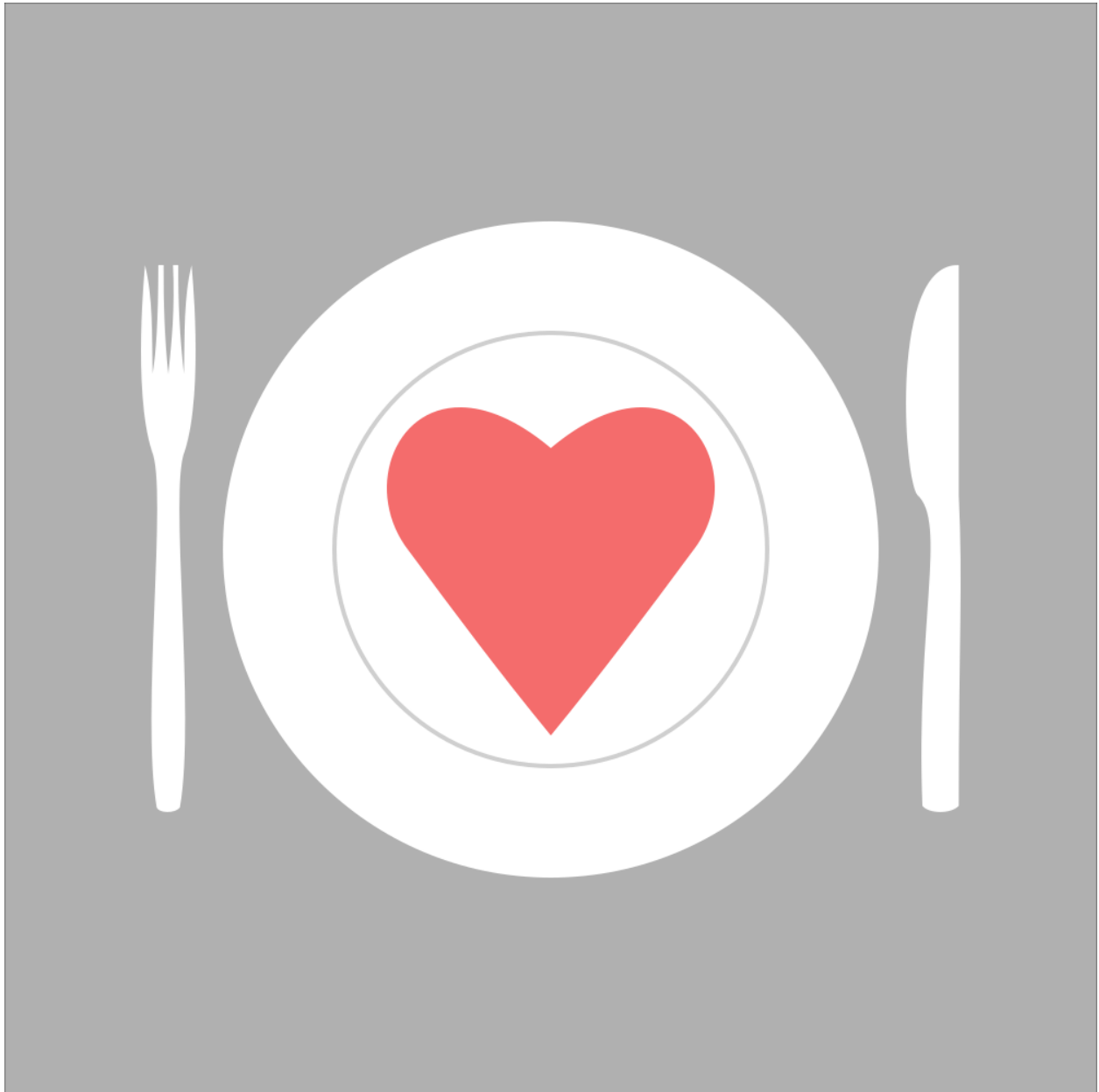


A big appetite



The heady aromas wetted Kaard's appetite. He needed to angle his chin up to keep his whiskers out of his food, but it was a small concession to make for the person next to him. His canine partner, Garou, couldn't keep his tail to himself, tickling the serpentine dragon with his rear fluff.

