

Kada flushed, looking back over his shoulder as he knelt there, staying still. I had him entirely naked now, and rear cheeks spread nice and wide, letting the headset I was wearing complete the scan of his puffy tailhole and the back of his balls. "Mmm, and... there. Your in-game character model is now anatomically accurate!" He grinned, despite the pink cheeks, then nodded eagerly. Of course, I couldn't help but stretch him a little more, and get him to shiver after. His outer anal ring was puffy and a nicely shaped oval now, thanks to the augment. Sliding a finger inside caused him to groan and arch his rear back towards me, and I felt the hot slickness just on the other side of his clenching muscle ring. The Garkin anal augment was really something! For him too, by the looks of it.

"Glad you picked up the augment now?"

Another shiver. "Hah, yes! Oh, it's awesome! Bet it feels good for you too, though..." He ducked down instead, looking under himself, past his own hanging length, and to my full erection I sported too.

I snickered, then nodded. "Admittedly, it does feel quite nice, yes. The knot grip is... mmm. You're gonna stay knotted for a while this time..." It was even more amusing seeing my erection represented in-game, as it pulsed and bobbed there. This was amazingly naughty!

"Mmmph, w-wait, wait, we have to fully test it all out!" Right...

I paused, midway through pulling him closer, and huffed, reluctantly letting him go again. He winked to me, then grabbed his in-game clothing again, and pulling his thin loincloth back on. There, he modeled with it, turning around and flashing me quite a lot of fur, before sliding the back to the side and teasing just a few centimeters of his flush tailhole my way too. My muzzle scrunched as I watched, trying not to drool.

"If you keep teasing me, I'm just going to pounce you here and now..." I huffed as he snickered, then nodded.

"Mmm, maybe I want you to? Is it wrong for me to maybe want you to be my alpha too? To be subservient to you...?" He leaned back with that, eyes lidding a little as his grin widened and pink shifted to red in his cheeks. Aaaahhh... damn!

He gave a startled squeak as I was on him in an instant, pouncing him down against the mattress. He started to shift back to smiling when my muzzle pushed up against his. Of course, he thrived on it, immediately spreading his legs to either side of mine and giving me complete access to himself, while groaning into the kiss.

Then again, he'd already submitted to me. He smelled like me fully, and did anything I asked of him. With abandon, even, as I lifted his hips with a few nudges of my own, and pressed my sheath and balls nice and snug between his rear cheeks. I was throbbing now against his own length, and he shuddered, pulling my tongue into his muzzle rather eagerly.

The urges spiked, and I started pulling his clothes off, with his in-game outfit showing the changes under me. My own shorts were down already, but I broke the kiss, grinning down at him before pulling my tunic off over my head. He eagerly traced his eyes over my chest and stomach, almost drinking in the light muscle tone I had now, even as I rocked down on his rear, tipping him a bit further upwards there.

His eyes widened a little as he suddenly realized that his own cock was pointed right at his muzzle, with mine hanging down right above it, cushioned between his balls. I knew Illan rivaled Keld in flexibility, but he surprised me all the more by suddenly leaning up, propping himself on his arms under him, and taking *both* of us into his muzzle! Oh!

I shivered, feeling his hot tongue tease around and press our lengths together, with mine bucking once, then twice more, releasing splatters of pre down his throat. He gave a moan at that, and the paw I wasn't using to brace myself slipped behind his head, pulling him further upwards. Our cocks pushed further into his muzzle, and he eagerly took them deeper, drinking in his own pre as much as mine!

A little burst of magic, and I pulled a pillow over from across the other side of the bed. It got tucked under his back a moment later, propping him up gently, even as I sunk down. His eyes widened and he gave a muffled groan as I went right up to my knot in his muzzle, grinding along the underside of his own cock before smirking down to him. "Mmm, I love how kinky you are sometimes, Kada... Good boy, taking both of us at once." His eyes lidded at that, with his flush deepening over the bridge of his muzzle. It seemed to stir him onwards, and his lips more closed around our shafts. Then he actually started to suckle us both at the same time.

I relaxed, letting my tongue hang out, balls rested between his cheeks as I thrust gently into his mouth, grinding down against his own cock. More pulses, and he drank down my pre eagerly, eyes closed now with a surprisingly content smile. His nose was going furiously right against my knot, and I ground into his lips for a long moment, just enjoying the sensation of his tongue lapping and teasing around us.

