

Smile

“By Self, must I do everything here!” Lili shouted. “Why can’t you make him talk?” she asked Grum, the hobgoblin in charge of the prisoners.

“He won’t, till he has eaten, my queen,” Grum answered, looking at her with admiration. “We tried to poke him but he said he’s too angry to feel pain.”

“I’ll make him eat. Lead me to him.”

“Yes, my queen.”

Lili rushed down the step from her throne, a trail of purple mist following her. She passed in front of her court, who were looking at her with empty stares and big smiles.

You’re sure we can’t do anything for their stupid smiles, it drives me crazy? she asked to her second-life, Ninå.

I’m afraid not Lili. It’s an inevitable side effect.

Lili sighed and followed the hobgoblin, three time her size, to the cages.

A troll was sitting in the biggest one, the arms flaccid at his side.

“Troll, tell me where she is!” Lili said.

Without even turning his face, he murmured, “I’m... hungry... too... hungry...”

“Then eat,” she said, grinning.

The purple mist swirled down toward him. The Troll gasped as it entered his nose. After a few second, the mist retracted toward Lili.

The Troll looked at his feet, took one of his leather boots off and started chewing it.

“Do you like to eat your boots?” Lili asked.

The Troll turned his face to her, his eyes purple.

“Yes,” he answered with a big smile.