

## Formidable: Tania Johnson

Leroy sat upright, a green spiky crown sitting glorious and proud above his calloused, pockmarked, rough skin. He was the tallest among them all, their ruler. Down below him were all the others. New ones came, others left, all turned over so quickly he never bothered to learn their names. The reddish round ones, the yellowish-brown thin ones, the deep purple little soft things and the orange ones with their dimpled skin. His domain was in the centre of the room where he could survey all around. The landscape on the horizontal layers changed rapidly along with the blurred movement of soft fleshy shapes. He saw chaos and destruction with corpses littering the landscape and implements being moved around or left in messy piles. Other times the fleshy shapes brought music into his domain and cleaned up the corpses, using fabrics to swash down the plains until it was empty once more. Occasionally the shapes would poke him, but they left him where he was. He was where he belonged, king of his territory.

He aged as he sat and contemplated his magnificence. His body was still robust, but he felt softer and squishier internally. Still his crown stood upright although somewhat sunken into his aging head. His domain continued as it always had done with the soft fleshy shapes moving around constantly. Littering the landscape and disappearing, returning to move things around until the horizon was once more uncluttered, only to start the cycle all over again. A fleshy shape moved towards him and poked him, just as they had been doing since he took up his rule in this domain. But this time he felt himself being lifted and pulled upward and then dropped. There was no time for any thought as he was falling, falling into a dark soft chasm and all light was then shut off above him. It was peaceful here and he had not had a chance to lay down for such a long time. Still his crown was intact and he was still the formidable ruler of his domain. Even rulers could be allowed some rest. Lying in the dark he felt his insides grow more and more soft and Leroy the most formidable ruler of the fruit bowl became mush.