

Adventure Kayngi

**Bastet's Earrings**

By Kayngi

## Adventure Kayngi: Bastet's Earrings

Far to the north, at an undisclosed location, the wolf loped to her den nestled in the brush. She paused, looking right and left, checking her surroundings, before she entered the den. Inside, three fuzzy balls of fluff “woofed” at her and came bounding up. She nuzzled her cubs before settling back to allow them to nurse.

But our story takes place at an entirely different den, also at an undisclosed location. This was the Super Secret Den of the Wolf Revolution. In the inner sanctum, a long table was surrounded by various wolves of the Revolution, muttering to themselves. At the front of the room, two imposing figures were arguing. “Incompetent fool! How could you have lost the Idol to her?” Darke Wolf snarled.

The other large wolf took a deep calming breath and let it out slowly through his nose. “Remember who you are talking to,” he said in a low, intense voice, dripping with malice. “The good Dr. Kayngi used her feminine wiles to confuse me. Before I was able to come to my senses, she made off with the Idol. There was no way to get her once she crossed the river.” Colonel Crayzed Wolf flexed his massive robotic arm for emphasis.

Darke Wolf snorted as he turned around, presenting his back to the Colonel. “She wasn't THAT alluring, Crayzed. You're slipping!”

Crayzed Wolf growled softly. “You dealt with her upstart companion, El Maxx. I understand why you wouldn't find HIM alluring. Trust me when I say that Adventure Kay is very comely when she wishes to be.”

Snorting, Darke turned back to Crayzed Wolf. “If we had that Idol, we would have been unstoppable, just like the Manuscripts said! Now, all our plans have been for naught, over a female! And a *CAT!*!” Darke spat.

Crayzed Wolf gently grasped Darke's shoulder with his robotic arm. “Watch your tongue,” he said with deceptive calm. “Our plans do not need to be thrown out. We may have lost the Idol...for now...but there are other artifacts that we can use!”

Darke Wolf held very still once Crayzed touched him, knowing the Colonel's violent change in moods made him unstable when he was angry. Darke had seen Crayzed Wolf “play” with someone with his robotic arm before and it was not pretty. He paid close attention to what he was saying. “Other artifacts? You mean the Earrings.”

Crayzed Wolf grinned toothily. “Yes! The Earrings!”

Shaking his head, Darke Wolf gently slid out from under the massive robotic paw. “But the Earrings are a poor find. They're...twisted, corroded. How can they serve our purposes?”

Crayzed Wolf turned and tapped a metal claw on a thick, dust covered tome. “The explorer who discovered the Earrings believes there were more somewhere. Once we find them, we can use them to achieve our ends!”

“But how are we going to find them? They could be anywhere!”

Crayzed Wolf tapped the side of his nose. “You leave that to me. I have a plan to get them.”

Darke Wolf snorted. “You and your plans. What about that stupid temple??”

The Colonel grinned. “Oh come on. Tell me you didn’t think that temple was cool. The giant rubber boulder? The Gunbound carvings? And the slide at the end of it?”

Despite himself, Darke Wolf had to smile. “Okay. That temple was pretty sweet... Just poor luck that the museum called Doctor Kayngi to get the Golden Melon Idol back.”

Standing up, Colonel Crayzed Wolf nodded to his friend. “Yes.” He then turned and cleared his throat. All the wolves present immediately stopped talking and gave him their undivided attention. “Wolves of the Revolution! We have suffered a setback, a minor one. But no matter. We do not need the Idol! We will prevail! We will over run our enemies and we will crush them!” he said, shaking his robotic fist in the air.

“That’s right!” Darke Wolf said, standing next to the Colonel. “Hail to the Leader! Viva la Revolution!” The wolves echoed his words and they all tipped their heads back to howl.

Some days later, Doctor “Adventure” Kayngi slept soundly in her comfy bed, wrapped in white sheets, her dark pelt stark in comparison. Slowly, a bright light flickered in the dark room. The light resolved into a translucent figure. Slowly the shape solidified into that of a tall, graceful feline. The feline wavered in and out of focus as she opened her glowing eyes.

Kayngi scrunched her eyes tighter when the glow hit her face. She tried turning on her side to avoid the light. The glowing figure was just too bright to ignore however. With a sigh, she sat up in bed, running a hand through her raven hair. She blinked several times, adjusting her eyes to the light in the room. She scowled at the glowing figure. “Hey, whoozare?” she slurred.

The feline inclined her head in her general direction. “*Greetings, Mortal,*” a feminine distorted voice reverberated through the room. “*I am known to your kind as the Goddess Bastet.*”

Kayngi yawned and scratched at her neck. She blinked again. “Hmm? Bast’t? Whaddyah wan’?”

The figure merely wavered in and out of focus in response. “*Dr. Kayngi? Awaken! I have blessed you with my presence.*”

She turned to squint at one of her many bedside clocks. “Is three in’a mornin’!” she said. “Couldn’a wait ‘til mornin’?”

