with a leotard, the less moving parts to her morphing the easier it was...always.

Yes there was a lot of excitement in her life since that day. But maybe it was time to wind down. She figured she should get a new job...enough to get by...move in with Erin...yes quiet life...She doubted it would work, being meta, seemed to mean crazy stuff happening all the time. With great power and all that...which is why she needed to get control over her powers. It wasn't exactly like spiderman but it was close enough. She sat up, she was in for a long wait, while they sorted it out. Mom was going to be furious. Nothing to do but wait.

There was the sound of the door to the block opening and in short notice an officer turned up. Of course, this was hours into her incarceration. Had a key and such in his hand. "Stand away from the door please," he said as he started to unlock it.

Marina sat up in the makeshift bed they had for her in the prison, she stood away from the door but near enough to see the officer. To think all of this started with trying to go to the post office...oh and poor judgement that too.

He had a pair of hand cuffs out and motioned her to step forward. "Hands."

Marina stepped up and held her hands out. She was still upset over all this, but until she could prove it was an accident she was still arrested.

The man escorted her up stairs, past some offices and more people and then to a general room with a desk that he set her behind. There was a door on the wall facing her, but for the moment, she was alone in the room since her escort left her.

Marina was growing more concerned. Yes it was standard procedure but it didn't make her any more at ease to be moved to what looked to be some sort of interrogation room.

Notice: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $18 - 1 = 17$ notice

[Rather unremarkable room. mic on the table, speaker in the corner of the wall. Table is pretty basic (heavy, metal frame, plastic topping the metal), heavy chairs, AC vent in the ceiling, two cameras, one way glass(you assume), only one other chair.]

An officer in a plain clothes suit came in, a file folder in hand. She took the other chair and set it down. "Good Evening. My name is Jane Ridsen"

"Evening?", Marina began, then stopped herself. "Good evening.", Marina returned the greeting. She had been in here for that long, she was upset over the whole ordeal, but in the end it technically was her fault, even though it was an accident.

//I did say hours.

"At the moment, Miss Fischer, the Phillips have pressed charges against you for damages to as well as for trespassing upon their premises."

"Ma'am, it was an accident...I was heading to the post office, and I really should not have been using my powers when I was so inexperienced...that would be more poor judgement and negligence but not trespassing with hostile intent or whatever.", Marina began. She hoped the officer would understand.

"It is also an accident when someone veers off the street and puts someone in the hospital. The Phillips are exercising their legal right." Miss Ridsen wasn't taking any excuses from her. She peeled off a few sheets from the stack she had, checked them, then slid them across the table. "The court hearing is scheduled for a month's time."

"I understand Miss...but the two are hardly comparable...nevermind...they have the right...I'm sorry...trespass??", Marina said feebly. Court hearings...couldn't they settle this out of court. Alas, she picked up the papers Ridsen slipped her and read over it.

"Yes. Negligence, Reckless Endangerment, Class 2 property damage and Trespass.. "

Marina looked over the papers. "Okay...", Marina said looking down in shame. She was in so much trouble.

"Your parents came in and paid your bail, so you will be released shortly."

"Oh they're going to be so mad...", Marina sighed and held her head in her hands, "Thank you for informing me..."

"Someone will be around to pick you up as soon as the processing is cleared," he said, rising.

True to her word, it wasn't another ten or so minutes before another officer, this one in uniform, came to escort her through the building and to the front where a pair of stern faced Fischers were waiting.

Marina had her head down as she walked out. If the justice system didn't kill her, her mom would. She could just imagine what they would say. And then they were there...sitting in the lobby. She broke down and cried.

Going home, she heard the continuing talk on being careful. Responsibility was thrown around. Though her father seemed less upset over it than her mother. Still was enough to get her "grounded for life" so to speak. She was too depressed over the events of the last few days to complain about it even.

Needless to say she dreaded going to court, but hopefully when they realized it was an accident they would relent. She doubted it though...in any case she would be much more careful with her power.

She arrived home, her parents had stopped trying to reprimand her. To them the justice system would do that. Marina felt terrible, a kind of cold twist in her stomach...or where her stomach would have been. She returned to her room, it was late, her whole day was shot...and with the impending court session and getting grounded again, so was the week. She crashed on the bed and cried, then folded in on herself, scrunching up and wanting to disappear.

[b]Hero and the Swarm[/b] [i]Bugs Ruin Everything[/i]

Henry's jaw hit the floor. That thing really was Erin. That was a terrifying thought. He picked her up in his right arm and carried her back to the girls room nervous to what he might find. He placed her on the bed and looked around for the other girls.

The room was a wreck, having been made so by wild bug girl. Everything knocked over and scattered about. (Victim was still out in the hall crying. Poor woman.) The door was damaged. Sheets and pallets shredded. No one else in the room. Roll search if curious.

search **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $13 - 1 = 12$

He finds lots of fragments of stuff, ranging from clothes to bits and pieces torn from the damaged beddings, the curtains shredded as well, damaged side tables and assorted belongs through it all.

Not seeing any blood confused and relieved Henry. The girls were not eaten or injured in here. But where the hell were they? Jez and Marina would not have left Erin in this state. Henry picked up a sheet from the floor and covered Erin with it. Then made his way to the crying woman. He knelt down next to her offering one of the flowers.

[Ever the Gentleman]

"Everything is ok now. The bug has been taken care of. Hey you work here right? You know anything about the other two girls that were in this room?" Henry asked.

She still looked rattled to an unnatural level, bleeding from where she cut herself on Bugrin. She focused on Henry with much effort. "W-what?"

"Your attacker was staying in that room with two other girls. Do you know what happened to them?" Henry asked again pointing back to the room Erin was in.

"Oh god that think is here? Oh god, oh god, oh god," she degraded into sobs. [Notice ten: name tag Courtney]
notice **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 1
//lol

"That thing is gone and will not bother you. But there are people here who do need you. My name is Henry and I will keep the bad things away. But I need to know about my friends. I left them here yesterday but they are not here. I need to know what happened to them." Henry was getting concerned. What happened to the girls.

"Right... uh... the other... other patients c-checked out," Courtney (a name Henry doesn't know.) said.

"Did they now. We need to work on our communication. Will you be ok now miss?" Henry asked while shifting the flowers in his hand.

"N-no," Courtney said. Then she swallowed. "Ye-yes..."

"Ok, we are going to need a doctor here to keep the girl down. Are you able to get one and bring them here? We also need to turn this alarm off." Henry said offering the lady a hand up. Perhaps getting her doing something will help her get a handle on things. It was understandable seeing as she was just attacked by a bug person. Things just kept getting worst.

"But... m-my hands..." She whimpered, holding out her slashed and cut appendages.

"Ah, yes, the cuts. Ok, nurse first then doctor. I saw one down the other end of the hallway. I can get you there quickly just don't tell anyone how." Henry handed the lady all of the flowers. Some of the stems had been crushed from his flying charge but other wise he had done a pretty good job of keeping them safe. When the lady had the flowers in her arms Henry scooped her up and fly down the hallway. Henry could cover some ground while running but hands down flight was faster. He tried to keep it low key. Flying upright and about four inches off of the ground. It would be pretty obvious to others but Henry thought it was good enough.

Off He went looking for any nurse or doctor that he could find.

