

Underleveled
By Angelus

Smudge tumbled into the Final Boss room, winded from the battle leading up to it. The haggard red rabbit slammed the big doors behind him, and they locked automatically, meaning no enemies could get in, but neither could he get out. He leaned back against the gigantic door and pushed his ears and purple hair back to keep them from falling over his eyes. It was amazing that Smudge had made it all this way at his low level, but the pinkish rabbit had an overblown sense of pride for succeeding. All that remained was the final boss!

Smudge stood up straight and walked down a long, stone walkway towards a central arena, noting how typical the place looked. Tall stone walls that ascended into darkness. A perfectly circular stone platform with large braziers to provide a menacing light. A pool of lava on either side of the walkway. It was all pretty expected. He kept his eyes open as he approached the central platform, waiting for the boss to appear once he was close enough.

Once he crossed from the walkway onto the center stage, the braziers all roared with bigger flames, surrounding the platform with an impenetrable ring of fire. From the darkness above, there was a roar like a thundering belch, and a large figure crashed onto the stage, shaking the room and kicking up a dust cloud. The impact knocked Smudge onto his ass and left him sputtering with a mouthful of dust.

A huge shadow rose from within the dust, towering over Smudge. Sharp eyes glowed, and it took a heavy step towards the small rabbit. "Sheesh, my minions are letting chumps like you through Castle Sovereign? I need a better strategy. Or better minions." As the dust cleared, the boss' form became clear.

The boss was Kit, a bulky toucan about twice Smudge's standing height, with spiked collars around its neck, wrists, and ankles. The light of the flames was reflected in square-framed glasses that sat atop its beak, making it look extra menacing as it took another thudding step towards Smudge.

Before Smudge could get up, Kit pinned him under its paw, giving him a close-up look at its gleaming toe ring. Smudge grunted under the weight of that paw and tried to lift it with both arms, but he couldn't budge it an inch. "Get the hell off me!"

"What was that? Can't really hear you down there!" Kit shuffled its foot forward, covering Smudge up to the chin.

Smudge froze up, and his cheeks warmed with an involuntary blush. "Gah! Knock it off!" He used his arms and legs to try and lift Kit, but the big boss was just too heavy to be budged by the weak rabbit. His resistance weakened as he found himself staring at those big toes, admiring the teal and goldenrod colors.

"Are you even trying? I could swear my toe ring has higher stats than your whole body." Kit yawned and lifted its paw before flicking Smudge away with one toe. Smudge bounced away, skittering dangerously close to the wall of flames before he lost momentum.

Kit snorted and beckoned Smudge with both hands. "Come on pipsqueak, get up and get over here so I can squash you properly!"

"Feh! The only one getting squashed here is you!" Smudge shot back as he leaped to his feet with all the agility one might expect of a rabbit. He stood defiant and tall before Kit,

though even with his chest puffed out he was both shorter and of smaller build than the boss bird before him.

"Yeah huh, and how are you gonna do that when I can do this?" Kit grabbed Smudge in both hands and lifted him off the ground, holding him by the waist and leaving him kicking in protest.

"Hey, I-let go, play fair!" Smudge was flustered from being swept off his feet, but he still showed defiance as he punched at Kit's hands, to little effect.

"I am playing fair. If you weren't such a wimpy level you could probably wiggle free. But the fact that you're here while so underpowered makes me think you wanted this to happen, huh?" Kit lifted Smudge up to eye level and sneered at him.

"As if! I just knew it would be easy to-"

"BHUUORRRPP!" Kit cut off Smudge by belching at the rabbit with enough force to blow his floppy ears back. Smudge was dazed by the blast, indicated by a small "Stunned" icon above his head. "Sorry, but you were making my fingers sore batting at them like that. Now let me think, what am I gonna do with you anyways?" Kit let its arms down and pressed Smudge against its chubby middle, giving the stunned rabbit an earful of gurgling gut noises.

The sounds perked Smudge out of his daze, and his red face turned a darker shade as blush flooded his cheeks. "Ghhgg..! F-fight me for reals!" He insisted, resuming his squirming. As he struggled, he noticed the marking painted around Kit's navel. "Hehe... Bet this is your weak point, take this!" He punched at Kit's belly, and his hand sunk into the layer of fat that covered Kit's belly. A red "-1" floated out from Kit's feathers and faded away. Smudge barely noticed how little damage he did. The softness of Kit's chubby middle was distracting, and he gave it a quick squeeze, hoping the boss wouldn't notice.

"...That it, dude? That's like, extra sad. Also, that's not my weak point." Kit lifted Smudge back to eye level and glared at him over the top of its glasses. "You ARE gonna restore my hit points though."

"Okay, you *definitely* can't make me do that," Smudge insisted.

