“Unstable?” asked Kit in surprise.

“Yes, unstable. Every 24 hours, I randomly transform into something else. Every morning when I wake up, I find that my body has changed during the night. There’s some rare day where I’m in my normal shark self like you see right now, but tomorrow I might be a bear, a cat, a snail, a bug, an elephant... Anything living and breathing… I’ve tried to find a cure or a way to permanently stay a shark, but each time it fails and things get worse.” Lexal sounded desperate and on the verge of crying.

“That’s why you wanted the lamp.” Kit said, feeling sorry for him.

“Exactly.” The shark answered. “Genies are among the most powerful beings in the universe. No more spells or rays that would trigger a random transformation. This time, with the words ‘I wish’, I’ll be able to bend reality and can even rewrite the fabric of existence to free myself from this.”

After a minute of silence, Kit said. “I understand why you wanted it so much, I would be pretty desperate in that case too. Hmm, you know what? When we reach the lamp, I’ll let you touch it first, so you get to be Owens' first master.” Lexal thanked Kit, then asked. “Thanks, but right now how we’re going to get through all those ants?”

Kit replied. “Well you can just transform me into an ant with the zapper,” He handed said gun to his new friend. “So you can ride on my back.”

Lexal nodded and aimed at Kit, but before he pulled the trigger, he asked. “Aren’t you going to end up smaller by doing this? You don’t want to actually be ant-sized compared to just being an actual ant?”

Kit reassured him. “No worries. I’ll still be on the same scale as you. No more ‘Honey, I shrunk the Kit’ for me.”

The shark said. “I get the feeling you waited a long time for just the right occasion to say that pun…” And he shot off a green bolt to the fox with the zapper.

Kit’s whole body glowed green as he forcefully went down on all fours as his body changed. His ears elongated and moved to the middle of his head, while his legs and arms became the same, along with a new pair that grew in the middle. Finally, his mouth closed and was replaced by mandibles, and his eyes became oval black before the transformation was done. His body stayed the same color, as did the clothes he was wearing.

“Wow, I never tested this one on myself before, it feels... new.” The ant fox said before he lowered his body to allow Lexal to hop on. The shark was afraid of shrinking him but in fact he had made him taller cause of the long ant legs. Kit said. “Don’t lose the zapper.” Before he rapidly went outside.

Everything felt weird for Lexal as he was riding a shrunken fox he transformed into an ant. It was sort of like riding a horse, but much faster and stable. It wouldn’t be the last surprise. When the rider and his mount reached a column of ants, they noticed they were twice their size.

“Wait, Did we get smaller?” Kit asked.

“I don’t know, maybe you transformed into a smaller race of ant.” Answered Lexal, but when he saw a butterfly landed nearby, he said. “Nope, those ants are indeed bigger than normal.”

The ant Kit made his way through the ants, trying to not get rammed by them and went straight into the pool of water. “What the heck?” He had said before his friend transformed him back to his normal fox self, but they didn’t think about it much as they went to drink a mouthful of water.

When the shark swallowed the water, he asked. “This water kinda has a weird aftertaste, don’t you think?”

Kit sloshed it in his mouth, making a sound like a professional taster makes. He swallowed and said. “It definitely tastes familiar, like something I already drank… Let’s see if there’s anything around here.”

As the duo explored the surroundings of the puddle, they did find something peeking through a tall edge of grass. A green bottle made of glass was laying here, but to them it was the size of an aircraft carrier.

“I can’t believe it!” said Kit excited by the view. “It’s my Jumbo Gro bottle! That explains why the ants are bigger, and why I saw so many pest control trucks lately.”

 Lexal asked with confusion. “Jumbo Gro? Like from that old cartoon with the growing animals? That Jumbo Gro?”

The fox was overjoyed as he responded. “Yep, I wondered what happened to the bottle when I drank some and outgrew the universe that one time.”

The shark was shocked. “You became bigger than the universe?!?”

Kit responded like it was normal. “Yeah, thankfully the effect only lasted a few hours. Still, during those hours. Everybody became kitsunes just like me. I still have the news footage… Told you I had some crazy and wacky experiences of my own…”

Lexal pinched the bridge of his nose, thinking about it, but also that he was lucky he was elsewhere when it happened. “Do you think we can…” He started to ask.