Courtney yelped a little, she was such a mousy thing and had such an experience (those jaws would haunt her dreams). Still, Henry's flight didn't last one. The alarm going off had summoned the maintenance and security personnel to that section of the building, and his swift and decisive actions in regards to dealing with the situation quite covered the time it took them to contact each other and take the stairs.

Seeing the people coming out Henry landed as fast as he could and walked the rest of the way. "Afternoon gents. Any of you seen a doctor or a nurse on your way. She needs her hands bandaged."

"Put the nurse down," the lead security said, falling back on his 'dealing with hostiles' training. Why did all the weird stuff happen on his shifts? People stealing stuff, tossing furniture over rooms with their minds, now this? He could have sworn that man was off the ground for a moment. "No one needs to get hurt."

"Of course not. I came to the aid of this woman here. There was some kind of bug thing attacking her. I stopped it and was going to take her to get medical attention. She was injured in the attack. If you want to take her then by all means." Henry bent down and lowered her feet to the floor before letting go.

"There we go. If you wouldn't mind the flowers were for some of my friends. Although I think you should keep the sun flower. It might brighten your day a bit."

"There is another one of those bugs around? Jenson," the lead said, calling to one of those behind him. "Contact ACR."

"Just saw the one. Were there more? Any how is there anyone with you that can see to her hands?" Henry asked pointing to the ladies bleeding hands.

"Those things almost never show up alone," the lead said. Jenson had headed off and was making calls into his radio that crackled indistinctly on the one on the lead's waist as well. "There are already staff on the way up."
[Uniform: khaki slacks, black tops, vests.]

"Great, they can see to your wound." Henry said to the nurse. He then moved toward the man who seemed to be the leader of the group. "This bug was a meta who changed. Once I stopped her she changed back. She is in room [329]. I can take you to her if you want. Or you can go and I can visit my friend who is in a different room." Henry made the offer. If it went the same way as normal they would send him away and he would be free to see Jenny while they checked out Erin.

Henry did not like the fact that Erin was changing into a bug and the fact that she attacked an innocent person was grating on his nerves. Was this something left over from when they were mind controlled? He would have to investigate this more at a later time.

The security guard's face went to practiced neutrality, though something else flashed [sense motive check] for a moment before the neutrality kicked in. "One of the patients? I will see to it one of the doctors gets to her right away." In fact, a group of people in nurses and doctor's garb could be seen coming up the corridor.

sense motive **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $7 + 1 = 8$

"Yeah the girl in room 329. The room is trashed and she was the one that had turned into a bug. She was attacking this lady here when I came down the hall. I kicked it off of her and when it hit the ground it changed back into a person. It was very creepy looking." Henry offered up as much of an explanation as he could.

Henry could see the doctors and nurses coming closer. He waved to them and pointed to the girl with the bleeding hands. "She needs her hands looked after. She got cut." Henry looked back at the girl. "I never caught your name. I'm Henry, what's yours?"

//what to do with Erin...

//keep her sedated so she doesn't stab people

//indeed. Maybe one of those isolation wards for those with mental health conditions.

The nurses took charge of her, helping her up and such before leading her down to the station where they would have all the supplies they would need. She did find the time to respond to Henry though. "It's... it's Courtney Walsh. Th-thank you."

Henry waved to Courtney as she was lead off. She would at least get the medical help she would need. With the injured being tended to Henry head off to Jenny's room. He wanted to see how she was doing. Seemed like things should be calming down now that the issue was taken care of.

There were signs that people had wanted to move patients from the rooms on this side of the building. Probably only kept from doing so by the calls of others. And now, with the alarm finally cut off and security issuing orders over the radio, much of the hubbub was dying down. Still... There was a nurse, looking distinctly harried, in the corridor where Jenny's room was supposed to be.

Henry found the hall he was to go down and saw another nurse looking frazzled. This place was not used to seeing this kind of action. Henry was only now just getting used to it. He had faced giant insects, super powered people, a giant cat, terrorists, and a bomb site. And this was only over the course of a few weeks. Either way it never hurt to help out a fellow person.

"Hello, I am looking for a friend. Are you ok? And do you know where room 327 is by any chance?" Henry said speaking in a soft voice.

"Room 327? It's just a few doors down. In light of recent effects though, visiting hours is a bit in question."

"That is ok. I hear the situation has been taken care of. Sounds like they even turned the alarms off. But are you ok? You seem a little out of sorts. Are you hurt or anything? They have a bunch

of doctors and nurses in the other hallway. I could walk you to them before visiting my friend." Henry offered.

"It seemed everything was limited to Hall C." She looked a bit reluctant still. "Who did you say you were here to visit?"

"Jenny, she was injured at the Con attack and was just moved from the ICU today. haven't seen her since the con and wanted to see how she is doing. I was there when she got injured." Henry said staring at his feet.

Her expression softened. "I see. She is awake, still weak though. I might raise her spirits to have another friend visit her."

"Great! I didn't know anyone else was here to see her already. I jst found out she was moved today. Yesterday she was still in the ICU. But any how I have flowers and all for her. I will see her now." Henry said making his way into Jenny's room.

The air was sombre, with the beeping of the life monitoring equipment providing the beat in the background. Jenny was laying on the bed, laying on her stomach. The chair beside the bed was... the lighting was subdued and the curtains drawn.

Henry looked about in the room. He saw standard medical equipment that he had no clue what it did. Jenny was on her stomach which surprised him. He thought Jenny had a chest wound and wondered why they would have her laying on it. Well he wasn't a medical professional so he just moved up.

"Jenny. Are you awake?" Henry asked.

//I dont know if there is anything in the chair or what not but he might see something if he walked in. But he isnt expecting any trouble at the moment.

"Who's that?" Jenny asked somewhat weakly.

"Don't worry," another man's voice said, coming from nowhere. A moment later, the chair that his attention glossed over was suddenly occupied by a woman, and a familiar person had his hand on her shoulder. Isaac gave Henry as somewhat tired smile. "Hello Henry." reognize check **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 20 [the lady looks a lot like Jenny. Older though. But similar enough to be her mother- Oh....]

Henry saw the three in the room and took a double look at the unknown woman. She looked a lot like Jenny but older. He would assume that it was her mother or some other family member. Isaac he knew as the potential city council member if that was still going on. He had not expected to see other people here but it made sense he guessed.

"Hello, Isaac and you must be Jenny's . . . older sister. I heard that she got out of the ICU today and wanted to stop by and bring some flowers. Hope to brighten the day. Although it seems like that might be hard with all the alarms and what not going on." Henry walked over and layed the

tulips down on the stand next to the bed so that they would be in view. He then realized he should have brought a vase or something to put them in.

"Her mother, actually," Jenny's Mother corrected with a slightly flattered smile, though sombered some by the situation they were in.

"Henry..." Jenny said a bit weakly, smiling ever so slightly. "You visited."

"Yeah, I feel bad that you got injured. I wanted to bring you those. They wouldn't let any visit you that was outside of family while you were in the ICU." Henry answered sheepishly.

"You brought my daughter flowers?" her mother asked.

"They're pretty," Jenny added.

Henry scratched his head and looked at the flowers he had set down.

"Yes I did. She helped me in the past and I was at the con. I thought it would be nice to stop by and bring her some." He looked at Jenny. "I am glad that you like them. Are you feeling any better?"

