

It was the next day for me. However, not only I woke up well rested, but also I was in a good mood. Most likely because I had free Friday. I dressed up, took a short visit at the bathroom and went to the kitchen for a meal.

I'm far from being the best cook. Certainly better than my brother, who was quite lazy outside work and when he was doing something at home, we had to make corrections. I guess that's the trait of intelligent people. Good that my sister is better in that regard, but she had to be in the right mood for such tasks. Problem was that she was often frustrated.

So I prepared another salad, sprinkled with my red sauce. Even though I usually eat something green, I don't have preferences for that. I just like tasty things, whether they are healthy or unhealthy. Not that there's a big difference in my case.

As I was eating my meal, my phone rang. I was quite shocked, because who normally calls me at this day of the week and in this hour? I reached to my pocket and saw that my best friend was calling. I sighed and accepted the call.

"Privet, Bran." - I started the talk.

"Hello, hello!" - said happy ram. - "How's my horny friend doing?"

"It's "horned", not "horny". Nevermind... I wasn't expecting any calls now, especially from you."

"You really think that I'm that lazy?"

"Yes."

"Well, it's not far from truth. What are you doing?"

"Eating."

"So nothing big. I'm going to your place, by the way."

"Why so early?"

"I don't have big things to do. And I'm going with your prize from the bet."

"Ah, I understand. I'll prepare the other things."

Yes, I knew what he'll bring. So I had to prepare accordingly. I took out caramel cookies, as well as plate of sandwiches. I forgot I made one recently. Good that there isn't any mold on it. They also smell good, so there shouldn't be any problems.

I placed those items on the table near my sofa. Also, I grabbed the appropriate glasses and bottle of juice. Since the few events I was a part of, I stopped buying juice cartons. Not that I had problems with them, but rather the other guests that puked all over the place.

As I was checking all of the items I've prepared for our friendly, a door bell suddenly rang. I stood up from my sofa and went for the door. As I've opened them, I saw my woolly friend who was carrying a bottle of bourbon in one hand.

"Hey, man." - Bran said and extended his arm.

"Hi." - I accepted our typical handshake. - "Come in."

Bran went inside my living room and looked around the place. As always, he was shocked how clean and beautiful my place looked. He placed the bottle he was carrying at the table and looked at the other contents near it.

"Caramel cookies..." - Bran said and then smiled widely. - "Have I ever said that you're amazing?"

"Many times." - I replied with a little smile on my face. - "But I always appreciate hearing that. Sit down."

"By the way, I've heard an interesting rumor." - he stated as we both placed ourselves on a sofa.

"Yeah?"

"This thing today at work? They wanted to do something bigger. Related to the whole factory."

"They'll fire people?" - I asked, as I was pouring the drink.

"Yep. Don't know how many, though. They called it "restructuring"."

"I see. Not that I care much - I don't like working there anyway."

"Same. Okay, time to drink. For the good news."

We emptied our glasses. Bran got the fine stuff, but this was expected, as we knew each other really well. I poured the drinks again.

"Let's not talk about the work, though." - I stated. - "Things inside and outside of it should stay separate."

"Couldn't agree more." - Bran nodded. - "Can you tell me what were you doing yesterday?"

"Sure. But it'll take a while."

"You remember that I like hearing your stories?"

"Of course. First thing is I got to the bar and ordered glass of bourbon. It wasn't anything special until I met... a certain someone."

"Who?"

"It was a lizard woman. Problem is that she knows about me. Or rather about what I was doing."

"Is it that bad?"

"Not really, but I wanted to not think about it and this got me angry."

"But she was looking good?"

"In a certain sense. But I remember her... with more colors."

"I've heard that if lizards get older, their scales lose their colors."

"Yeah... Let's not talk about this. Cheers."

We downed the drinks and I poured more.

"What else do you got?" - my woolly friend asked, still being curious.

"I went for a walk with my firebird friend." - I continued.

"Ah yes... Can't wait to meet her."

"When exactly we'll meet, by the way?"

"Me and Yagna decided that we can go early, even at noon."

"Good. We can do the same."

"Great. Continue."

"Right... So we've talked about what we were doing and our relation..."

"I thought you weren't in a relationship."

"And that's the truth. We weren't always good towards each other. Our first meeting could go better."

"I see."

"Anyway... We eventually reached her apartment and could see her roommate."

"Yeah?"

"She lives with a vixen. Quite beautiful, in fact."

"Who is she?"

"She said that she designed their apartment and she was painting, when we returned, so I think she's an artist."

"Man, you should ask her for a meeting."

"Actually, we have one organized. If you say that we'll go at noon and sit for a few hours together, I'll go and meet her in the evening."

"Clever beast... For our meetings."

We emptied the glasses and I made them full again.

"But maybe we can have fun?" - Bran suddenly said.

"What do you mean?" - I asked, confused.

"We can... order someone to arrive."

"I know what you mean. And the answer is "no"."

"Come on... really?"

"We can go to their place, if you really want that."

"Okay, okay... but we can look at them at least?"

"You mean offers. Eh... okay. I'll grab the laptop."

I stood up and went upstairs, to my bedroom. Eh... that's how it is - I have horny ram as my best friend. At least he's an interesting individual. Anyway, I grabbed my portable computer and went downstairs, to my friend.

"Here you go." - I said, as I passed him the device.

"Thanks." - he grabbed the laptop and started typing. - "Let's see..."

"Something interesting?"

"I don't visit sites like this very often."

"Really?"

"Fuck you."

"Ha ha... Alright, but you see something?"

"There's an old cat... Ugh, I want to puke when I look at her. There's also lonely lizard mother... What else... Black wolffess. She looks young. And here is... holy shit!"

"What did you..."

I didn't finish my question, because I saw what made him shocked. We saw an offer here from our colleague. From who exactly? From our lovely woodpecker - Dyesel.

"Well, she looks good." - Bran commented.

"Yeah, but..." - I stopped for a moment. - "Looking at those pics makes me feel strange."

"I don't feel the same, but I know what you mean."

"I hope this will make me forget about it." - I said as I downed my glass.

"You have strong head, though."

"You have no idea..."

Suddenly, my phone rang. I put down my empty glass, reached for my pocket, took out my phone and accepted the call. I've heard scratches and other stranged noises, but I've also heard "lyes". I recognized the voice and ended the call.

"Ruvim?" - my woolly friend turned towards me.

"Wait here." - I said in ordering tone. - "I'll return soon."

I reached to my table and grabbed Soluna. My friend was confused at the view before him, but I've said that he should calm down and wait. I went outside my house. Time to find this son of a bitch.