

## A Good Day

“You’re looking a little parched today!” Ravi’s slightly robotic voice carried through the store. The fluffy pale cream protogen was bent down watering a small fern with soil a bit too dry for their liking, their black vizor showing a smiling green face with kind eyes. Standing up, they swished their fluffy tail, it’s white tip brushing gently against the leaves of some of the plants on the floor as they headed to the front of the store to check on other plants.

The entrance to the shop was marked by a large sign clearly displaying ‘Sun’s Flowers’ for any passerbys. The wide windows showing off a variety of flowers and letting the mid afternoon sun shine down on them. The rest of the shop was quaint, a small and worn wooden desk sat in the corner with a cash register on one side and a variety of flower wrapping supplies on the other. The rest of the shop held tables and displays of potted plants and cut flowers of seemingly endless variety.

“Ah, you’ve had a bit too much to drink. I don’t think you’ll need anymore for a little while!” Ravi chuckled while their mint green claws felt the soil in the pot. Setting the plant aside, they reached up to scratch at their ear, feeling their claw bump against the curved horn wrapped around it. They continued to look over their plants, humming softly as they tended to them all, until coming to a small sunflower that had been pushed aside and out of the light.

“Oh, look at you, all sad from being in the shade,” Ravi smiled warmly at the wilting flower, giving it some water and moving it into the sunlight, “Come now, cheer up! Today’s gonna be a good day!”

Just then, the bell above the door jingled and Ravi turned to see a small cat walk in. She couldn't have been more than 10, with amber eyes and a patchwork of black, orange, and white fur under her pastel yellow and blue romper. She glanced around the shop quickly, taking in the variety of plants and flowers that she was now surrounded by.

"Ah, welcome!" Ravi greeted the cat with a smile and wave, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Flowers!" the cat exclaimed, a wide grin across her face, "I wanna get some flowers!"

"Well you've certainly come to the right place, there's plenty of flowers here." Ravi gestured to the colourful flowers blooming around the shop, "What sorts of flowers are you looking for?"

She pondered for a moment, ears wiggling in concentration before giving her answer, "Flowers for someone I like!"

"Well, I'm sure any of these flowers would be good to give to someone you like!" Ravi told her, heading over to a display of cut flowers.

"Well it's not for someone I like..." the cat's voice got quieter, "It's for someone I like-like..."

"Oh... I see!" Ravi gave her a kind smile.

"Yea... I wanna tell them I like-like them and give them a flower! But I don't know what..." The cat went back to thinking again, humming and hawing over the blooms.

Reaching over the display, Ravi grabbed a bright red tulip in full bloom and held it down for the young cat to see. "How about a tulip?"

The cat took the flower and looked at it inquisitively, "A tulip?"

"A red tulip specifically!" Ravi explained while crouching down, "It

means that you're declaring that you like-like someone when you give it to them!"

She frowned at the flower, "But what if they don't like it or say no?"

"Well," they pondered for a moment, "Sometimes, you just have to tell them! No matter what they say, it's much better than hiding your feelings from them." Standing up, they reached out and ruffled the fur on the cat's head, "And besides, if you like them a lot, they probably like you a lot too! So even if they say no, I'm sure you'll stay friends at least!"

A grin broke out on the cat's face as she turned the flower over in her hand. "Okay! Thank you!" She turned to look up at Ravi, "Uhm, how much do I gotta pay?"

With a chuckle, they waved their hand in dismissal, "It's okay, it's free! Go tell 'em how you feel!"

"Okay!" The small cat dashed to the front door, clutching the tulip tightly, "Thank you!" She called, running out the door. Ravi smiled as they watched her sprint down the sidewalk outside, only to trip and fall moments later. Pushing herself back up, the cat kept running, slightly damaged flower in hand. Shaking their head and chuckling, Ravi went back to work tending to their flowers.

A short while later, the bell above the door jingled again while the protagonist was moving some pots around. "Just a moment!" they called as they slowly lowered a stack of pots into place, "Now what can I help you with?"

"Ah, hey there." Came a low pitched, tired voice in greeting. Its owner was a disheveled looking red fox wearing a black tee shirt a size too big and a pair of jeans that had seen better days. The man stood with a slight hunch, his demeanor conveying barely any energy at all. "I'm just looking

for a plant. Something easy to take care of, y'know?"

"Oh! I get plenty of folks asking about plants like that!" Their expression changed to an exclamation mark as they headed over to a variety of cacti. Checking the spiky plants over, they picked up a small ball-shaped one with a pink bud on one side and passed it to the man.