Kit cut him off. “Use it to grow? I guess we can. The juice has probably been diluted overtime, so the growth won’t be as strong, otherwise we’d be dealing with much bigger ants. Let’s see.” They both climbed up onto the cork near the ground, and just above the puddle to look inside the bottle. They spotted a pool of green liquid just below them. “We’re in luck!” said Kit before he scooped some into his hand and invited his grey shark friend. “Come on, bottoms up!”

Lexal was still not fully convinced. “Are you sure it’s not too strong? I mean, the thought of being universe sized…”

Kit cut him off again. “Yeah, I’m sure it’s lost most of its strength by now. The worst case scenario would be us becoming giants compared to normal people, but hey, it would be easier to get to the lamp that way. Just don’t forget to jump out of the bottle once you drink it.” And with that, Kit drank from the green puddle in his hand before he jumped out.

Lexal immediately did the same, then hopped out, landing on both feet. After a few seconds where nothing happened, he began to say. “I think it’s lost all its…” but then his stomach rumbled and he felt a surge race through his body. His point of view suddenly began to rise, like he was on an elevator that was suddenly going up. It triggered funny, yet powerful feelings at the same time. The effect ended once his head peeked over the blades of grass. He noticed Kits head peeking over them as well.

Kit declared. “Yep, Like you said, it really has lost much of its strength. We must be the size of action figures now.  Anyway, do you see that nekomimi genie's lamp?”

They both scanned their surroundings when Lexal almost screamed. “There!!! I see it!! Near the bench.”

The golden oil lamp was innocently sitting in the grass as people went by, not even noticing it. The duo ran to it, the race seemingly near its end. That’s what they thought, until a kitten in diapers came out of nowhere and began playing with said lamp.“Ah, come on!” Exclaimed Kit.

“Come on, what are you waiting for? Zap him! You can change back to normal after we get the lamp, right?” Lexal ordered.

“I can’t transform a baby!! Sure, I’ve zapped a lot of fully grown people, but I don’t know what kind of effect it could have on his health. Or the trauma it could cause…” Said Kit sorrowfully.

“Well, That’s great. the zapper guy refuses to zap now.” Lexal was clearly running out of patience as he took a deep breath to remain calm. “I guess then, one of us has to distract him while the other one gets the lamp.”

Kit scratched his head as he didn’t want to be the bait. “Um, the zapper is pretty fragile, plus I don’t run as fast as you.”

 Surprised by this, Lexal loudly argued, “What? You think after the spider and the birds I haven’t suffered enough?!?”

Kit shrugged and justified. “No I mean, you’re better suited for the task.”

Lexal snorted. “You’re the one who’s all cuddly with that fur and you have the zapper to transform into something fast.”

Unbeknownst to the two of them, their arguing had attracted the attention of the little kitten, only noticing when its shadow loomed over them. The baby seemed happy to have found two new toys to play with. Kit and Lexal ran in opposite directions of each other, leaving the kitten to decide which one he would chase after. He decided to go after the grey shark who screamed. “Why me?!?”

Kit, who ended up getting to the lamp, screamed. “Don’t panic Lexal! I’ll get Owen to pull you out of this.” But when no response was heard, Kit started to worry. After a minute, Kit got closer to it, still sitting in the grass. “Alright, time to summon that genie.” He said as he reached out his paws towards the lamp to rub it. Suddenly, the ground began to shake. At first it was light, but it became stronger and stronger at a regular rate. Kit suddenly found himself bouncing as the ground beneath him seemed to lower for a second, then come back to its normal position. He tried to grab the lamp, but everything was moving due to the quakes.

When it finally stopped Kit let out a “Pfew!!!” Then pondered out loud, “Where did that come from?” When suddenly, he heard a scream coming at him and a loud “TONK!” Lexal fell on the ground just after he had crashed into the lamp.
“Are you okay Lexal?” Kit asked, noticing the shark’s skin was heavily rumpled. “What happened to you?”