There wasn't particularly any hurry. The game flagged us as 'Creative', I noticed, a moment later, for pulling off the 'riding auto-double blowjob' position. I gave a chuckle in amusement before dipping down a few more times, really saturating my cock in his mouth. He seemed to sense it and slicked his tongue around my shaft, eyes opening again just a bit as I drew back, then finally out of him again.

"Mmm, good boy. I'm nice and slick now. Keep suckling yourself, and I'm going to use your tailhole instead." He gave an eager nod on his length, dutifully nursing himself in his muzzle as I backed up a bit, rubbing my tip over his now leaking rear entrance. Producing his own lubrication, he'd pooled up a surprising amount that my balls were dipped into now. It spilled backwards and down his back, leaving strands attached to me as I moved back. It was remarkably like female fluids, I noticed.

He was swollen, and slightly gaped by the time I nudged my tip over his tailhole. He shuddered, groaning into his length, and I grinned before sinking down into the tight, hot wetness. The shuddering intensified, and his eyes closed again as he shifted to looking blissed out the more I stretched him open. His legs widened, flexing his tailhole against my shaft as he spread himself for me, touching his lower paws to each side of his own shoulders.

Still, I kept my weight not entirely on top of him, balancing with my own legs and arms as I sank fully into his ass. Another shiver, and I added my pre to the slick mess inside his now pulsing, clenching tunnel. Individual muscles caressed me within, tugging to try to get me deeper into his body, and I just rocked my knot against his entrance for a moment, enjoying the sensation of him all around me.

Another pillow, and I propped him up further as I relaxed backwards myself, sliding around until my own back was up against the pile of plush softness at the head of the bed. His eyes cracked open at the moment, watching me almost lazily as I rested backwards, grinning as I rocked slowly into his body

where we were connected. My paws grabbed his legs, lifting them back and draping them over my own thighs, and he shuddered as I slid his own length out of his muzzle doing so.

With just a casual glance, it might look like he was just sitting on my lap, upside down in orientation to me. I ground upwards into him, and he groaned into the air this time, pushing down and back against me. Wait, that was going to...

Both of us groaned as he slid my knot into his rear with a wet popping noise, and gush of combined fluids. His tail swayed happily now, draped off to the side of us as he sank right down to my sheath, burying my full length inside of him. I shivered, but he eased fully down in my lap and flushed, smiling rather warmly to me. Oh? Neither of us were...

“Can... C-Can we play for a while... like this?” *Very kinky Illan.*

I smirked, shivering as I felt another throb go up my shaft and into him. “...alright. But you owe me one...” I winked, and he grinned, reaching up and hitting the floating ‘disengage’ button for the mod. Our characters reset, and snapped to having clothing on again in an instant. Well, this was... going to be interesting.

Our focus was definitely shot. We did just minor questing, heading into the jungle as carefully as we could, but every torso movement pushed me deep into his ass, and got both of us to moan. I couldn’t get any further into him, but he stayed pushed as hard as he could into my groin, just milking my shaft with his own inner walls.

Two slow fights later, and we had to take a break in a cave after he raised his hips a bit and accidentally gave me a little tug. My mind had *wobbled* at that, and I ground against him, paws on his hips now and rocking there. Instincts were screaming that I was tied and could just let go, but he... barely kept from giving me enough sensation to do that!

I don’t think he himself was much better off though, with the slick pool of his fluids he was gathering over his stomach, now running off the sides of his body. His eyes lidded, and he hit the re-engage for the mod, swapping us back to being naked and with him now in my lap. He flexed his torso then, and my eyes widened, feeling him clench down on all sides of me and massage my knot. I groaned, clenching my eyes shut for a moment, then widening them to full again as he leaned upwards again.

With just his core muscles, he lifted himself and sat up fully on my lap, before curling and leaning down against my chest instead, with his legs rotating under me to hook under my knees! I was... impressed at how strong his core was. His muzzle found my own, and I fiercely invaded him with my tongue, all while my paws snapped downwards to grip at his rear and knead, feeling myself pulse into him again.

It was just too much. He was all around me with slick heat, clenching and milking me upwards. I ground in, giving my knot another light tug, and felt myself start to throb and buck into his ass. He tensed, shuddering as the hot seed started to fill him, then gave a wanton cry into my muzzle, suckling eagerly on my tongue as his own cock throbbed between us. Our navels squished it and massaged him even as he started to pulse and twitch too, with a spray of cum all the way up to our chests as we rubbed together.