A great sigh sounded. *“I see you are not a morning person, Dr. Kayngi. You disrespect me by behaving in this manner! Most unbecoming in such a famous individual as yourself.”*

Kay scrubbed her face as she struggled to awaken fully. “I’m awake, I’m awake,” she mumbled. She scowled at the figure. “You said you were Bastet?”

The dark glowing feline dipped her head. *“You indeed have the honor of beholding Bastet in her glory, Mortal.”*

Kayngi rolled her eyes. Great, she was hallucinating. An Egyptian Goddess in her bedroom? At this hour? She must have eaten something to cause this but what? She shook her head. Her head was still muffled with sleep. Thinking straight was not coming easy. Okay, there was a see through cat in her room claiming to be the Goddess Bastet. Okay, fine. It’s never good to disbelieve a Goddess in her presence. “Ooookay. What do you want of me? It better not be anything like Jehovah’s Witnesses...”

The figure blinked slowly. *“I am not here for a membership drive or to convert you,”* the voice said. *“I came to tell you that you are needed in Egypt.”*

Kayngi blinked and frowned. “Egypt? What’s going on in Egypt?”

Slowly the figure shook her head. *“All will become clear when you arrive.”*

Running a hand through her hair once again, Kayngi pondered the so called Goddess’ words. “And why should I go to Egypt for you? Hmm? You come into my home, uninvited, and you wake me up in the middle of the night! You could have called ahead. I make a mean cup of tea and my students seem to really enjoy my cookies...along with my muffins...and they just love my hot buns!”

There was a pause of a few moments. Kayngi was not sure but she thought she heard a faint sound. Almost like a drool... Before she could be certain a deep growl sounded. *“You will go because you OWE me! You came to my homeland and you dug it up! You went into the dead’s tombs and desecrated their graves! You took their belongings that they needed in the afterlife! For that, you will go to Egypt where my people need you. You can make restitution for your crimes by offering your services now.”*

Kayngi blinked at the tirade. “Well...if you put it like that... I suppose I can go. But wait! Why me? There are other explorers and archeologists that did far more damage than I. Why come to me?”

The figure began to dissipate and the voice grew softer. *“None of them are as well known or well liked as you. You going there will draw the public eye and will alert the world to the atrocities committed. And...you are a cat...”* The feline dissolved into nothingness.

Shaking her head, Kayngi punched her pillow into shape again and lay back down. Egypt...again. She grumbled. She didn’t have anything against Egypt. But the

SAND! Sand got EVERYWHERE!! As soon as she so much as stepped foot into a desert, sand had attached itself to herself, her clothing, her luggage, her clothing, her gear, and her clothing! And sand inside your clothes is an interesting experience at the best of times. But...sand in your underwear? She shuddered. But if she was ever going to find out about what was going on, she'd have to put up with it.

She was able to organize things for an extended absence relatively quickly. The University was well aware of her propensity to take off on a jaunt at a moment's notice. They were used to it. It came with having someone named "Adventure" on staff. But her exploits brought attention to the University and so they thought it was well worth the hassle of finding professors to handle her classes.

The sun was high overhead in Cairo when Kayngi alighted from the small plane. She turned and grinned at the Maine Coon pilot. "Thanks for the ride, Cateagle!"

Cateagle chuckled. "Anytime, Dr. Kay! Glad to be of service."

"You need to be anywhere anytime soon?" she asked him as they walked out of the hangar. When he shook his head, she smiled. "Would you mind sticking around then? I have no clue what it is I'll be doing and I may need you to ferry me about."

"It'll be an honor to "ferry" you about, Kay," he said with a smile. "Go on, find what it is you need to do. I gotta take care of ol' Betsy here."

Kayngi shook her head as she chuckled. "I still can't believe you named your plane like a cow..." Cateagle laughed as he turned and headed back to the plane.

Kayngi walked into the city, lost in thought. Well, she arrived in Egypt. What was she supposed to do now? What would that hallucination have wanted her to do? She shook her head at herself. This was ridiculous. Obeying something she dreamed up. But then...if she didn't, then she would never know what this would all lead to.

Suddenly she brightened. She was Adventure Kay! What else was she to do? Find the museum! She quickly found the museum and entered, asking to see the curators at the front desk.

After a few short moments, two jackals appeared, all smiles. "Adventure Kayngi! What an honor it is to have you in our establishment once again. Fate must have brought you to us."

She cocked her head as she followed them to their offices. "Fate? What makes you say that?" she asked.

The jackals looked to each other before answering. "We have reason to believe that Bastet's Earrings are going to be stolen."

She raised her eyebrows. "Bastet's Earrings? I've seen the specimens here in the museum. They're very poor quality. Why would anyone want to take them?"