"My back hurts... and I have to stay on my belly for a while," she complained.

"Do they know how long you are going to be like that? I hope you have a speedy recovery." Henry said with a voice full of hope.

"Till the wound heals up enough," Jenny complained weakly.

"They don't want her aggravating the injury," her mother expanded a bit.

"Well I hope you a speedy recovery. If you need anything just call and I can bring it over. I feel like that is the only thing I can do now. It was nice seeing you again. And you to Mr. Berkins. It was also nice meeting you." Henry said looking at each person as he spoke.

"It was nice of you to visit as well," Issac said.

Henry left the room after saying his good byes. He still had a few flowers that was meant for Erin and Jez but since she had left already and the other tried to eat someone they were now his. He already gave the ones meant for Marina to Courtney. He figured he might as well stick around a little to see what happens to Erin. He had no clue what would become of her. He just hoped that she didn't come to and turn back into the bug again.

Henry lurks around here.

Some time passed and things started to regain some semblance of normalcy in the hospital. After a few minutes, they were working at moving Erin to a new section of the hospital. Over to one of

the more secure rooms in the psychiatric building attached to the main hospital. Reinforced and padded rooms with places to secure patients to keep them from hurting themselves... Of course, it wasn't something they could do in less than an hour or so. Plenty of time for the next eventful chapter of the Life and Times of Henry. Like a distant droning.

Henry watched as they got back to work in the hospital. People ushered back to their rooms and nurses back to their stations. He watched as the response team and worked in Erin's room. eventually they even moved her. Seemed like she was visiting the psyc ward. Better security over or atleast that is what they were saying. Henry just wanted Erin to get the help that she needed. Henry figured that they could handle it here. As he was figuring that he would leave since he had seen everyone in the building that he wanted to he was reminded of the things he was working on last night. He flagged down a passing nurse to ask a quick question.

"Sorry to bother you but do you know if Dr. Cain has hours today?" Henry asked with a fist full of flowers.

[notice: 10- Name tag Sarah]

"Dr Cain? I believe I saw him earlier this morning. I'm not sure if he is still in the building." notice **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 15

Henry peered at the lady's name tag and saw that it said Sarah. If Henry was on his A-game he might have taken this moment to ask her what was going to happen to Erin. Then again that would require him to be on said game. He scratched his head and saw the flowers still in his hand.

"I have some flowers for him." Henry said and held up the flowers to help make his point.

The nurse blinked, a bit caught off guard by that revelation. She hadn't expected the flowers to be for the doctor. "I could check to see if he is still in," she said.

"Thank you. That would be great." Henry said with a smile at the thought that it worked.

The nurse led (or was just followed by) Henry to the station where she could grab one of the phones and ring Cain's extension.

Henry stood there and waited to hear if the Doctor was in. He had a big question for him to answer.

She had a somewhat subdued conversation with someone, of which he could only catch snippets. Eventually; "Yes, he is still in. At his office at the moment."

"Excellent, would it be possible to see him or is he busy right now?" Henry asked since he figured that Cain would be a busy man.

She relayed the question to the man it related to. "He says he has a bit of time at the moment if it's nothing too long."

"Nothing to long. Should be pretty fast. Then I am off to do some other things. Thanks for the help by the way." Henry said as he followed the Sarah to Cain's office.

On the way to the office, the fire alarms in the building went off

Henry raised an eyebrow and looked to Sarah. "You all testing the fire alarms again or do you all just like to keep everyone on their toes?" Henry asked and wondered if it was Erin again. He was going to get tired of punching that one out pretty soon.

"No, there isn't anything scheduled for today..."

"So this is a real fire or a different issue? Heard the alarms earlier today and it was for something other than a fire."

"No idea. But the alarm still calls for an evacuation of the building."

"Ma'am I am going to assume here that you need to help clear the whole building out. Go and help with that I can see my own way out." Henry started to head toward a stair well until the lady would leave. He wanted to get back to the people that responded to Erin. They seemed like they knew what was going on then. If this was a fire he might be able to put it out or take care of it.

The nurse was more concerned with the whole than just Henry (abs and biceps aside) and nodded absently when he headed to the stairs, moving off to take her roll in the emergency procedures.

Seeing the nurse leave Henry moved it down the hallway back to where the emergency workers had been when they were squaring away Erin. he wanted to hear where this fire was at or what was going on.

It wasn't a fire. When was it ever something so simple and pedestrian? Security was ahead of him, rushing up the hall as if there was a fire (pun unintended). And if Henry listened well enough [dc12] he could make out the sounds of his old friends the bugs.

//one day **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 5

Henry moved up behind the man that seemed like he knew where he was going. He figured that he was heading toward the fire. If the fire just started and was on this floor he would be in luck. He might just be able to blow it out. Like a giant birthday candle. He just needed to see it. Weird, he figured that there would be a lot more smoke.

The first sign there was something off was the yells of security. Security didn't normally scream like that for a fire. The second sign followed right on that sign's coat tails. One of the security guys ran out of the room, shielding his head as a giant bug darted towards him.

Bugs? Bugs! Why were they here? Didn't this hospital have some of that chemical that drove them away? Henry had seen the bugs in full force twice. The first time they fought them in the street and they attacked an apartment full of people. The second time was at Erin's house when

the two girls were 'mind controlled'. They had killed all the bugs in the last situation as well as burned the nest and Erin's house to the ground. Henry was not about to burn a whole hospital down. He also was not about to let them roam free. This place was a human buffet with the people already laid out for serving. That just wasn't going to happen. The big man put his flowers down and got ready. Which get ready meant taking a flying charge at the bugs.

charge **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $2 + 7 = 9$

Which met with the same results as when he fought with Erin. A loud whooshing sound of wind as his fists missed their mark. . . by a lot.

The bug darted down and across, evading the blow, wings beating to compensate for the wind pressure. Then it did something new; squirting a spray of something foulsmelling that seemed to hiss and steam when it hit the floor.

Φαιόσγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $8 + 2$ DC 17

"What in the world!?" Henry yelled as it spit some kind of crap at him. The fact that it was messing up the floor didn't make him feel any better. These bugs just went up on the grossness scale. The only way to solve this was to introduce the bug to his boot via a kick.

necar rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $11 + 5 = 16$
toughness DC 20 Lethal

This time, the blow was on target and hit the bug on the underside and was tossed, screeching, about two dozen feet down the length of the hallway, arching over the head of the security guard and bouncing once, long limbs flailing before it slid to a stop on the ground.

Φαιόσγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $15 + 2$

There were voices coming from the room, and even over the droning and screeching of the bugs Henry could make them out.

"Damn! Melo!"

"Focus on the windows! Don't let another one in!"

"Like Hell! They are too many of them! Frank! One's getting past the bed!" There was the sound of something wooden striking something else.

"Call a general evac! They will get into the wards!"

This was turning into a bad situation very quickly. Seemed like there were a number of bugs trying to get in and one was already on the ground a number of feet away. He didn't want to leave any alive behind him to cause any sort of trouble while he tried to protect the people in the room. He figured the best option was to finish this one and take care of the room people after. He hoped that they could hold out a few moments longer.

He flew at the downed bug and did a kick that would make a starting kicker on a football team jealous.

charge attack **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $12 + 7 = 19$
19

Toughness DC 20 lethal

Φαιόγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $5 + 2$

The bug burst apart with a crack of fracturing carapace and a mess of pulpy body fluids, some of which started to hiss away at the flooring.