I just held him there, keeping his tailhole tight against my sheath as I filled him up with wild abandon. It seemed to drag on and on, for probably close to thirty seconds before we sagged against each other,

and I panted there, letting his muzzle go to bury itself promptly against my neck. Everything fell silent, with the game detecting our orgasms and quietly pausing itself, leaving just our panting going on now as we snuggled against each other.

“Hah... wow. That was amazing, Alpha... T-Thank you...” Kada nuzzled up under my chin, and I smiled, arms holding him tight to me as my length switched over to just slowly churning more seed into his rear.

I kissed the inside of his ear softly, getting him to shiver and nuzzle more. “Thank *you*, Kada. Really... You’re amazing. I...” I trailed off, and his eyes opened up slowly, looking up at me curiously. We locked our gazes for a moment, with my right paw sliding up to cup at his cheek, brushing my thumb over it. “It... might be too soon but I want to say... that I love you, Kada. Thank you for being with me and being my mate.”

His eyes widened, flush dancing in his cheeks, before he broke out into a wide smile of his own. “Aaah! I love you too, Alpha! I really do!” He pushed into a kiss again immediately after, and I sagged down into the pillows, bringing him with me as his arms tucked over my shoulders. The game stayed forgotten about, at least for a few more minutes as we enjoyed being sealed together and affectionate kisses.

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Something felt... different this time. Things were... pristine. We’d passed out cuddling but... I looked out at the snowy landscape, perhaps a portrait of what was to come if we were headed for Koramir. I’d never seen snow before, but I imagined this was perfectly what it looked like. The light powder covered the field of corpses under me, and the Keyhole was silent. Watching with hatred, but silent. I’d... been here before.

I looked up towards the shattered moon, with blue blood slowly oozing from the sky. Blue. But no, there was... I was distinctly aware of it now. A hot, wetness pulsing in my mind, causing me to shiver and sweat. Like a fever, where your head spun and felt filled with cotton. But this was red. Red like blood. The glowing bits of growth were here and there, dotting the snow. I knew it was too good to be true. The infection had gotten into me after all. It had just skipped my body and went right into my dreams instead.

Was this a dream? I felt every turn and rough edge of the bone railing under my paws. Paws...? They were skeletal, metal things, with woven wire and coil moving them with precision, and radiant blue veins extending down the metal arcs and bars. The Keyhole beat in my chest like a clock, rotating with alienly exact precision and clicks, the pattern inside ever shifting and changing. I could feel it, ever present and ever hating. But that radiant blue...

No, whatever they’d injected into me was losing. Its heat slowly being stamped out and washed away in the snow. The light was becoming mine instead. A radiant blue light shining from the thick, bulbous veins and appendages. But... what was the cost? It wasn’t dying. It was *changing*. I was changing it somehow, to be *me* instead. I closed my eyes, no longer feeling the ache. The light inside them had also become ‘me’. Just like my mindset, I suppose.

I turned from the balcony and padded slowly inside instead. My mind had been opened up. Maybe literally, due to her song. I didn’t know her name, but I did know her voice, and that the song belonged

to her. It... opened things. That was as descriptive as it needed to be. It had opened my mind. First to reading Demonic and seeing in six dimensions to do so. Now, it opened my eyes. Well, my soul's eyes.

Just her song now, alongside the soft clicking of my claws on the bone tiles of the palace under me. But... it was here, too. The book. My paw reached to the right as I walked, and I grabbed its spine out of the air, pulling it under my arm in one fluid motion. It was always there of course, wherever I wanted 'there' to be. It was a Figment, that just happened to *look* like a book. That form was comfortable to me. Familiar. But its name proved one thing. *It wasn't alone*. Books existed in collections and libraries. This one was no different.

I turned the corner heading into the palace library; a shadowy and off-white version of the palace moving past me as it looked in real life. But this was a dream. Or, sort of. Stepping through the double doors, I entered an entirely different library instead. It was built like a rooftop terrace garden of sorts, with heavy columns of twisted metal rising up in vast arches that spanned from one side of the roof to the other. The sky opened up all around us, in pitch black with burning blue stars. The moons were massive and hung overhead, leaking glowing-blue blood that never seemed to reach the floor.

From the tops of the arches hung dangling shelves, free-floating in the air on black metal chains. They slowly rotated around me, as if on a mind of their own. As I walked, the candles lit along the columns, each flame a flickering black Faefire, with the inner heart of one of the blue stars. They shed an unnatural amount of light into the area, but that really didn't mean anything, as a statement.

