

PLANTOPIA PANDEMONIUM



written by

and

CHAPTER 1

There is
a lonely
Toad
called
'Toad'
who
sleeps
in a mud
hole.

Toad is so lonely,
Toad forgot Toad
had genitals.

Toad slept in
the mud for many
years at a time,
with Toad's steady
companion Sybilis,
the talking
tapeworm.

When Toad woke up,
Toad's clothes were
always muddy,
so Toad went to the
city to get new
ones and catch
a snack.

Sybilis made Toad
a very hungry
amphibian.

Toad's clothes were always desperately unfashionable to the humans, but every time the flies grew larger and more plentiful.

In the year 2019,
Toad floated to the
top of his mud hole
and went into town
as usual.

Toad went to a new
shop called Zara.

Despite the rising hostility Toad felt from the humans, Toad knows a friendly family, the Papafroks, who always offers a lick of tea and a round of Backgammon.

With a fresh outfit,
Toad strutted
across town,
grabbing a fly
flavoured fava
on the way to the
Papafroks' house.

Toad sat on
rocks and rugs,
on Chippendale and
Art nouveau,
on Bauhaus and Ikea
- the family
followed the
trends.

The Papafroks' house was clean as always. This time, the linoleum and plywood had gone and was replaced with concrete and veneered mdf.

A human on a “scooter” arrived and threw them two plastic cups of “Freddo” – and a “Nespresso” for Sybilis which Toad put at the back of his chair.

They played
Backgammon on
a table next to
a windowsill filled
with the most
unusual foreign-
looking plants.
They were on the
balcony too.
Toad was looking
at them sceptically,
wondering where
these strange
succulents came from.

“Oh these exotic things? I got them at IKEA, everyone has them - they’re so convenient, you wouldn’t think they even needed to photosynthesise!”

In the usual spirit of Toad's meetings with a Papafrok, the morning became late afternoon and Toad's time came to go back to the mud hole.

Toad was exhausted from the fast pace of human life and Sybilis full of food.

Toad slept for 103 years and in the year 2122, woke up from a deep buzzing noise.

CHAPTER 2

“WHAT THE CUNT??”
exclaimed Sybilis.

Toad deservingly
called Sibilis an
“arse hole!”.

Such was their long
relationship.

Cussing aside,
the pair were more
shocked than ever
before with what
surrounded the
ancient mud hole.

Huge green limbs
grew over cars and
stretched from
balconies around.
Some force rose and
tore 2019 apart.

The streets were still and oh that throbbing sound! Toad had got used to the sounds of motorbike engines, but this was different. It seemed to be coming from the plants.

Toad padded down
the street,
surrounded by the
imposing tangle
of green limbs.
Toad had a strange
feeling that these
monsters are
familiar...
They seemed to
be from the same
flesh as dear Mr.
Papafrok's strange
IKEA succulents!

‘Oh Mr. Papafrok...

what happened??’

Toad and Sybilis
rushed, as fast as
Toad’s thick green
skin allowed, to
the Papafroks’
home.

This was bad. The last few times Toad woke up humans had been changing everything so quickly, there was so much greed and irresponsibility. Toad was hardly surprised something went wrong.

The door to the Papafrok's building had been pushed open by a plant arm and Toad cautiously followed it up the dark stairs to find its source.

Toads heartbeat was high, for an ancient amphibian, but he couldn't feel it because of the throbbing sound coming from the plants. The plants had grown into the ground and walls, taking the electricity and throwing the old furniture aside.

Toad
rested in
the house
for a
while.

Toad was
hypno-
tised
by the
sound and
lost in
memories
of the
place
before.

Strangely, the plants seemed to feel these memories too and Toad thought he heard sounds of the old house within the plants.

Toad was definitely feeling strange, maybe he needed to eat something. Sybilis was surely dying of hunger. As Toad played with that thought, the plants began to look appetising. Maybe they could be sliced into a salad with a lemon dressing or

grated and fried
into little crispy
fritters...

Toad was quite sure
these plants could
make a good meal.

As the imaginary feast was prepared, Toad wondered if the plant-filled city might be okay after all.

He could live in the Papafrok's old house with the memories, eating delicious plants.

Maybe now that Toad was alone in the human city, it was a good opportunity for Toad to take up some anti-social hobbies like free drumming and vandalism.

A drop of saliva
hits the floor and
Toad moves slowly
towards the most
tasty plant in the
room while opening
his mouth.

Toad can't hold
himself longer,
Toad hadn't eaten
in 103 years.

Toad's mouth slowly
opened

and Toad crept
forward,

the plants gets
louder and Toad
pauses.

BEFORE

LUNGING

TEETH-FIRST

AT THE GREEN

ARM!

In an instant,
Toad tastes Mr.
Papafrok's hot
tea, feels the
warm mud on his
skin and hears
laughter and Sophia
Vempo. Toad's body
vibrates with hot
energy and the
sensations become
less clear.

Toad sinks into
the floor in the
Papafrok's house,
taken by the
plants.

*Apparently, if you find yourself in this room, you can hear the world before the plants took over and the memories of an old Toad.

2122 in 2019