"A cactus?" the fox shrugged, "Sure, they don't need much water right?"

"They don't need much at all! Just give them plenty of sun!" Ravi smiled warmly at him, "And plus! This one is going to bloom soon!"

"Ah... It probably won't," he sighed, "I'll probably forget to water it sometimes, or leave it in the shade all day by accident."

"Oh this one will still bloom regardless!" They poked at the small bud gently, "And besides, cacti are tough!"

Before the fox could respond, Ravi continued, "Even if you only remember to water once in a while, or only give it a little bit of sun, it still helps." They smiled at the fox, "Besides, doing something a bit is better than not doing it at all after all!"

The fox glanced down at the small cactus in his paws, admiring it for a few moments before looking at Ravi flashing them a small smile and a quiet "Thanks."

Together, they headed to the desk in the corner of the shop. "How much for it?" The fox inquired, pulling out his wallet.

"Normally they're twenty dollars, but I'll give it to you for ten if you take good care of it." the protogen smiled, typing the amount into the register.

"Wha..." The fox was dumbfounded for a moment before regaining his composure, "Are you sure?"

“Of course I’m sure!” Ravi grinned, “But I will need those ten dollars still!”

“Oh, of course.” The fox replied, passing them a bill. Taking the money, Ravi quickly completed the purchase and passed the man a receipt.

With another tired “Thanks,” the fox slipped out the door, Ravi giving him a wave before heading back to cleaning up the shop.

A good while passed before another customer entered the shop. The sun was just beginning to dip below the city’s skyline outside as the bell above the door jingled and Ravi looked up from their sweeping. A grey wolf had walked into the shop, a red and black floral sundress that was slightly too small covered her grey coat. She was holding a black purse that had a shiny blue, pink and white charm attached to a zipper. As she stepped into the shop, she adjusted her dress, clearly uncomfortable with how it sat on her.

“Welcome to Sun’s Flowers miss!” Ravi’s voice rang out warmly from where they were cleaning, “What can I help you with?”

“O-oh! Hello!” the wolf replied, surprised at being addressed so suddenly, “I’m just looking for a bouquet, something to liven up my new apartment a bit.”

Setting aside their broom and dustpan, Ravi beckoned the wolf over to a display. “Here’s our selection of cut flowers, feel free to pick whatever you’d like and I’ll wrap them up for you after!”

“Ah, thank you...” her voice trailed off as she began looking the flowers over. Leaving her to do her picking, the protagonist went back to sweeping. A few minutes passed and the wolf hadn’t said a word to them, so Ravi headed back over to see if they could help.

“Having trouble deciding, miss?” Their gentle voice startling the wolf who had seemed more intent on adjusting her sundress than looking at the flowers.

“Ah, I am,” she let out a polite laugh, “I’ve got absolutely no idea what flowers look nice together. I’ve never had to make a bouquet before.”

Ravi gave the woman a warm smile, “Making a bouquet is simple, I’ll help you decide!” Leaning over the display, they began looking over the cut plants, “What type of flowers are you looking for?”

“Oh I don’t know... Something bright I think, I want them to stand out.” the wolf replied.

“Hmm, let’s go with some roses then!” They said, grabbing a bunch red ones from the display. Heading over to the table in the corner they laid out some paper and began wrapping the flowers up for the wolf.

“Ah roses are lovely!” she smiled, “But why red ones specifically?”

“To match your dress, it looks lovely on you!” They replied warmly, their claws deftly wrapping paper around the flowers.

The wolf looked away bashfully, “Does it? I’m sure you can tell but it’s my first time wearing it out... I wasn’t sure if it looked good or not...”

“It looks wonderful on you!” Ravi’s expression changed to a heart with their reply. Tying a bow of ribbon around the bouquet with a practiced motion, the protogen typed the cost into the register, “And that’ll be fifteen dollars please!”

“Ah well, thank you!” The wolf beamed while digging through her purse. Passing Ravi a twenty, they handed her back her change and receipt.

“Thanks for stopping in, please come by again!” They called as the wolf waved to them, heading out of the shop with a bit more confidence in her step.

Ravi sighed, tired from the long day. Rubbing their hands over their horns they smoothed the mussed fur on the top of their head and headed to the entrance of the store to close up.

Glancing down at a table near the entrance, Ravi noticed the small sunflower from before, standing up tall and turned to face the setting sun. Leaning over to rest on the table, they gently stroked one of the sunflowers leaves with their claws, “See, I told you today would be a good day.”