

DEMONS 1091

[Chapter 1091 1091 Beds Of Sand And Sky Of Stars](#)

The discussion with Bodeir had continued long into the evening. The sun had set before the elf had finished squeezing every bit of information he could out of Kat and she was exhausted mentally, but too wound up to sleep. Meditation was possible... but Kat just wasn't feeling it. So she grabbed Lily and went for a run. Kat sped away from the sect for quite some time before finally stopping at a soft enough looking dune. Kat flopped down on the sand and let her wings sink into the shifting ground. "Sorry I couldn't take you on a proper date in the snow," said Kat.

Lily glanced fearfully around at all the sand, but the night was calm, there was no hint of wind at all so the Memphis decided she was willing to risk it... mostly. Lily summoned up four walls of paper to catch any sand that came flying and then transformed to lay herself across Kat. "It's fine. I might have been looking forward to it... but this is just as nice, if not better. What I wanted most was to spend some time with you," said Lily truthfully as she snuggled into Kat.

"Are you sure there isn't anything you'd rather do? I know I just sort of grabbed you because I wanted you to stay with me, but I can let you sleep, or we can do something other than just look at the stars if you want," said Kat.

Lily gave out a soft giggle and Kat felt her mind unwind massively just from that joyful sound. "Oh Kat, you can be so silly sometimes. A moonlight date under the stars, far enough away from cities that the lights don't interfere? People would pay a lot of money for a chance like this, and I have an excellent set of pillows to lay on as well," Lily decided to be a little bold and rub the back of her head against Kat's boobs. Even something relatively harmless was enough for Lily to start blushing but she didn't regret it.

"Oh? Pillows are they? I'm glad you find my pillows comfortable you're highness," said Kat with a smile. Mouth twitching as she held in the desire to sit up and kiss Lily and disturbing her girlfriend's comfort.

"Indeed, as a cat, I deserve to be worshipped," said Lily with her best smug smile. It wasn't particularly smug.

So Kat had to return with, "You do realise I to, am technically a Kat,"

"Of course, and you deserve to be worshipped," said Lily, turning bright red in the process.

Which meant she missed Kat also turning red, feeling embarrassed by Lily's teasing for possibly the first time. *Smooth Lily. Very smooth. I can't believe you got me with that. It's adorable, flattering, and just all around lovely. If you keep saying things like that, I won't be able to keep from kissing you.* "O-of course," said Kat, trying and failing to keep her voice steady.

Lily was much too embarrassed to notice the slip though and simply nodded her head a bit with a smile, which of course, rubbed against Kat's boobs, making Lily even more embarrassed and unlikely to notice Kat's own embarrassment. The pair simply basked in the emotions, both in each other and through the link. Their feelings so similar they found it hard to pick out where each ended, and began, making them both more pleased with the interaction.

Eventually, the pair calmed down a bit, and Kat decided to ask, "Do you think we made the right call?"

"It's hard to say. I think so. Everyone we care about is happy with the decision, even if Bodeir Senior is still debating over HOW happy is happens to be about it. So... with that in mind is there anything to complain about? Meng will probably kill a lot less people now that her kids know what she does, and she'll have other things to do. Sure so people might argue that someone like her doesn't deserve happiness... but fuck those people," said Lily.

"I agree, I suppose I just wanted to hear it. Big decision and all. It does make me wonder where I'd draw the line though. How much past evil is too much? It might be hypocritical of me... but the answer might just be 'literally any amount until they hurt someone I like' except myself of course, because I regenerate... but still, I'm not sure if I'm comfortable having such loose criteria for redemption," said Kat.

"Perhaps, but I can't say I disagree with you Kat. It's all just... too abstract to really feel the impact of things like that. It's why laws exist I suppose, but they're all very different across dimensions. Still, it's probably best if we never end up in charge of other people. We'd be much too lax with them, unless it started to become a real problem," said Lily.

"Yeah probably," said Kat with a sigh. "Do you think we should leave behind a beacon? I... I'm not sure. Bing has become a decent enough friend... but I don't know when I'll get more beacons, and I'm not sure I care enough to leave one behind... they're supposed to be quite rare..."

"Sue has a good chance of leaving one behind, so I'd say that if she does, we shouldn't bother. If not... then maybe we can think about leaving one. It might not be the end though, despite Xiang not having a beacon we've seen him twice," pointed out Lily.

"That's true... twice is enough for me, but I guess if we see him again I wouldn't be surprised. What's that saying? Once is normal, twice is coincidence three times is enemy action?" said Kat.

"Are you saying Xiang is an enemy in this saying?" asked Lily. Kat just shrugged back. "Well... yeah I don't know. I wouldn't necessarily mind seeing these guys again... but they're going to be on the run for quite a while. That's not the most interesting thing to be involved with. I'd also hate to be used as a throw away attack, like 'Kat, I choose you'"

Kat chuckled at the image, which caused Lily to bounce a bit on Kat's stomach. "As amusing as that would be... I agree that I wouldn't really like to be summoned for something like that. I suppose we're in agreement then, that we'll just leave the beacon offering to Sue. Do you think Bodeir is going to offer us anything good?"

"I think I might be able to scam a copy of a shadow spellbook. Not sure if it'll have anything good in it, because cultivation is clearly the main form of power here even though mana is present. I can't see Bodeir having anything better than Rank 2, maybe 3 books, but that would be enough to get me started," said Lily.

"Oh? Can you feel your shadow affinity?" asked Kat.

"Maybe?" said Lily with a 'so-so' gesture. "I think I might be able to feel something, perhaps it appeared after I cast my first Rank 2 spell... but I might just be imagining things. I'll have to meditate on it or something. I don't want to risk trying out a spell circle without any spells to do. I'm pretty sure that would end horribly,"

"You know I'll always advocate for you doing things the safer way, and I'm fine with asking for shadow magic stuff... but is that what you think we should ask for?" asked Kat to double check.

"I mean, if you want something we can always get that," said Lily.

"No no, I don't have anything I want for myself, and nothing at all comes to mind... I just wasn't sure if you wanted to get any shadow magic stuff from here at all when we're likely to be called in for the next round of the Tournament soon, and we can likely get a better spellbook from Thyme," said Kat.

"Oh... hmm... that's an intriguing point... and a very valid one. It is about time we were called in for that... hmm.... hmm... I'm not too sure. Part of me wants to get both? See what the different realms have learnt about early shadow magic... but that's probably a bit greedy," said Lily awkwardly.

"Lily, I love you, and I know you love research, if you want to ask for books on shadow magic, I'll do everything in my power to get you books on shadow magic. So do you want them?" asked Kat.

"You know what?" asked Lily to the stars, "I think that right now, I don't really care about shadow magic, or space magic, or any other kind of magic. Right now, I have a wonderful girlfriend and we're looking at the stars together. I think, the magic books? They can be tomorrow's problem,"

Kat smiled. She didn't necessarily want to put things off. A decision did have to be made... but well, Kat was easily swayed by her girlfriend, and enjoying the night sky was not a difficult task.

[Chapter 1092 1092 Just Before We're Lian](#)

The next morning Bodeir Sr arrived to ask what Kat would like as additional payment. He seemed a bit annoyed at the time, but Kat and Lily were of the opinion he was just playing it up. So Kat asked for shadow magic spells, letting Bodeir be as generous as he desired. It seemed like the simplest way to keep everyone happy. Kat didn't know how many spells Bodeir had, nor wanted to give them, so he could just hand over what he felt comfortable with. Kat was also sure she'd get more spells then if she'd argued about it, considering how bad she was at negotiations.

Later in the day, Sue returned with the two boxes. One for herself, and one filled with shadow spells. Kat and Lily were not brave enough to ask what was in the second box. A brief discussion between them and it was decided to visit Meng, Bing, Lian and Feng before they'd both just head off. Lily had... minimal interest in exploring the Mountain Shaker sect and getting sand everywhere, and Sue didn't feel strongly enough about staying to argue.

As they were walking to the place Baofengyu's current residence, Kat pondered if that was really what it should be called, considering Kat very much doubted that Meng's real last name was Baofengyu. A block away from their residence, Sue spoke up, "Hey Kat, I'm planning to leave a beacon behind for Bing, do you want to add your demonic energy to it as well?"

"What would that do exactly?" asked Kat.

"Oh... right, that's probably not something you'd thought to ask. So, when a demon leaves behind a beacon, they can let other demons add in their own demonic energy to allow for them to be summoned

by it as well. I MUST show up every time because it's my beacon, but if you added to it you can be summoned using it as well," explained Sue.

