

Fuzzy Memories

I'm sure some of you are asking: What is Fuzzy Knights, and why did my friend just shove this book into my face?

Fuzzy Knights is a cartoon that uses photographs instead of drawings. To any cartoonists out there who consider this cheating, I DARE you to try it! It ain't easy! Besides the posing, there are sets, props, lighting, and camera angles as well as overlaying text and special effects to worry about. It's more like making a silent movie than cartooning, and an average strip takes about 4-6 hours to make.

How did this all start? First of all you can blame my better half, Gillian Burns. She gave me Mossfoot shortly after we met. Mossfoot is my mascot when I go traveling. He's also my online persona, and is featured prominently on my website, exploring Tokyo and doing different things around the apartment. One of those things was roleplaying.

One day, somebody online asked me "But who does he roleplay WITH?"

Being incredibly bored at the time, I decided to do a one-shot tribute to the Knights of the Dinner Table. Mossfoot was the GM. For players I used the only other stuffed animals we had, a purple teddy bear, a Scottish rabbit, and a cheap dog I won in a grabber game at the arcade. The picture you see below was the result.

I expected that to be the end of it. But after some urging from some of the folks online, I felt compelled to make a one shot strip. I figured I could at least prove to myself I could do it. It's not like anything would come of it, right?

Fuzzy Knights first appeared on my personal website on December 8, 2002. If you asked me then if I thought it would ever be published, I would have laughed my butt off.

Fuzzy Knights first appeared in KODT Magazine in January (issue #75). If you asked me then if I

thought it would be picked up by Kenzer & Company and published twice a week online, I would have laughed.

Fuzzy Knights moved to the Kenzer & Company website on April 8, 2003. If you asked me then if I thought it would be given its own Trade Paperback, I would have chuckled... nervously.

Now I'm here, and I'm thinking... I've been doing these comics for an entire YEAR? Holy crap!

Turns out I had a LOT of stories to tell... and the freedom to tell them my own way.

Most web based comics tend to post only single pages of a larger storyline, and feel disjointed unless you read an entire month's worth at a time. Others go for the short-but-sweet approach, going for a good quick laugh but the larger story becomes superficial. I decided from the start to make my stories more self contained and complete, like a little short story, even when it's part of a "to be continued" storyline.

Though this began as a tribute to Knights of the Dinner Table, the characters quickly developed their own personalities. The stories grew from one shot jokes to connected storylines, to the epic storyline currently underway online. It now feels like the characters are telling ME what happens next, and not the other way around. Sometimes I feel more like a Game Master than a writer... I throw the situations their way, then watch how they handle it...

* * *

Before you start, I would like to apologize. When I started these cartoons, all I had was a cheap travel webcam. This meant that I took about 20 pictures for each panel, because 10 would be out of focus, 5 would be off center, and the rest would be "so so". I also apologize for the size of the text. It was meant to be viewed from a computer monitor, I never expected it to be shrunk down! Just imagine it as the tiny "squeaking" voices that stuffed animals most certainly make.

However, if you like Knights of the Dinner Table, you are no stranger to looking beyond the quality of the pictures and diving into the story itself.

Now, read on! Enjoy the strips! And when you're done, shove this book into your friend's face!

Noah J.D. Chinn





KENZER AND COMPANY

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Tails from the Table
Volume One

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www.kenzerco.com

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Submissions: We accept submissions for strip ideas, jokes, cartoons, etc. We are interested in running anything that other gamers and fans would enjoy. See our website for writer's guidelines. Electronic submissions preferred.

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TAILS FROM THE TABLE: VOLUME 1

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DEDICATION

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And all the fans for their feedback and support! (too numerous to list)

1: In the Beginning...

By Noah J.D. Chinn

FUZZY KNIGHTS (FUZZY KNIGHTS ON THE DINNER TABLE)

FADE IN: A LIVING ROOM. IT COULD BE ANYWHERE.