Books. No, Figments. There were thousands of Figments, all around me. I knew the library would be here. The... blood had told me. This library hadn't been walked in for a very long time. One of the *keys* to get into it beat in my chest, after all. Demons. This is how they stored their most important, guarded secrets. I walked along, radiant eyes slowly drawn over each rotating shelf. The room shifted and warped around me as I walked, and each book rested teasingly on the black metal, seemingly just out of my reach.

The Cult knew about this place, but couldn't get here. But... they gave me one of the Figments they did possess. They passed it to me, like an idea or thought. It wasn't real, but it was at the same time. Like the understanding of a new word, it let me reach out and touch the book. That was the password to using it. That night, back in the palace, the cloaked figure had given me the password. The book appeared on demand after I accepted it. But... that wasn't exactly fair. I accepted it just by hearing the word, without any consent on my part.

But that let me get *here*. To know here existed, with its countless treasures of information just out of reach. They wanted me to get here. Maybe they wanted me to open my eyes too. But *why*? Me being here didn't let them get access to it. I paused in the middle of the library and slowly turned, looking around at all the gently rotating shelves. I'd read about something like this, actually.

The Elves had something like this too. They called theirs the 'Akashic Records'. A library outside of time and space where they recorded all of their knowledge. Of course, it was just a rumor. Hearsay. A legend, even. Now though... Had the Demons copied them, or had they copied the Demons? Elves... She was an Elf, too. I suddenly remembered that, listening to her ever-present song dancing in the wind above. Hum. It sounded... forlorn. Lilted on the breeze, speaking of absolute sorrow and loneliness.

I closed my eyes again. No, I wasn't strong enough. Yet. I needed passwords still, for all of this withheld information. My paw tightened on the book. I wasn't going to give up, though. In my heart, I was a scientist. My real heart. My soul's heart. Not this ticking Keyhole in my chest. My eyes opened again with new purpose. No matter how miserable I felt, or what the disease meant, it was my duty to keep walking forward. I was the Grandmaster now, and I was obligated to help all of Aion. Plus, an entire *realm* of mysteries had opened up in front of me. Why was I hesitating in exploring them?

Turning, I left the taunting library. It might as well have been empty for all the good it did me right now. But what else was here, in this dream that wasn't a dream? Where else was there to explore and investigate? I might as well find out...

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I woke up feeling tired, with my Keyhole unsealed for some reason, despite it having been locked away before bed. Fun. The blue light blazed in the dark, around the dark form of Kada snoring lightly on my chest. Well, *he* wasn't bothered by it... We were utterly saturated in fluids still, however, and my length was knotted and buried in his ass. Mmm, right.

We'd only gotten about six hours of sleep, so it was pretty agonizing to get moving. By the time we'd gotten up, got a shower and got dressed, and at least wiped the bed down, *the knock* came to the door. I knew what was coming when I opened it, of course. The small flood of Illan, Inaga, and Garkin servants entered the room in a rush, carrying a ton of packages to put things into. I barely managed to move out of the way in time to avoid getting plowed over! After they cleared through, Mom gave me a smile, leaning against the doorframe.

"You two sleep well anyway? Doesn't look like it. Your eyes are red..."

I flushed lightly, then coughed. "We were up a bit late gaming." Stupid Exes! She could probably smell the sex still! That scent was *hard* to wash off! If she did, she didn't say anything, and instead just gave me a soft smile and nod, then another to Kada as he hopped up next to me, watching the rush with wide eyes.

"W-Whoa, I was expecting to have to pack. Uh... This is... huh. All of it's going to get loaded on the train then?" He glanced back to Mom with that, and she scrunched her muzzle.

"It better, yeah. If they leave any of our stuff behind, I'll be talking to Calien directly about it. Anyway, we're supposed to be down to breakfast, then escorted to the train yard, so we'd best get moving. You two go down to the cafeteria. I'll see if I can get the others up and moving..." I gave an exhale, then nod to her with that, in quiet thanks. Her smile shifted a bit softer as she nodded back to me, then walked over to the other door. Nope. Didn't want to even look in there...

I gave one last lingering look to the still destroyed bits of wall and missing door across from us, before heading to the elevator for my last trip in it. For a while, anyway. Maybe we'd be back to Laridia one day? Hopefully after people stopped trying to murder each other in the streets, anyway. Kada grabbed my paw in his as we moved, and I gave it a squeeze as the elevator door closed, lowering us slowly towards the ground floor... Part of me wished again that Chronak was still around. What would he advise for all this book and dream stuff?

