

Gelatinization

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/40354101) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/40354101>.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings
Category:	Gen
Fandom:	Hermitcraft SMP
Character:	Jevin iJevin , Mumbo Jumbo , Grian , ZombieCleo
Additional Tags:	Alternate Universe - The Magnus Archives Fusion , Body Horror , Non-Consensual Body Modification , disintegration (non-lethal) , new type of horror: homeowners associations , Comedy , Mild Gore
Language:	English
Series:	Part 25 of From the Archives
Collections:	Hermitcraft x TMA fics
Stats:	Published: 2022-07-16 Completed: 2022-11-20 Words: 1,990 Chapters: 2/2

Gelatinization

by [Sixteenthdays](#)

Summary

[MUMBO]

Statement of I. Jevin, regarding a... regarding, um- a cookbook? Statement recorded direct from subject today, 23rd of June, 2022.

(Wet squishing)

[JEVIN]

Sorry about your chair, by the way. I think this one's probably gonna be a goner.

[MUMBO]

(Audibly distressed) Don't worry about it, mate.

Notes

See the end of the work for [notes](#)

Statement:



[Click]

[GRIAN]

Okay, this is- eugh.

It's *sticky*. *Why* is it so... hold on.

Okay, that's... a little better. What *is* this? I feel like I'm going to throw up.

(Clears throat)

Anyways. This is- a statement that Mumbo took from somebody who walked in during that week while I was, uh, busy. According to him, he tried to just have the statement giver write it down, but the paper got... wet? He wasn't terribly clear. Anyways, he wound up recording it instead, so I'm just listening back to make sure everything's in order and add my own notes before I file it away.

[Click]

[Click]

[MUMBO]

Statement of I. Jevin, regarding a... regarding, um- a cookbook? Statement recorded direct from subject today, 23rd of June, 2022.

(Wet squishing)

[JEVIN]

Sorry about your chair, by the way. I think this one's probably gonna be a goner.

[MUMBO]

(Audibly distressed) Don't worry about it, mate.

Er. So, like I said, I'm- *not* the Head Archivist. He's the one who would normally take these sorts of statements, but he's been... out of work, for the past few days, so I am... not... *entirely* sure how to do this? He didn't leave any notes, which is- *just* like him, frankly, so... sorry, in advance, this is going to be very disorganized.

[JEVIN]

Hey, it's fine. I didn't come to the ghostbusters expecting peak professionalism.

[MUMBO]

...You know, that's fair enough. I guess... just start from the beginning?

[JEVIN]

Well, I guess it all started when I accidentally threw a Frisbee over my next-door neighbor's fence.

(Pause)

[MUMBO]

And... what happened next?

[JEVIN]

Well, she was really *weird* about it, mostly. I mean, it was just a Frisbee. It didn't even break anything! But she stormed over so mad you'd think I'd killed her cat or something and complained at me for, like, ten full minutes about keeping my stuff out of her yard.

I'm a really live and let live sort of guy, so I was ready to just apologize and forget about it, but she just kept *going*. We hadn't really talked before- she just moved into the neighborhood like a year ago- so we just got off to a really bad start, and it was all downhill from there.

[MUMBO]

...How so?

[JEVIN]

Eh, the usual stuff when you have a neighbor you hate? On Halloween I *might've*, uh, encouraged some teenagers to egg her house, and I think after that she started taking my newspapers. That sort of thing. And man, she has a death glare and a *half*. Fortunately I don't have any pets. I feel like if I had, they would've gone mysteriously missing, if you know what I mean.

[MUMBO]

I will say, so far this isn't explaining... how exactly... um.

[JEVIN]

I'm getting there! You gotta let me provide the context.

So, what happened is I already sort of hated her and she *definitely* hated me back, and we were both constantly sort of snipping at each other whenever we crossed paths, and she had this tree, right, in her backyard, and some of the branches went over the fence into my yard. And look, she'd got all mad at *me* for accidentally tossing a Frisbee into her yard, it felt like I could bother her back about her stupid tree.

I made a few passive-aggressive comments about it, and she sort of brushed me off- she has such bad vibes, honestly. Like she's always looking over her shoulder for something. Honestly, you know what, I'm not even surprised that this happened. The way she acted, I was half expecting her to break into my house and smother me in my sleep.

[MUMBO]

So, um, what happened with the tree, exactly? ...I'm assuming something *did* happen?

[JEVIN]

Oh, right. She didn't do anything about her tree, so I called the neighborhood association on her. And dude, she was *so* spitting mad about that. I hung out in my front yard with a lemonade when they came over so I could watch her argue with them at the front door... which in hindsight was probably not the best move, because it totally gave away that I was the one who had called them, but, eh. I don't regret it.

And- okay, so, I can't *actually* prove it was her fault, but I'm absolutely sure it was. Because like, two days later, I found a cookbook tucked in with my mail, and like I said, I *know* she was going through my mail! And it wasn't one of those free sample recipe things from the grocery store or whatever. That would be pretty normal to get in the mail, but that's not what this was. It was an actual book. It wasn't *fancy*, it had a plastic cover and, like, notebook-type binding, but definitely a proper cookbook.

And, like, weirdly *old*, too. There wasn't a date on it, but it was obviously pretty worn-out, and it was full of recipes from the fifties or something. It was all themed after those weird, gross Jello molds. You know, the ones with like, fish and vegetables in them.

[MUMBO]

Did this book have, um, a stamp inside the cover? Like a lending library book? By any chance.

[JEVIN]

Oh, it did, actually, yeah! From the library of... some guy? I don't remember.

[MUMBO]

Ah, yup, I... figured that might be the case. I'm guessing you opened it?

