

# <The Serpent Solution>

Issue #2

Otterson and Otterson: The Serpent Solution

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PAGE 1 OTTERSON AND OTTERSON OFFICE

PANEL 1

An establishing shot of the interior of the Otterson and Otterson office. There is a lobby-style desk where Al sits typing on a computer. He wears the customary blue vest with an "O & O" logo on it. It is an overall dingy place with a dead plant and a phone also sitting on the counter. Behind the counter, towards the right of the panel, is a door marked "Employees Only".

PANEL 2

There is the ding of a bell as the door to the lobby opens. A pompous-looking green snake enters. She is a Green Mamba. Unlike the Otterson brothers, she wears no clothes.

(\*DING\*)

PANEL 3

The green snake has fully entered the office and is followed by two smaller green snakes (obviously her children), looking equally vain and prideful. Al greets them.

AL:

Hello ma'am, how may we help you?

PAGE 2

PANEL 1

The green mamba slithers the rest of the way up to the counter, and her two sons stand proudly behind her. Al looks polite but confused.

MADAME MAMBA:

My name is Madame Mamba, and my sons are the first snakes ever accepted into Predator Preparatory Academy. It is an honor for the entire Serpentes\* community!

AL:

Congratulations?

PANEL 2

Madame Mamba looks slightly annoyed but persists. Her two sons look decidedly annoyed, possibly even angry. Al listens politely.

MADAME MAMBA:

As students of the Academy, they will be required to wear uniforms. Unfortunately, it seems no one makes clothes for snakes. I was hoping you would be able to come up with something that would meet the requirements.

PANEL 3

Al scratches his chin, and Madame Mamba looks slightly less annoyed.

AL:

We can try. What are the requirements?

PANEL 3

Madame Mamba fills the panel. She draws the Predator Preparatory logo in the air with her tail as she explains the requirements for the uniform.

MADAME MAMBA:

It must be navy blue with a red Predator Preparatory logo. They must be able to wear it all day comfortably.

## BOTTOM OF PAGE FOOTNOTES

\*Serpentes is the scientific classification for snakes.

Page 3

PANEL 1

Al stands up, and Madame Mamba continues to look annoyed and pompous.

AL:

Sounds simple enough. May we take measurements for your sons?

MADAME MAMBA:

If you must.

PANEL 2

Al walks towards the "Employees Only" door.

PANEL 3

Al sticks his head in the "Employees Only" door and shouts. Madame Mamba looks taken aback.

AL:

OLLIE! Will you come help me with this, please? And bring a measuring tape!

PANEL 4

Al smiles at Madame Mamba, who looks shocked at his manners. The two snake sons snicker behind their tails. Ollie shouts back from inside the employee area.

OLLIE (OFF):

Just a minute!

PANEL 3

Ollie emerges from the room proudly holding a construction tape measure and also wearing the customary vest. Al looks sheepish. Madame Mamba looks positively enraged, and her sons start laughing.

AL:

I meant the other kind. We need to measure her sons for uniforms.

PANEL 4

Ollie looks downcast, and Al continues to look embarrassed. Madame Mamba glares at her children who hastily stop laughing.

OLLIE:

My mistake.

PANEL 5

Ollie disappears back into the room.

PANEL 6

Ollie reemerges holding a tailor's tape measure.

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

Al and Ollie move to step out from behind the counter. One of the son snakes slinks forward reluctantly, and the other is pushed forward by his mother's tail.

AL:

Now then gentleman, let's get you measured for those uniforms!

PANEL 2

The next several panels consist of Ollie measuring while Al takes notes on a pad of paper. The panels hop focus from one snake to the other. First, they measure the son A's length.

PANEL 3

They measure son B's diameter at his neck.

PANEL 4

They measure son A's diameter at his tail.

PANEL 5

They measure son B's head width.

PANEL 6

They measure son A's head length.

PANEL 7

They are measuring son B's fangs when Madame Mamba gets fed up.

MADAME MAMBA (OFF):

That is quite enough!

PAGE 5

PANEL 1

Al and Ollie look sheepish. The two sons move behind their mother.

PANEL 2

Madame Mamba once again addresses Al and Ollie, who regain their composure. The two sons once again stand behind their mother.

MADAME MAMBA:

I trust you'll have something suitable soon.

PANEL 3

Al responds and Ollie nods.

AL:

We'll come up with something, Madame.

PANEL 4

The Otterson brothers fill the frame as they say their catch phrase.

THE OTTERSON BROTHERS:

That's the Otterson and Otterson guarantee!

PANEL 5

Madame Mamba accepts this and seems placated.

MADAME MAMBA:

Very well. I'll expect to hear from you soon.

PANEL 6

Madame Mamba exits the scene followed by her sons, one of whom sticks a tongue out at the Ottersons.

