

Longsnouts



At first glance, the Longsnouts looked like harmless representatives of your typical East Los Angeles escort service. But upon closer scrutiny, there was something *not quite right* about their nasaline appendages. In fact, the Snouts were *not* social companions for hire but rather a secret society of hostile humanoids from Planet Zontamk whose goal was nothing less than total subjugation of the Earth! In one of those fortuitous life-changing moments, Bob had been at the local ammonia reprocessing center one night when he overheard two of the humanoids discussing their intrigue. Feigning a fascination with the gas, he struck up a conversation with them. Within weeks, he had infiltrated the organization. And tonight, he was being ushered into the Longsnouts' sanctum sanctorum to attend a meeting of the executive committee! Following the example of three Snout members, he squatted deferentially in front of Boomdoggle, the Great Spiritual Leader of Zontamk. Well, really, a representation of her – and, in Bob's mind, not a very good one at that. Why, she looked like nothing more than a can of Sterno! When as one the Zontamkians uttered in a solemn voice "*Praise Boomdoggle, woggle-woggle!*" he had to stifle a laugh – fortunately, easy to do behind his faux snout. After the leader-glorifying was done, the aliens got down to business, thrashing out their nefarious plan in exquisite detail. Bob was aghast at the scope of the conspiracy, and resolved to warn the authorities as soon as the meeting broke up! Which it soon did. However, before he could scoot out the door, one of the aliens passed out Boomdoggle-shaped cans to everyone. The others screwed them into their nasaline bases, so he followed suit. Seconds later – and, sadly, too late to do anything about it – Bob realized that the one thing that he hadn't taken into account was the Zontamkians' love of ammonia, a hundred and ninety proof!