"Sure, I'd be happy to do that... but it seems a bit abusable," said Kat.

"Eh, perhaps a little bit. It doesn't work with close family though. Apparently the demonic energy signature is a bit too close together and blends instead of remaining separate. D.E.M.O.N.S also keeps track of these beacons with a keener eye than normal ones, so if we're found to be abusing them, or it's found that you forced me to let you connect to the beacon we can get in massive trouble.

"Think of it like... well... I don't really know what laws you have in your home dimension, but sharing a beacon makes everything a stage worse essentially. Like... if it was a five candle flame it might jump straight up to fifty candle just because we used a joined beacon to do it. A lot of people think the law in this case is unfairly harsh, but from what I was taught in class it was to stop organisations just connecting a bunch of worlds together, and to make sure that if you're adding to a beacon, you trust the person holding it," explained Sue.

"So... just checking but if you used this beacon to do bad things, and I've never been summoned with it... would I still get into trouble?" asked Kat.

Sue made a 'so-so' gesture. "Possibly. It depends exactly what I did with it... but yes that IS a risk you need to be aware of, and I'd understand if you didn't trust me to use it well,"

Kat shook her head immediately, "Don't be silly Sue. I trust you just fine, but it might be important information to know in the future. I'm perfectly willing to add my demonic energy to your beacon when you hand it over,"

"Thanks, I'm glad," said Sue, though Kat could detect a little undercurrent of uncertainty. It wouldn't be till later that Kat understood Sue's concern.

Unaware of the future embarrassment Sue was about to undergo, they knocked on the door to a large house on the outskirts of the city, positioned much like the one the succubi were staying at, though in a slightly different architectural style. Meng opened the door with a smile, "Hello to you both, might I ask why you're visiting?"

"We're here to say goodbye," said Sue with a soft smile, "We're not sticking around past the end of the day, and we wanted to see our new friends... and Feng I suppose,"

"Ah... well I'm afraid Feng is away in the city sulking at the moment. Really, I'm disappointed in that boy. He hasn't noticed any of the tails Bodeir Sr put on him, nor the copy of myself that's doing very little to disguise itself. I didn't even bother to make the illusion look differently to the body they grew up with, and still Feng hasn't noticed. If Feng decides to stay with us, I'm going to have to drill him for slacking in his spy, spotting abilities,"

"Did you teach him those well originally?" asked Kat.

"I did," Meng smiled, obviously pleased with her past self. "As a spy myself, I need to know how to spot spies, not just to ensure I'm not likely to be caught, but because part of the job of a spy, is spotting other spies. I taught my kids to spot them as best I could, and usually Feng isn't too bad at it. That's why I'm saying he'll need remedial lessons once I see him in person next,"

Meng sighed, but then turned her face back into a smile, both her real one, and the illusion Sue and Lily could see, because apparently Meng still didn't want to show off her real face. Perhaps it was just habit. "Let's not waste any more time discussing my moping son, please, come in, I'm sure that Bing and Lian will be happy to see you. They're both relaxing in the underground pool. After living in the chill most of their lives, they find it rather hot here, even if their cultivation means it not truly a problem,"

Sue grinned wickedly, "Oh, I'd love to join them. What a shame I don't have any clothes to wear in the water... I'll just have to go naked,"

Meng rolled her eyes at that and started showing the demons the way. They were lead down two flights of stairs and into a deep underground pool with glowing crystals to light the room. Lian was doing laps while Bing floated around, staring up at the ceiling. They both had simple cloth to hide their more private areas and nothing else on.

Sue, uncaring for propriety dismissed her demonic attire and hopped into the pool herself. Lily jumped out of Kat's arms and made her way over to the towel area off to the side and claimed that for herself before curling up to sleep. Kat looked at her own outfit and decided, it was demonic attire, it could get wet, and jumped in herself.

Lian noticed them first, "Hey guys! The water's great isn't it?"

Bing sat up and looked over, "Oh Hello, I wasn't sure if we'd see you again before you left," Bing was going to say more but her eyes had just landed on Sue, who was probably floating purely on the buoyancy of her chest alone. Bing went bright red, breaking her posture and falling into the water. It took a few moments of scrambling, but Bing made it to the edge, "Sue where are your clothes!"

"Well I've got nothing on me for swimming... so now I've got nothing on me!" said Sue with a grin.

"We've got spares!" hissed Bing scandalised.

Sue gave a very obvious glance towards Bing's own chest, then down at her own, "Pretty sure those spares aren't designed to fit me,"

"They're one size fits all!" returned Bing, "There's plenty of material... you don't have to be naked!"

Sue looked at the binding on Bing's chest again... and quite quickly worked out that 'one-size-fits-all' did not in fact look like it would fit the Succubus-sized chest Sue sported, whatever delusions Bing might have. Sue did briefly consider trying anyway, the look on Bing's face as she squeezed into a breastband that was obviously too small, chest spilling out of from basically everywhere... before giving up on the idea, she didn't actually SEE any spares, and Sue wasn't getting out of the pool for the joke.

"Right... Bing's delusions aside," said Lian as Bing let out a 'pained' gasp in the background "Are you just visiting to have a bit of fun?"

nOvℓNext.cOM

Sue shook her head, "No, actually I'm not, I suppose I should give you this before I forget. Sue pulled out her hands, pooling her demonic energy into her beacon before passing it off to Kat, where more demonic energy was added. Kat stared awkwardly at the beacon's shape as she did so.

"Sue... is this what I think it is..." whispered Kat.

"Look, I was young... and it seemed like a good idea at the time," whispered Sue back.

"Well are you going to tell them? I mean sure technically you've got petals on it so it looks a bit like a flower... but it's clearly not the type that grows in the ground!" whispered Kat.

"Well... I mean... you can't talk your beacon is also a flower," returned Sue.

"Yes! A real flower! Like the ones on my outfit I'm wearing right now! When Bing notices what's she going to do!" Kat hissed.

"You do know we can hear you right?" asked Lian.

Kat and Sue looked at each other, "I did know," admitted Kat.

"Traitor!" hissed Sue in response

Kat just shrugged. Sue should've picked something else for her beacon's appearance.

[Chapter 1093 1093 Callisto Says... Things...](#)

Kat collapsed onto her bed, and pulled Lily in against her body. Lily transformed back into her human form and snuggled up with Kat as well. Originally, the pair had planned to leave late in the afternoon, have tea with Callisto, Vivian and Sylvie, and then split up so Lily could see her family and let them know she was back. Obviously they'd meet back up the next day to look through the box of shadow magic, but that wasn't quite how things panned out.

Kat and the rest of the girls spent the entire day swimming and chatting, then Meng pulled them into a family dinner, with Feng still being a noticeable absence. Meng promised the brooding boy was getting food delivered to him, but it was clear that Bing and Meng still felt his absence. Lian seemed unconcerned, though it was unclear if it was because she didn't care, or if she simply believed Feng's self-imposed exile would be a temporary thing.

It was a good day, all told, and neither Kat nor Lily regretted participating nor staying longer than planned, but it did leave them tired afterwards, Lily despite her naps, and Kat because she'd been sleeping more the past few days. Apparently, sleep was necessary when you overuse your demonic fire's innate ability? Who knew?

Kat still woke first, and had a bit of time to chat with Sylvie before she went to school. Not much was said, just a bit of general catch-up with Kat hanging around while the others all ate breakfast and Sylvie dashed out with Vivian to head to school. Callisto seemed to have something on her mind, but she didn't say anything just yet. Kat shrugged it off and went to hang out with Lily a bit longer.

When Lily did eventually wake up, it was nearly lunch. Lily gave Kat a kiss and then hopped over the fence to get back to her house. No sense in risking trouble by waiting longer than necessary. Kat plonked herself down in the lounge room, and when Callisto came in to wipe everything down with a cloth, Callisto decided to speak up, "Did Sylvie mention the science fair to you?"

"No... should she have?" asked Kat.

Callisto shrugged, "Sylvie has a project entered into the big science fair on this weekend and she wanted to ask you to go... but she also knows that you cannot exactly hide your more obvious demonic features, so she was debating whether to ask you or not, if you managed to make it home in time of course," *nOvelnext.com*

"I don't remember a science fair back when I was at school," said Kat as a way to avoid answering the question for the moment. Kat did want to go and support Sylvie, but a science fair was definitely the wrong place to get outed as a demon. *Perhaps I can use my water transformation? So far it's all or nothing... but perhaps if I can manage to keep it localised to just me horns and wings I can go? That will probably be quite draining on my demonic energy... but I might be able to go. Lily can just get a good hat.*

"The school is not running it. The city is. They are attempting to 'promote the furthering of science and the arts'. The mayor ran on the promise that he would do more to make the city into 'an important cultural and scientific touchstone for the state' and I suppose this is his attempt at following through on that somewhat. Though, I have some doubts that a primary school science fair for the city and the surrounding towns is really doing all that much to further scientific progress"

"Huh... I suppose I can see it... though are you doubting Sylvie?" asked Kat.