Lexal groaned in pain before he responded. “He used me as a pacifier, but he suddenly spat me out when his mother took him and ran.” He stood up with difficulty. “Watch out!!!” He screamed as two titanic masses of green began to reach the lamp.

Kit immediately took action as he jumped to grab the lamp’s handle, as the golden antic was lifted into the sky. His shark friend followed by catching his legs as Kit yelled. “Hang on!!”
The duo got lifted high into the sky at an impressive speed. When everything stopped they heard a loud voice. “Never thought I would find this here but it’s mine now.”

Kit looked at the source of the voice and saw at the end of it was a big green muzzle, big enough you could build a golf course on it, along with two big eyes and two green roo ears. “Duncan?” he asked as he recognized the giant green kangaroo.

Lexal asked, panicking as his feet were dangling in the air. “You know that giant?

Kit answered. “To a certain extent…” Before he tried to scream. “DUNCAN!!! HELP!!! PUT THE LAMP ON THE GROUND OR ON YOUR MUZZLE!!!  SOMETHING STABLE!!!” But it fell on giant deaf ears as he couldn’t hear or even see them.

A giant grey paw suddenly gripped Duncan's shoulder as another loud voice rang out. “Alright buddy, you caused enough trouble today. Follow me before you cause any more trouble.” A grey wolf wearing a mask and a superhero costume ordered to the giant roo.

The two living action figures holding onto the lamp assisted the whole scene as they were completely invisible to them. “KingDead? Well, that’s pretty logical. It’s his job, after all.”

The roo dismissed him. “I don’t have the slightest intention of following you. Buddy.” He insisted, mocking the wolf.

“Look, mister!” KingDead had said with a martial tone before he declared. “You’re walking around and damaging a city which is not at your scale. I’ll ask you one more time. Follow me as I’ll escort you somewhere you can stand without endangering and scaring those people.”

Duncan leaned forward to see where the giant grey wolf was coming from and answered with an annoyed tone. “You’re one to talk, you caused more damage than me by just coming here!”

KingDead ignored it. “Ok, I ordered you gently and politely to follow me without any restraint or violence, but if you want a brawl then you have found the right guy.” He also added. “I’ll also confiscate that magic lamp.”

But Duncan was having none of it and refused to comply as the hero wolf tried to restrain him and take the lamp by force, all of which shook the shrunken duo and endangered them. The green roo said. “Dream on, you masked freak!” before one of his fingers managed to rub the lamp. which was pretty impressive considering how big he was.

The reaction was instantaneous as a stream of blue smoke came out and Owen the nekomimi genie formed from it. “Oy! What’s happening here?” He asked, surprised.

Kit and Lexal tried to call for him but Duncan’s voice was far louder, drowning theirs out completely. “Genie, I’m Duncan, your master. Get rid of that stupid wolf for me, would you?.” The green roo ordered.

“What? No!” Screamed KingDead. “Don’t obey him! I’m fighting for the people and for justice. If you’re a benevolent genie, then kick him out of here!”

“Nice try! But I’m the lamp owner so the genie must obey me, that’s the rules.” Duncan announced, full of assurance. The two giants were ready to fight and argue about whom the genie should obey.

But Owen cut their expectations short. “I’m sorry, but registrations for this round of wishes are closed.” He said.

Both of the giants screamed a big. “WHAT???” causing the duo still gripping onto the lamp to go temporarily deaf.

“Your wishes will have to wait for another time. Right now, you’re putting two of my friends in grave danger with your big paws so…” The genie announced. He then snapped his fingers and the two giants suddenly disappeared with a “POP!”

Once again the shrunken duo found themselves falling through the air. Kit released the handle of the lamp as his muscles were too tired to hold on it anymore, same for Lexal.

Kit thought he saw the two former giants as they fell. Duncan seemed to be surprised and called out to him, but it was just for a fraction of a second before he lost sight of them.

“KIT!!!” Called the shark. “Transform into something that can fly!!!” He screamed as he was still near him.

Kit tried to aim his zapper at himself but the wind made things difficult. Suddenly he fell through a blue cloud that seemed a little too solid. Then another, and then another. Lexal’s fall seemed to be slowed by it too. Kit couldn’t help but smell a familiar odor. He sniffed a couple more times until he recognized it, It was fresh snow.