[JEVIN]

Yeah. I was mostly just a little weirded out by it, but I flipped through it a bit. I figured it was just a weird prank of some sort- I mean, she couldn't have actually expected me to try and make any of that stuff, it all looked disgusting, but who knows what goes on inside her head.

But as I did, I noticed I was starting to, uh, leave fingerprints on the pages? But my hands weren't *dirty*, was the thing. They didn't have anything on them, but they still felt all gross. And *sticky*. My fingers kept sticking together, and sticking to the pages. When I looked at them, it looked like they had some sort of gluey gunk on them. Like...

(*Squelching noise*)

[MUMBO]

(*Quickly*) Mhm! Mhm, yup, I- I understand, you don't need to... demonstrate, I promise. Totally... totally get it.

[JEVIN]

Gross, right? So obviously I was weirded out, right, and I went to wash my hands, but that just made whatever it was way worse. Like, some of it went down the drain, but it didn't clean my hands off- I just, like, lost feeling? And then I saw, uh, bone, and I realized I needed to stop putting them under water *right away*. When I got up the nerve to look at my hands again, they just looked like... globs. They didn't *hurt*, I could still feel them- or, uh, what was left of them, since like, a non-zero amount of me had just gone down the kitchen sink- but they were... didn't look that much like hands anymore. Obviously.

I tossed out the book right away- even used kitchen tongs to do it so I wouldn't have to touch it again- but, uh... yeah, damage done.

[MUMBO]

Right. And, um, how about the rest of... I can see you're, uh, looking slightly... melty, generally...

[JEVIN]

Yeah, it's *worst* on my hands, and that's where I noticed first, but all my skin is sort of, uh, goop. Most of the stuff underneath, too, from what I can tell. Caught my arm on a chainlink fence the other day and it just sort of *shlorped* right through. And, like, you know how hot it was last week? I went outside *once*, and barely made it to the end of the block before I realized I was dripping skin and muscle onto the pavement.

I tried going to a doctor who specializes in skin conditions, but I could tell she was as freaked out as I was. If there's any cure, it was probably in that stupid cookbook, but you couldn't pay me a million dollars to even *touch* that thing again.

[MUMBO]

Right. I... do not blame you. Um... is there anything else you'd like to share?

[JEVIN]

Nah, that's basically it? Got in a fight with my neighbor, she put a weird cookbook in my mail, and then I started melting. I don't really know what else you guys want to know?

Oh, I *have* been sticking handfuls of slime in her mailbox now, since this is all her fault and also she still hasn't even trimmed back her stupid tree.

[MUMBO]

Right... speaking of your neighbor, can I get her name? We do follow-up research on all these, so...

[JEVIN]

Yeah, her name is Cleo. Don't know her last name. I think it starts with a Z?

(Long pause)

[MUMBO]

(Weakly) ...She wouldn't be an artist, by any chance, would she?

[JEVIN]

Yeah, actually! Have you met her? She's insane, right?

[MUMBO]

I've... heard of her, and I'm not going to argue that point.

Right, um, thank you for the interview. We might call you for some more questions later, once our Head Archivist is... back. Good luck with your... uh. Skin condition?

Oh, er- statement ends.

[Click]

[Click]

[GRIAN]

I cannot believe- during the *one week* I was gone, someone came in with a statement like this and Mumbo completely *bungled* the interview! And it was about Cleo! And another Hills book! *Oooh*, I wish I'd have been there. I would've gotten *such* a good *story*... *(groans)* I wonder if he would come back for another interview if I called him?

...It's not the end of the world. It's not *that* bad. Mumbo did fine. I just would've done *better*, is all. And I do need to tell him to stop only taking down a first initial when he records these. He did it with that one tag statement, too.

I guess it does answer the question of what the... *residue* on the tape here is. At least it still plays alright.

I considered calling Cleo up to ask her about this incident, since I do still have her number, but I figured that might've been pushing it a little. I don't think I need any more... feathers. At least they don't itch anymore. And I did promise Pearl I would leave well enough alone, anyways. For now.

Oh, I'm so upset I missed this one. *I love* taking the live statements. They're like candy.

See, this is why I can't take time off.

[Click]

Supplemental:

[Click]

(A phone rings three times, then cuts off abruptly as the call is picked up.)

[GRIAN]

Hello, am I speaking to I. Jevin?

Excellent! I just wanted to follow up with-

Oh, I'm Grian. Head Archivist at the VOID Institute? You missed me when you came in to give your statement, so I wanted to check in and follow up.

Yes, my assistant can't seem to get a coherent story out of anyone. It's a pity. Hopefully I can make up for the lack of professionalism- you wouldn't want to come on by and try again, would you?

That's too bad. Well, in case you don't change your mind, would you answer a few questions for me?

(A little hungrily) Glad to hear it. It'll tide me over until we're in the same space again. *(Quickly)* Don't worry about it. Have you ever seen anyone other than Cleo enter her home?

(Pause)

(Delighted) Would he happen to have been American? Maybe carrying books?

And can you tell me anything else about him?

(Pen scribbling on paper)

Thank you. Don't think too hard about- Oh, *definitely* don't antagonize him. Where do you think your cookbook came from? *(Pause)* I'd say don't antagonize Cleo, either, but you've already burned *that* bridge.

Oh, another question. Can I please get your first name? All Mumbo put down was an initial.

[Click]

End Notes

me, naming this statement: what is like the worst possible word i could use to describe a process happening to a human person? ah yes. gelatinization

smh mumbo doesn't know you don't conduct these as an actual *interview*, you just say 'statement begins' and let them weave a complete narrative on their own. this is why he's not the head archivist. or maybe it's the other way around. anyways

i am not a regular jevin viewer but i hope i did alright at writing him! this was very very fun

leave a comment if you enjoyed!

Please [drop by the archive and comment](#) to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!