MADAME MAMBA:

Come along boys, it's time for lunch.

PAGE 6

PANEL 1

Ollie and Al are left standing in the lobby. Ollie looks confident while Al rubs his chin in thought.

OLLIE:

Well, this should be easy! Why don't we just sew a navy blue shirt?

PANEL 2

Al explains why this won't work. Behind him, there is an imaginary image of a snake with arm outlines drawn with dotted lines to indicate their absence.

AL:

Won't it just fall off? Snakes don't have arms.

PANEL 3

Ollie now looks contemplative.

OLLIE:

Hmmm, good point...

AL:

Maybe we should come up with a few ideas, then have Stephan Snake come over to test them?

PANEL 4

Ollie looks enthusiastic and Al smiles at his brother.

OLLIE:

Sounds good! Let's get to work!

PAGE 7 (PAGE ONE OF A TWO-PAGE SEWING MONTAGE)

PANEL 1

The brothers begin to sew. Al measures fabric from a long bolt.

PANEL 2

Ollie and Al study a pattern for a short-sleeve shirt.

PANEL 3

Ollie pins the pattern to the fabric, and Al accidentally pokes himself with a needle.

PANEL 4

Ollie cuts out the pattern while Al looks proudly at a band-aid he has put on the finger he pricked.

PANEL 5

Ollie begins sewing the fabric on a sewing machine while Al carries a bolt of fabric, scissors, a tape measure, and a pin cushion precariously in the background.

PAGE 8 (PAGE TWO OF A TWO-PAGE SEWING MONTAGE)

PANEL 1

Al shows Ollie a pattern for a pair of pants. Ollie looks thoughtful.

PANEL 2

Ollie shakes his head "No" and points to an imaginary snake going through only one pant leg.

PANEL 3

The pattern is obscured as Al erases something and Ollie looks interested.

PANEL 4

Al holds up the pattern to proudly show half of the pants erased, leaving only one pant leg. Ollie gives a smile and a thumbs-up.

PANEL 5

An explosion of pins, fabric, pencils, patterns, scissors, and a tape measure fills the panel.

PAGE 9 (IN THE WORKSHOP OF OTTERSON AND OTTERSON)

PANEL 1

The brothers stand before Stephan Snake in their workshop. Behind them are shelves piled high with boxes, tools, and other various knick-knacks. Stephan is a common brown ball python who is sitting balled up on a cushioned stool with his head poking out of the top to look interestedly at the Otterson brothers. To the side of the Otterson brothers is a clothing rack with the things they have sewn hanging proudly. There is a traditional short-sleeve button-up shirt, a single pant leg with a fly and belt loops at the top (think tube skirt+zipper fly), a knit turtle neck sweater with no arms (it mostly just looks like a knit tube with a turtleneck at the top) and a necktie.

AL:

Stephan, thank you so much for coming to help today!

PANEL 2

Stephan smiles at the brothers, who look enthusiastic.

OLLIE:

As you know, we are trying to make clothes for some snakes. Would you mind trying these on for us so we can see if they work?

STEPHAN:

I can do that.

PANEL 3

Ollie smiles back at Stephan while Al takes the shirt off the clothing rack. Stephan looks unsure but begins to unwind from his coil.

OLLIE:

Thank you! First, we were wondering if you would try on a regular old shirt. We don't think it will work, but we wanted to see just in case.

PANEL 4

Al holds up the shirt, which Stephan begins to slither into.

PANEL 5

Stephan's head pops out of the top of the shirt that Al is holding.

PANEL 6

Al lets go of the shirt, which falls down immediately. Stephan looks bemused.

PAGE 10

PANEL 1

Ollie shrugs while Stephan slithers out of the crumpled-up shirt on the floor. Al retrieves the pant leg from the clothing rack.

OLLIE:

Well, we weren't expecting that one to work anyway. Would you mind trying on our next idea, Stephan?

PANEL 2

Al holds up the pant leg, which Stephan begins to slither into.

PANEL 3

Stephan's head pops out of the top of the pant leg.

PANEL 4

Al lets go, and the pant leg falls immediately.

PANEL 5

Stephan looks down at the pant leg piled up around his tail on the floor. The Ottersons seem undeterred. Ollie smiles at him, and Al rushes out of the panel.

PANEL 6

Stephan looks sheepishly at Ollie, who continues to smile back at him.

STEPHAN:

Sorry boys, this one looks like it won't work either.

PAGE 11

PANEL 1

Al returns proudly holding a belt. Stephan lifts one eyebrow in bemusement. Ollie smiles.

OLLIE:

Not to worry! We have a belt!

PANEL 2

Ollie holds up the pant leg a bit below Stephan's head, and Al threads the belt through the loops. Stephan watches, interested.