"Hey, that tickles silly!"

"I can't help it, I get to share so much delicious food with you!"

"Take it easy love, the night is still young!"

Garou's tail calmed down when he dug in, much to Kaard's delight, he didn't want to go into a laughing fit for no reason. The dragon eagerly swapped some fish with his partner, while the wolf fed his mystical friend some beef.

"How's the food tonight?" The waiter for the evening checked up on them.

"Mfis' grrrayf!"

She turned to Kaard for an answer, the waiter wasn't well-versed in stuffed mouth.

"The food is delightful madam, he can't keep himself from eating more."

"Ah, so that's how it is, I'll leave you two alone then." The waiter departed with a puzzling expression on her face, Kaard didn't think much of it.

"Ahh, I'm stuffed, and there's still food left!"

"That's the way of my forefathers: meticulously plan your attack and wait for the perfect moment..."

Unbeknownst to the canine, Kaard acted out his plan. His vork sliced the air with precision and intent.

"To strike!"

Kaard speared a juicy red piece of meat Garou was playing with.

"Hey, unfair! I wanted to eat that!"

"Didn't really loof like iph."

Garou pouted a bit for comedic effect, but Kaard was right, he couldn't fit much more.

When both of their plates were finally clean, the pair found some room for dessert after letting the food digest for a bit.

"The waiter is really awkward around us, huh?"

"Eh, they probably don't get many cute couples. But I knew you'd go for the strawberry parfait, despite your serious attitude you still have your playful side"

"Ooh, are you calling me childish deep inside? Forsooth, I'm shook!"

"Is there something wrong with that, love?"

The dragon stared into the wolf's eyes, "I can answer that question, but words fail me."

His partner moved in closer "Argue your case with some evidence then."

The two embraced each other in their arms, their gaze locked between them. They both knew what they wanted and dove in to deliver their counterpart the one thing they desired. The kiss was long, sweet, sublime.

Kaard noticed that he had to shift a few times to keep the kiss up, Garou did the same, so it might just have been one compensating for the other.

People murmured, and glanced nervously at the pair, the air grew grim.

"I'm terribly sorry, but I must ask you to leave."

Their waiter had put their desserts down on an unattended table. The situation drew attention, as the whole restaurant awaited the pair's reply with unease.

"What? Why? We're customers like anyone else!" Kaard boomed. The waitress shielded herself with her tray.

"I understand, but kissing like that is..."

"A-are you saying we're not welcome here?!"

"No! No! You must understand."

Garou couldn't take it anymore, tears welling in his eyes.

"No babe, don't cry, it's them who are wrong. Let's show them."

Kaard threw himself into Garou's arms, resuming their passion with gusto. The waiter took off in a hurry, fearful for the pair. The dragon and wolf didn't notice nor care, they kissed nonetheless.

Garou bumped into the table and kicked it away without a second thought, leaning into Kaard's embrace. The dragon noticed that Garou felt somehow heavier and leaned forward, shifting the balance towards the wolf again.

Tableware danced as more and more restaurant goers vacated the venue. They didn't want any part of this. The lovers continued, they wanted to prove that they wouldn't back away from bigotry. Their love grew and grew with each passionate kiss.

Glasses rang out in a chorus on the vacant tables, curious cracks and snaps rang out, but the two were only interested in each other. They wanted the moment to last, outside interference be damned.

Something brushed Garou's ears and he looked up.

"Uh, babe, I think I know why all those people left."

"What do you mean? We already know why-"

The dragon surveyed the restaurant, not from the comfort of the chair he sat in, but as a giant towering over the abandoned tables. Scraps of clothes barely held onto his and his partner's bodies.

How did this happen? Why didn't he notice sooner?

"It's a bit embarrassing isn't it?"

"Yeah, I feel bad for the waiter and all the other people who were in. Turns out we were the ones making trouble."

"Let's not dwell on that and make the best of it. Kiss me you silly derg!"

"Are we insured for this?"

"Do you care?"