"Y'sure?" Kit's stomach growled, and it opened its beak wide, letting Smudge get a look down its throat. Smudge froze in Kit's grip, flustered despite the situation. He stared into that teal-blue mouth, eyes wandering over the thick tongue that Kit flicked around. He couldn't stop himself from imagining the bulge he'd make in that neck, and the way the spiked collar would stretch as he was squeezed down that teal throat...

Kit gave Smudge a shake to get him out of his daydream. "I can see you blushing you know. You totally want a Game Over, don't you? That's why you came all this way, weak as you are! Well, I'd be a terrible boss monster if I didn't send you back to your last save, right?" Kit got in Smudge's face, its big eyes staring through the flustered bunny. "So let's stop wasting both our time and get this over with. No one likes a stall fight anyways!" Kit opened its beak again and tossed Smudge into the air, catching the rabbit in its beak on the way down.

"Wait wait oof-!" Smudge had the wind knocked out of him as he hit Kit's tongue and got soaked through from the landing. Almost on instinct he wrapped both arms around Kit's slippery tongue and squeezed tight. "D-dang, it's unfair how hot this is you know!" Smudge finally admitted as Kit pressed him to the roof of its mouth with its tongue.

Kit tried to respond, but it couldn't speak clearly with its mouth full. To fix this, it snapped its beak shut, closing it neatly around Smudge who was now in complete darkness. He tried to

shout something, but Kit couldn't hear him, nor did it particularly care. Kit tossed its head back and swallowed, smashing Smudge against the roof of its beak to try and shake Smudge off its tongue. Smudge held on, but a second swallow overwhelmed the rabbit, and he lost his grip and slipped down Kit's throat. With a heavy *gulp*, Smudge shot down Kit's throat like a steep waterslide, and he landed in a noisy and churning gut. The landing left him disoriented and too flustered to formulate a plan of action.

"You're kind of filling, but with your low stats is kinda like eating empty carbs, you know? Ah well, junk food can be pretty good sometimes." Kit grabbed its gut and gave it a shake, making his gut slosh. Smudge was bounced around inside, making him dizzy as he tried in vain to steady himself against the slippery stomach walls. There was nothing to grab, leaving him totally at Kit's mercy. "If you were stronger, you could probably punch my gut a bit and make me cough you up, but I'm certain you'd fail the damage check for that, if you even bothered to try it," Kit snorted.

"It's... fine..." Smudge sounded winded, and was muffled through Kit's fat belly. "I'm fine in here, hrf..."

"Oohh, glad to hear you admit it, nerd! You might be celebrating a biiit too early though!" Kit chuckled and pressed its hands into its gut, squishing Smudge inside.

"Erf..! What do you mean?" Smudge had to curl up as the space around them was compressed.

"Well I'm the final boss right? I'm not just gonna eat you, I'm gonna eat all your continues and your save file too! Gonna send you right back to level zero where you belong!" Kit's stomach kicked up a rising gurgle.

"Wait, for reals? H-hey, isn't that a bit, y'know, much?" Smudge protested.

"Mmmmm nope! Maybe if you go back and redo the tutorial this won't happen to you again! But I get the feeling if you make it back here things will end the same way. So, see you on my hips, snack!" The gurgle in Kit's stomach grew louder, and its throat bulged before a loud belch burst from its beak. In an instant, Smudge was digested, save file and all, and Smudge's extra lives made for quite a lot of extra bulk.

Kit grunted and stumbled where it stood as the extra weight hit its body all at once. The spiked collars around its limbs and neck felt snug, and the painted design around its navel stretched as fat bulked out its belly. It had to widen its stance to keep balance as it became more front heavy. Kit ran its hands down its sides and under the overhang of its belly, giving it a heft to feel the weight wobble in its hands. "Man you really did a number on me. Good. Guess you were worth eating in the end!" Kit gave its gut another shake, coupled with a hokey, villainous laugh.

Its laugh was cut off by a bright "ding!" sound playing in its ears. The sound of coins being collected was unmistakable, and Kit checked their coin count, noting that all of the coins that Smudge had collected were added to its treasury. "Oh hey, thanks for the donation chump! Maybe I WILL hire those new minions with this. Or spruce up the ol' boss room, give you a nicer place to look at before I defeat you again, hah!" Kit's stomach gurgled as it double checked the coins it had earned off of Smudge.

"Well, I'm sure you'll try again after making a new save. I look forward to eating you more! Be sure to collect a lot of coins before showing up!" Kit said, more to its pudge than anything. "After all, I-uhrrpf... Uhhrrppp!" A sudden belch escaped Kit's beak, accompanied by

the words “GAME OVER” which hung in the air until Kit fanned them away. “Oh okay, NOW you’re gone, good. Hopefully you heard at least some of that.” Kit was busy kneading its fingers into its doughy belly as the wall of fire around the room died down, and an elevator platform descended so Kit could return to the top, essentially resetting the room for another encounter. It appreciated the newfound weight of every step as it got onto the lift, and the platform even seemed to rise slower than usual. Kit hoped that Smudge would be just as fattening whenever he decided to challenge Kit again.