PANEL 3

Al latches the belt closed.

PANEL 4

Ollie moves aside, and Al holds up the pant leg.

OLLIE:

Now for the moment of truth!

PANEL 5

Al lets go and the pants stay up.

PANEL 6

The brothers cheer and Stephan smiles.

OTTERSON BROTHERS:

Hooray!

PAGE 12

PANEL 1

Al stands proudly, and Ollie addresses Stephan who nods.

OLLIE:

Now, please slither across the room so we can see if it stays on.

PANEL 2

Stephan lies down on the floor to prepare to slither. The brothers look on with excited expectation.

PANEL 3

Stephan slithers out of the pant leg. The brothers immediately look disappointed.

PANEL 4

Stephan looks back at the pant leg that he has now completely slithered out of.

STEPHAN:

Sorry.

PANEL 5

Al and Ollie compose themselves. Al moves to get the sweater tube off the rack.

OLLIE:

No problem! It stayed up for a little bit. Maybe we just need the clothes to hold on better?

AL:

I've got just the thing!

PAGE 13

PANEL 1

Al carries the sweater tube over to Stephan. Stephan looks surprised.

AL:

Ollie would you please help me with this one?

OLLIE:

Certainly!

PANEL 2

Ollie holds the bottom of the sweater, and Al holds the top. They both look at Stephan, who seems unconvinced.

AL:

If you wouldn't mind trying it on, we'll hold it in place for you.

STEPHAN:

Alright.

PANEL 3

Stephan begins to slither into the sweater while the brothers hold it.

STEPHAN (MUFFLED):

Oh! This is very soft!

PANEL 4

Stephan's head pops out of the top of the sweater tube. Al still holds the top and Ollie the bottom.

AL:

I'm glad you like it! Now, let's see if it works.

PANEL 5

Al and Ollie let go of the sweater tube, which snaps into place against Stephen and does not fall off.

(\*SNAP\*)

PANEL 6

All three seem very pleased.

OLLIE:

Let's not celebrate too soon! Please slither across the room.

PAGE 14

PANEL 1

Stephan lies down to begin to slither.

PANEL 2

As he slithers, the tube bunches. The tube begins to bunch around his neck.

PANEL 3

The tube bunches down to his middle.

PANEL 4

The tube bunches down to his tail.

PANEL 5

He slithers out of the tube.

PANEL 6

Stephan looks back at the crumpled-up sweater in disappointment. Al looks crestfallen, Ollie looks frustrated.

OLLIE:

Drat!

STEPHAN:

I liked that one...

PANEL 7

Al walks over to the clothing rack where the tie is the last thing hanging. Stephan watches him. Ollie continues to look annoyed.

AL:

We still have one more thing we can try.

PANEL 8

Al takes the tie off the rack. Ollie stops looking annoyed. Stephan stretches up until his body is only about 1/4 on the floor.

AL:

If there isn't very much to get pulled off, maybe it will stay in place?

PAGE 15

PANEL 1

Ollie is cropped out. Al holds the neck of the tie open so that Stepha can stick his head in.

PANEL 2

Stephan sticks his head in the neck hole of the tie.

PANEL 3

Al tightens the tie for Stephan, who looks like he feels very handsome.

AL:

Now, please slither across the room.

PANEL 4

Stephan lies down to begin to slither.

PANEL 5-10

Stephan slithers back and forth across the room. The tie moves down his body a bit farther down his body with every panel.

PAGE 16

PANEL 1

Stephan has fully slithered out of the tie and turns to see it on the ground behind his tail. Al looks disappointed, and Ollie looks frustrated.

PANEL 2

Stephan slithers back toward his stool, leaving the tie on the ground behind him.

OLLIE:

Why isn't this working?!

AL:

It's because snakes don't have arms.

PANEL 3 (THE NEXT SEVERAL PANELS STEPHAN EXPLAINS HOW SNAKES MOVE. THIS MOVEMENT SHOULD BE ILLUSTRATED WITH AN APPROPRIATE DIAGRAM SOMEWHERE IN THE PANEL TO THE SIDE OF STEPHAN.)

Stephan begins to wind his way up onto the stool and explains how snakes move.

STEPHAN:

That's not the only reason: it's also because of how we use our muscles to help us move.

PANEL 4

Crop in on Stephan talking. This same shot will be held while Stephan explains snakes movements with the diagrams appearing to the right side of him.

STEPHAN:

Snakes have unique ways of moving.

PAGE 17

PANEL 1

Stephan explains rectilinear movement with an illustrated explanation.

STEPHAN:

Some snakes move rectilinearly; they move their body up and down.

PANEL 2

Stephan explains serpentine movement with an illustrated explanation.

STEPHAN:

Some snakes move serpentine, or side to side.