"Not at all. With the time and effort Sylvie has put into her project, which I will not spoil, as she requested it remain a surprise, I suspect it will be quite important. In fact, I do wonder if the judges will be intelligent enough to realise what she has done. Sylvie is a truly blessed individual, and I doubt that others can really measure up in this instance," said Callisto.

"Bit mean... but I did grow up with a bunch of kids, and went to school with even more and I can admit that... more than I'd like are idiots," answered Kat.

"Having even a single idiot remaining in the population is a disservice to the human race," snarked Callisto.

"That's... a bit extreme," offered Kat.

"Perhaps it is an extreme view, and I certainly do not advocate for the removal of idiots, from either the planet or the gene pool. I understand, to my great sadness, that idiots deserve a chance to live as well. What I truly loathe, is those idiots that possess an intellect and choose not to use it. They are the true disgraces, and shame the human race by their continued idiocy," grumbled Callisto.

"That's not what you said the first time," pointed out Kat.

"I am aware. In an ideal world, I do believe everyone should trend towards intelligence instead of ignorance, but I understand it can never happen, and I do not wish to force the issue. Genocide, is of course, a choice for idiots," said Callisto.

You know what? I'm going to... not touch this issue. Like at all. I want to say Callisto is joking but technically she hasn't said anything wrong... just... the way she's said it makes it feel... very wrong.

"Well... who knows about this science fair. Perhaps Sylvie will find a friend that can understand her?" said Kat.

Callisto nodded as she started to wipe down the oven. "Perhaps. It could be the true prize for the day. I will be on the lookout for promising projects and then attempt to decipher how much outside assistance was provided on the better ones before introducing Sylvie to the owners of the project stands,"

"Well... how much did you help Sylvie?" asked Kat.

"That... is a complex question. I have attempted to further Sylvie's education in a number of ways and I have helped guide her before she had even heard that there was going to be a science fair. I would like to assume that I provided minimal assistance to the project itself, but I did not shy away from answering questions and I have gone over her notes for problems. Not that I found many of course, but I will need to be mindful of how I break down assistance when looking at projects," said Callisto.

"Right... well... I don't know how any would be able to tell how much work any given kid put into their project just from looking at the stand at the fair... but you're also much smarter than I am, so... I'll trust that it is possible," said Kat.

Callisto nodded, "Indeed, it is not a simple matter, but I acquired the skill when entering a number of science fairs myself in my youth. I travelled around the state a bit to participate in more than just the local ones. My parents were happy to show off my intelligence when it suited them, and for once I was not going to complain about their habits. The fact that Sylvie is participating in the under thirteen division does simply matters greatly.

"The main way to spot outside assistance is by comparing different sections of the work. Most parents or teachers that want to 'help' a child ensure that at least some of the original work done by the child in question remains visible on the stand so that the child feels like they have done something instead of just being pulled along for the ride. The next one is checking to ensure that the stand doesn't go over budget with materials. If they were willing to break the first rule, that all entrants are expected to do 90% of the work... they are usually willing to break more," Callisto explained.

"Huh... that actually makes a lot of sense. I thought you'd do some genius voodoo and just look at the project and then somehow notice a hundred different things that all point towards it being a valid project or not," said Kat.

Callisto giggled and shook her head before saying, "No Kat I am afraid not. Skilled and intelligent I might be but I would require more than a few minutes to determine that sort of thing purely based on the look of the project. Truthfully, one of the best ways is to ask the child about it and see how confident they are in answering questions about the project. It is by far the most reliable. Finding the right questions will be a bit hard, they need to be difficult, but not necessarily tricky. If you understand what difference I am implying there,"

"I think so? You want questions that require background knowledge on the project, but not questions specifically designed to lead you to the wrong answer that a child could easily get wrong even if they did the project," said Kat.

"Exactly," confirmed Callisto.

[Chapter 1094 1094 What Was In The Box?](#)

"Right, so I've gone through the box... and it's well..." Lily started to explain before pausing and thinking of the best wording. She'd spent the afternoon going over the basics of everything in the box, and while she hadn't technically read the entire thing... it wasn't too far off.

"Wasn't worth it?" offered Kat as an answer.

"No... that would be a bit rude... there not worthless... but they aren't the best either. Of course, I'm not trying to imply that Bodeir skimmed out on us... because if I had to guess this is a collection of everything they have on shadow magic... it just... isn't all that much," said Lily.

"Why do you say that?" asked Kat, feeling like she knew the answer... but any excuse to get Lily to gush about something was one to be taken.

"I think I was really spoiled by Thyme and that book he gave me on paper magic. When Thyme said it was the life's work of a paper mage, I don't think I gave that the recognition it deserves. Whoever wrote that paper magic book? They really did dedicate a lifetime to it. I wouldn't be surprised if it took a full hundred years to compile the thing. It's a ridiculous amount of time an effort...

"From somebody that likely spent the rest of their possibly long life researching and investigating everything they possibly could about paper magic and then set out to preserve the practice. I don't think I have even half, no, a sixth, of the passion for all magic that this one man or woman had for paper magic," explained Lily

"Wait... don't you know?" asked Kat, feeling the need to interrupt a bit... but only so Lily could catch her breath.

"No, and that does annoy me a bit even if I can respect it. The damned book is written "by a Paper Mage" which, of course it was, because the whole thing was made with magic, and could only be written by someone intimately familiar with paper magic... but I wish they'd left a name so that I could thank them properly, even if fame clearly wasn't on their mind when they wrote the wonderous book. Any paper mage in Thyme's world is being given the holy grail of paper magic.

"In fact, when I finish studying that book? I think I'll know more about paper magic then Nixilei knows about healing magic, and she's a super spy that's been training since she was a child. It's just that well organised. I suspect that most magic users keep their signature spells close to their chest? Not whoever the Paper Mage is. They catalogued everything, and there is even a quite a few other sections that I know exist, but I can't access yet because I'm not good enough at paper magic!

"It might look like a small book Kat... but it's the equivalent to a full library. Perhaps a only a small one, but a whole library of books nonetheless. Sure not all of it is relevant to me, but so much of it IS, and it's wonderfully organised and... and honestly I think that the creator of those books? Their death was a great loss. Even if I'm much more likely to make it past Rank 5, and perhaps even reach the top, Rank 9 with you? I think I'll still be a worse paper mage then whoever wrote that book,"

Kat pursed her lips, trying not to frown. "I think you're underestimating yourself Lily. I bet that in the future, you'll be a wise master of magic and you can come up with your own ultimate paper mage book, then a shadow magic one... then finally, a space magic one. I really do think you'll be great someday,"

Lily smiled and said, "I appreciate the confidence boost but I'm not sure... I don't know that I can dedicate myself to paper the way this person did... maybe it's something I'll only understand when I'm older... but it feels so far beyond me, that even a century of time dedicated to paper magic won't be enough,"

"Lily," Kat intoned with a deadpan look, "our lifespan is already measured in thousands of years. A hundred years is nothing,"

Lily nodded slowly. "I... I guess it is? That's... that's an odd thing to think about. I'm not sure it's really sunk in... but I really do have centuries to spend on this if that's something I want... I'm not all that sure it IS something I'd want to do... but I could do it if I wanted to," mumbled Lily.

"It sure is," said Kat with a smile, "But tell me a bit about the spells you got from Bodeir,"

"Ah... right, I didn't mean to get distracted," mumbled Lily. *It's not like I intentionally poked you to encourage you going off on a rant. Not at all.* "I can hear you Kat. You're not shielding your thoughts,"

"I know," said Kat with a grin on her face. Pausing for a moment, Kat decided to just keep going, and bounced over to Lily before pulling her into a big kiss.

Lily flopped down onto the bed, panting a bit from the kiss. "T-that's a pretty good way of distracting me,"

Kat shrugged, "I was just showing you my appreciation for your rant. I really like seeing you passionate about things, and I don't want you to think I'm just messing with you. Hopefully that kiss shows you that I'm serious when I say I enjoy hearing you talk,"

"I... I suppose it does. I'd make a joke about needing a few more examples as a test before confirming the hypothesis... but I don't think I'd be capable of higher thought for a while if you were to actually call my bluff, and I do want to talk about these spells," said Lily.