“Hey Lexal, you smelling this? Doesn’t it remind you of something?” He screamed at the shark who was sniffing the air too and nodded. The blue clouds seemed to grow as the wind began to calm meaning they were really slowing down.

Something suddenly crossed Kit’s mind as he managed to remember where he smelled this before, and it was not during a trip up to the mountains. But it was too late, they suddenly entered a dark place where the blue clouds seemed to come from like a stream. They encountered a slippery surface which they slid on for a short time before they gently came to a stop at the bottom.

Kit looked up to see a round opening above them which seemed to get further away and he screamed. “HOLD YOUR BREATH!!!” He yelled to Lexal and plugged his nose.

Lexal did the same, but asked. “Why?”

Kit answered. “The fresh snow smell, those somewhat solid blue clouds. It’s the smoke Owen used to shrink us and we’re at the worst place possible.”

The shark looked around till he spotted a long dark tunnel and realized what Kit meant. “Oh no, We’re in his smoke pipe.” He said with a dreadful voice before a sudden wind sucked them into the dark tunnel, screaming all the way.

Owen took a puff from his kiseru before he said. “Now, where are those two? They should have reached the lamp by now.” He exhaled the smoke through his nose in annoyance. “I guess I have to search for them.”

After he unknowingly sucked them in, Kit regained his senses as he discovered he was in a new and totally alien surrounding. The “soil” was pinkish-red filled with big bumps in what seemed to be in a cavernous area. He wanted to get up but suddenly he fell sick and it felt like his head was spinning.

“Lexal? Are you there?” He weakly called.

“Yeah, I’m here.” The shark said as he got up and moved over to Kit. “We need to move!”

But Kit couldn’t as he felt too weak, but he was also losing hope. “What for?” He asked.

“We can’t stay here! hurried Lexal. “What’s wrong with you now? Are you sick?”

Kit responded like someone who was a little drunk. “Exactly! I’m sick and we’re pretty much screwed! Where would we even go? You think you can reach the teeth before this chain smoker decided to pop his pipe back in his mouth. Even if you reach it, how you’ll get past them. Ugh, it’s hopeless!”

Lexal felt saddened by Kit’s words. “Don’t say that Kit, we need to keep going.” He then noticed Kit’s face turning green. “Oh geez! Look at your face!”

KistuneKit sighed, then gulped “Sorry… Anyways, I only see 2 ways out of here, and they’re not pretty.
We either get sucked into his lungs, and be forever lost in em…
Or…
We get carried away by the smoke he exhales and be lost forever in the air molecules…

Either way, we’re going to shrink until we’re too small to be affected by the smoke. This is going to happen at a really REALLY small size, the kind of size I rarely wander at.”

The shark just let out a “Oh…” Meaning he too was losing hope.

When they saw the light again, they knew it was the end for them as the long wooden blue pipe that looked more like a bar or building moving at their size, entered Owens mouth. The big black hole at the beginning of it suddenly released a wave of blue smoke as the duo was beginning to be lifted in the air. They both tried to grip onto the floor but when the wave hit them, they were taken with it.

“The lungs it is then…” Thought Kit as he was carried into the back of the genie’s mouth. Outside, Owen took another puff of his pipe as he continued searching for the two shrunken contestants. He then noticed some kind of weird taste in his mouth.

Kit and Lexal were now floating in a sort of dark void, they could still see themselves but they were scared. Lexal spotted a sort of light blue ball and said. “Hey, Let’s try to reach that ball.” He tried to swim like he was in water, grabbing Kit by his arm.

“It’s an atom… We’re atomic size.” Said Kit.  He wasn’t trying at all, feeling far too weak to make any effort. The blue atom became bigger and bigger, getting closer and closer. They couldn’t really appreciate the distance with the black void surrounding them.

Once they were close to it, the atom now the size of a house, Lexal said. “Well, At least you’ll be able to lay down on... something.” But just as he said that, a blue flash of lightning suddenly came out of it and shot into the darkness surrounding them. The shark released the fox’s arm a “I’m going to check if it’s safe.” He said. He then swam, or more accurately floated closer to it. When Lexal placed his hand on it, he felt a surge of energy coursing through his body as he suddenly was consumed in a blinding white light. Kit closed his eyes to avoid being blinded. When he opened them again, Lexal seemed to have disappeared.