That isn't good. Henry did not have enough time to really worry about how much of the floor that would eat through, he had bigger issues. Top of his list was getting to the room the people we trying to defend. Henry sped around the corner and walking through the door way to see what was going on in there.

It was a bug invasion. The security had gotten the bed against one of the windows were the first bug had apparently broken in. They were understandably nervous about the other windows that had large bugs, about the size of dogs, crawling on them, mandibles clicking menacingly. On of the noticed Henry. "You! Get out of here!"

The bugs were already at the windows and they had broken one of them. It looked like it would only moments for another window to break. The bugs seemed to really want to get into this building. He snapped out of it when one of the people told him to leave.

"You are going to need help keeping those things out. One already got by you. I am here to help." Henry announced. he looked around the room for anything else that could be used to block another one of the windows.

The bugs suddenly seemed to be enraged, pissed off by something, the drone in the air kicking up to bone rattling levels as the bugs buzzing wings kicked up to intense levels.

"That is new. Last time I killed some of the bugs they just ran away. Seems like now it just makes them mad." Henry said this while moving carefully towards the window. If anything came through it he was going to send it right back out.

The puzzling behaviour continued, the bugs pulling back from the wings and hovering uncertainly in the air. Since they were all pulling back, the true numbers were clear. Dozens of the creatures. Most of them the size of large dogs. And they were all screeching.

"Looks like they are getting ready to leave. They must be able to smell the dead one in the hallway. I think we shall be ok." Henry said while watching the bugs. He still didn't really know what was going on but he wanted to keep an eye on the situation.

Leaving didn't seem to be their intention. After milling around, they suddenly started swarming again. Some darted down to street level, others upwards, a quick a few charged towards the building. Henry might have been expecting one bug to come in, but a gaggle of them all rushed towards the window, the glass shattering before them, unable to stand up to the force.

[B]Out of the Wood Work[/b]

[i]Fall of a Monarch[/i]

[Trevor Side]

They rose from everywhere. A full swarm of them, crawling up and spreading wings, on the order of their queen, wings filling the air with a load buzzing.

Trevor was getting the hang of steering the thing. Body movements, leaning one way or another, the hand motions for a bit more precision... Still didn't want to risk flying too high though. Still, it was way cool. Radical even.

Then the first droning reached him. He slowed and stopped, ears twitching. He looked up. The first of the bugs darted past.

"Okay..." Trev said. He debated it quickly. "Fine, fine..." Altitude, Altitude, don't fall... Yep. Mantras made everything better.

Trev just cleared the tree line, in time for a bug to slam into him. He grunted and staggered, but grabbed onto his platform before he actually fell.

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 7+6

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 9+8

During all this he was, quite understandably, swearing. Well, vocalizing his great displeasure of the entire situation. Swearing implied that his words actually had meaning. His attention was caught up with trying to regain his footing on the little platform (maybe this wasn't such a great flying method after all...) but once that was regained...

"You have got to be kidding me..." he said as the swarm of bugs, the source of the heavy droning. He conjured up a box around him as protection.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4344033/>]Bugs. Pairs of. (1d20+2=11, 1d20+2=9, 1d20+2=20)[/url] Poor bugsies.

There were several sharp cracks as bugs crashed against nothing at all, leaving barely visible cracks in the air and large smears and splatter marks seemingly hovering in the air of their own violation. Trev, through his connection with the boxes, knew they were damaged, but he wasn't sure how much as some of the swarm started detouring around him, giving him a wide berth like when something splashed on an ant trail. Oh, and they were heading to the town. Dozens of them. "Casala'soso!"

He dropped the box (which had the interesting effect of letting the gore just fall out of the sky unimpeded) and immediately tried instead to box as many of the bugs as he could. The days of pranking the girls in the hospital had one benefit. Aim. His accuracy had gotten much better. There were many benefits to being petty at times.

Whatever energy it was snapped out and erected itself around a bunch of them. Not the whole swarm, but a portion of it. It was a start... on the other hand... there was still a lot of them nipping merrily along. "Crapping carps and crack..." he fretted, having no idea what to do next as the ones inside the box were buzzing around and smacking into the walls and the rest didn't seem to give a damn about him or those.

He had a box full of bugs, that were starting to bonk the walls with renewed vigor, and the rest of the bugs were swearing around to avoid the trapped bunch and heading to town. How did you get rid of a box full of bugs? Why couldn't he get a 'blow things up with my mind' power or something? So he just 'grabbed' the connection between himself and 'swung' the box through the air with an exaggerated (and as far as he knew necessary) hand motions, trying to swat some of the bugs.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4345316/> 12 attack DC 17

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4345318/> Bugs outside: Three survived

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4345320/> Bug inside: about six survive.

Box is shattered.

Most of the swarm had gone. But Trevor figured even holding up a small portion would be useful. He should have stayed out of it.

Henry had mentioned it, and the girls in their mind controlled state mentioned it before as well. The queen. He'd watched Aliens. And Martin Mystery. And did biology. He should have known the queen would be disproportionately bigger than the rest. But... damn. The thing screeching and powering it's way through the air on a massive set of wings towards him... it was the size of an elephant, and had a couple bugs buzzing along with it like guards or something.

"No no no no NO! Can't I get a break?" Trevor demanded of the universe, moving his platform a few feet back.

[Nix Side]

Albie is heading in the direction of the town. So are the bugs. Roll notice.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4344072/> He hears the droning.

Alex heard weird sounds. Not good. Considering the last time he heard the sound he got in hospital... Alex looked up, switching on his infravision.

He sees trees. And is slightly disoriented by the total spectrum switch. The canopy is too thick to see through through.

Not knowing what to do now, Alex decided to wait for a while, at least to hear where the sound is heading.

The sounds same to fade in too directions, one coming from somewhere deeper in the woodlands, the other heading in the direction of town.

Alex shook his head. What's up with this droning... Is this a cockroach migration season? Maybe he'll have some food at least (squicky food, but if Bear Grylls did it, so should he because that guy has balls and if Alex won't eat it, he won't have balls. Yeah, pretty lousy explanation).

...Maybe he could have tried to walk around to see the source, but damnit if he could see through all these damn trees. It's not like the noise came from the above of his head... Alex looked around, trying to figure out what to do and his mind didn't come up with anything else than climbing up a tree - he got claws and instincts though, they would help, right? Right?

He chose the tree that could have given him the view through all of these obscuring things and that seemed to have enough branches to hold on, because falling is overrated.

[Climbing: Take 10 (16)]

He wasn't a squirrel, but he did manage to find his way up the trees. Trees had a distressing habit of being rather tall and canopious, so it took a while for them to reach a point where he could see somewhat. Which way does he look? This question asks for an obvious answer, to where the noise went of course.

You see a trail of bugs flying towards the city.

[i]Oh this ain't good,[i] Alex thought, staring at the bugs. He gulped. Again with these things. From what he was told, they were much scarier than he thought - and he thought they were just aggressive and could punch him hard enough to knock him out. Combined with the fact that he was on a tree and the bugs (if he is not mistaken) are moving to the city, the situation looked ugly as hell.

And he couldn't even stop them, not even with a slight warning, with him sitting on a tree... Unless...