"Well that's your call. Remember, as much as I enjoy the look on your face after I kiss the daylights out of you, that's purely because it makes me happy to see YOU happy, not because the kiss itself is doing much for me. Honestly, praise succubus instincts for my continued success, because I don't know what I'm doing," said Kat.

Lily rolled her eyes, "I will claim your lips for my enjoyment later so stop distracting me, I'm going to talk about these spells. The first thing you have to know, is that a couple of them are the same spell with a different name, and slightly different image associated with them. Just as an example, I have 'shadow dagger' 'shadow arrow' and 'shadow bolt' which are all essentially the same spell at Rank 1, and aren't any better at Rank 2. Perhaps if I had a Rank 3 version they'd finally separate...

"But the basic gist of them all is hold your hand out, gather power into the shadow below your arm, and then fire that shadow off at people. It packs a decent punch, and it has a neat ability to travel through shadows without really being visible... but overall it's not that strong.

"What I think of as the best spell of the lot is called 'Blend with Shadows' and at first it seems like a spell that pulls the shadows up and around you to keep you hidden in dark areas... but I think with a bit of effort I can figure out how to make a spell that takes you into the shadows, or coats you in shadows if I can't quite get into them without space affinity.

"Then there is 'shadow shield' which isn't actually a shield at all. It just pulls up a wave of shadows and then uses them to slow down projectiles. Not great, but easy and cheap to cast by the looks of it and if I combine it with my paper shield spell it can probably do some good work, but that will require some testing after I can actually cast all of these spells.

"Then there is another version of 'shadow bolt' that's supposed to do more damage, and isn't like the first 'shadow bolt' at all. It's all about creating a dense shadow that you can then throw at someone. And I do mean throw. It doesn't launch itself. It sticks to your hand until you throw it, then it clings to the enemy. Not sure how useful that one is... maybe if you can get it in people's eyes? Not sure if that would damage the eyes... or just cling there... might call that one 'shadow gunk' instead.

"Then there are the scraps. Sure none of these are the originals... but the scraps, even if they are written on nice clean paper... are missing large chunks of themselves. I don't know if how many of them I can force a spell out of, or even how many of them ARE spells. Which is annoying, but it's fine really. It will give me something to work on," explained Lily.

[Chapter 1095 1095 How To Train Like An Idiot](#)

While Lily was working on seeing if she had shadow affinity unlocked, Kat was attempting to figure out how to hide her horns and wings by transforming them into water. The plan was to make the partial switch, then keep the excess water in a large water bottle nearby, or perhaps a camel backpack. Whatever could easily contain the excess water from the process. Kat didn't want to test the maximum separation range any time soon, and certainly not on Earth.

Sadly, the first day saw Kat making no progress at all. Kat sat in front of a mirror and focused on swapping just her horns as a start. All she got for her efforts was exhaustion, mentally and magically. Swapping back and forth constantly was a massive drain on her demonic energy reserves, and it added another wrinkle into the plan. Even assuming Kat could figure out how to keep only part of her body transformed, there was no way to tell what the demonic energy cost would be. This meant, when the end of the day came, Kat was tired, a bit frustrated, and attempting to distract herself.

Luckily, Lily had much more success in proving she had shadow affinity. She had initially started with staring at the underside of the bed and trying to force the shadows to move. Lily found that no matter what she did, she just couldn't get them to move, nor did she feel a connection between herself and the shadow. There was something missing. Lily's guess, which she would mostly confirm, was the lack of magic in the area, and thus, in those shadows.

To test her theory, Lily summoned up a piece of paper, keeping it as white as possible. Then, with a bit of focus on shadows, she dyed it completely black across both sides. Lily beamed and happily showed off her success to Kat, who had smiled at her girlfriend's success... but also realised a potential problem. "So... Lily... I AM happy for you, and this isn't just me trying to spread the frustration... but are you sure you aren't just able to change the colour of the paper... because you're a paper mage?"

Lily frowned at the obvious point Kat was making before saying, "I want to think I wouldn't overlook something so simple... but that does sound quite possible. Let me test a few things." So Lily began a new round of testing at first she didn't make any progress. It seemed that she couldn't make the paper any

colour but black, no matter how much she focused. Lily even borrowed a bunch of colourful paper from Callisto for better visualisation.

That's when something seemed to click in Lily's mind. She found that while she couldn't dye paper any colour she wanted, she could summon the paper as different colours. It took considerably more effort if she chose something that wasn't white, and black didn't seem to work properly unless Lily added in a bit of shadow imagery, but it did prove that she had the affinity unlocked.

"Hmm... I wonder if the mana cost is more expensive because I'm more familiar with white paper, or if the added colour adds to the cost. I... I don't quite understand how it works. Like... am I summoning paper that happens to not be white, or am I summoning paper AND the dye itself, and the extra dye is what's increasing the cost," asked Lily. *nOVeLnext.Com*

Kat, who was currently taking a break to regenerate her demonic energy thought the question over for a while. "Hmm... do you know what papyrus looks like?"

"No... I mean, I've heard of it... but not really? Are you saying I should try and summon paper that isn't quite paper?" asked Lily.

"Yeah, or perhaps trying to summon old paper instead? See if that increases the cost," said Kat.

Lily nodded and got to work. Lily used Callisto's computer to look up a picture of papyrus and some information about it, then she looked at some examples of older paper by ducking over to her house and bringing one of the older books over. Just a touch of effort later and Lily had yellowed paper, and some papyrus. "Hmmm..." hummed Lily.

"What's the verdict?" asked Kat curiously.

"The verdict... is that I'm still not sure. Papyrus still takes more energy, in fact, it takes slightly more effort than coloured paper... but I'm not sure why that is. Might just be the fact I've never seen real papyrus, or it might be that it isn't paper. Still I CAN summon it. Not sure why I would, but I can. As for the yellowed paper... it's still more expensive than white paper... but not by too much, and is by far the cheapest option if you exclude my default," said Lily.

"So... familiarity issue? Or is it that you have to age the paper artificially?" asked Kat.

"That's the question... I wonder if there's something in the paper magic book? Surely this is something that the Paper Mage tested out at some point... might be in one of the locked sections. Perhaps now that I've done some testing myself I'll be able to see it. They might've tried with other things like vellum,"

"Vellum?" asked Kat.

Lily sent her a mental picture of the material in question. "It used to be baby animal skin that's been prepped to write on, but we can make it out of other things now. Not sure on the specifics of that though. I'm also not sure I even want to try... not sure I like the ability to summon animal skin on command, even if I might have it,"

Kat shrugged and said "I'm not going to pressure you about it,"

"Thanks Kat," returned Lily.

After that conversation Kat went back to trying and failing to make progress with partial water transformation. The next day, Kat checked with D.E.M.O.N.S to see if this was even possible to get the very unhelpful answer that basically amounted to 'I don't know, figure it out yourself'. Still, it was nice enough to remind Kat specifically hiding her demonic features was supposed to be harder then anywhere else. So day two of this training saw Kat trying to transform just her fingernail.

It seemed to be suitably small, and also not that important if she lost it somehow due to performing the ability imperfectly. It took all day, and late into the evening for Kat to make any progress. Kat was exhausted, barely concentrating and just desperately trying to make progress before going to sleep. Lily was already snoozing next to her. So what happened next wasn't entirely clear to Kat.

For just a moment, Kat swore that her entire arm turned into water. Just for a moment though. That's because it was followed by a blinding pain like all the nerves in her arm were firing at once, and Kat collapsed onto the bed, arm twitching painfully but still clearly there. It didn't take long for the pain to fade and the twitching to stop... but Kat wasn't sure if that was due to her regeneration or not.

Kat was further ashamed to realise that Lily had woken up from the blast of pain down their mental link and was looking down at Kat, judgingly. "Um... I'm sorry?"

"And?" asked Lily.

"And what?" asked Kat confused.

"Are you not going to promise not to do that again?" asked Lily.

"Um... no?" offered Kat as her answer.

Lily's frowning intensified. "Kat, I love you... and I don't like seeing you in pain. I really don't like waking up in a panic while you experience some of the worst pain I've ever felt... and that was all second hand! Why are you still planning to continue with this?"

"Well... I just proved that my idea IS possible... even if I'm not quite sure how I managed it, and it might have a few problems... but a bit of pain is worth it if I get to go to the science fair to cheer on Sylvie!" said Kat, conviction in her voice.

"Why can't you just wear a baggy jacket for your wings and brutalise a headband to make it look like your horns are fake!" hissed Lily.