Once inside the office, the jackals offered her a comfy chair and a drink. She sat, curling her tail gracefully around her ankles, and accepted a cup. “The Earrings we have on display were found nearly six decades ago. The explorer believed that there were other sets, however he was never able to find them. We think that the thieves will try to get all of the Earrings.”

Kayngi frowned as she sipped her drink. “Mmm, iced mocha, just the way I like it,” she said, licking her lips. Then she turned back to the curators. “How do you know all of this?”

One of them handed her a card and a note. She rolled her eyes dramatically as she saw the insignia. “The Wolf Revolution. I should have known,” she muttered. She read the note attached. “HA HA HA! We, the Brothers of the Wolf Revolution have set our eyes on you and we will prevail! The Earrings of Bastet will be ours! ALL of them! And there’s nothing you can do to stop us! Nyah nyah nyah.” She chuckled as she handed the note back. “I can’t believe they actually wrote Nyah nyah nyah.”

One jackal frowned. “This is no laughing matter, Adventure Kay. This is very serious. The Earrings are said to have belonged to the Goddess Bastet herself! Anyone wearing the Earrings will therefore have the blessings of the Goddess.”

Kayngi’s eyebrows shot up. Perhaps the figure in her room wasn’t a hallucination after all. “We definitely don’t need the WR to be blessed by Bastet. Let me think here,” she murmured, standing up and pacing. She searched her memory for any lore of the Earrings. “If I recall correctly, they grant the wearer nine lives, like the old wives tale about cats.”

The jackals nodded. “That’s it supposedly. We think that whoever wears the Earrings will be given nine lives, for EACH Earring.”

She turned back to them. “For each? How many are there?”

They slowly shook their heads. “We are not sure. We have two here at the Museum, though they may disintegrate if anyone attempts to wear them. But they alone would make anyone nearly invincible!”

Kayngi nodded slowly. “You are most correct. We can’t afford anyone to get the Earrings. Especially not the Wolf Revolution,” she mused. “Are you capable of safeguarding the Earrings you have here?”

The jackals nodded. “Yes, Doctor. They are very safe here. When we received the note, we pulled them from display and they are now hidden in our multitude of storerooms.”

She nodded. “Good. I guess there’s no other option. I must find the other Earrings before the WR does.”

The jackals looked surprised. “YOU will find them? Many an explorer has

searched the entirety of Egypt and not one of them has found the other Earrings!”

She smiled softly. “That may be true, but they are not me. If you’ll excuse me, gentlemen? I need to contact people before I get started.”

They rose to their feet and bowed to her. “Of course. If there’s anything we can do to help you, do not hesitate to ask us.”

She nodded graciously at them. “Thank you. I will use your phone.”

One gestured to the phone on the ornate desk. “Please feel free. My cohort and I will leave you in peace.” They bowed again and left the room.

Kayngi sat down once again and drained her iced mocha. Then she rapidly dialed a number. A masculine voice speaking Spanish answered. She smiled. “Hello again, Maxx,” she said.

“Kay!” Maxx called. “Dude, I was just thinking of ya!”

She chuckled. “You know me, Maxx, I’m Queen of Timing!”

He laughed. “I thought you were Adventure Kay!”

“I’m Queen of Timing as well, you know,” she said, grinning.

“Yeah yeah yeah. So what’s going on?”

“I need you to do me a favor,” she responded.

“Ooooh, Kay. I knew you’d need me. I’ll bring the chocolate syrup.”

She laughed heartily. “Thank you kindly, Maxx, but that’s not what I need.”

She could hear him pouting. “Awwwww.”

Shaking her head with a smile, she continued. “I need you to look up information on our friends, the Wolf Revolution.”

Instantly his voice sobered. “What, the WR? Sure thing, Kay. What’s going on? Where are you?”

“I’m in Cairo. They’re going to try to steal Bastet’s Earrings. But we need to know more about them. We’re dealing blind with them. Find out everything you can about them and relay to me.”

“You got it, babe. You watch your back. They’re dangerous,” Maxx said.

Kayngi grinned into the phone. “Don’t worry too much about me, Maxx. I know how to take care of myself. Besides, ‘Danger’ is my middle name!”

He laughed. “Hey, I thought ‘Trouble’ was your middle name?”

She rolled her eyes and shook her head. “Bye, Maxx. Call me back later on my cell.” Then she hung up, already thinking of whom else she could call. She picked up the receiver once again and dialed. She checked her watch and did a quick calculation. “Should still be in the office,” she murmured.

After a couple of rings, another masculine voice answered. “Hello, Professor Cirrel speaking.”

She smiled into the phone. “Hello, Cirrel.”

“Kayngi! Nice to hear from you, my dear. To what do I owe the pleasure?”

“Great to hear from you, too, Prof. I need you to look something up for me,” she said. She could hear his chair squeaking as it turned.