He remembered something important. Radio waves. He could try to send a message...

"Attention, to whoever who can hear this message - a swarm of creatures, most likely the insects that attacked the city are moving in the direction of it. This is not a joke." Alex transmitted, trying to "hit" all the possible radio frequencies. The mobile phones will probably go mad...

He wasn't sure if he'll reach everyone who will need this, so he decided to get down from tree. He needed to get back to the city and warn everyone, probably lending a hand in getting rid of a bug or two, since he knew more of his powers. At least he didn't have to go non-lethal here, unlike with Trev... Let's hope Trev won't get into trouble again.

Now that he has sent his message, what does he do? Heads to the city of course. Forgot to clearly state this, huh

The city proper is like a mile or three away. Also, roll notice.

Well, he still would go there since that, like, the only place he could go. Oh, also, he keeps repeating the message just to be sure, at irregular intervals.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4345322/>] Alex's Notice: 24 (Twenty!)[/url]
You hear the sound of something smacking into a large number of somethings and a whoop of (some) jubilation.

Huh. That's not normal.

Alex's ears twitched - he stopped for a moment to consider if he should let his curiosity win and force him to check the source of sound. Considering that he didn't have lots of stuff to do, he decided, yes, to check the source of sound. Maybe it's another meta in training on soup cans?

Oddly, what he found was, after a good long walk, jog, and/or skip, was a place where there were a lot of dead and battered bugs on the forest floor. He could hear Trevor, proper Trevor, mind you, yelling stuff above. And, some very ominous screeching

Oh wow. Alex stared above and grumbled. At least some bugs are out. Without revealing himself instantly (he considered yelling at Trev for a moment), Alex took his time to try to aim on one of the bugs that weren't too close to Trevor and tried to make some roasted bug.

[round 0: more climbing]

[Round 1: Stealth 19; Start Aiming]

[Round 2: Finish Aiming, +2 to attack]

[Round 3: Attack a bug (Taking 10 - roll is 14), DC 16 Fort Save or death (if hits)]

A bug dropped out of the air.

//Hoorah :D

The queen didn't slow. In fact, she picked up speed and plowed into him like a locomotive. A very big, heavy, fast moving locomotive. His already flimsy, tentative and somewhat unstable flight apparatus shattered before her bulk and he was sent hurling down into the trees below with a manly pissed off feline screech. Miraculously, he landed relatively safe and in one piece, slipping through gaps in the trees it seems.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4346402/>]1d20+4+4=15, 1d20+8+8+4+3=34[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4346403/>]Toughness=26, 1d20+8=10 (Can take ten on acrobatics. Keep forgetting.)/[url]

"Oh, thank you!" Trevor said after making a quick inventory.

Haha, now the score is even! Alex felt a little victory like that was awesome. Apparently his microwaves do work - it's just the matter of careful aiming... Goddamnit, why couldn't he do just as well with Trev?

The actions following it weren't as pretty... Because Alex saw something quite scary. A giant bloody bug. Flying in the air. Bringing poor Trev down. Making another effort to hide, Alex carefully aimed for the BMFB (Big Mother Fr(!)(Maybe)ing Bug). He had no idea if it was a good idea to try to do this, but at least it might help the people in the city to organise themselves against the bug. Or something.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347226/>] Alex's Stealth: 27 (O.o)[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347237/>] Alex's Attack: 24 (O.O)[/url]

DC 21 Fortitude, huh.

[Round 1: Stealth 27; Start Aiming]

[Trev recovering round]

[The Queen]

She circled around not letting off the person that dared to assault her children. With a loud drone of her massive wings, she swung back around then pulled up short, wings beating as she hovered in spot.

[Round 2: Finish Aiming; +2 to attack]

Trevor picked a few twigs from his hair and tried to think of the best way of.... Yeah. Giant bugs were not in the... ANYTHING. Hell. Look at that thing. It was the size of... of... of a garbage truck. And the worse part? It wasn't all that much of an exaggeration! He thought the rest were big. Those things were miniscule in comparison.

His little freak out wasted time he could have used to take cover or erect a protective box around himself. The queen, already in position, opened her maw and let out a spray of something started eating into the trees as it hit.

[Cone Acid spray reflex DC 16. Albie's in range too. Should probably make a forest map...]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347450/>]1d20+6=26[/url] 0.o

Trev, in sheer panic, pulled off some epic dodging and avoided the drops of acid that rained down.

Most of the acid hit the trees and Trev could hear screams on the extreme range of his hearing. Poor, poor trees. So sad. So, so sad. They didn't do anything to deserve this vicious unslaughter of acid.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348257/>

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347455/>]Natural 1 (5), yeah, fuck you dice too.[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347456/>]Toughness: 9 (bruised + injured + stunned)[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348262/>]Fortitude Vs Stun: 6[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347461/>]Reflex: 20[/url]

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4347451/>

Acid dropping down from the sky managed to be so painful that Alex lost his grasp on the tree branch. With a yelp, however, he managed to catch himself from the fall and held onto the tree, feeling pain everywhere. Maybe his actual family name is Rasputin, not Nochin? That's a second kind of burn he got in a month. He could even recollect getting stabbed... He also fell down from considerable distance, got thrown into a tree... Yeah, he's got a great future.

After the queen's grand spray, the honour guard I suppose you could all them, darted out into the trees, weaving in and about, blowing past the cats wherever they might have taken shelter from the the attack.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348297/>

[round]

Trevor lashed out the one that came close on an instinct, his claws flashing and shredding one as it shot past him. There was a moment's tugging against his muscles as claws caught and hitched on the thicker endoskeleton that protected the bug, but he rended through it with his stroke. The bug careered off and smashed into a tree. Though it was already dead. Retrospect: Walls. Could have gotten more. Thank's epimetheus. Always helpful. In other news... he was pretty sure he heard Albie. Granted, with all that was going on...

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348298/>]Attack (1d20+4=23, ~~1d20+4=8~~, ~~1d20+4=9~~, ~~1d20+4=19~~, ~~1d20+4=21~~, ~~1d20+4=6~~)[/url] (forgot to set it back to 1)

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348300/>]Toughness (1d20+2=4)[/url]

[Albie]

Stunned, duh.

The Queen dropped her mass to the ground, the droning of her wings increasing as she controlled her landing, six legs tipped with claws supporting her as the beats slowed. She made a low stagatto series of clicks as her guard hovered over her, pelting the treeline with a rabbit burst of something, tree branches cracking there they, already weakened by the acid, snapped.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348627/>]1d20+2=5, 1d20+2=5, 1d20+2=5, 1d20+2=15, 1d20+2=18[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348633/>]1d20+1=20, 1d20+1=12[/url]

[Trevor]

"Okay then... This... might be a good time to run," Trevor said, not moving from behind the tree he had taken shelter behind. He couldn't leave. That would mean the queen (again, he saw aliens, and read up on entomology. What else could it be?) would have free reign (hey, a pun) to head into town. The bugs that got past were bad enough. Yep. Morals. They were a pain at times.

"Dammit Henry... You're stupid Hero Complex is rubbing off..."

First things first... Defense. Cause He really [b]really[/b] didn't want to get caught in those attacks again. He closed his eyes. Three layers... Center around him...