INT. ON THE DINNER TABLE - DAY

MOSSFOOT (a green Teddy Bear who is worn with years of traveling), sits behind a Game Master Screen. Across from him are DOG (a dog, staring blankly), VIOLET (a purple teddy bear), and BEN (a Scottish rabbit).

MOSSFOOT
Okay, if everyone is ready to begin, we will begin tonight with you on the road to Scry Proper

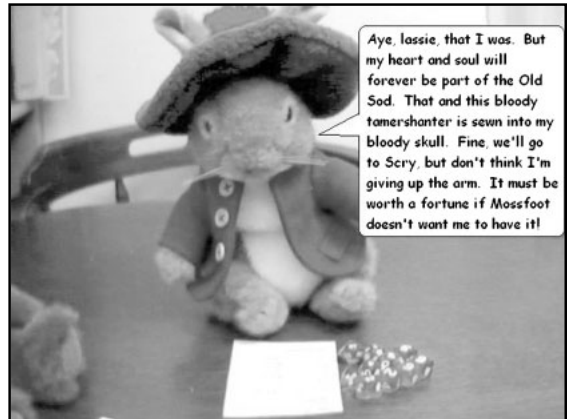
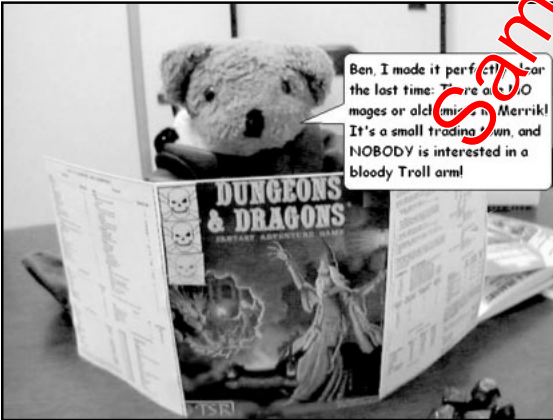
DOG
MOSSFOOT

Woof!

Ready!

VIOLET

BEN
Now hold on there a minute laddie...

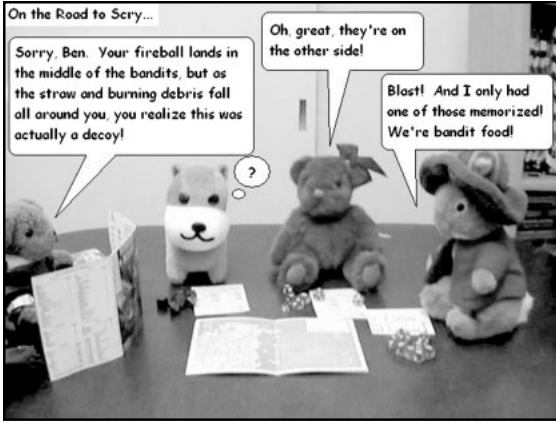


On the Road to Scry...

Sorry, Ben. Your fireball lands in the middle of the bandits, but as the straw and burning debris fall all around you, you realize this was actually a decoy!

Oh, great, they're on the other side!

Blast! And I only had one of those memorized! We're bandit food!



Don't be such a frickin' pessimist, hat boy. I just leveled up, so I get an extra attack. Just hang back and don't get yourself hit!

R-r-r-right!

Eat now?

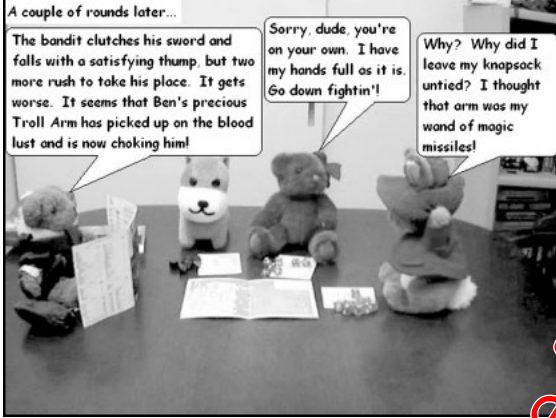


A couple of rounds later...