Images of that pale white and blue palace in my dreams still danced fresh in my mind. I'd explored it for what felt like hours, but quickly realized that navigating it was based more on my own thoughts than any sensical structural navigation. In order to find new places, I paradoxically needed to know they existed, it would seem. There had to be a way... around that, but I'd have to do more research, decidedly.

Thankfully we managed to sit down quickly, and I finished half my breakfast before the others got down to the cafeteria. Kada had wondered why I was eating so fast, at least until they showed up. He was probably fine, but I found my appetite rapidly dwindling again when Exir sat down across from me. Mom had plopped down right on the other side of me, surprisingly fast, and formed a nice insulating layer to both of my sides, between Kada and her. That gave me... room, at least distance-wise. It didn't stop the eager mixture of frustrated to tentative gaze of the others, of course.

There wasn't really a point in being anything worse than standoffish, of course, so I managed to look up and at Exir anyway. His eyes were still a bit pink, and a bit of veins visible on his muzzle, but otherwise, he was looking better from last I'd seen him. He looked back to me for a long moment before relaxing again and starting to eat his own breakfast. Mmm. I was glad he was fine, and he probably knew that. I continued trying to finish off my pancakes, but it was hard with Yimir and Exia looking so intensely at me.

At least until Mom clinked Exia's plate with her fork, and gestured back down to it. They both snapped out of it then and reluctantly went to eating instead. I exhaled quietly, barely audible, before managing to ask, "How are you feeling today, Exir?"

A pause, and his ears perked up a bit more, looking up at me with that. "Ah, well... better, really. The headaches are gone and I feel... more relaxed."

"I'm glad." He nodded again to me, and Niva looked uncertainly between us both as he went back to eating.

Right, Niva. "How are you feeling, Niva?"

Her nose flicked, whiskers twitching as she nodded. "Better. No... pain this morning. Didn't have to take any medication today, and um, been getting green flakes coming out of me."

Ah, the familiarity of the medical professional role. "Yeah, that's normal. You'll probably be getting that for a couple more days still, unless you want a cleanser tonight. Activity can resume tomorrow if you want."

She gave a smaller smile to that, then nodded to me. "If... you wouldn't mind, yeah." She didn't say more than that, thankfully, and just went back to eating, herself.

Neither Exia nor Yimir had medical issues, so the conversation died on the spot. I picked at my pancake, but didn't feel hungry anymore. Kada's paw found my left one shortly after though, and I relaxed a little, softly rubbing the top of his paw as he finished eating. I was glad he was here. Really glad.

Mercifully, it was only a few more minutes before Calien came in with news that the trams to bring us to the train station were ready, and all of our baggage packed up already. We were taking a full contingent of honor guards with us, and I already knew that Annah, Kyry, and Lilita were coming too. Security was going to be... extensive, it seemed. Not that I really blamed them.

Soon, we were being loaded onto the automatic tram, and Calien herself stopped me for a gentle hug. “Hang in there, Exes. I’ll definitely keep in touch, and be working on getting things calmed down at the capital. You just stay healthy and keep studying. Once everything relaxes a bit, we’ll get to work on figuring out a solution for the essence patches.”

I smiled and nodded to her. “Of course. You stay safe too, Calien. Don’t take any risks...” That she could grin to, anyway.

“Says the one who was injured how many times since getting to the capital? Still, I’m definitely going to play it cautious. Hopefully things will stabilize once relief aid gets here.” With three to four times the number of guards on the streets, I hoped as much.

To my surprise, Nara and Fearri rushed up from the palace while I was talking to the queen. My ears perked as the princess slid to a stop, then snuck her own hug in against me too. “Yay! I didn’t miss you leaving! I wanted to say goodbye, proper. And to assure you that even if Mom doesn’t, Fearri and I will definitely be visiting you!” I gave her a pat on the back before lifting an eyebrow to that. Don’t tell me...

Fearri gave me a hug around the waist a moment later, managing to reach my chest anyway. I hadn’t realized how short she was, even for Illan standards. “Yeah! We owe you some fun, anyway!” Uh... She looked about though, then grinned before leaning a little closer and upwards again. “Plus, Nara and I have a request for later. We’ll message your comm with it!” I started to give her the raised eyebrow treatment too when Nara lightly booped her on top of the head.

“Secret, Fearri!”

“I knooooow!” She rubbed her head and huffed up at Nara, who just winked to her. Did I even want to know?