"It's pretty hard to fold my wings up to get them under a jacket. They're longer then my arms and don't exactly fold neatly over my chest... I mean... it's possible but it will look very strange. I don't want to cause a scene, especially if someone asks what's under my coat. It will look like I'm trying to smuggle equipment in or something," insisted Kat.

Lily sucked in a deep breath. "Right, I understand that... and you know what? Despite my better judgement I'm going to allow you to keep practicing with this stupid technique, for some reason. BUT! I don't want you to practice it at all without me or Callisto nearby, and certainly not near Sylvie! I might have excepted your idiocy, but I don't want Sylvie to know,"

"Yeah... neither do I," agreed Kat.

[Chapter 1096 1096 How To Train After Being Told Off](#)

After breakfast the next morning, Kat was back to training. Kat spent an hour attempting to focus her transformation on just her finger with no success. With a frown, she looked over to Lily who was trying to manipulate the shadows and also having minimal success. "Lily... I'm about to do something stupid,"

Lily glanced up from where she was standing and staring at her shadow, "Kat... I don't approve but I do accept your reasons for trying this. Perhaps it will even have more practical uses one day... but know that I'm NOT happy with this. I... I'd also like you to close our mental link. Feeling you in pain is a horrendous experience,"

"I understand," said Kat.

"I'm not sure you do, but I'm willing to accept that as an answer," returned Lily.

Kat frowned deeper at the response but didn't complain. Instead she focused once again, this time trying to recreate her partial success from last night where her arm disappeared. Thirty minutes later, Kat was biting down on her lips to keep from screaming out in pain. She'd managed it again... but clearly, she still hadn't done a proper job.

Two more failed attempts, and Kat realised she needed to be a bit smarter about this. The next attempt Kat made saw her speeding up her mind and focusing on taking in as much detail about her arm as she could. A moment later, blinding pain seemed to last for an eternity in that distilled time. Despite the pain though, Kat had her answer. She wasn't entirely sure what to make of it, but she had an answer.

In that moment of time, Kat managed to see her arm as it was. The transformation was only partially successful. Despite leaving behind a watery impression of her entire arm that went from her fingers all the way to the joint at her shoulder, it was clear now why the pain was so intense. There, inside the watery figure of her right arm, was a series of floating nerves and all the bones in her arm.

The reason for the pain was that her nerves hadn't been turned into water alongside everything else, instead they were freely sitting inside the water, spread out almost like a spiderweb. Her bones were floating in place, even without muscles or ligaments to support them. The nerves were too thin to really see what colour they were, but Kat could confirm what she already knew. Her bones were black as midnight and matched the horns on her head perfectly. Kat knew that if she had the mental capacity at the time, she'd have tried to see if her fingers could still move. It was oddly beautiful to look at... if not for the pain that accompanied the sight.

*You know... part of me really wants to figure out how to become a walking skeleton with just water and bones. I do need to work out why the nerves and bones are sticking around though. And why I can't see to focus on just my finger, or fingernail disappearing. Why was my whole arm easier to change? Also I didn't seem to be bleeding from the shoulder... but that might have just been because I didn't stay in that state long enough. I hope I can stay like that without issue... but it does raise some questions.

Like the obvious, can I still move? I want to say... maybe? My nerves clearly still work perfectly fine without the rest of my body around them to help them out... but I honestly don't know enough biology to know if that's normal. That sort of thing might be important... because what happens if I transform my lungs or my heart? You could argue that I can transform my whole body into smoke or water and still be fine... but then I also don't have a brain that still needs blood.*

"Hey Lily... weird question, but can nerves keep working outside of the body?" asked Kat.

"Why would you even want to know something like that Kat?" asked Lily, even as she started to work out a plausible answer on her own. It was even the correct one. Not that Kat knew that yet.

"Ok... before you judge me... do you know the answer?" asked Kat.

Lily groaned and nodded, "Yeah... yeah I know the answer... but that doesn't mean I want to tell you,"

"Well that's just rude, sad Kat with a pout. What can I bribe you with for the answer?" asked Kat.

"I'd like you to honestly tell me why you want to know," returned Lily.

"No kisses?" asked Kat 'innocently'.

"Fine, I want to honestly know why you need this information and I want a kiss, every hour, on the hour, for the rest of the day," said Lily with her best smug face.

Kat used her full speed to all but teleport in front of Lily. "Well considering I've already missed the few hours, I'll have to make the first few extra special to make up for that," said Kat with a grin.

"I may have made a mistake," mumbled Lily before she was pulled into a deep kiss by Kat and her mind turned pink.

When Kat eventually let her go, it was some time later and Lily collapsed. Kat had to catch her girlfriend and carefully place her down on the bed. Lily's face was completely red at this point, and her breathing was heavy. "D-dangerous. That was dangerous," mumbled Lily still not really conscious.

Kat didn't mind waiting, she just smiled at her girlfriend for the time it took Lily to recover her mental faculties. Eventually, Lily managed it, but not without some effort. "That was just your first kiss. There are still many hours left in the day," said Kat with a smile.

"Meep," said Lily.

"That's adorable... but I would like my question answered," said Kat.

"Oh... um... right... what was the question?" asked Lily, apparently not quite as back together as she'd hoped.

"Nerves Lily. Do nerves keep working outside of the body?" asked Kat.

"Oh... right yes... well there was a few tests done on that... and it's super creepy... but yeah as long as they're still connected to the brain they work," answered Lily.

"Bother. I mean, I did assume that, but it makes my tests a bit harder. Not sure how safe they are now either..." mumbled Kat.

"Oh? So you're finally going to give up on causing yourself immense pain?" asked Lily.

"Perhaps? I'm not giving up just yet... but I did find the reason for the pain," said Kat with a slightly too wide smile. "You see, apparently nerves and bones are harder to turn to water, or perhaps change their state? Anyway, my nerves were just... sitting exposed in my hand when it was water for an instant and that's where my problem is," said Kat.

Lily turned a little green as she imagined that. "I really hope your plan isn't to try and turn all of your nerves into water next," grumbled Lily.

"I mean... it was... why is that an issue?" asked Kat.

Lily flipped herself over and screamed a little into the bed before flipping herself back. "Right... Kat... what else is connected to your nerves?"

"Spine?" asked Kat.

"No your brain Kat! The thing you're ignoring right now apparently! If you succeed... but not completely you might turn just your brain to water and I'm really not sure if you can recover from that," said Lily.

"Oh... oh," mumbled Kat.

"Yes, 'oh' indeed Kat. Look... maybe there's a better way of doing this?" asked Lily.

NOvelNext.com

"Or... we could ask Nira to watch me test things out?" asked Kat.

"Do you really want to bother Kamiko's mother with something like this?" asked Lily.

"I mean... yeah? If it lets me go support Sylvie at the science fair without problems I'd totally do it," said Kat.

"Look... can you maybe focus on hiding your wings instead? We can figure out something for your horns. Even if it's just a fake headband that looks like it's holding your horns up," said Lily.

"You do realise there are both bones and nerves in my wings right?" returned Kat.

130

"Of course I do... but if you can manage most of your hand, perhaps you can work on the rest of your hand, and not try to turn all of your nerves, or bone, into water. Both of those seem really bad unless you can prove that your body still works even with parts of it as water," said Lily.

"Hmm... that might be worth testing. Perhaps I should focus on changing one or both of my legs and seeing if I fall over or not? If I stay standing despite missing my legs, then it's probably fine," said Kat.

"I don't like that you're crazy idea is starting to seem reasonable to me... but I understand this is important... though... do send a message to Nira and Kamiko. Just in case. If they offer to help, then technically we didn't ask," said Lily.

[Chapter 1097 1097 Success, Sort Of.](#)

Another day, and the girls were still practicing. Kat was having some success, and she had managed to transform her nerves! She also found that somehow, her hand did indeed continue to work if it was just bone. As long as it was surrounded by water, the bones acted as if the required muscle and skin were there without issue. Kat had also managed to transform her legs, the other arm, but no progress was

made on her horns. The fact she could move her arm even without muscle did give her confidence that she wouldn't accidentally cripple or kill herself.

Lily was making good progress herself, and seeing Kat collapse onto the bed to regenerate demonic energy for perhaps the hundredth time that day, she decided to cheer her girlfriend up a bit. "So... would you like to hear what I've worked out?" asked Lily.

*I mean... Kat does say that she likes to hear me talk... so she should enjoy this right? I... well I haven't really found that much stuff out but I can turn it into a decent conversation for Kat if she wants me too. I can make it sound like a book report! I... I also know she can't hear me. She's still blocking me out after I asked her too... just in case she hurts herself again. Which...

