

# *The Artisan Times*

An Exclusive Interview with Deeter  
(as featured in the recent novel  
*The Crown of the Bandit King!*)

Interviewer: Hello *Artisan Times* readers! Today I've got a real scoop for you all. I'm here in the Packrat House's living room for a sit-down interview with Deeter, one of the Ragman's top Finders—

Deeter: Some people would call me the best.

Sweet Pea: Some people...as in only you.

Deeter: Man, is this my interview or yours? Now's my turn to talk.

Interviewer: Certainly you're one of the best, Deeter, and you played a pivotal role in *The Crown of the Bandit King*, the first book in *The Compendium of Curious Collectibles* series.

Deeter: That's right.

Interviewer: For the fans of the book, can you share what that experience was like for you?

Deeter: Dangerous.

Interviewer: How so?

Deeter: Haven't you read the book! Nearly drowned, nearly eaten alive, nearly captured by an evil psycho clown...and don't even get me started talking about what happened in the Oratorium! Man, I never want to see another Shakespeare play ever again!

Interviewer: You seem to have a certain fondness for pancakes, peanut butter, and salsa served together at every meal. Can I ask how you developed the taste for such an unusual combination?

Deeter: The real question is, how can anyone *not* like those foods served together? I mean, peanut butter goes great with just about anything...bananas, apples, chocolate, noodles, and even French fries. As for salsa, well, everything tastes better with a little kick to it. And pancakes? Do I really need to explain pancakes to people?

Interviewer: What is it like working for the Ragman as one of his Finders?

Deeter: Man, what do you think it's like, working for a guy who collects magic 24-7? Mostly, it's crazy. You gotta be quick on your feet because none of this magic stuff comes with a warning label. You could be strolling in a park, minding your own business, when bam! Someone opens the Black Umbrella and unleashes a magical killer storm on you. Of course, it's not all bad. My ring is pretty sweet. They call it the Sneak's Ring. Here, watch!

Interviewer: Deeter? Does anyone know where...did anyone see where he went? How am I supposed to conduct an interview like this? Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, but we're going to take a break right now to find Deeter. We'll be back with you shortly.

## Part Two

Interviewer: We're back, and with Sweet Pea's help, we've managed to find Deeter, despite the fact that he turned invisible.

Sweet Pea: It's no big deal. He does that every now and then.

Interviewer: Well, thank you so much for your help, Sweet Pea. Now, Deeter, I hope you're ready to continue the interview?

Deeter: Sure. Mostly I just wanted to go get a snack. All that talk about pancakes made me hungry.

Interviewer: So, tell me. What's it like working with your two friends, Sweet Pea and Rookie?

Deeter: That's the best part of doin' what I do. Sweet Pea and me, we go way back. We both started workin' for the Ragman about the same time, so we helped each other figure things out. And Rookie, well, he messes things up a lot. But he's new, so that's to be expected I guess. In the end, he's still my friend, though. When you're dealing with magic, it always helps to have friends who've got your back in case you get cursed.

Interviewer: Have you ever been cursed before?

Deeter: Once. By the Librarian. I couldn't read words for an entire week. The letters kept getting all scrambled up and movin' around on the page like ants. I've had worse things happen to me than that, but they weren't curses exactly. There are lots of ways that magic can mess with you.

Interviewer: This may be an awkward question, but some have called you annoying in the past. Any idea why that is?

Deeter: No clue! I'm a funny, clever, awesome, amazing, totally cool—

Sweet Pea: Deeter! You're doing it again.

Deeter: What?

Sweet Pea: Being annoying.

Deeter: You're the one who's annoying, interrupting me. Can we just move on with the interview please?

Interviewer: Certainly. Being around magic for as long as you have and doing the job you do, tell me, what's the strangest thing you've ever seen or experienced?

Deeter: One time for Christmas, Sweet Pea tried to make a fruit cake. Man, she can *not* cook. It tasted like baked beans, pickled relish, and maple syrup. Weirdest of all, it didn't look like any ordinary fruit cake. More like a small woodchuck, with two burnt cherries for eyes and a sprig of holly sticking out of its—

Sweet Pea: That's enough, Deeter! Or do I need to bring up your gingerbread house fiasco that happened the following Christmas?

Deeter: Wasn't nothin' wrong with my gingerbread house. That house was a masterpiece. Unlike the gingerbread cookies you tried to bake—

Sweet Pea: My cookies were baked from scratch with love and Christmas cheer! Unlike your ginger-pancake-peanut-butter-candy-cane-salsa monstrosity—

Interviewer: I was referring to any strange things of a magical nature, of course. Perhaps some Artisan's magical power or an unusual Collectible....

Deeter: Well, the Professor's study is pretty weird. He doesn't have bookshelves. Just stacks and stacks of books like trees, and all the books fly around in the air like birds. Or there's the Packrat House, I guess, where we live. The front door will lead wherever you ask, and there are more rooms inside than you can count. As for the Collectibles, well, each one is different, so it's hard to compare. They're *all* strange.

Interviewer: Do you have any words of wisdom to offer to anyone who suspects they may be a Finder?

Deeter: If you find a penny, think twice before you pick it up. Don't tick off the Librarian. And remember that forbidden Collectibles are forbidden for a good reason.

Interviewer: Without giving too much away, what can readers expect to encounter in the next book, *The Cross of the Broken Knight*?

Deeter: A new villain. Plenty of new Collectibles like the Black Thread and the Hall Pass. New groups of rival Finders get introduced like the Wheelers and the Ghosts. Plus a lot of old familiar faces, too. Of course, the book's mostly about me.

Sweet Pea: It is not.

Deeter: Is too!

Sweet Pea: You wish!

Interviewer: And that's a great place to wrap up this fascinating conversation. A great thanks to our readers. We hope you check in again soon for more breaking news and exclusive interviews!