The bandit clutches his sword and falls with a satisfying thump, but two more rush to take his place. It gets worse. It seems that Ben's precious Troll Arm has picked up on the blood lust and is now choking him!

Sorry, dude, you're on your own. I have my hands full as it is. Go down fightin'!

Why? Why did I leave my knapsack untied? I thought that arm was my wand of magic missiles!

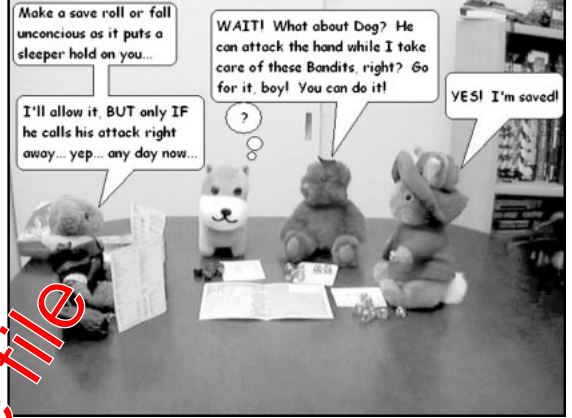


Make a save roll or fall unconscious as it puts a sleeper hold on you...

WAIT! What about Dog? He can attack the hand while I take care of these Bandits, right? Go for it, boy! You can do it!

YES! I'm saved!

I'll allow it, BUT only IF he calls his attack right away... yep... any day now...



Food... food... cute poodle... food... clean self... food... run... chase ball... lick ball... food... sleep... watch Survivor... cute poodle... tree... hydrant... sniff dog's butt... eat grass... throw up grass... lick self... lick toilet... lick Mossfoot... food

Sigh... this is why you're still a first level thief...



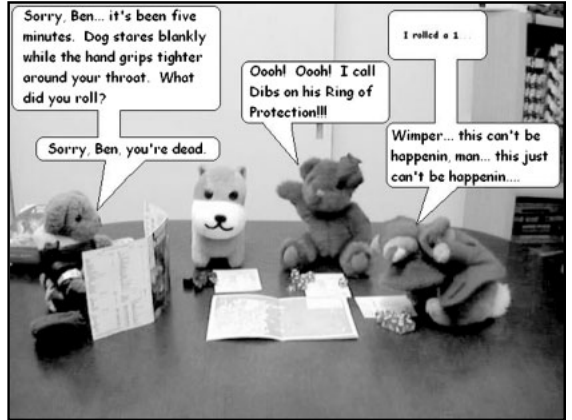
Sorry, Ben... it's been five minutes. Dog stares blankly while the hand grips tighter around your throat. What did you roll?

I rolled a 1.

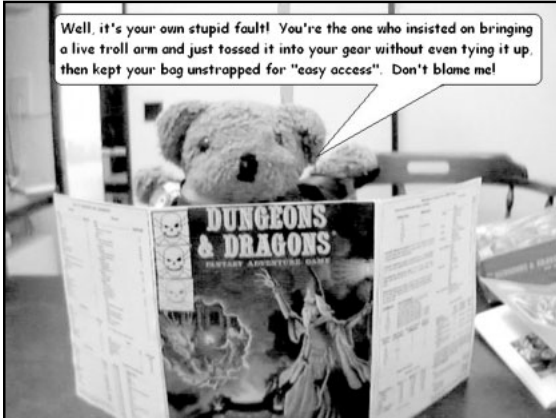
Oooh! Oooh! I call Dibs on his Ring of Protection!!!

Sorry, Ben, you're dead.

Wimper... this can't be happenin, man... this just can't be happenin...