I don't like having the link blocked off like this. It feels weird not getting that trickle of emotions from Kat. I didn't realise how comforting that was, nor how much I've been leaning on that stream to keep myself comfortable at times. I didn't notice it when I was fighting with those cultivators and saving Lian... is this a new fear I have? I hope not. Then again... wishing that the answer is that I'm too used to the sensations from the link isn't exactly healthy either... then again do I care?*

"I'd love to," answered Kat. Yes! I wasn't wrong! Perhaps this can cheer her up a bit.

Lily turned to Kat and debated where to sit. After a moment of thought she pulled Kat up to the end of the bed so that Kat would be slightly elevated by the pillows then sat down at the foot of the bed and started to talk. Kat's eyes followed Lily's every movement, but that was the only indication she was paying attention.

Damn, I really am reliant on the link for judging Kat's moods now aren't I? When did I get so bad at reading her face? Dammit, I need to train that skill back up at some point. "Ok awesome. Well, the first thing I found out is that there seems to be something inherently different between shadows with and without magic in them. I don't know what that means in more practical terms, but it isn't just a matter of if I can manipulate them or not.

"Shadows with magic seem to shift colour slightly when I look at them, and they almost seem to move. I'm also able to determine that a shadow realm might actually exist, and a shadow pocket makes a lot more sense now. Shadows with magic in them... are intrinsically more than just the absence of light. I'm not yet sure what they ARE but it's something.

"I've also worked out that it's easiest to manipulate my own shadow. Not only does it take less mana to fill up, but it seems to obey me better. Which... might sound weird but I can already sort of tell my shadow to move in certain ways and have it listen. I suspect that high level shadow mages can treat their shadow like a second body in way but I can't exactly see out of my shadows eyes... yet. Might be possible.

"As for shadows of other things... well it depends what I use. I haven't tried it on your shadow yet... I'm not sure what would happen because if you remember, apparently you leak demonic energy into the environment. Not in amounts that matter to normal creatures... but it's YOUR shadow, and that might be an important distinction when it comes to magical matters such as this.

"Once we're on a different world I'm more confident testing it, as while it might have demonic energy corrupt it... it's still ultimately the shadow of my girlfriend, and I from what I can understand that also

matters. Perhaps I'd need explicit permission, but I suspect the fact you trust me completely should let me manipulate your shadow almost as well as my own.

"Then we have inanimate object shadows. Shadows of things that are not, and have never been anything... I hesitate to say real but that's almost what it feels like. Not trees and plants and stuff, we'll get to those later, but shadows of things like the bed, the desk, or a door. I've found that... inanimate shadows like to remain stationary.

"They don't really flow like a person or a plant's shadow. You can move them, certainly, but it takes focus and they sort of... snap into shape. So take the door for instance. I could make it's shadow grow spikes, and that's fine, but I couldn't turn it into a wave and let it keep flowing as I watched. This oddly applies even to curved objects, which was a heck of a thing to learn.

"I tried it out with a ball Vivian had around, and it still wanted to remain in fixed sharper shapes. Now, I'm not able to push the shadows off the ground. Control and shape them? That's fine, but at the moment I can't do anything physical with anything except my own shadow... and even that is really weak. I was just trying to lift a pillow with it and my shadow couldn't even get that far. I'm not sure if I wasn't using enough mana, or if I need a spell or what the problem was...

"So of course I tried the spells. They are... to be honest they are pretty useless. Once again, it might just be the lack of magic in these shadows and the fact I have to provide mana for the shadows, mana for the spells, and keep concentrating on both what I want and two separate streams of mana. It's exhausting and produces basically no results. I went outside to test the shadow arrows against some rocks and I didn't need to bother. *novElNExt.cOm*

"The best I managed? I could move the rock... maybe ten centimetres. It was pretty disappointing. The shadow glob does stick to things, as I'd thought... but it's also somewhat pathetic. It takes so much mana to make it anywhere near a useful size. As it is... it's like throwing little bits of dust at people. Though...

"I have had success with merging shadow and paper stuff. It seems that using purely magical paper really helps the shadow stuff along. Using paper as a medium I can draw all the shapes I want. I'm not even limited by the inanimate objects issues that normally plague me. It's still a little... jittery I guess, and it prefers to stay squarish when I've covered the whole paper in shadow, but it will move and listen to me if I force the issue.

"Additionally, after a bit of effort, I managed to make a... 'Paper Shadow Arrow' I suppose you can call it, and that DOES work. Quite well in fact. It sliced through all of the twigs I set up. I also underpowered it a fair bit and shot it at the fence, and the paper would stick into the wood. Which means that at the very least, shadow magic won't be a waste of time, even if I'm stuck combining it with paper.

"I think I'm going to split my time between pumping mana into my shadow, and practicing my combined spells. Not sure if it's really worth keeping my shadow saturated with mana... but once I started doing it... it just felt right you know? I think it has to be part of my Memphis instincts, or perhaps just shadow magic affinity in general. I'm not sure what will happen, but I imagine something well,"

Lily exhaled deeply, despite already being somewhat out of breath and smiled. Kat looked enthralled during the entire explanation and Lily needed no additional advice to realise that Kat had been listening well the entire time. *Perhaps I haven't lost it after all.*

"I'm glad you've been making so much progress Lily," said Kat. "I've been making decent enough use of my time... and I'm not in pain anymore because I can reliably vanish my nerves... but I'm not sure I can get my bones, or my wings, hidden before the weekend. I'm not entirely sure what I'm going to do. Perhaps you could ask Callisto and Sylvie if they have ideas? I'd ask myself, but they want to keep everything all hush, hush,"

"Sure Kat," said Lily. "I'll ask them after you get back to practicing," Lily then laid herself down next to Kat and pulled her girlfriend tight against her body. A worthwhile reward.

[Chapter 1098 1098 A Solution From The Brains](#)

Kat's back in charge

Kat planted herself face first into the sheets and let out a groan. It was nearly dinner time on Friday night and Kat still hadn't managed to hide her wings. Kat wasn't even sure if it was possible anymore. Kat found that while she could move the water around, it didn't like to leave its predetermined shape, and would snap back into place before long. Perhaps it was a safety mechanism, or just her mind worrying too much and preventing it from working as Kat willed it... but Kat was now all but certain she had failed. "I can't do it. I'm not going to make it in time. I guess I have to talk to Sylvie and Callisto now," mumbled Kat.

Kat didn't see the look of glee on Lily's face that was hidden a moment later, undetected due to the link still being closed. Kat had been trying to vanish her torso today, and succeeded... but her organs remained as organs and it was freaky to see. It didn't feel great either, very weird, especially around the lungs and stomach. So Lily had asked for the link to temporarily be blocked again.

Trying her best to sound saddened by the news, and not excited to see Kat's reaction in a few minutes Lily said, "That's a shame, but I'm sure Callisto and Sylvie will understand, or maybe they have a plan? I mean, they're pretty smart right?" Lily hadn't been able to resist giving Kat a bit of a hint...

"I guess I'll go see them... but I don't see how they would have a solution. Surely they'd have mentioned it to me before right?" asked Kat, completely missing Lily's hint. Kat sighed once again into the mattress before pulling herself up and walking to Callisto's room. She could hear Sylvie and Callisto on the other side of the door, but intentionally ignored what they were saying. Kat took a deep breath and knocked on the door.

"Come in!" yelled Callisto. It wasn't strictly necessary, Kat's hearing was good enough for the door to be a minor issue now she was in front of it, but even Callisto was prone to habits such as this.

noveLNext.cOm

Kat smiled and walked in, shocked by what she saw. Much of Callisto's usually tidy workspace was taken up by large posters and diagrams clearly for the science fair tomorrow. What surprised Kat, was the contents. It seemed that Sylvie had done the math, and biology researched, required to answer the question 'What if humans had wings'. It was tackled from a few different angles with drawings representing the possibilities.

What really drew Kat's attention though, was the device Sylvie had just stepped away from. Callisto was watching it all go together, but it was clear Sylvie had done most of the work, if only due to the oversized leather apron on Sylvie's front combined with various debris that had ended up on the small girl during her work. And what a work it was.

Kat could see a slightly scaled up replica of her own wings sitting there on a stand. The leather on them had clearly been painted black, and the wings themselves were slightly larger than Kat's own, but the craftsmanship was well done. The metal supports were still clearly visible, but that didn't take away from the effort it took to make something like this. There was a harness that went around the chest, arms and legs, likely to help the wearer distribute the weight evenly. It looked, to Kat at least, that Sylvie had taken her wings and try to make a copy of them... but why...