Calien gave an exasperated eye roll before grinning to me and nodding. “Anyway, get going, Exes, and Godsspeed to you.” I relaxed again and gave her a final nod and wave. If any of the four were watching, I hoped they’d grant us a peaceful journey, first and foremost.

Everyone waved at that, even as I slipped onto the tram and moved out of the way of the honor guards barring and locking the door. There was already a full barrier over it in place, and they activated a secondary one as the tram powered up. No risks at all this time, I noticed. Calien stepped back and gave a nod to the right, and the guards at the control booth through a salute before manipulating mechanical levers within.

It caught me by surprise when the entire street shifted red in color, as every central light entered emergency mode. The auto-tram system halted, suddenly moving each and every tram off to the side streets as main street all the way to the train tracks was cleared all at once. Oh, fuck! I didn’t even know they could do that! The honor guard made sure I was seated and belted in with that, and then they all braced against the paw grips hanging from the ceiling before the double trams lurched forward, suddenly accelerating far faster than I realized they could move. Kada gave a squeak and buried his face to the right against my side, and I just smiled, holding him there as our tram practically flew down main street, headed for the train station...

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Trains. They were the primary long-distance transportation choice in Aion. Huge monstrosities of metal and alchemy, the engine and fuel car were connected to upwards of fifteen other cars of various arrangements, all the way from cargo to passenger focused. They were capable of traveling at impressive speeds once they got going, and were immensely safe from the generic bandit and the like that you might see on the cart caravan paths. Four side-by-side tracks spanned the full length of known Aion, starting in Laridia, our capital. They curved up and into Talgrand from there, which was the Keldonia capital, before shooting way further north, to Kaldar. Koramir's capital near the spine of the world. That was where we were headed. The whole trip would take eight days, with three and a half or so required to get to Talgrand, then another four and a half from Talgrand to Kaldar. Maybe a little longer, as I think we were stopping in Talgrand for a bit too, for refueling and to drop off Lilita at the very least.

This train was special. It was a guard train, meant for transportation of large amount of security personnel. They'd added additional officer cars to it, but I was definitely suspecting it wasn't going to be palace-level accommodations. Still, it was also mounted with defensive measures and generated its own shields, so... They weren't taking any chances with moving me, I guess, especially when a crazy cult was after me, potentially.

The officer car was cozy to some degree, at least. Combination bathing area and bathroom, with a utilitarian quad-shower system, small lounge, and two bedrooms. Downside. I was sharing it with Exir and the three girls. The very first thing I set about doing was making a semi-permanent silence ward up for Kada's and I's bedroom. The smell would be bad enough, but I didn't want to *hear* them going at it.

Kada flopped over onto the medium bed, on his back, and rolled about before watching me slowly working the magical enchantment around the walls. Exir was watching from the hall outside the room as well, and gave a little sigh, lowering his ears a bit. "Sound...?" I simply nodded, not breaking my concentration as I manipulated the ward to the size that I wanted.

He just watched me for a long moment before sighing again. "I suppose there's nothing you've thought of yet to help make up for this, is there?" That I paused to, before looking back over to him with a shrug.

"I'm... hoping the therapist will have ideas. But until we get there and get you help... I don't think there *is* anything to do about it. Not until it's over, anyway..."

His nose wiggled at that, and he slowly nodded. "I mean, I *am* feeling better, and it took the edge off. If Nara can... help again starting tomorrow, maybe...?" I stopped again and shot him a skeptical stare instead, and he huffed, looking to the side. "It was... just a thought. But you're probably going to insist that all three stick with me for the duration, I'm guessing?"

I shook my head slowly to that. "It's not as easy as that. I don't have the materials needed to make detox potions. Or the facilities here to take care of someone who's detoxing. At this point, Exia and Yimir already have too much of your hormones in their system. They're addicted to you..." His muzzle scrunched at that, right paw clenching against his left arm.

"I guess..." He sounded defeated as he reluctantly agreed, then whacked the back of his head against the wall behind him. "This is just... driving me nuts. I know it's the instincts, but at the same time,

you're... my brother, like we said already. The Vulkus bits in me are saying I need to get this fixed and you feeling better. But I can't yet and waiting is... frustrating."

I finished the enchantment and snapped it into place once he was done talking. His ears lifted, and I perked, nodding to him. His paws lifted to his muzzle, and I could tell he was saying something a bit louder than normal, but... no sound. I gave him a thumbs up, then stepped outside of the field after, causing him to relax again. "I'm sorry for bringing it up again. I know you kind of just wanted to ignore it..."