“What are you looking for?” he asked.

“Look up where Bastet’s Earrings were found for me, please?” she asked.

She could almost hear Cirrel frown. “The Earrings? I taught you better than that, my dear. You should know.”

She chuckled. “Oh, I probably do, but this gave me an excuse to call you and listen to your sexy voice. Besides, I’ve studied various other things since your class if you recall.”

He chuckled. “Now that is true.”

Kayngi could hear typing in the background as Cirrel searched his archives on the computer. She chuckled. “Why, Professor, are you actually looking something up? Tsk tsk tsk.”

Cirrel smiled into the phone. “I’m older than you. I have an excuse why my brain doesn’t work. Here it is. The Earrings were found at Bastet’s Temple in Bubastis in the Delta.”

“Thanks, Prof! How are my classes going?”

“Oh, they’re managing. Your students miss you, though. Seems I’m a poor substitute when they’ve had you in front of them.”

She chuckled. “Oh, I can only imagine. Thanks again, Prof! I’ll fill you in on everything when I get back.”

“I expect a full report on my desk the morning you get back, young lady! Seriously, Kayngi. You be careful out there.”

“I will.” Then she hung up and left the museum. She wandered out in Cairo, pondering. If she was going up against the Wolf Revolution again, she would need back up. Who could she call to come and help her out? Someone who could come right away and strike fear into anyone in on sight.

She smiled. Of course! She put a hand into her briefcase and pulled out a slim device with a button in on it. She looked around the crowded streets. Hmm, better not be in the area when it went off or else she might get hurt. She casually dropped the device on a table that she passed and walked by. She glanced behind her once or twice to keep an eye on it.

Sure enough, some fur found it and picked it up. He turned it over in his hands, frowning. Seeing the button, he pressed it. Kayngi quickly covered her ears as the Badger Signal went off. Excruciatingly loud refrains of “BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-BADGER-MUSHROOM-MUSHROOM!!” filled the air.

The crowd froze for a brief moment, then broke out in mass hysteria. The sound waves were so loud that store windows shattered. Pandemonium and chaos erupted in the street as furs raced to either get away from the Badger Signal or find a way to turn it off. Screams filled the air until the signal was destroyed by rampaging furs.

Kayngi shook her head. She hated doing that in the middle of the city, but it needed to be done. She continued walking. She knew the Badger Brigade would get the signal eventually and show up. Hopefully by the next day.

In the next section of town, the Badger Signal did not cause as much havoc. She could see that the furs were agitated but nowhere near as murderous as those near ground zero. It was in this section that she saw someone she recognized sitting with another fur in a sidewalk cafe. She raised an eyebrow. It was very bold of him to be so open. How many other wolves are there with purple fur and a robotic arm?

She smiled and walked up to him. “Colonel! What a nice surprise!” she said in a voice dripping with honey.

Crayzed Wolf stiffened and slowly turned in his seat to face her. “Kay! How-how nice it is to see you again!” he stammered, his tongue lolling out of his maw.

His companion, another wolf, scowled at him and elbowed him in the ribs. “What are you doing?” he hissed softly.

Crayzed Wolf growled at him. “I’m talking to the nice lady.”

Kayngi smiled. “Would you boys mind if I joined you? I’m feeling a little...peckish,” she said.

Crayzed Wolf quickly gestured her to the open chair. “Please feel free!”

She sat and offered a dazzling smile to him and the other wolf, who seemed slightly stunned. “Thank you kindly. Who’s your friend?”

He nodded to the other wolf. “This is Hurtful Wolf. Hurtful, this is Doctor Kayngi, known to everyone lovingly as Adventure Kay.”

Hurtful Wolf’s eyes narrowed. “THAT’S Adventure Kay? What are you doing

talking to her?" he demanded. His hand went to his inside pocket.

Crayzed Wolf's massive robotic hand stayed him. "What do you think you're doing? This is merely a friendly chat."

"She's the one who wrecked our last plans!" he growled. "And you're talking openly with her!"

"Oh come now, boys," Kayngi said with a purr. "Hurtful, put away your gun. I'm not going to hurt you. I'm just chatting with my friend the Colonel. Besides, are you seriously thinking of gunning me down in broad daylight in front of everyone?"

Hurtful stared at her for a few moments before he pulled his hand away from Crayzed with a glare. "No," he muttered.

She smiled at him and turned to Crayzed Wolf. "Sorry about the whole Idol thing. The museum was most insistent that I get it back. I hope I didn't get you into too much trouble."

Crayzed waved his hand. "A bit but it was worth it to see your lovely face again."

She smiled at him. "You're so sweet to say that. But besides, you wouldn't have been able to use it even if you had it."

Crayzed Wolf's eyebrows rose. "You discovered its power?"

She nodded. "Yes, I did, rather by accident. But, it only works if you're female."