Oh! Oh Sylvie you darling. You planned this the whole time! Why did you guys let me waste my time trying to come up with a solution when Sylvie was already twelve steps ahead and baked one into her entire project!

"Those are for me aren't they?" asked Kat in a whisper.

"Yup," said Sylvie happily. "I've got my own set... but Callisto made those so technically I can't take them to the science fair and show them off as my work... but she used them as a guide, and I just had to follow step by step to build my own set for you!"

Kat pulled Sylvie into a hug, disregarding the metal shavings and leather paint that was rubbing against her. She was a succubus, it wasn't an issue for her skin and her clothes could be resummoned. "So these fit over my wings?" asked Kat as she caught up to what was going on.

"Yup," said Sylvie easily. "It took a lot of designing, but they work both over your wings, or someone else can put them on. The plan was, if you didn't make it back in time, for Vivian to wear them. They're a bit heavier than we planned though... and I am not entirely sure that Vivian could wear them long without issues..."

"But of course that's no problem for me," continued Kat as she caught up to what Sylvie was saying. "They need to look 'real', well, for a given definition of real. It needs to look like you made the wings, and they need to be worn by anyone and still work. Well, technically they need to only look like they should work... but I guess you both wanted to go overboard?"

"It just was not worth the risk," said Callisto. "It is entirely possible that one of the judges would know enough about the construction of something like this to notice the impossibility if we only touched up the outward appearance. It took quite a few design variations but we were eventually able to settle on wings that look like this. In fact, designing wings with leather helped remind us that while typically we assume winged humans would have feathers, we are in fact more closely related to bats. It helped refine the other models and give us an excuse to take the demonic angle,"

"Yeah," said Sylvie with a smile. "Sadly we still can't say that you've got a copy of working wings, that would be silly, but the model you'll be wearing... well... if you still want to go..." Kat gave Sylvie a look that conveyed how ridiculous that question was. "Right, well, we're using you to show that scientifically speaking, demons are far more likely to exist than angels, and you're our demon example. The wings will

still be too heavy to fly, and despite the fact I know you CAN fly, we can't publish that sort of thing. The math doesn't check out,"

"Right... but angles ALSO exist," pointed out Kat.

"True but most people think demons do not exist either so the precise truth of the matter isn't something we should worry about. Plus... do we know that angels even look like angels? Not all demons look like demons we think of after all. Do angels even have wings? We just do not know," said Sylvie.

"I can't say... even the angel I 'met' wasn't actually around at the time. Perhaps they do? I know they sound fucking weird," said Kat.

"Indeed. As we have no proof of either, I have decided to pretend that I simply believe what the rest of the scientific community do. At least for this project. I would rather not be responsible for a complete overturning of what we know to be true, and I certainly have no desire for the attention that sort of revelation would gather," said Sylvie.

"Yes that would be a bit much. Perhaps when you're older such a paper and proof might be worth publishing," said Callisto.

"I wouldn't want to make things hard for Kat though..." said Sylvie.

"It's not something I'm worried about right now," said Kat. "I'd be more concerned for you all anyway. I can survive whatever they throw at me, but you're all still squishy humans,"

Kat's mouth twitched into a smirk as she snuck her hands around Sylvie's apron and started to tickle the little girl. Kat delighted in the laughter she was able to gather from Sylvie, catching the young girl before she hit the ground when her legs gave out. Callisto stood off to the side, a hand covering her own amused smile.

When Sylvie finally recovered, she said, "I'll just have to become stronger! If Callisto and Vivian don't want it I can use that token of yours and become strong!"

Callisto shrugged, "I have no desire to outlive Vivian or you, I would not take first dibs on the token,"

Sylvie frowned at the idea, "I don't want you or Vivian to die though... and you're older than me... perhaps you should take it first?"

Callisto shrugged, "Perhaps, but we know such treatments can be purchased, even if they will not raise us up to the extent of Lily's power. If Kat desires to keep us all around, she can find a way I'm sure,"

Kat smiled, though her eyes held some sadness, "Not everyone I'm afraid. I already made the offer to Gramps after all, but he turned me down," Callisto and Sylvie nodded in understanding. Gramps and his wife were well enough know that the answer was obvious to both.

[Chapter 1099 1099 Role Model Wars](#)

Kat stepped into the car, carrying both Sylvie and Lily in her arms. It was early Saturday morning and only Kat and Callisto could truly be called awake. Lily had showered, dressed perfectly for the day then

transformed into her Memphis form and passed out. She was still asleep, and didn't have any plans to wake up before arriving at the science fair. Sylvie on the other hand, was adamant she'd wake up early with everyone else... and it didn't take long for her to fall back to sleep despite her promises.

Kat buckled herself into the middle seat in the back, then awkward strapped in Sylvie the best she could on her right side before letting Sylvie's head rest in her lap and continue sleeping. Sylvie hadn't woken, despite the movement, and she was currently drooling just a tiny bit. Kat thought it was cute, and wiped the spit away before turning to Lily and getting her situated.

Lily was placed on Kat's tail, and held against her leg. Lily seemed to snuggle deeper into Kat's side but didn't otherwise wake. Callisto had loaded up all the props for the science fair into the back of the car, and Vivian was planning to make the trip in later. That had been a bit of an argument, but it was pointed out that technically the fair didn't open until nine, and Vivian had been up late working.

Granted, Callisto had been up late working as well, but for the maid that was simply a typical night. As the car pulled out, Kat let out a sigh, "Sylvie seemed so certain she was going to stay awake this early,"

"I was tempted to place some minor sleeping aids in the glass of water I handed to her just before we set off to ensure she got some more rest, but it was clearly unneeded. While I do understand Sylvie's desire to have more time in the day, and appreciate the time my condition has given me, Sylvie should know better. I am sure I spoke to her many a time about the dangers of sleep deprivation,"

It was a bit past 3am in the morning. They needed to head out to the city and set-up before nine, and because Kat needed to put on wings before anyone noticed they were not in fact, fake wings she was wearing, they'd decided to head out and catch the early opening time of 6am for setup. They likely wouldn't make it in time for that, but the convention centre was outside of town, just off the highway they were about to be traveling on, so perhaps it was just close enough.

Still, Kat wasn't too worried. If they just found a spot that was dark enough and abused Kat and Lily's ability to see in the dark they could have the whole contraption setup before anyone had a chance to notice something weird was going on. "It probably doesn't help that I barely need sleep either... but I still sleep at night so I can sleep with Lily and well... Lily obviously gets enough sleep," said Kat.

"Indeed. I had hoped with sufficient examples of taking sleep when needed and why it is useful and necessary to live a productive and healthy life Sylvie would take the hints. Alas, it appears that Sylvie is more interested in finding ways to avoid sleeping then properly recharging herself," said Callisto.

"Well, that's because she's found a great role model in you!" said Kat with a smile. "I was always worried Sylvie looked up to me a bit too much. I mean, I love her, and I'm glad I mean that much to her, but I'm really not someone I wanted her to emulate. I used to pick fights with bullies and lose so that Lily wouldn't be bullied. I spent all of my time making sure that other kids were happy with their place at the orphanage, and I didn't get much time for myself.

"Which sure, was fine for ME because I enjoy that kind of thing, but Sylvie is so smart... I can already imagine her trying not to get frustrated as she deals with idiot after idiot. It could only end in disaster,"

Callisto frowned, "While I appreciate the flatter through imitation, I disagree with your desire to have Sylvie follow after me instead. I have a horrendously small social life consisting mostly of you, your girlfriend, your sister, Vivian, and perhaps your girlfriend's parents. I do not sleep due to a medical

condition and Sylvie really should not be trying to copy that but she already is. I design things and sell patents, occasionally doing writing on the side and cleaning but that does not require me to leave the house ever. Finally, I have an atrocious relationship with my parents, and sadly, my grandparents are deceased so I cannot look to them for support. It would be best if Sylvie found a more appropriate role model," explained Callisto. *NoVelNext.com*

"You phrased a lot of that in the worst way possible though," pointed out Kat. "Sure a lot of your friends are connected to me, but you've been way closer to Sylvie then I have recently mostly because I've just not been around, but that doesn't change the fact that she's latched onto you, in a good way. Additionally, Lily's parents are adults like you are, sure they might be a good deal older, but that's fine. If they are really your friends then you have nearly as many as I do.