PANEL 3

Stephan explains concertina movement with an illustrated explanation.

STEPHAN:

Some snakes move concertina, where they squish their body together and then stretch it out flat.

PANEL 4

Stephan explains side winder movement with an illustrated explanation.

STEPHAN:

And some snakes are side winders and move their bodies in a squiggle so they go sideways.

PANEL 5

Stephan summarizes snake movement while a diagram of a foot stepping out of a sandal with an imaginary top but a solid sole.

STEPHAN:

No matter which way a snake moves, they use their belly move. So putting clothes on a snake's belly is like having a pair of sandals without any straps. They would just fall off because you have to push against them to move!

PAGE 18

PANEL 1

Stephan smiles at the brothers. Al seems thoughtful while Ollie still seems annoyed.

OLLIE:

But if the Mamba boys can't have clothes on their bellies, how will we make clothes for them?!

PANEL 2

The boys continue to brainstorm

AL:

Maybe we could use a sticker?

OLLIE:

I don't think Madame Mamba would think that is fancy enough...

STEPHAN:

Plus, it would hurt to take off.

PANEL 3

Al is enthusiastic, and the other two look at him in surprise.

AL:

I've got it! I know what kind of clothing doesn't go on your belly!

PAGE 19

PANEL 1

Close up of only Ollie. Ollie guesses what clothing Al is thinking of.

OLLIE:

Pants?

PANEL 2

Close up of Al looking put-out.

AL:

No legs.

PANEL 3

Close-up of Ollie guessing.

OLLIE:

Shoes?

PANEL 4

Close up of Al looking put out.

AL:

No feet.

PANEL 5

Close-up of Ollie guessing.

OLLIE:

Gloves?

PANEL 6

Close up of Al.

AL:

No hands.

PANEL 7-8

Al looks annoyed, and Ollie stands thinking silently. Stephan sits on his stool and looks interested.

PAGE 20

PANEL 1

Al shouts in frustration, surprising the other two.

AL:

A HAT!

PANEL 2

Ollie looks interested as Al explains. Stephan looks thoughtful.

AL:

We can make them navy blue hats that they can wear all day. The hats won't fall off because snakes don't need the top of their head to move!

PANEL 3

The brothers look expectantly at Stephan, who seems very thoughtful. He scratches his chin with the end of his tail.

STEPHAN:

I think that might work...

PANEL 4

Al begins to walk away excitedly while Ollie addresses Stephan, who nods.

AL:

I'll go make a hat right now!

OLLIE:

Could you come back tomorrow to try it on?

PANEL 5

Stephan begins to unwind himself, and Ollie smiles at him. Al has left the scene.

STEPHAN:

Good luck! I'll see you tomorrow afternoon.

PAGE 21

PANEL 1

Madame Mamba has returned to the office. She carries a handbag with her tail. Her two sons stand behind her and look doubtful. Ollie stands behind the counter, and the "Employees Only" door is slightly open behind him.

OLLIE:

Well, Madame, I think we have found a solution for you.

PANEL 2

Madame Mamba addresses Ollie. The "Employees Only" door opens more.

MADAME MAMBA:

I hope so. What have you come up with?

PANEL 3

Al emerges triumphantly from the Employees only door, holding two navy blue bell-boy caps with the Predator Preparatory Academy logo embroidered in red.

MADAME MAMBA:

Why, what lovely hats!

PANEL 4

Al presents the hats, and Madame Mamba encourages her sons, pushing one of them forward with her tail.

MADAME MAMBA:

Try them on, boys.

PANEL 5

Al and Ollie help the Mamba sons put on the hats, each helping one son put the hats and chin-straps in place.

PANEL 6

The sons stand with the hats on their heads and look pleased. Madame Mamba is beaming with pride, and Al and Ollie stand happily.

MADAME MAMBA:

Oh, don't they look so handsome!

PAGE 22

PANEL 1

The Sons move behind their mother, and she moves forward to pay. Ollie moves toward being behind the counter to accept the payment.

MADAME MAMBA:

I am very pleased, gentleman! I shall recommend you to every serpent who slithers my way.

PANEL 2

The panel zooms into Madame Mamba and Ollie at the counter. She puts her purse on the counter, and Ollie stands behind it to accept payment.

PANEL 3

Madame Mamba removes her credit card from her wallet and addresses Ollie.

MADAME MAMBA:

If you boys aren't too busy, do you think you could make me a hat with a pocket inside? It does get tiresome carrying a bag around.

PANEL 4

Ollie smiles as he takes the card.

OLLIE:

I'm sure we can figure something out.

PANEL 5

The panel zooms out to show the whole scene. The brothers exclaim together. The snakes smile.

OTTERSON BROTHERS:

That's the Otterson and Otterson guarantee!