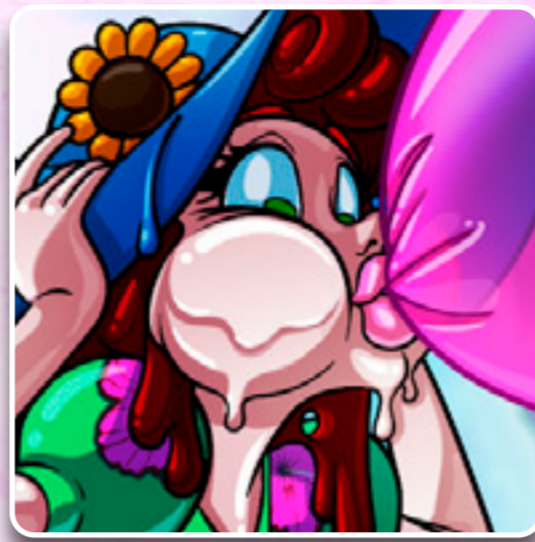


Amora's C.U.B.E.

Written and Illustrated by Gnome

Wendi



Ugh! I am tired of these heroes and hero's fiancées." Amora sat with her chin on her fist, ruminating. She had been practicing for a while with this blue bauble, and hadn't come closer to confidence with it. While she had fun dancing the night away as a flapper, she got too bogged down in the scene.

"What I need," she decided, at long last, "Is to change the life of some quiet nobody! Maybe... fulfill a desire of theirs!" She was a fickle sorceress, forgetting she'd attempted that on more than one occasion, but Amora wasn't one to let a previous failed attempt dissuade her, even if she *could* remember it.

Spinning the Cube on the table like a globe, she counted *three* in Ancient Norse and stopped it. An unassuming young woman was exiting a bodega on a beautiful autumn day. She had a brown paper sack in one hand, and gleefully clutched it to her modest chest, running down the street, her flower-festooned sundress fluttering behind her.

"Perfect..." Amora mused.

Wendi knew she needed practice. She wasn't a bad bubblegum blower (and had never really competed) but when her friend secretly submitted *her* name into the Lakes Area Bubble-Gum Blowout (with its \$5,000 prize), she decided, *well, why not?* Going around the corner, she tucked her hand into the brown paper sack and produced a fat gumball. More than enough gum to produce a big bubble. With a gusto, she jammed the luscious confection into her mouth and bit down.

Tasty. Very tasty. chomping away, she realized maybe she had too much in her mouth. But she had little time to think about that! A blue circle of light sprang to life underneath her, and she fell through into a dark and spooky chamber. Blissfully, her fall was slowed and she landed gracefully, but she had no idea what had happened, where she was, or who this shockingly gorgeous woman was in front of her. The woman, who Wendi correctly surmised, had brought her here.

Amora smiled and exclaimed, "Welcome mortal! I am Amora, the Enchantress: Master of the Magnificent Cosmic Cube, and your day of Jubilee has arrived! For moments from now, I am to grant your deepest desire! An utter transformation from the mundane into the extraordinary!"

Amora held a pregnant pause, letting it sink in.

SHLUUURP! Wendi was mortified! The gum was too much in her mouth. She needed to swallow the saliva pooling in her mouth or risk drooling all over!

Amora huffed out her nose, but decided it wasn't the end of the world. She continued. "Indeed! So, you need only speak your desire, and Amora will grant it. What is it you would wish? To become?"

Wendi chewed and thought. She had never really thought about what her inner-most desires were. As she thought, she chewed, quite loudly, and she could see that the blond woman was growing more irritated. Wendi smiled hopefully, but unable to speak. Staring vacantly at her.

Amora stewed. "Are you slow, mortal?"

Wendi shook her head, chuckling, and doing her best to maybe say something. "Mmm ffumm mmmum!" Ugh. The gum. There was no where to spit it out.

"I grow tired of this nonsense person," Amora complained to ... no one, "Invoke your desire now, in the light of the Cosmic Cube, or return to your plane unfulfilled!"

Wendi watched the blue cube next to the irritated beauty throb with power, but she couldn't speak! This was amazing, and she couldn't say anything! She finally, with pleading eyes, pointed frantically at the wad of gum jammed in her cheeks, all but weeping at the potential missed opportuni—

FWAAAASH!

The light was blinding for a moment, but when the blue glow dimmed, Wendi felt strange. Her fingers felt tacky. She opened her mouth to speak, but the wad of gum still remained. Enough with propriety, she needed to say something to this woman. Pressing the wad of gum to the front of her mouth, Wendi drew in a short breath to spit it free — but it didn't move. All that happened was a little translucent orb of pink, maybe an apple's width, formed on her sticky lips.



“ Wendi was horrified! Her breasts had become huge! ”
Twin balloons... no *bubbles*, made of chewing gum!

“Well,” Amora mewled, “... this is interesting. Go ahead. You were saying?”

“Huummmpppft!” Wendi tried again, the bubble growing larger, filling to the size of a basketball and stopping, still not coming free. What was happening? Had this cube somehow thought her wish was to be an expert bubblegum blower? No! No, she had to spit this gum out and explain. Her eyes were pleading to Amora, and she raised her hands with nothing but questions.

Amora smirked. “I can't understand you with your mouth full. If you can't spit that glop from your mouth, maybe you can pop the bubble enough to speak?”

Wendi nodded, drawing in a large breath through her nostrils, and blowing *hard*. But the bubble didn't change size. She breathed in and blew, again, And again. Still nothing. No popping, no spitting, nothing about her situation had chan—

Looking down at herself, Wendi was horrified! Her breasts had become huge! Twin balloons... no *bubbles*, made of chewing gum! That's why she was sticky! The Cube saw her point to her cheek and though she wanted to become a bubble-gum girl!

Frantically, Wendi continued to blow and blow, trying to spit out the gum, in a desperate attempt to get Amora to return her to normal.

The Enchantress just sighed as the mortal waif inflated to ridiculous proportions. “Well, while your situation is a bit *sticky*, child, don't fret. I'm sure you've not bitten off more than you can *chew*.”

And, with another flash, Wendi was back home.

POP!

It was with some relief that the bubble on her lips finally popped, though she still had a pretty large wad of gum in her mouth. As she walked home, the autumn breeze lightly ruffling her gummy skirt, she thought this wasn't so bad.

At least she would be \$5,000 richer, soon enough.