He frowned in confusion. "Female? Why?"

She leaned closer with an impish grin. "The Power of Boobies Compels you!" she whispered. "And frankly, you don't have the boobs to pull it off."

Crayzed Wolf's eyes glazed over and roved over her chest. "Whereas you most certainly do," he said with a grin.

Kayngi put her chin on her hand as she looked at the pair of wolves. "Now, what's this I hear about Bastet's Earrings?"

Crayzed Wolf laughed as he wagged his finger. "Now now, where's the fun in me telling you? Don't you worry your pretty little head, Miss Kayngi. If you're nice to me, I may give you one as a present. If you'd like, you can trade one of your hot buns for it," he said suggestively with a bit of drool.

She pouted as her mind raced. Her hot buns? How did Crayzed know about her cooking skills? And that drooling noise. She recognized it. Could it be that the WR was behind the appearance of the Goddess in her bedroom? "Oh, come on, Colonel, baby. Aren't you going to at least tell me how you're getting the Earrings?"

Hurtful looked disgusted. "We're consorting with a *CAT*, Colonel," he said.

Crayzed Wolf growled at Hurtful. “Yes, but she’s different! You will be respectful to her!” he ordered.

Hurtful glowered but looked away. “My apologies, Miss.”

Kayngi smiled. “Oh, there’s no problem. I’ve been treated rudely before. It’s not a big deal.”

Crayzed Wolf stood up. “Yes, but not by us. I look forward to going head to head with you over the Earrings, Kay,” he said with a smile. He held out a small bag. “I was rather hoping to run into you. I got these in on the off chance I would. They’re chocolates.” He smacked Hurtful Wolf. “Let’s go,” he growled. He flagged down a waiter as they were about to go. “Take care of my friend here,” he said to him, handing him a fistful of currency.

“As you wish,” the monkey waiter said, bowing respectfully.

Kayngi ordered a drink as she watched the wolves walk away. What was going on in the WR? What was it about? She shook her head. Hopefully Maxx would find some answers.

Her golden eyes fell upon the small bag of chocolates. Not being able to help herself, she opened the bag and inhaled. She sighed, savoring the scent. But she was no one’s fool. Though she doubted Crayzed Wolf would have drugged the candy, she didn’t know if Hurtful would. She’d save it for analysis.

She was sipping her drink when Cateagle found her. He laughed heartily when she waved him over. “I can’t believe you set off the Badger Signal in the middle of Cairo,” he said, taking a seat.

She shrugged. “It needed to be done. The Wolf Revolution is in town and I need someone to watch my back. The Badgers are formidable enough.”

Cateagle nodded somberly. “That is definitely true. Well, now what?”

She waved down the waiter. “We wait. Maxx needs to call me back and the Badgers will take some time to get here and find us.”

Thousands of miles away, every ear of the Badger Brigade turned to the opening of their Lair. “The Badger Signal! Someone is desperate enough to call for us,” Mapper said. The other badgers nodded their heads. “Where did the signal originate?” he demanded as he stood up.

A badger by the giant world radar searched for the blip. “Sir! Looks like Egypt, sir! Cairo to be exact, sir!”

“Cairo??” Mapper repeated. He mused to himself. “Who would have the Badger Signal and be in Egypt?”

The radar badger saluted. “Sir! Only one fur I can think of, sir! Surprised you didn’t think of her right away, sir!”

Mapper smiled. “Of course. The good Doctor Kayngi. Well we can’t leave a lady waiting! Let’s rock! Radar, you’re up,” he said to the radar badger. “Gunner, Tank, you guys, too. To the Badger Mobile!”

Elsewhere, another notorious fur’s eyes widened. SkunkFox was alone in his home when he suddenly got the overwhelming urge to molest and maim somefur, ANY fur. He frowned. Odd...he only did that when the Badger Signal went off somewhere within hearing distance...

The next day, the Badger Brigade landed in Cairo. They took in the destruction in the middle of town and shook their heads. “She must need us awful bad to set it off in da middle o’ town like dat,” Tank commented.

Mapper nodded in agreement. “Radar, you know the coordinates where the signal originated?”

“Sir! Yes, sir! In the middle of that mess, sir!”

Mapper rolled his eyes. “Fine then how are we supposed to find her?”

“Check hotels?” Gunner suggested.

Mapper shook his head. “Too many in the area.”

“Den, de airport?” Tank offered.

Thinking, Mapper nodded. “Good plan. She usually has a pilot helping her by this time. Let’s go! To the Badger Mobile!”

“Sir! We’re already IN the Badger Mobile, sir!” Radar pointed out.

Mapper looked down in the vehicle and deflated a bit. “Oh, er, ah, um so we are...to the airport then!”

They found the hangar where Cateagle was tidying up his plane. Before they could call out, Mapper found himself being hugged from behind. “Mapper! Glad you boys could make it!”