[Albie]

Alex got back into working state, and didn't like whatever was going on there. He is stuck on a goddamn tree, these things have spotted him and the tree is about to fall. Maybe he'll manage to catch himself again though, he's not sure. And he managed to pick out one of the bugs... From the dozens. Nah, this isn't going to help. He needed something better.

He needed to get Trevor to know him. Maybe he can provide some covering fire...

Unfortunately, he couldn't, and instead he just tried to pick off a bug. He hoped Trevor would get and attack the queen so he could help him at least somehow, but now he'd just get rid of little buggers.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348661/>]Alex Attack: 14[/url]
(Microwaves, duh) DC: 16 fort
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4348700/>]1d20+2=18[/url]

The queen's staggato clicking continued, and she reared up, bringing her claws smashing down on one of the trees, just managing to crack off a portion of it.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4349612/>]1d20+1=11[/url] Oh the Plantity!
//This tree has balls of steel.
//Actually, no... Not balls... How are these called in English...
//Zygotes? Seeds? Endosperm?

The bugettes darted into the trees again, this time taking pot shots at the cats. Only, it was shots of webbing, trying to pin them down.

3 at Trev, 2 at Albie [Cover +2]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4349616/>]1d20+2=7[/url]
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4349617/>]1d20+2=8, 1d20+2=20,[Trev ends here]
1d20+2=4, 1d20+2=22[/url] Castle hates You. DC 14 reflex to avoid.
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4349619/>]Trev Reflex: 1d20+6=16[/url] (Which he didn't need with the boxes...)//lol

Irbynx rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 17+4 Reflex

Okay, reflex meant the dodged without the real need to. Sue him. He quickly lashed back out, shattering one box to snap another box out in the general area. Full extension too.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4349835/>]Power Check=15[/url]
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4349838/>]Number of bugs caught (1d18=9)[/url]

Irbynx (Android) rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 3 5:46 PM

Irbynx (Android): +2 = 5

[Trevor] And... he just trapped a couple bugs in his box with him... Sure, he was learning to make them selective, but with all the trees and stuff around... so he just ran, charging at the queen and leaping hoping to get on her back.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350252/>]1d20+4=9[/url]
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350250/>]1d20+3+2+4=23, 1d20+8+8+4=24[/url]
He missed anyway.

She promptly turn her attention from the trees when one of the targets came to her, swinging one of her limbs like a clawed hammer.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350254/>]1d20+4=17[/url] DC 23
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350257/>]8, 10[/url] Boxes toughness: Destroyed, Destroyed
[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350256/>]1d20+6=13[/url] Trev Toughness Injured

The bugs left Trev to the queen, and went for Albie.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350303/>]1d20+2=19, 1d20+2=17, 1d20+2=16[/url]

Snare DC 14

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350525/>]Alex Reflex: 23; 14; 24[/url]

Alex managed to avoid lots of webbing thrown at him again, with a hiss. Seriously, these things never go away AND they shoot goddamn webs.

He slipped through the leaves, trying to find a better spot that will be a bit sneakier, hoping the bugs won't spot him right away and then tried to fry the queen again, seeing that Trev attacked her, aiming mostly for her legs and other weak places so Trevor would have easier time hitting her. After all, it's the opportunity he waited all along, since picking off bugs one by one will never work.

Move Action: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350528/>] Stealth (Challenge: Hide In Plain sight (if allowed) -5): 17[/url]

Standard Action: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4350528/>] Aid Another (Trevor against queen): Success, +5 bonus to next attack roll against queen to Trevor[/url]

Trevor pulled back. Fine then. Don't attack her. Box her then. He scrambled back and snapped up another invisible box around her as he did. He even made this one thicker too as he made a strategic retreat.

[Albie]

Alex bared his teeth. Great. That bastard just runs away, just as he was able to actually help. Awesome.

//guy's bleeding and you call him a bastard. While you hid in a tree.

//Because he can't get off from it due to a lot of bugs. But yeah, it's mostly frustration since the Aid Another just ended up useless. Alex is just petty.

Whatever. It just proves that everything hates him. He tried to fry his second bug again.

[Taking ten on attack: 12][DC 16 Fort]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4351731/>]1d20+2=8[/url]

Another bug fell, and the swarm, well swarmed around.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4351760/>]1d20+2=21, 1d20+2=12, 1d20+2=3, 1d20+2=19, 1d20+2=6[/url] notice to find him. Two sets spot him.

Two sets attack: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4351761/>]1d20+2=20, 1d20+2=17[/url] First attack: DC 17 toughness, Second: DC 14 reflex vs Snare

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4351762/>]Toughness: Crit (20); Reflex: Natural 1 (5)[/url]

The attacks didn't do too much to Alex himself, however the angle of attack was too damn good for it to expose Alex to the web that instantly got him absolutely covered.
[Bound, Helpless, pinned to tree, DC 19 toughness too break]

The queen Screeched again and started after Trevor. Only to smack into the wall, causing a crack to form in it. That confused her.

//yes. Capital S. Deal with it.

http://24.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_m3kraeDnn51qhy6c9o7_250.gif

//It's not the verb, it's a bloody POWER name.

Trevor, watching, flinched, then sighed with relief. But... Damn. He had to reach for the wellspring again. The glowing stripes felt like bands of ice on his limbs. But he pushed that power into that little touch with the boxes, shoring them up a bit. Okay... maybe that would hold her...

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4351768/>]1d20+4=8[/url] Lovely...

Then he turn and ducked into the tree line. "Albie! You around?"

Alex hissed at the bugs that were around him at this point, getting him trapped in the webs (how the hell do they do this, they are bugs!) "YES," Alex yelled from his spot and added, "SINCE WHEN THE BUGS ARE SPIDERS?"

He tried to microwave the web but no luck, since he was stuck in it. Oh well, wasted time. He then figured that microwaving the webs might as well microwave him instead as well, so he decided against doing it again.

[Webs are immune to fort so duh, Alex is still in webs anyway.]

"SINCE FOREVER!" He yelled back. Welp. There was Albie. "I TOLD YOU WHEN THEY TRIED IT ON ME!" Trevor altered his course to where Albie was, leaping into the tree line. What he found was a couple bugs well crawling over one of those annoying mess of webbing they seemed to have a thing for tangling up cats in. Like Albie, who was pretty much glued to the tree with it. He quickly tossed up another box, smaller, just around himself this time though.

The bugs immediated tried to squirt him (do what? O.o Hit Trev with webs Ah, okay.Dy), but the suddenness of his appearance...

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4351840/>]1d20+2=11, 1d20+2=5, 1d20+2=13[/url]

[Meanwhile Alex tries to use his laser claws (20 Toughness DC) to break out if possible]

"WHY ARE THEY BUG SPIDERS," Alex yelled in reply.

Behind then, the queen backed up, and hit the other side of the box, whirling and hissing in confusion as to what was hampering her. It was buying time. Trevor, for his part, had eyes on Albie.

"Other insects make those types of stuff too!" he said.

"Goddamn biology!" Alex yelled in reply and hissed in frustration as he realised that breaking the web with lasers isn't working as well.

