

I went from my house, after locking it properly, to my friend's apartment. Situation didn't change even for a bit - it still looked like it'll rain soon. If I didn't agree to help her, it'd look badly. Sure, I could rest a day more, but helping her shouldn't be a problem.

I can say it'll be "favor for a favor" thing. Some might try to go with "certain things" further. I won't deny that Fiura looks cute, but that's it. And then Bran would say that I like males, but I'd just slap him and say that I'm just picky.

This always made me wonder... the need of being in close relationship. Maybe I just don't understand it, but I'm long past the age of majority. Not that I was never in love, but in the past, I obsessively pursued knowledge and that was my love.

Actually, Fiura doesn't live far from my best friend, but I remember him saying that he wants to move out somewhere else. Better to live on your own terms rather than on someone else's. Easier to say than to do, though.

These types of walks... I remember one book where those were featured in it. I have a lot of similarities with main character - goat-like look, dressed in a coat, interest in obscure knowledge. But he was an albino and had six fingers on each hand, which supposedly helped him with casting magic faster. He also struggled to blend into the society, because he was spending most of his life on studying, but at least he got two doctorates.

Nothing of interest was happening when I was going down the main street. I saw a skunk dressed in ragged clothes, which indicated his homeless status. And he could try many ways to get money, but he just got the scraps. I actually think that I know him, but he's quite far, so I can't say for sure.

Went to another street and I saw something unusual, which is street racing in daylight. And - of course - the participants used cars that are typical for those kind of people. Those are old, imported cars that for some reason, are treated as best vehicles by them.

It's a miracle that they didn't crash. But seeing it actually happen would be far more entertaining. And for drivers? Certainly not, but they brought this upon themselves. Glad I don't have a car, so I don't have such problems.

Moving forward, I saw that there aren't many people outside. That's understandable - it was Sunday plus weather wasn't on our favor. This changed, however, but only when I was curious about sounds coming from one of the branches.

I saw kids playing football - mostly canines and felines. Even if I saw that they were overall happy, I noticed some of their complaints. Most common one was that they were playing on sand instead of grass, which is indeed a bad thing.

Of course, such places aren't visited by small kids only, but bigger ones as well. Those, however, prefer to sit on a bench and passing some alcohol to one another. This was the case here too - jackal, lynx and lizard, sharing a beer and talking about some video game that had "curvy bitches", as they said.

Returning on a track, I felt that wind started flying through here. Trees were unfazed by it, but I heard a pretty loud sneeze behind me. It was a cougar with a child. Well, they could dress better for such weather.

I was getting close to the flat where Fiura resides. If one would want to visit a friend living here, there would be a problem, since those large grey cuboids aren't so different from one another. There are balconies, but that's a different story.

I was looking around the place to find a wardrobe. She said that it stands

outside. Since it's quite expensive furniture, it shouldn't be left alone, so if I find this, I'll find the owner as well. Hmm... I think that's her flat.

After going through side alley, I saw a wardrobe standing near one of the entrances. That one was of those modern types. Not that it looked bad - I like the color composition. And I also found the owner - dressed in a sweater and thick trousers, with sad expression on her face.

I rarely, I very rarely saw her sad. Last time when this happened was three months ago, I think. I remember that her mother was very sick. Fiura was sad for a couple of days, but "a miracle came", she got better and thus, her daughter got better. Her face certainly changed when squirrel saw me.

"Ruvi!" - she shouted with joy.

"As you can see, I made my way here to help you." - I replied with confidence.

"Good that I have a loyal servant..."

"What can I say? It's hard to say "no" to such face. Ha ha..."

"I think so."

"So... this is the problem."

"Yep. What do you think?"

"Good colors. Not a fan of the design, though."

"It matches the rest of the apartment."

"You made some big changes, I presume? It was quite a long time ago since I was in your quarters."

"I'm switching stuff for brighter ones. Dark colors can be... depressive."

"Pravda. You figured out how will we get it to your place?"

"You see..." - she started to nervously swipe her tail.

"You didn't. I'll ask - you prefer to push or pull? Without any suggestions."

"I'll push."

"Sure. Now let's take this thing."

Even though I don't appear as a strong type, I actually could lift one side of a wardrobe without any problems. But I had to have Fiura in my mind who isn't that strong. We've made one stop before getting to the stairs.

Now - the tricky part. Getting that thing from ground floor to second floor, while not damaging the wardrobe too much. Squirrel was just slightly lifting this furniture up, but it was enough for me to pull the thing to myself, on equal ground. We had to do brief stops each time, so Fiura could rest at least for a bit.