He turned around with a grin. “Kayngi! Now that’s a nice welcome.”

She smiled and greeted the others of the Badger Brigade. “Now I’m sure you lot are curious to know why I called you here. I need to find Bastet’s Earrings before the Wolf Revolution does. I happen to know there are at least two WR agents in Cairo right now searching for them as well. We need to get them first.”

Mapper nodded in understanding. “And you need us to watch your back in case you run into more of these guys?”

She nodded. “Exactly. Think you boys are up for it?”

The Badger Brigade all saluted. “Ma’am! Yes, ma’am!” Radar spoke for them.

She smiled. “Then let’s get going! Cateagle! Are we ready to rock?”

He nodded and beckoned to the plane. “Always!”

They flew out to Bubastis that day. Mapper grilled Kayngi for information about the WR. “Know thy enemy. Tell us what you got.”

She shook her head. “I set Maxx onto information gathering about them. He didn’t turn up much. They’re a secretive group. All he got was that they don’t seem overly fond of cats. Makes me surprised that the good Colonel has taken to me so.”

Gunner shook his head, lovingly stroking his gun. “I don’t like going in blind. But we’ll handle them.”

Tank nodded. “Don’ worry abou’ dat, miss,” he said. “We got yer back.”

They landed at the Temple. “Cateagle, stay in the skies for me. I need your eyes. It’s pretty flat here. We didn’t see any signs of the wolves on the way here but if they come, we need to see them coming,” Kayngi said to the pilot.

Cateagle nodded his head. “Right you are. Eyes in the sky, that’s me.”

She waved to him as he took off once again, then led the way into the Temple. Inside was very bright so she didn’t need a torch. She shook her head at the interior. “Looks like those explorers did a number in here. They gutted the place!”

The badgers looked around, standing at the ready in case they were needed for any action. “If you say so,” Gunner said.

She led them through the temple and sifted through the debris. “The Earrings have got to be here. But where...?”

Mapper never kept his eyes in place for long, always scanning and looking for trouble. “Heh, we ARE in a temple. You know priests, needing secret passageways to get into town for a beer or a female. Maybe we should look for one,” he joked.

Kayngi however slapped her forehead. “Of course!!”

Mapper turned to stare at her. “Um, I was just kidding.”

She shook her head as she turned and hurried back down the corridor. “Not a passageway, a secret chamber! Why leave anything valuable like the Goddess’ Earrings out where everyone could see or get to it?” She searched the walls. “If I were a secret chamber, where would I be?” she mused to herself.

She stopped when she got to a large panel. "It must be here," she said stepping back.

Mapper stopped scanning the chamber for aggressors and faced the Doctor. "What makes you say that?"

She pointed to the carvings and hieroglyphs. "That's supposed to be Bastet the Goddess. And the writings say that the Earrings are protected by the Goddess. And...it says through this way to get them," she said with a grin.

The badgers all chuckled. "No sense o' subtlety in dem ancients," Tank grunted.

Radar looked over the wall. "Ma'am! How we supposed to get through to the Earrings, Ma'am!"

Gunner stepped up and readied his gun. "I can take out that wall," he said with a growl. "Give me a shot!"

Tank put his massive paw on Gunner's gun. "Don' need ta blast troo iffen we don' gotta. Save yer bullets for da wolves." Gunner reluctantly swung his gun barrel away.

Suddenly the wall slid back with a deep scraping noise. Mapper stared at it incredulously. "How-how'd you do that?" he asked Kayngi.

She smiled and shrugged. "The hieroglyphs said 'Do not push this button' so I did. And it worked!"

The badgers followed her as she stepped into the chamber. "How did you know it would open the wall?" Mapper asked.

She shook her head. "I didn't know for sure. But, when the Goddess told you to not do something, by golly you best not do it! I figured it would have to be that. And...I'm a cat. Telling me not to push something is never a good idea. I usually end up pushing it!" The badgers chuckled at her.

Just inside the hidden chamber, Kayngi activated her radio. "Eyes in the sky, how's it going up there?"

Cateagle looked down around the area of the Temple. "Pretty quiet up here, Doc. No sign of wolves anywhere. Or anything else for that matter."

Kayngi frowned. "Okay, thanks. Keep an eye out." She turned off the radio. "Where are they?" she murmured to herself.

Gunner shook his head. "I don't like this," he muttered.

She looked back at him. "Neither do I, but here we are. Let's find the Earrings and get out of here."

The chamber was very dark, so both Gunner and Tank flipped on the lights

attached to their weaponry. Kayngi shook her head. “Flashlights...” she sighed.

Inside the chamber, they found a large treasure store. She smiled triumphantly. “That has to be it!” Sure enough, on a pedestal, were rows of golden hoops with a simple tear drop charm. She reverently gathered up the Earrings and set them in a cloth bag. “Right, we got what we came for. Let’s get back.”