The bugs chittered and swarmed towards Trevor, the spray of the hard shots they used cracking against the box he had set up around himself.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4352306/>]1d20+2=6, 1d20+2=17, 1d20+2=19, 1d20+2=17, 1d20+2=15[/url]

[Box toughness: Take ten (object): 20]

Alex squirmed against the bonds and tried to break out of them but didn't do much.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4352862/>]Strength Check: 8[/url]

Trev thought fast, trying to think about what options were available to him at the moment. And none of them were strong on the freindly fire aspect. He chewed his lip then hissed between his teeth and leapt over to the branch where Abbie, and a large number of bugs, were. They scattered some as he approached, then some more when the box he carried pushed then aside. "Bugs hate cold, right?"

"I don't like the implications of that," Alex replied with concern, "Of course they do."

"Good..." Trevor said. He closed his eyes and concentrated. Only, nothing happened.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4353171/>]Power check (1d20+3=6)[/url]

The bugs chittered uncertainly. Then started spraying again.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4353174/>]1d20+2=14, 1d20+2=12, 1d20+2=22, 1d20+2=19[/url]

"Don't you ever run out of that stuff!" Trev demaded as they coated the front of his barrier with webs.

"They seem to hold more of this stuff in themselves than they actually are!" Alex remarked, squirming more.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4353175/>]Strength Check: 13[/url]

//They should be out soon though. Hopefully :p

//Out together? Does-- Oh wait, not that. Derp. *is always in gutter*

"Hate bugs!" Trev snarled, trying to tap into the feeling that caused the cold drop last time. He found it, and the cold washed out of him in a wave. He tried to control it as best he could, riding the wave, keeping it from being too cold, lest he take out Albie too.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4353176/>]Power check (1d20+3=19)[/url]

Area Extreme Cold Front (Area Con Drain really) DC: 14 (18 for the bugs)

//poor albie... Cause with wellspringed object... this is gonna be a high DC... *checks his math*

//Alex is dead: <http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4353194/>

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4353181/>]1d20+2=16, 1d20+2=20, 1d20+2=7, 1d20+2=8[/url]

Some of the bugs dropped like, well, flies. Others held on and scattered, vanishing into the trees.

Alex shivered from the cold, feeling the frost getting through his bones into pretty much everywhere, causing his vision to become watery from tears of the eyes.

"чертчертчертчертчертчерт..." he muttered as he felt a lot weaker from the cold, with everything in his body getting numb "This is not good..." he muttered, not bothering with webs this turn, trying to get rid of nasty feeling of cold instead.

"Ha! Quick freeze bug!" Trevor declared grandly as the bugs dropped and fled, cutting out the cold wave and not all that aware of Albie's suffering. Only when he turned did he realize not all was right. "Er... you okay?"

"H-h-had it worse..." Alex replied, trying to put up a smirk but failing with his numb lips.

"Fine, I can leave you hanging around here then?" Trevor started to tease. But there was a series of snaps and cracking sounds followed by a screech that even those who don't speak bug could understand to be furious and victorious. The Queen seemed to have broken out.

Trevor didn't waste more time on jokes. He just started ripping into the webs that bound Albie. [13 toughness vs Damage 20. It breaks.]

Alex yelped as Trevor literally tore the webs off from the tree (and him) and after a while he finally was free. With another yelp he held himself on the tree as the web was not supporting him anymore and then turned to Trevor "What now?"

Another screech rang through the forest. "Giant queen bug. Fight or run?"

Alex stared at the queen and gulped, "Well, running won't help us much..." he replied and added, "You have a plan? Because I don't think I'd be useful much in melee and if I'd suggest me staying out of her range you'd call me a coward"

"In games," Trev hissed. it was a long standing argument. "Ranged in games equals cowards. Ranged in RL equals smart. She bitch slapped me through two boxes. Two!"

"We need to get it off the ground..." Alex started, begging with a mutter but then saying it at the usual tone, "Lure it upwards so I could try to hit it at it's fleshy wings and it'll fall. Then we should try to take potshots from above. Might not work if she spits web or bugs arrive..."

After a moment of thinking, Alex went on, "So, here is an idea - we need to get the queen off the ground somehow, so I could try to burn her wings up; She'd fall down, hopefully and get hit; After that there are few options," Alex spoke quickly, knowing that the time was scarce, "We can do guirilla tactics and take potshots at her while skirmishing between trees that she can't fit through and then rush at her when she'd be weak, or we can try to break a tree and have it fall on

her, maybe both, maybe we'd improvise something, all of this while trying to avoid the usual bugs, duh."

The queen brute forced her way past tree, uprooting it partially as she pushed it aside with loud creaking and groaning of earth. The bugs were still absent, though Trev could hear them whizzing about around, as if unsure whether to return or not.

"Flying bug is an advantage for the flying bug, not the cats on the ground!"

"That's why I need it flying - I want to fry her wings so she won't fly anymore," Alex countered.

Trevor glanced back to where the reather distracting sounds of the queen were coming from. She was less pushing over trees as she was just snapping branches in her path and forcing her way between trees.

"Less squatting, more moving might be a better venture at the moment," Trev said was edged calmness.

//MOR EMOVING

"Yep," Alex said and started climbing down, nervously glancing in the direction of the sound.

Trevor grabbed Albie around the waist and employed his strength leap down from the tree hauling Albie with him.

Alex yelped as Trevor took him and instinctively grabbed him with one of his hands, forgetting that he had superstrength for a moment, "AH-"

The queen oriented on the cry and screeched as she barreled in their direction.

"Run!" Trevor yelled, dragging Albie, willingly or not, by the arm as he headed off in the opposite direction than the queen.

Alex yelped again as he was dragged and tried to run along with Trevor, probably failing to catch up with him if not his hand and adrenaline rush. "Fighting's cancelled now, yes?" he asked.

The Queen let out another stream of acid, this one hitting some of the trees behind them.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4356617/>]1d20+4=13[/url]

"Oh shit, it's doing acid again," Alex yelled and kept on moving while trying to focus some of microwaves on the queen, if he sees her behind the trees at all.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4356627/>]Alex's Attack: 16[/url] With cover, it misses

Trevor slowed just enough to toss up another box between them and the bug before starting to move again. "Any bright ideas about how to get her flying?"

"Unless you can ninja jump from tree to tree to get up and around quickly or fly yourself, I have no obvious solutions yet," Alex replied, "Ooor maybe you can make it seen that we are flying by standing on invisible box..."

"My flying idea is still in the beta stages," Trev retorted. "And being a stationary target? Been there, don't that, really have no plans on a rerun."

Behind them, the queen crashed into, then tore her way through the box with little effort at all. In fact, she just seemed to get more pissed.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4357327/>]1d20+8=28[/url]

"Plan B then: booby trapping the trees, beaver way," Alex replied

"You think some falling trees are gonna stop that?" Trev demanded.

//we really need some object damaging blasts between these two...

//Alex can use microwaves to heat stuff up technically... Might need to get a new setting for that then.

//Fort based damage between the two of them ^^ Doesn't work on objects ^^ And Trev now has the motivation to work out the Flash Freeze power.

"First of all, it's best we have and second, not stop but damage. Maybe we'd need to time the tree felling correctly so it lands on her back... How hard her shell is?" Alex replied, "Do you think you can freeze her over so she becomes more fragile?"

"So far, the only thing I've been able to freeze is myself. The temperature drop thing doesn't work fast enough," Trev said immediately. But, it at least got him thinking. "Maybe if I could get a grip on her..."

