

# THE Wastewatchers

in "Hazardous Hideaway"

Late one night, Mason McCreely (a.k.a. "The Bottle-Rocketeer," or "Ol' Cup-Head" to his friends) descends fearfully down into the deepest, darkest place known to the collective human psyche. The BASEMENT.



Spooky, isn't it?

He is searching for something... perhaps a secret from his past, or a clue to his distant future? Is he searching for Truth? Enlightenment? Meaning?

If you must know, I'm looking for flashlight batteries.

Oh.



AAGH!

Speaking of which...



fizzle

Oops.

Nervously, he gropes for a lightbulb hanging from the ceiling, and ...



CLICK



Hm?

H.D. PETE!\* What are YOU doing down here?

Well, I couldn't sleep for worrying about all the hazardous stuff down here, so I thought I'd try to clean it up.

\*a.k.a. "The Juggernaut" - check your trading cards.

Wow! What a GREAT idea! That's really very considerate of you, Pete. Very thoughtful -

You don't want to help me, do you?

Not really, no.

Nonetheless, a few minutes and safety precautions later -

Hey, aren't these plastic containers recyclable?

Nope - plastic bottles are contaminated by the toxics kept inside them, so we'll just have to throw them out when they're empty.

Well, if empty's what you want...

DON'T! Toxics poured down the sink, or even into the toilet, can mess up the microorganisms that clean our waste water!

Then why don't I just pour what's left into this old jug?

That's even worse! Toxics that aren't in their original, clearly-labeled containers can get misplaced, or confused with other things.

Sheesh! Why do they SELL this stuff if it's so terrible?

But then we'll just need to buy more, won't we?

Well, most of it is safe to just use up, so long as we store it carefully and follow the directions. And if we DO need to get rid of it, we can give it to a friend or relative to use, or take it to the Home Toxics Reduction Center.\*

Not necessarily - there are a lot of non-toxic things that work just as well as those expensive chemicals.

\*see page 4

Oh, come on! What could possibly take the place of these scientifically-formulated, extra-strengthened, triple-activated degunkifiers?

Try me.

Window cleaner?

Lemon juice.

Mildew remover?

Vinegar.

Carpet shampoo?

Cornstarch.

Fabric softener?

Baking soda,

Sink cleaner?

Baking soda,

Grout polish?

Baking soda,

Grease fire extinguisher?

and baking soda.

Well, you've certainly taught ME a lesson... I guess the basement isn't such a scary place after all.

Yep.

What are you guys DOING down there?

AAGH!

END