Getting that bright thing upstairs took us twenty minutes - mostly because of her. I couldn't even talk with my friend who had problems with catching the breath. But eventually, we managed to get that cuboid before her door.

Suddenly, another door were opened, on the opposite. From it, an old panda lady erupted. She focused on the endeavor we were doing, looking at us judgmentally. But soon after, she returned to her businesses.

"Alright, where to now?" - I asked.

"I'll tell you." - she replied, while still trying to catch her breath. - "But I'll go first."

"Of course - you're the host, after all. I count on proper reward once we'll deal with this task."

"Don't worry - you'll get it." - Fiura responded, with different kind of smile.

I wasn't completely sure what she meant at that time, but I left the thinking about it for later. Now, we were dragging the furniture to the place the squirrel pointed. We placed it and were glad this was finally over. I looked around her apartment to see the details.

Didn't mind the slight mess that was here - I'm not the cleanest either. However, something else caught my attention. Energy drinks. Two of those only, but I was still slightly concerned. And if she had like dozens of them, that'd be a real problem.

"Fiura?" - I asked with concern. - "You don't drink them all the time, right?"

"Those?" - she pointed at them. - "Eh, nothing special. I drink them from time to time."

"So that's why you're hyperactive?"

"If that's was the case, I'd have crates of them."

"Which is unhealthy. You shouldn't do that to yourself."

"I know, but I'm fine."

"Maybe in this case, but I saw something else."

"Huh? What are you talking about?"

"I saw you sad. And in your case, this means that something serious happen."

"Heh..." - she sighed and started hugging her tail, while looking for the words. - "You really care, do you?"

"Of course I do. Place of work isn't the best for such talks, but we're in private now. So you can tell me what's your problem."

"I can, but I'll ask you a question first. It's related."

"Go on."

"Do you have any dreams you wish to fulfill?"

I rarely thought about this. I have a house, work (which I despise, but nonetheless, I have one), friends I can count on and talk to and - most importantly - peace. And yet, I wish some things would become a reality, even if it's almost impossible.

"I wish I could find my siblings and live without any problems."

"Ah, I almost forgot you have siblings." - Fiura started leaning a bit forward. - "Two brothers, right?"

"Nope - a brother and a sister. We haven't seen each other for years."

"You know where they live? Or maybe they..."

"They live. At least my instinct tells me that. And where they are? I don't have specifics - my brother is in America and my sister is still in Asia."

"So you should eventually find them."

"That's why I said "live without any problems". I know this won't happen until we come into peace with our past."

"So something happened..."

"You can say that. And I know we should give ourselves some time before such meeting could happen. No need to rush."

"Yeah..."

"Okay, I answered your question, talked a bit about my life, but now is your turn to say what's on your mind."

"You remember I wanted to be an actress?" - she asked, while returning to hugging her tail.

"Da. And a pilot."

"Being a pilot isn't as appealing to me as it used to be. But being an actress... I never parted with it. If I did, I wouldn't feel good with myself."

"Why this specific job?"

"I always wanted to make others happy, even if I have problems with it sometimes. And entertainment is ideal for that."

"But you would rather be featured in a movie rather than a theater, right?"

"At first, yes. But then I realised that it isn't that easy."

"I think you should go with one step at the time. Acting lessons or acting schools, then theater and star career at the end."

"I wish it could happen. But also have to focus on my friends."

"Fiura... it's good that you want to help others, but you also have to think about yourself. You can't do that if you're out of strength and in a bad mood. Don't sacrifice yourself for others, because not everyone can appreciate this. You're a good person, but you can be even better and thus - help others even better, so that's why you're important too. I say that with confidence - I'm your friend, after all."

"I..." - she was looking for words and released her tail. - "No, you're right. Thanks, Ruvim. I needed those words... and this talk."

"Any time, squirrel. But you still owe me a favor."

"Hah..." - my friend chuckled a bit. - "You know I could still help you, right?"

"Of course." - I replied with a smile on my face. - "But I just want to be sure."

"If you say so... but I also have something else."

Fiura got closer to me, with her face closing distance to mine and she placed a kiss on my cheek. Well... that was unexpected.

"Consider this a tip for your services." - squirrel said and then laughed for a moment.

"Huh... thanks. You want me to stay?"

"Actually... I want to be alone. Think for a while."

"No problem. We see each other tomorrow, correct?"

"Sure."

"And no energy drinks from now on."

"I won't buy them."

"Molodets. Take care, friend."

I left her apartment. Well, that was... strange. Good that I talked to her. Now I should return home. If I see correctly, there is a small rain already going. Better than the heavy one. Still, stink from being wet isn't the most pleasant one. Many will agree with me.