

From the Doctor in Wonderland

By Don Zolidis

GRYPHON, an imaginary creature in prison.

GRYPHON

So I says to her, I have it on good authority that you've been eating the tarts yourself. What do say to that, your majesty? And she looks at me like oi – you're a freak. And I say, I was born this way, I can't help it that I'm part lion and part eagle. I don't even know how my parents got together to be honest with you. But that's neither here nor there. So I says, I may be a freak, but the people want to know the answers to these questions. That was dumb. So she looks around, she goes – “Do you want to know the answers to this freak's questions?” And everyone yells “Nooo!” And I'm like, getting a bad feeling, right? She says, “what should we do with this freak?” “OFF WITH HIS HEAD!” That's not nice. Not a nice thing to hear. She says I'm gonna chop off your stupid eagle head and sew a lion head back on you. So I says “oh yeah, I'd like to see you try!” So that's why I'm here.

It's been nice. Being alive. A lot of magical creatures don't get that chance on account of them being imaginary. You don't see any unicorns around. You know what I'm gonna miss? When I'm dead? Conversations. I'm a conversationalist. They'll probably preserve my skull. Then I'll be a conversation piece. That'll be interesting. Course I'll be dead, what do I care? You suppose your brain can think things when you're dead?

Then how would you know you're dead? If I never know I'm dead, I'm basically immortal, right? That's a nice thought. Like puppies. Love them puppies. So soft and tender. Melt in your mouth.

CARA

Would you be quiet please I'm trying to ruminate.

GRYPHON

Oh sure yeah. Of course. I'll be quiet. I love ruminating. I do that sometimes. Sit in a field. Ruminating. Ruminating again.

(short pause)

Not a lot of time for ruminating, to be honest with you. So many distractions. Noises. Little creatures moving about. Puppies. Mmmm... puppies.