“Lexal?” He called. He also yelped when he suddenly landed on a sort of a round grey surface. He observed his surroundings again, searching for his friend but the only thing nearby was the blue atom

“LEXAL!!!” he screamed, panicking.

“Kit!!!” The voice of the shark was heard.

“Lexal? That you? Where are you?” asked the fox a little relieved.

“Don’t know… But I think you’re on my head.” Answered Lexal.

Kit slowly reached out his hand as he crawled to a side of the round surface and saw a grey protuberance. “Um, I think you just transformed into an atom.”

The atomic shark nervously chuckled. “An atom, huh? It’s new, I’ve never been one of those before.”
An electric sound was heard before the blue atom suddenly disappeared and another voice joined them soon after. “Ah! There you are! Didn’t think you’d be hiding in my body or being so small.”

They both turned to see the genie, giant sized to them, smiling and floating near Lexal, who got mad at him instantly. “You! YOU!!! Do you have ANY IDEA what we just went through? All for your stupid race!!!” He screamed in rage.

Owen calmly said. “Um, Mind if I transform you back to normal? Because if you keep this temper up, you’re going to end up splitting and setting off a mini nuclear blast.” He said as he snapped his fingers, then he added. “Let’s also move to a place where there’s gravity.” He snapped his fingers a second time.

Everything changed instantly, Kit found himself in an empty white room of sorts with the genie. And Lexal who was back to normal, but still angry, his patience having reached its limit. He ran up to the magical being who was now the same size as them and grabbed him by his kimono.

“JUST WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!? We got tossed in the air, almost got eaten by a spider and a flock of birds! We had to hang on the lamp cause we got taken into the sky by that giant green roo, then we fell into your pipe, then you nearly sucked us into your lungs along with atomizing us! We were in danger all the time and now Kit is sick!!!” Lexal screamed as he angrily shook the genie wildly with his arms.

Kit felt a little sorry for Owen as he tried to calm his friend. “Lexal, Lexal. Calm down please.” He said, but he then whispered. “It’s not a good idea to assault the only one who can restore us back to normal size. Plus look at him, he’s clearly saddened by all of this.”

Lexal turned his head to look at the fox, then looked back at the genie who was on the verge of crying as tears began to flow down from his blue eyes. The shark suddenly calmed down and tried to sooth the cat-eared being. “Oh no, Oh no no no no no. Please don’t cry. Please don’t cry” He said as he began to scratch one of his cat ears. “Just why did you do that?”

Owen sniffled before he said. “I’m a genie. I can make anything and everything become reality with the wishes I offer. Whenever there’s 2 mortals, whether they be strangers, acquaintances, friends or family, the moment they discover my lamp and it’s potential, they end up arguing, they backstab, they fight…They can kill each other for control of it.”

 Lexal straightened back up as he realized this, the genie’s words echoing in his memory. “Good lord.” He lamented. “I had no clue.”

“Exactly!” said Owen. “You two were the same when we met. That’s why I settled on having this race, so we could have a friendly non-violent way to solve this dispute and it worked. I wouldn’t have put you in danger on purpose. I always had my eyes on you… Until those two giants came around, and then with you entering my body, I couldn’t find you until now. But enough about that, you said that Kit was sick, right?” Owen floated in front of the fox. “Oh...right... didn’t see your green face.”

“He’s been like that since you sucked us into your mouth.” Said Lexal.

The genie took a flashlight and began an auscultation of the fox. “Lexal, could you please bring me my lamp?” The shark noticed the magic lamp at his feet. He took it and brought it as Owen requested. The genie then shrunk to the size of an action figure. “Now lift it up in front of Kit’s head.” Lexal did do. “That’s it, that’s it, now say ah Kit.”

“I don’t know what you’re going to do, but AAA… AGH!!!!” The moment Kit opened his mouth, the genie went straight inside. “What are you doing???” Is all he managed to say as the genie went to the back of his mouth and plunged straight down into his gullet. \*GULP\* Just like that, Kit swallowed the genie. Lexal was shocked and still holding the lamp while a stream of blue smoke came out the spout and went into KitsuneKit’s mouth.