"Try to get her by ambush. I'll probably be able to distract her for a moment," Alex said.

"You can break trees down? Because the last time I tried it didn't work out so well," Trevor snapped.

"I have an industrial lazer with me at the arm's reach," Alex answered with a grin.

"Ambushes need time to set up," Trevor countered. He turned to try and take a wild shot of the queen and somehow messed it up and stumbled, wrenching his ankle and almost eating dirt [or whatever the forest floor was made up of] but keeping his balance somehow. "Kasa be'Jotan!" **γαλῆ** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 1

Φαιόσγαλῆ rolled a die with 100 sides. The die showed: 95

Φαιόσγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 13 + 8 Acrobatics [still standing]

"Just jump into forests and hide while I am looking like an eas-- Trevor!" Alex glanced at Trevor's fail, "Here goes the jumping part?" Alex asked, trying to attack queen himself.

Irbynx rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 4 + 2 = 6 (Attack Roll)

Well, the queen was pissed. Whether it had anything to do with the attack or just everything in general, but she was pissed. And she showed it. Another tree fell before her and she charged, and her swarm was busy too. They blew past the cats on some intent task.

Trevor didnt like the implications of that. How smart was a bug? It was huge and mutated. If it was as smart as a dog, that would be bad. Very. "Change of plans," Trevor hised at Albie. "I'll be bait, you cut out. Like about... fifty feet out."

"Cut out?" Alex asked

"Run thataway," Trevor said irritably, pointing in a random direction. "And don't go think this is like Henry's dumb hero complex. Even with a bum leg I can outpace you." He dipped into their gaming terminology. "I've just got better control than you and I'm a better tank on top of it if things go downhill. The AOE trick I used last time doesn't have a friendly fire setting.

"Gimme some distance so I can draw her in, hopefully without getting... Then you can try blasting her."

Of course, since he'd stop to issue orders, the distance between them and queen bee wasn't all that much anymore.

Alex nodded and hesitated for several moments, thinking something. Then he did something unusual for him before running away - nuzzling Trevor saying, "Just don't die". And then he dashed away in the random direction, occasionally looking back.

"Just don't die he says," Trevor muttered, "Stupid cliché cheesy movie lines..." He set up his first line of defense; a box pretty close to himself, and about as thick as he thought it safe to make. Didn't actually want her to close, but he wanted as close to him as possible since the cold emanated. Sasa...

Second line went up just in time. A thinner box to piss her off some more [because that was totally a good idea...] "You ready Albie!" he yelled as the queen charged towards him.

"Yes!" he yelled back, feeling nervous as hell, taking cover near one of the trees just in case.

"Damn I wish I was a fire cat right now..." Trevor muttered. If Albie wanted the movie quotes...

"It's the only way to be sure..."

//lol, retaliatory quote, eh? XD

The queen slammed into, then through the box with one or two determined swings. Which REALLY wasn't what he wanted to see. She charged in through the gap she made [he'd given the boxes a slight bit of opaqueness for that reason] and charged at him.

Φαίοςγαλή rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 14 +8

Φαίοςγαλή rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 10 +8

Φαίοςγαλή rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 4 +8

"And here I thought I'd have to encourage you..." he grinned with as much false confidence as a naked catman standing in a forest as bait for a totally bonkers off the top of his head plan armed only with a power he had no idea would work could muster. "Watch for the box to drop!" he yelled at Albie, starting to focus on the power. "You got that?"

"Yes!" Alex replied again, preparing for the boxdrop.

[Maybe readied action for microwaving the queen when it falls?]

//if you miss, I'm going to punch you

//I have no hero points :<

//But Alex might have been considered aiming... If that's fine?

//What else would he do? You'd better hit

//*rolls*

//*slowly grins*

//That'd better be a hit: <http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4360680/>

//isnt that a aim check :p

//Aim needs no check, that was attack roll :P

//Aim just needs a fullround action.

//Happens when the boxdrop happens, of course.

The queen started beating at the box around Trevor, the first few hits not breaking through.

Yeah... Trev wasn't going to give her than chance.

Φαιόσγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 6 9:46 AM

Φαιόσγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 6 9:47 AM

Φαιόσγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 11

[Hero point: Link Control Environment+Cold Emanation (DC 18 {to 21 with vul} Fort Damage)

The box fell and a faint waver rippled out from Trevor, dropping the temperature and tinting the air around him a pale blue grey.

Φαιόσγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 19+9 Of course she makes the con drain... [Seriously though... fort attacks were not a good choice for her...]

Φαιόσγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 2 +9 Staggered and stunned

The queen reacted as if hit with a body blow, rearing up as the wave hit her, thrashing a bit before

[fluff of albies attack here]

Φαιόσγαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 14+8 (21 DC due to krit, but she seems to make it anyway...)

Alex spent the time before the boombox drop carefully aiming for queen, hoping he'd actually hit her and then, as the box happened he let the impulse out, waiting for results.

The hit didn't hurt the queen, for despite the chill she was still a pretty hefty combatant, being the queen and all. Speaking of, the cries called the minions back from whatever they were doing and they started converging on the queen as she reeled from the combined blows.

Trevor fought off the chill that was creeping up from his stripes again, and snarled pure challenge at the queen and the insect court, and kept the power pumping out, keeping the temperature down.

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $11 + 4 = 15$ Fort save

Sustained: Control Enviro, Cold: 14 and 21

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $1 + 8$ Con drain 4

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $8 + 6 = 14$ *Bruised and Injured*

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $20 + 6$ vs stun

"Trevor, bugs incoming! I'm on them!" Alex yelled and growled. "Or should I stay on queen?"

Bugs started to charge past Albie, converging on where the queen was.

The queen seemed to have had enough with Trevor's insolence and decreed that it was time to remove his head, making a sything swing of her clawed and spiked appendage, haking off the top of the box. Trevor ducked. It could have been more dramitic, but, honestly, he just dropped to the ground, eyes bugging out from shock. At least he managed to keep the field up. "Do whatever!"

Queen rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $14 + 8$ str

Trevor rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $20 + 6 + 2$ *Reflex*

rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $16 + 3$ *19 will*

Alex figured that his attacks still do little to queen and so he considered attacking bugs instead.

Not by a focuse microwave though... Spreading it on the area instead, Alex tried to catch as much as he could in the area.

[Extra effort: DC16 area fort save subtle damage]

Area requires attack roll. Also burst area.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4360763/>: 14

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 4

The waves of energy rippled out from Alex and hit the bugs. It took a second or four, but that was just for them to cook on the inside before they started falling, some of them trashing about a bit, others screeching as they over heated and cells died enmass. Of course, this was just the ones that came near.

Trevor decided staying in such proximity of those claws was a bit... downright stupid, so he ducked into a roll that ended up with him under the queen, were hopefully it would be harder to land a blow on him. Then he made sure the cold was still going.

Trevor rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $7 + 8 = 15$

Queen rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 7 Reflex

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 1 Fort -4 con

Φαιόσαλη rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $8 + 3$ 11 Fort

The queen gave another cry, this one of pure pain as the forst that was forming on the grass and shrubbery from the intense temperatures Trevor had been maintaining crept it's way over her body. Though there was little in the way of external injuries, the damage was still done and still took it's toll. She dropped to the the forest ground heavily with one last chittering cry dying in her maw.

