

With a yawn and a scratch of his rear Matts shuffled into the kitchen, still blinking the sleep from his eyes. Aki was already sat at the table, busying himself on his phone with an empty plate of his already devoured breakfast in front of him. The wolf caught his roommate's attention with a casual wave, before trying to shake a bit of the weariness from his mind. His head felt heavier than usual today though he couldn't quite place why; it was like Matts's morning grogginess had never really faded since he'd got out of bed. Aki knew full well why the wolf was struggling to adjust however, as he admired a number of new, thick metal piercings adorned on his friend's face.

The previous night may have been a blur to Matts, but Aki was still beaming from the memory of helping the wolf to explore his 'inner self'. It began with a couple of drinks before Aki had whispered his pup into a soft trance, only for Matts to babble about how much he loved Aki's piercings and wanted some of his own. Not only was the panda utterly flattered, but he saw to it that Matts got exactly what he wanted, a set of studs, rings and hoops all matching his own. The only caveat was that while in trance, Aki left a little mental block over the wolf's new accessories, which was the reason that Matts was struggling to fathom the source of his head's added weight, even as he jingled across the kitchen floor.

"Morning, pup," beamed Aki.

"Morning." Matts sat down next to his roommate, lacking the energy to do more than bask in his company for now.

"How're you feeling?" asked the Panda with genuine care.

"Groggy. Hey, weird question; what did we get up to last night?" Aki could tell that Matts was struggling to remember more than just the piercings, but didn't want the wolf putting the pieces together just yet. The panda reached out with a strong finger and deftly hooked it in the hoop of Matts's new ear piercing, tugging on the thin flesh gently. Although the pressure was light, the slight jerk of that metal ring instantly smothered the wolf's mind in a blanket of static; his every thought went silent as his focus centred entirely on Aki.

“You don’t need to remember what happened last night, pup. In fact, you don’t want to,” the panda cooed softly. Matts simply stared onwards, eyes focussed on nothing in particular as those words weaved themselves into his quiet mind. Without a thought or doubt to contest Aki’s voice, his roommate’s words rang like truth and the wolf’s mind could only accept them as such. Aki unhooked his finger from the loop and Matts slowly swayed back into his sitting position, blinking lucidity back into his eyes.

“Guess it’s not important,” remarked the wolf, completely oblivious to what had just happened. Aki had to force himself to stifle an adoring chuckle, turning away momentarily.

“So what do you want to do today?” Matts asked, scratching his eyebrow, just millimetres away from one of his new piercings.

“I thought it’d be nice to just hang out today, you know?” replied the panda. He could see that the wolf was about to protest, and reached his hand over once more towards his friend’s face.

“I kind of wanted to go and see tha-” Matts lost the words as soon as he felt Aki softly tug downwards on the metal puncturing his lip. His head instinctively bowed down with the prompting pull of his piercing, feeling the weight of his head grow as if it were filling with sand. The lower he slumped, the further into trance he sank for the panda; nothing around him truly mattered anymore as he began to drool absent-mindedly over Aki’s forefinger and thumb.

“You want to stay home and let me play with you some more, don’t you?” prompted Aki. It wasn’t a question.

“nnhmm...” was all that Matts could muster from his relaxed throat muscles.

“That’s a good boy,” said the panda, as he released his pup’s lip and watched him spring back up like a projector screen. Matts blinked a few times as his senses returned once more, still completely unaware of his mind’s shifting desires and thoughts.

“So what was it you wanted to do?” asked Aki.

“Probably just stay home; maybe curl up on you and watch a movie,” the wolf sighed. He

leaned in against his roommate's thick chest and resigned himself to the weary feeling of heaviness that still hung down on his head.

Aki gave an unseen smile of content above his friend, reaching up to softly run his fingers through Matts's hair.

"Well in that case, pup," Aki raised his hand yet again, reaching up to give the wolf's eyebrow piercing a gentle flick with his fingers. Before Matts could even let out an automatic 'ow', he blinked instinctively once, twice, three four and then five times. Each time his eyelids shut they'd reopen with a little flash yellow and purple pulsing in his pupils, and every time he'd blink once again to try and clear his vision, only to flash another wave of coloured rings in his eyes. The visual assault didn't relent until Matts was blinking slowly and unevenly, circles of Aki's influence constantly rippling in the entranced mutt's vision.

"That's better," whispered Aki, lowering his hand to give Matts's nose ring a quick but firm tug. As if he was on a coil, the wolf rebounded from the yank on his metal and straightened up like an invisible puppet string on the top of his head was tugging him upright. He kept going, standing up from the chair until he was posed in an almost militaristic stance before the panda, eyes still pulsing slowly.

"Would you mind making me a cup of tea, pup?" Aki asked softly.

"Yes Master," Matts mumbled with little expression before turning to rummage through cupboards. Just like the night before, Aki had his unaware pet dote on him throughout the course of the day with intermittent spells of conditioning trances to keep that blissful fog of ignorance over the wolf's mind. There was no rush to tell him about his new accessories after all; it was part of the fun.