“Let’s see what we got here.” Owen’s muffled voice said from the fox’s belly. “Hmm, nothing but the remains of a pizza… let’s go down further.” Kit felt something moving in his stomach and going into his intestine.

“Hey, Careful in there, Owen…” said Kit worryingly.

“The intestine seems all right. Wait, Is that an ulcerous cell?” said the genie before Kit whelped in pain. “Yep, definitely ulcerated. No worries, Just a little bit of genie magic and it will be history.” Kit suddenly felt the pain go away, but he could still feel the genie moving inside his body. Lexal decided to move closer and he placed an ear on Kits body to hear better.

“Believe it or not but it’s the first time I have someone wandering into my body…” . Kit said when he did that.

The magical being kept moving, announcing all his destinations. “Nothing in the kidneys or the liver, but you really should cut back on the pizza and the Mountain Dew. Going into your lungs now.”

Kit whistled sheepishly at the lecture and added. “Hey, Don’t smoke in there.”

Owen answered. “If I do, you’d be the smallest thing that ever existed by now.” Kit felt him as he began to cough. “Don’t cough me out please.” Several seconds later, the genie was heard again. “Nothing again, it’s really clean in there.” Owen proclaimed with his inspection. “But the heart is beating rather slowly. I guess I’m going into your head.”

Kit was a little worried. “You sure? I don’t really like the idea about you being in my head…”

The genie responded. “If I can’t go up then I’ll just go down.” Then he slowly added. “Thus making a close inspection of your…eh...Jewels…” Lexal chuckled as Kit went green pale. “Nevermind! You can go up there, do what you want.”

“Alright.” Said Owen. Then the sound of an elevator was heard in the Kits body. He and Lexal exchanged a weird glance before they heard a “Ding!”

Then the genie came into Kit’s vision, who then said. “You’ve gotten out?”

Lexal, who was still looking at Kit, answered for Owen. “I think you’re wrong. He’s not in front of your eyes, he’s in your eyes. Literally” The magical being waved to the shark before he went out of the fox’s vision and eyes.

“Going into the brain.” The genie announced with malice. Kit suddenly felt a little headache “Please don’t break anything in there.” He said worryingly.

“Yeah… yeah…” Owen said before a loud glass crashing sound was heard.

“What was that?!?” Kit asked in panic.

“Eh, nothing that cannot be repaired…I hope.” Said the genie before he rapidly added. “Going to another part of your brain.” The magical being began humming a melody before he stopped and said with regret. “Oh Kit… You shouldn’t think about this…” before he continued his inspection before he finally said. “Ah ha!!!”

“What?!?” asked the fox.

Blue smoke rose out of Kit’s nose and the genie formed in front of them. He was holding something in both of his hands, Two doll sized people who looked familiar to Kit. “Here’s your problem, these 2 got into your brain and were fighting.” Lexal moved Kit aside so he could observe.

Owen showed him the two and Kit immediately recognized them. “Duncan!!! KingDead!!! How did you-?”

Duncan said while he tried to get free from the genie’s grip. “Don’t look at me, after we’ve been shrunk by the genie we fell and got sucked into your nose.”

“I don’t know how we managed to get into your brain! It all happened in a flash!” Said KingDead.

The green kangaroo then angrily said to the super hero wolf. “I still maintain that it’s your fault! If you didn’t interrupt me, this wouldn’t have happened.”

The former giant grey wolf responded with the same anger. “Says the guy who summoned the genie that shrunk us. There’s no way I would let you roam the city freely with such a dangerous artifact!!”

The two argued louder and louder as Kit tried to defuse the situation. “Guys, you should calm down.”

But the genie got the upper hand and silenced the both of em before he announced. “Aw, They’re so cute at this size, I think I’m going to keep them in my lamp!” Duncan and KingDead looked at the genie with a scared expression. Owen then added. “Since everything is back to normal, why don’t we all go in my lamp!”

KitsuneKit and Lexal wanted to object, but it was already too late as they got surrounded by blue smoke.