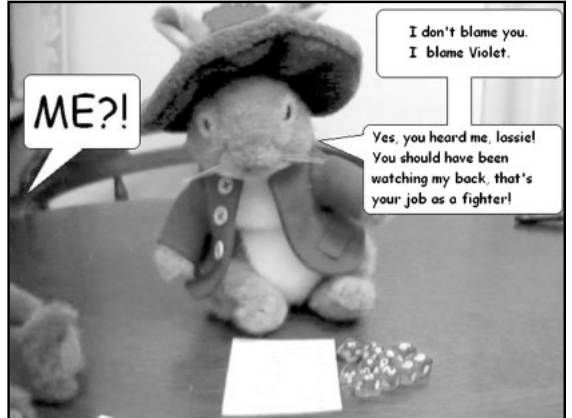
Well, it's your own stupid fault! You're the one who insisted on bringing a live troll arm and just tossed it into your gear without even tying it up, then kept your bag unstrapped for "easy access". Don't blame me!

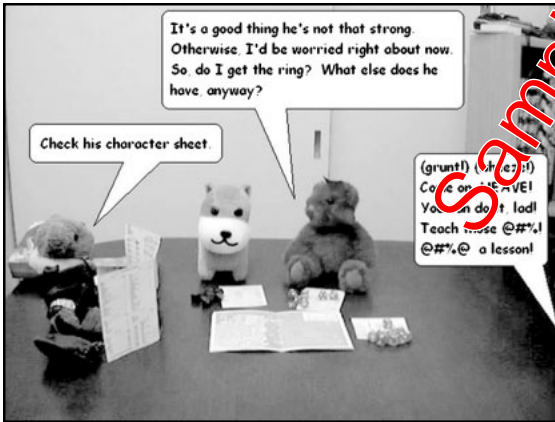
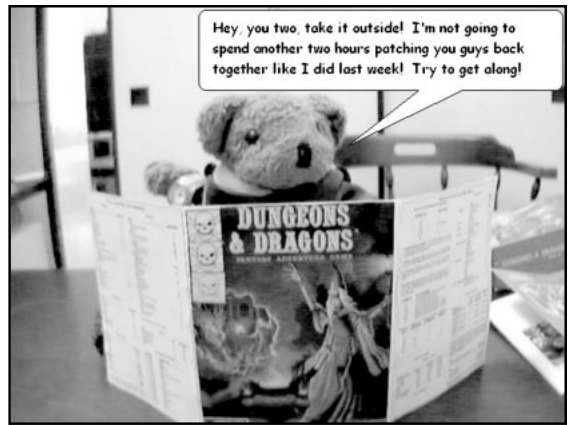
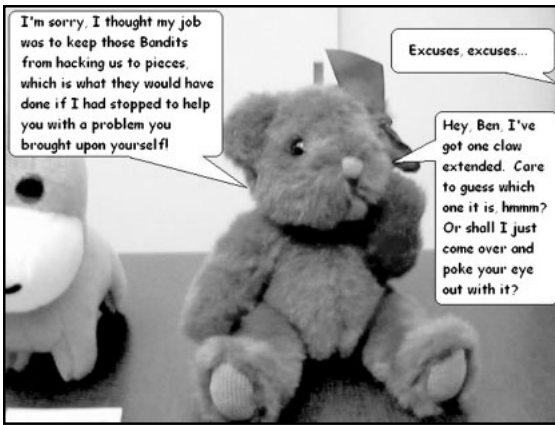


I don't blame you. I blame Violet.

ME?!

Yes, you heard me, lossie! You should have been watching my back, that's your job as a fighter!





#1 Notes: This first strip was originally done in the same format as the single panel shown in the Introduction, with round word balloons and a different font. When FK moved to the Kenzerco website, I decided to "touch up" all of my old strips (1-15) as best as I could. So I made the word balloons in this strip consistent with the others, and added special effects where I could to the others.

The response to this strip was overwhelming... well, at least it felt that way at the time. About a dozen or so Kenzerites posted their praise of it, and encouraged me to do more.

2: Fuzzy Haze

By Noah J.D. Chinn

