

Queen Quantoo's "Change of Life"



When last we heard from Queen Quantoo, she had been marooned upon a remote planet in the Gootzarnk Quadrant – whether by accident or nefarious design, she knew not. Although she had been stranded there for nearly forty zmonths, it wasn't all hardship and deprivation, thank Zoon. The W-rays from the planet's maternal star were so intense that her exoskeleton had grown a layer of attractive chitin. On the other hand, the unusual nutrient content of the indigenous snackage had contributed to some unexpected metabolic changes – most noticeably to the Queen's hearpores. What had once been her pride and zjoy – they had, after all, placed second in last year's "Most Sensual Full-Spectrum Awareness Pods Competition" – were now ... well, great Zang, what exactly *were* they?! She reached up and caressed one of them with her fingers, as she'd done a thousand times already, lingering over the nautilus-like chambers. If she tweaked them just the right way, she could pull in an alien radio station from the galaxy next door. Conversely, they were high wind hazards. On more than one occasion, a sudden terrestrial squall had unceremoniously swept the Queen right off her feet. Well, whatever. They were part of *her* now, and she'd just have to learn to enjoy them. Just then, she detected a scrabbling sound deep within the recesses of one of the chambers. She stuck in a finger and pulled out ... an earzwig, *eeenmmmmmm!* Excellent snackage it was not, however it *did* contain sufficient nutrient value to warrant ingestion. Resolutely, the Queen sucked it into her oralifice. It tickled. Moments later, another chamber blossom sprouted on her left hearpore. She sighed, well realizing that she could kiss any future "Most Sensual Full-Spectrum Awareness Pods" award good-bye.