“Wait!” Gunner said, looking at the rest of the golden jewelrey, statues, and vessels. “What about the rest of this stuff?”

Kayngi glanced it over before she turned and started back. “We didn’t come here for those. Besides, they sat here undisturbed for millennia. I’m not going to be the one to drag them back to civilization. Let them rest here where they belong. There’s been enough looting of Egyptian ancient history.”

The badgers looked back at the treasure thoughtfully before following her. “That’s a good point,” Mapper said.

Kayngi called Cateagle back down to pick them up. He shook his head. “It was rather anticlimactic if you ask me. I thought for sure that a horde of wolves was going to rush the Temple.”

She frowned. “Yes, this is entirely too easy.”

Mapper grunted. “So you didn’t need us after all?”

She turned to him with a smile. “Looks like I may not have. But would you say you’re sorry you came?”

The badgers smiled sheepishly. “Ma’am! Always a pleasure to aid you, Ma’am!” Radar said.

She patted him as she entered the plane. “This just doesn’t sit right with me,” she said. “I know the Colonel is out there. Why isn’t he here trying to get the Earrings?”

Tank shrugged. “He dun know where dey are?” he offered.

Gunner polished his gun. “Perhaps he wishes to get them from you,” he said softly.

Kayngi froze and stared at him. “Why do you say that?” she demanded.

He looked up at her. “It makes sense to me. Why go look for something when you don’t know where it is? It’s better to take it from someone who does know.”

She growled. “That’s it.”

Mapper cuffed Gunner. “Hey, stop playing with the nice lady!”

She shook her head. “No, I was agreeing with him! I knew there was something wrong here. I’ve been set up!”

She had the badgers' attention. "How so?" Gunner asked.

She told them of the appearance of the so-called "Goddess" in her bedroom and her meeting of with Crayzed Wolf at the café. "I bet they had this planned all along. They got me to get the Earrings for them."

"But how are they planning on getting them from you?" Gunner asked.

She shook her head. "I don't know."

"Hmm, probably not a bad thing we're here after all," Mapper said.

Kayngi pulled out the small bag of chocolates Crayzed Wolf gave her. "He gave me this. Just like the first time I met him. He gave me chocolate then too. And right now, I need some."

Tank grabbed her forearm. "You crazy? Eatin' somethin' da enemy gave you?"

She smiled at him. "I had them analyzed. They're clear of anything." She popped a chocolate in her mouth and closed her eyes, savoring.

She passed the bag around to the badgers. Everyone took a piece and passed on the bag until it got to Radar. He took his piece then held onto the bag. "Ma'am! Did you check out the bag, Ma'am!"

She opened her eyes and looked over at him. "Check the bag? For what?"

"Ma'am! Lot of things can be concealed in the bag, Ma'am!" he said.

Kayngi leaned toward him. "It didn't occur to me to check it out. What kind of things are we talking here?"

Radar set the bag on his lap and rummaged in his equipment. He put on a large set of earphones and held out a wand. He waved it over the bag and instantly grimaced. "Ma'am! Small electronic device, Ma'am! Hidden in a crease, Ma'am!"

She frowned. "What kind of electronic device? A bug?"

He shook his head. "Ma'am! No, Ma'am! Sounds like a homing device, Ma'am!" She growled in response.

Mapper also shook his head. "Well, now we know how they were going to find you," he said.

Suddenly, Kayngi brightened. "Well, let them find me," she smiled.

The badgers all looked at each other then turned back to the Doctor. "You got somethin' cookin' in dat brain o' yers," Tank said.

She nodded. "Yes, and you boys can help me."

Back in Cairo, Hurtful Wolf followed the bleeps on his small portable screen as he tracked Doctor Kayngi. Crayzed Wolf was right behind him. “How much farther is she?” he demanded.

Hurtful growled. “Look, we’re closing in. You may want to ease up a bit if you won’t want anyone to get hurt. That’s what you said, right?”

The Colonel glowered at Hurtful then took a deep breath. “You are right, as much as it pains me to admit. I don’t care who you hurt as long as it’s NOT Kay!”

Hurtful Wolf rolled his eyes but said nothing. “She’s near here.”

They rounded the corner and froze. Doctor Kayngi was walking up to the museum, surrounded by the Badger Brigade. Crayzed Wolf cursed. “Dammit!”

Hurtful Wolf eyed the group. “How are we going to get the Earrings from her now?” he asked.

The Colonel’s eyes lit up as he stared down at his minion. “Create a diversion. Draw those badgers away from her!”

He looked up at Crayzed Wolf. “What? How the hell am I supposed to do that?”

For an answer, the Colonel grabbed Hurtful’s gun and fired it into the air. The badgers all surrounded Kayngi and looked for the source of the shots. Crayzed Wolf put the gun back into Hurtful Wolf’s hand. “Like that! Run! They’ll chase you! Take pot shots as needed.”

