

## Treasure Hunt Prompt #1 for October 2023

Symprites & Aras used:

Polaris <https://symprites.com/character/SYM-299> (mine)

Matcha <https://symprites.com/character/ARA-001>

Nintendo DS Lite <https://symprites.com/character/SYM-003> (with permission from owner)

Koi <https://symprites.com/character/SYM-316> (with permission from owner)

Eden <https://symprites.com/character/SYM-002>

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Polaris took a left turn through the tunnels like Koi had told her, guided by the light of her candle. The caverns beneath the rocky crags of the coastline were surprisingly vast, and she didn't feel like getting lost. Koi had mentioned it offhandedly last night when she showed him the stained glass pieces on her latest masterpiece, as she had become obsessed with using stained glass in mosaics. The beach near her home was littered with fragments, smooth little pieces of colours that reflected light so gloriously. Lately, though, the waves brought in fewer and fewer fragments. She had nearly picked her little beachside area clean.

"I know there's plenty all over Capricorn, but I get so tired traveling..." she had groaned to Koi as they sat by the beach. He was visiting for the week, and planned they had arranged a small beach party with some of their friends. Matcha and Nintendo DS Lite were dancing around the bonfire nearby, daring each other to jump over the flames. Polaris watched a panicked Eden rush forward to pull them both back.

"You know there's a cave not too far from here that's full of this stuff." Koi took a pale blue piece of smooth glass between their claws and examined it in the firelight.

"Really?" Polaris leaned forward.

"Yeah, I found piles of it when I went exploring around here not too long ago... some shiny silver trinkets too I think..."

She asked them for more details, and Koi was happy to explain the way to the cave.

That was how she found herself in said caverns the next day, following Koi's instructions from the night before, a candle clasped in her paw to light her way. Despite the few branching paths, the cave wasn't terribly hard to locate. It was only a few moments of walking before she reached a section that opened up into a sizable cavern. She shone

the candlelight over the floors, and sure enough they were littered with piles of smooth glass in a variety of colours, brought in and piled up by the tides. Polaris excitedly laid the candle upon a rock and opened the satchel she had brought with her. How had she never known about this cave? The amount of stained glass in here could last her through years of creations, all thanks to Koi mentioning it.

She had filled her satchel with the first few handfuls when she suddenly heard a loud, resounding *thunk* from somewhere deeper in the cave. Polaris jumped, turning in the direction of the noise, but it was too dark to make out. Her mind raced as she heard another thumping sound, and for a moment she felt terrified, but the thump was followed by a muffled sound that sounded... familiar.

Fighting the feelings of fear, Polaris picked her candle up and walked further into the cave. Against the far wall the light finally shone on a massive chest. It was carved of an elegant dark wood and the plating still shone. But more importantly, the giant treasure chest was shaking as something inside it kicked around and made muffled noises.

Polaris took a steadying breath, telling herself it was probably just a scared byun that had gotten trapped inside, and undid the latch. She flung the chest open and gasped.

“Oh finally!” Matcha cried, looking up at her from inside the chest. He lay at an awkward angle, like he had fallen in headfirst, his legs kicking up as he struggled to right himself and crawl out. He was too short to pull himself out, so Polaris leant him a paw. He tipped over the edge and flopped down onto the sandy floor, sighing dramatically.

“I thought I was going to *die* in there!” He exclaimed, standing up slowly. “I fell inside and the top snapped shut on me. That thing’s dangerous!” He jabbed a claw at the offending chest.

“What are you even doing here? I haven’t seen you since last night at the bonfire...” Polaris stared between him and the chest.

“I just left this morning, about two hours ago. I wanted to get here before you because, well... I wanted to see what Koi was talking about... they mentioned that there were some silver trinkets here and...” Matcha twiddled their paws, staring at the floor of the cave.

“And you wanted those for yourself?” Polaris grinned.

“Hmph, obviously!” Matcha put his hands on his hips. “But that liar doesn’t know what they’re talking about! There’s no other trinkets in here. Just coloured glass and sand.” He kicked at the floor as if to prove his point.

Polaris couldn’t help but suppress a giggle.

“Did it occur to you they might have noticed you listening to us, and said that knowing you would go looking for yourself?”

“You’re not saying...” Matcha looked down. “Nobody outpranks me!”

Polaris only smiled and went back to collecting glass.

“Oh that little.... I’ll get them back for this!” Matcha started pacing in circles. “Yes, it’ll be perfect, it’ll be *devious*... the ultimate prank to get my revenge!”

Polaris kept her mouth shut as she listened to Matcha ramble on, hoping he didn’t see the grin on her face.

“I’m sure you’ll get back at them, Matcha.” she said.