I gave another shrug at that. "I had a long talk with Lilita, Annah, and Kyry actually, and I think they helped me sort some things out. Largely my... insecurities and stuff. But I trust you, and the girls, so..."

He met my eyes for a long moment before exhaling again and nodding more slowly. "I'm glad. I... know what you mean about insecurities. I've had more than my fair share of them after I accidentally hurt Nara. I mean, fuck. For a while, I was... terrified to so much as *touch* anyone at all." They were right about that, then.

I nodded to that. "Annah guessed as much. She said it's pretty common for Alphas to have that issue. Especially new ones who are getting adjusted to their own size and strength. But the augment each girl has now should... fix that." I couldn't help but glance down at the... significant swell in the front of his shorts. He gave a soft chuckle there, then shook his head.

"Don't even think about it, Exes. If I could go back to my original size, I would in a heartbeat. There's... no finesse to this thing at all, it feels like. It's totally fucked all my techniques, pun intended, and it feels like it's a lot harder to work with..."

"Also pun intended?" I smirked at that, and he outright laughed there.

He sagged after, then shook his head. "I know we used to joke about having huge dicks all the time, but really... there's definitely an upwards limit. Feels like I'm just sort of stuffing it in now, and the only way forward is stretching her out as much as physically possible. Well, beyond physically possible. Feels great for *me*, but... I don't think Nara likes it as much." He paused at that, then winced lightly. "Uh, before I injured her with it, that is..."

I coughed at that, then shook my head. "Just give it time, Exir. Once they get adjusted to the new elasticity, it'll probably feel amazing for them. Plus, your natural hormone cocktail helps them along the way with that..."

Another muzzle scrunch. "I don't know how to feel about *drugging* them..."

I rolled my eyes at that. "Don't be so dramatic. Our bodies are nothing *but* drugs. Sex already releases the motherload of all cocktails into us during and after. You're just adding some more to the mix. Besides, so long as Exia and Yimir both go for detox after, it doesn't really make a difference."

"We *are* going to, Exes." I gave a jump at that, then looked to the right, just in time to see Exia walking towards us in the hallway. Uh...

She didn't stop until she was close enough to almost bump noses with me, then nudged me in the chest with her paw. Ugh... she *reeked* of Exir... "Remember the promise, bro. Don't even *think* that we're not

coming back to you once this is over. I mean, I love Exir like a brother just like you do, but... I *love* you, Exes. This is just as frustrating for us..."

Exir put his paw on her shoulder and moved her back away from me again. "Relax, Exia. Don't take it out on *him*."

She sighed at that, then closed her eyes and slowly nodded. "I know. I... sorry. I just... can't stand the thought of Exes being miserable. Or thinking he's going to be abandoned. ...or thinking his dick's too small, if I was eavesdropping properly before this..." My eyes widened at that, heat shooting into my cheeks as she smirked again. Exir slapped his own forehead though.

"Exia!" Yimir's voice caused me to look to the right again, even as said female rushed up in a huff. "Don't just open with that! That's a sensitive topic!"

My turn to scrunch my muzzle, whiskers twitching furiously. Yup, they both smelled like Exir. Not that... I doubted they would. "What, were you *both* eavesdropping on us?"

Yimir's ears lowered a little at that, and she sighed softly. "Sorta? I mean, it was just nice to hear you two talking again... all normal like." It... had been a bit, and more than a little awkward.

Exia nodded, relaxing further. "It's been stressful for all of us. Actually... feeling the addiction thing, to you distancing yourself... I... can't even begin to imagine how it makes you feel, but everyone wants to help you get through it, Exes. As much as we're helping Exir get through his problems too."

I sighed, then shrugged. "Like you probably heard, I don't think there's anything we can do until Exir's in Koramir and taken care of. You two are... pretty well dosed with his hormones and scents now. I mean, I don't... really uh..." Both girls flushed, and Yimir looked away, even as Exia sighed.

"Yeah, I know. It'll just remind you of things if we tried hanging out again. I just... wish there were other options. I wish you were an Alpha too. Then it wouldn't matter at all and you could just share us..." Eh?! I stared at her in shock, even as Yimir winced, then turned and kicked her in the thigh. "Ow!"

She gave a hop, then glared to Yimir, who shot her one right back. "Exia! That was horribly worded! That wasn't what she meant at all!" She looked back to me at that, and I exhaled softly, as my sister held her paws up rather hastily.