With a shocked glance at the Colonel, Hurtful Wolf started running away. The badgers caught sight of the movement and immediately followed. Smirking to himself, Crayzed Wolf sauntered up to the dark feline. “Well, my dear. It seems your protectors have left you.”

Kayngi looked up at the large wolf, a soft grin on her face. “Gee, it certainly looks that way,” she said, twirling a lock of hair around her fingers.

Crayzed Wolf followed the motion for a few moments then shook himself. “Now, none of that, Adventure Kay. You know what I want. Give it to me. And throw in the Earrings as well,” he said, smiling suggestively.

Her face hardened. “I can’t let you have the Earrings.”

Crayzed Wolf sighed and gently caressed her arm with his robotic arm. “I was hoping you wouldn’t make me do this,” he said, working his way up to her neck. He held his metal claws on her neck, not making any aggressive moves. “Just give them to me. You know I don’t want to hurt you.”

Glaring at him for a few moments, Kayngi sighed. “I know you don’t. And I know I can’t win a fight with you.” Reluctantly, she held out a cloth bag.

Crayzed Wolf grabbed the bag with his real arm and quickly looked inside. Gold



Hearing that, Crayzed Wolf came to his senses and he put on another burst of speed. Hurtful dashed out just behind the Colonel, his shoulder blades itching, sure he was about to get hit.

The badgers opened fire on the fleeing wolves, tearing up the street. They continued chasing the wolves for a few blocks before they let them get away. Satisfied, they turned back to find Kayngi. “Are you okay?” Gunner asked her when they found her brushing herself off.

She smiled and nodded. “Oh yeah, just dandy. It went just like I predicted. Come on, let’s get to the museum.”

“Dey took da bag den?” Tank asked as they walked back.

She nodded. “Yep! I’m not surprised. Good thing I had you boys buy the fake earrings for me. They were probably tracking my every move since he gave me that bag of chocolates. They would have seen me deviate from my route to the museum. But they couldn’t see where you boys went!”

Mapper nodded. “Always glad to help out.”

She laughed as they headed back to the museum. “I only wish I could see them wearing those things! Or the look on their faces when they realize the earrings don’t work!”

Inside the museum, Kayngi handed over the real Earrings to the curators. “And there we are! The WR probably won’t be bothering you for these anytime soon. But just in case, I’d keep them locked away for awhile.”

The jackals bowed gratefully to her. “Adventure Kay is most kind! Marvelous that you were able to find them so quickly!”

She grinned. “I told you I would get them. I always get my artifacts!”

Crayzed Wolf tipped the bag out onto his hand when they were safely away on the Wolf Revolution private jet. He looked down at the glittering earrings in his palm, a triumphant grin on his face. “Did I not tell you this would work?”

Hurtful Wolf scowled at him. “Yeah yeah yeah. You think those things will really work?” he asked dubiously.

Crayzed already held one up to his ear. “Which one do you like better on me? This one?” He held up another earring to his other ear. “Or this one?”

Hurtful shook his head. “It doesn’t matter, they’re both dangly earrings.”

Crayzed looked at the earrings in either hand and considered. He finally chose one and inserted it into his ear. “How does that look?”

Hurtful Wolf rolled his eyes. “Fine, Colonel.”

Crayzed Wolf pouted. “You didn’t even look at me,” he said.

Grumbling to himself, he looked over to him. “You look silly.”

Crayzed Wolf grunted. “But how silly would I be if they gave me eighteen lives?” he asked.

Hurtful still looked doubtful. “I don’t know. Hey, how are you going to see if those things really work?”

Crayzed Wolf turned his head from side to side, causing the earrings to jingle. “Have a volunteer put one on. And kill him.”

Hurtful frowned. “Colonel, NO ONE’S going to volunteer for that.”

Crayzed Wolf blinked. “Hmm. I guess they wouldn’t.”

Hurtful Wolf held up his gun. “We can always use YOU for the guinea pig,” he suggested with a dark grin.

Crayzed quickly pushed the gun barrel away. “Never you mind about that. We’ll just use them in our next venture. We will have our proof then.”

Hurtful shook his head as he holstered his weapon. “Whatever you say, Colonel.”

Kayngi looked over her bedroom with a fine toothed comb when she arrived, with the aid of Radar’s equipment. Finally, she discovered the hidden device in a vase of flowers. She smiled, remembering. Crayzed Wolf had been sending her flowers for several days and she had run out of places to put them elsewhere in her house. That wolf must have tried the whole Goddess bit every night. She laughed at the thought.

She shook her head as she threw out the flowers with the device. Then she turned her mind to the University. She would have to resume her classes now that this latest jaunt was over with. She smiled as she went down to the kitchen. She always baked something for her students when she returned from anywhere. She wasn’t kidding when she said they really loved her hot buns...