"W-Wait, no, I meant... I just meant you could just be with us *more* than Exir and addict us right back to you instead! We could still help him enough to keep him feeling calm, and still be with you! I didn't mean... ugh!"

Exir gave a chuckle as he watched the two of them. "And paw in muzzle. At least it's entertaining to watch..." Exia glared his way, but he just shook his head at her. "Still, it's something Niva admittedly already mentioned. Worth at least talking about in the future..."

I lifted an eyebrow his way, but Exia shook her head slowly. "We should talk to the therapist first, Exir. Besides, that's not really what the issue is for Exes..." Now I was just confused.

He nodded, however. "I know. That's not going to be fixed though until you two are detoxed and safely back with him, getting settled back into comfortably being *his* again, however. Whereas... I suppose sharing Niva with Exes would be more for... my own guilty instincts." Eh?! My eyes widened at that,

staring in shock at Exir, who looked to me and nodded. "I already talked to her about it. She was the one who hesitantly brought it up, but... honestly, I think it might help me. Though, I think I'd like to... watch." What... the fuck?!

I stared in shock for another couple seconds before blinking, then wincing. "That sounds like... a remarkably bad idea. Especially with you still having issues with managing your hormones..."

"No, no, it was... an 'in the future' suggestion. Definitely not right away. I... want you to settle down with these two again first..." He gestured to the left, at Exia and Yimir, and I slowly nodded.

"That... No, Exia's right. Definitely talk to the therapist first. I... don't know. It's not like I really want to... trade or something. That's not..."

He held a paw up to that and shook his head. "No, I know it's not going to help you any, and you didn't want this to be a trade or anything. It's... more for me, instead. I feel like absolute shit over this, Exes..." He stared at me for a long moment, until both of us looked down and away instead. I... guess yeah, I could understand.

Exia gave a little smile though, afterwards, then gave my chest a nudge again. Hmm? "Regardless, better wear out Kada as much as you can! As soon as Exir's taken care of and we're detoxed, I'm not going to let up until you've covered every inch of Yimir and I with scents again." I flushed lightly, then gave a little shiver, seeing that saucy smirk she aimed at me. Yimir nodded enthusiastically next to her, however, and I felt a little exasperated. I didn't have the heart to warn her that it would actually probably be a week or two *after* Exir was taken care of. The two of them would be busy feeling miserable and vomiting their guts out in the meantime, which admittedly wasn't a terribly sexy mood to be in.

I relaxed, then gave her a little smile and nod. "Alright. And don't worry about Kada. We've been having fun with the mods in the meantime." And pause, for dramatic effect!

"*What?! You started using them without us?!*" Exia's octaves went into the 'shrill' and 'screaming' territory, and everyone else winced. Kada too, as he had the misfortune of exiting the barrier just as she did it.

"Ow, what?! Tried what...?!"

"I told her about the mods..."

"Uh... oh!" He slowly flushed red at that, ignoring her glare down at him, then hid behind my right side instead, peeking around my arm.

Exir chuckled, then shook his head. "We'll all have plenty of time to check out the mods. Though admittedly... the lounge is ventilated. Do you... think we could maybe at least game together again? Totally not being selfish again because I don't have a PEC of my own or anything..." He coughed into his paw, then averted his eyes at that. Oh... right. He didn't have one! Wow, things in his room with the girls were probably *really* awkward that first night, with no entertainment other than sex.

I relaxed though, then gave a little smile and nod to him. Maybe... this would help me out too? The girls perked at that, both nodding enthusiastically, and Kada slid out a bit from behind me again, risking a

smile himself. Yeah, I think this was... probably for the best. There was no sense in being miserable, right?

This was just going to be for another week or so, and then Exir would be getting help in Kaldar, and they'd be... working towards being back with me again instead. This felt... a lot like it was the start of a new time for me. The next stage of my life, I guess. I'd be officially taking on the mantle of Grandmaster, and starting my studies and research full time in Kaldar. Then... who knew what the future held? But being together with my friends and loved ones... it made me hopeful anyway. I could handle anything when I had them.

Slowly, the train jerked into motion, causing all of us to perk. The lounge had windows, that we all promptly rushed to check out, with me lifting Kada up high enough to see out the same one as me. Slowly, the city pulled away, as we slid through the gates opening in the walls. Huge, open fields greeted us once again, alongside the rising sun in the distance. Yeah... I was hopeful. Here's to an all-new chapter of my life. And hopefully, it would be better than the last...