"I've only got Lily, who might not count? She's my girlfriend so I'm not sure where you want to place her... but after Lily I have, Gramps, Minor and maybe Major, Nixlei and perhaps Green, and even more thinly, perhaps Gareth. Then there's Sue and Kamiko of course, but that's about it. Well, Bing and Lian were alright, but more Sue's new friends than mine." said Kat.

"Yes but you recently made all of those friends didn't you?" said Callisto, leaving it clear the question didn't need to be answered. "Sure school was not a great place for you to make friends, but once you left you managed to find people you trust. I did not manage to find people I trust at school, or after it, unless you count Vivian,"

"True, but I don't think Sylvie would want the same type of friends that I have. No offence to any of them, but I take a fairly motherly role in a lot of them. Sue looks to me as a bit of a guidepost now that she's trying to get away from just sex, Kamiko is a lonely mess, Minor is about the same and Major has so many issues that she doesn't want to address I haven't even been given permission to start. Then there's Lily, I love her, and that hasn't changed... but I'm not entirely sure we could ever class our relationship as entirely 'healthy'." Said Kat.

"I cannot see much wrong with your relationship with Lily..." said Callisto. *Yeah probably because you're relationship with Vivian isn't that different. If you kissed once or twice a week it'd be pretty much the same just without the magic. Hmm... I wonder if you're both asexual? That could be the answer... but probably not... I feel like Callisto or Vivian would've mentioned it if they were, if only so they could prove they can relate to me.* "... though I can see why Sylvie might want a different kind of friendship then you share with a number of people.

"I cannot speak for Sylvie about what she would want though. Perhaps she would enjoy putting her mind towards solving the problems of others. Having a friend group that regularly needs assistance in fixing things might be enjoyable for her. Take me for example, while I spend most of my time cleaning, I spend plenty of time repairing and maintaining things around the house as well,"

"That proves my point though. If fixing things is really what Sylvie wants to do with her life then looking to your example is a good place to start," said Kat, still trying to argue that Callisto was the better role model.

Something Callisto didn't really agree with, "Perhaps it makes me an acceptable role model, but it does not make me an optimal one. I still maintain that you possess a number of qualities that make you the far superior option, and I suspect that your time at the orphanage means you are also quite used to

cleaning and making repairs. This would imply that you not only possess many of the same skills that I do, but you also have additional ones that Sylvie could benefit from,"

"Maybe, but you take things to the extreme, especially intellectually, that I just can't keep up with. Sure I can overclock my brain now, and think faster... but what's that one joke? I can now think twice as fast, so you're better at math then, no, I'm now able to get the questions wrong at twice the speed," explained Kat, the bickering continuing.

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

[Chapter 1100 1100 Setting Up For The Fair](#)

The sun was peaking out around the nearby buildings as Callisto pulled into the underground carpark. Callisto had originally planned to find a park outside in the shade of a building where it was still dark, but despite the quiet streets the parks aboveground seemed to be taken for a fair distance around the building. Luckily it seemed like they were still one of the first people here, so while the underground park was well lit, there was only one other car with people in it, and Kat could just hide on the opposite side of her vehicle when putting on her costume.

Kat carefully shook Lily and Sylvie awake. Lily quickly transformed into her human form, now complete with slightly oversized sunhat to hide her ears. "Urgh, I feel like I should've taken the time to find a better solution then just 'big hat'. My ears are already uncomfortable and it's only been a few seconds,"

Kat rolled her eyes but gave Lily a kiss on the cheek as a reward for coming anyway. Sylvie was yawning and keeping herself firmly planted on Kat's legs. "Come on Sylvie, time to wake up," said Kat softly.

"Don wanna, comphy" mumbled Sylvie.

"It's science fair day, you need to set up," whispered Kat.

Even as a whisper that was enough for Sylvie to shoot up and only Kat's superior reflexes stopped Sylvie's head from smacking into her chin. Kat laughed a little as Sylvie started to look around wildly. Patting Sylvie on the head a few times Kat pulled them both out of the car as Lily opened the other door and hopped out herself.

Callisto was already unpacking the wing contraption and getting it ready. Callisto apparently had experience putting on strange devices, because not even five minutes later Kat found herself completely fitted with a set of extra wings, and the part that had taken the most time was just fitting her real wings into the fake ones. "Now Kat, there is a mechanism to 'move' your wings on the model, but we have turned it off and disabled it. You can still move your real wings to cause some motion, but try not to go overboard lest people notice anything strange,"

Kat nodded, "Yeah that's fine. Do you want me to help with the boxes?" asked at.

Callisto frowned at the supplies in the back of the car, "I do indeed wish for assistance but I am unsure if it would be suitable. Technically speaking those wings you are wearing should be barely within your ability to lift. It is a bit of a risk to have you seen carrying a box as well... but they are quite light, so perhaps we can get away with giving you one of the heavier ones and pretending otherwise?"

"I can take some as well," said Lily from the side. "I'm not like... Kat strong, but my muscles are better than human now and I should be able to take a few boxes on my own without issue. If we need to take extra trips I can come along with you for that while Kat and Sylvie set things up,"

"Wonderful idea, is that ok with you Sylvie?" asked Callisto. Sylvie nodded shyly, and Callisto frowned at that. "Sylvie are you feeling nervous now? Normally you are quite good with words, what's causing you issues?"

"Well... I chose a bit of a weird project didn't I?" mumbled Sylvie.

"Sylvie, you picked a wonderful project specifically so you could have your sister here with you..." Sylvie perked up at the 'sister' recognition in Callisto's speech, "... and there is nothing wrong with that. We're not here to win, we're here for you to have a good time, show off a bit, and maybe find a friend,"

Sylvie, if anything, only seemed more nervous about finding new friends, but Callisto chose not to comment. Instead, she sighed and handed one of the boxes that were actually lighter to Sylvie, and the heaviest box they could play off as light to Kat. Lily took three towering boxes that were about middle of the road while Callisto picked up two and locked up the car for now.

They made it upstairs without running into anyone, the people that had been over by the car had already moved upstairs while Kat was getting fitted. The staircase took them to an empty lobby with signs pointing them to the auditorium, so it wasn't hard to figure out where to go. Then they entered the convention room. It was a large, mostly empty room marked out by tape into sections. There was a desk with a bored looking man at it, who asked, "Name and school please?"

Callisto pointed to Sylvie hiding behind Kat's legs and said, "Sylvie from Hill Primary School,"

"Hey, out of towners, I went there myself!" said the man as he reached over and grabbed a number, "I never did figure out why it was called Hill primary though, not a hill in sight. This here is your number, please find the designated square to set up your booth,"

Callisto, knowing the answer to his question said, "Thank you for the ticket. As for the name, it was named after the first principle, Robert Hill who was a major construction owner who built the school as his last construction job and then retired afterwards, giving the construction firm over to his son,"

"Wait the school's named after Robert Hill from Hilltop construction?" asked the man.

"Yes," answered Callisto simply as she grabbed the ticket and started to walk away finished with the conversation. Then man seemed to glare after her a bit until he really took a look at Kat and Lily and felt his jaw drop.

Now, Kat and Lily had... somewhat skewed ideas as to their own appearances. Kat was overly humble with no use for mirrors and Lily was used to being the small mousy girl with messy hair that she didn't really take care of properly. Now they were both supernaturally beautiful by normal standards. It wasn't immediately obvious in other worlds, where the ambient higher energy helped refine everyone's appearance, especially the powerful, but on earth with none of that? Lily could compete with some supermodels and Kat was a step beyond that due to their heritage.

Neither noticed the weird looks, and in the end the man just shook his head, thinking that Kat and Lily were good with makeup. If they could make such an impressive 'costume' for Kat, then Hollywood level

makeup was not out of the question to him. Of course, Kat hadn't ever touched makeup in her life, and Lily didn't think of today as something she needed to really dress up for, so there was of course, none on them.

Heedless to this misconception, they strode over to their marked area. Callisto smiled, they managed to get a booth on the edge. It wasn't quite a corner space, they were just two numbers off for that, but they were towards the back and Callisto hoped the crowds wouldn't be too bad here.

Everyone placed down their boxes, and then the group split. Callisto and Lily went back for the rest, while Kat and Sylvie got to work on the setup. It mostly consisted of posters, and diagrams split into stages, showing off a full appearance, then muscles and bones, and then just the wings for each given image. Off to the side would be the calculations Sylvie had done for the image, and the proposed biological basis for the changes.

The walls were made of thick cardboard. Kat was pulling out blocks of wood with slits cut into them to place on the ground and slide the cardboard into. The blocks locked together to join the whole structure together and keep it more stable. They filled the edges of their booth with this setup. Kat then pulled out their little side table then waited.

Soon, Lily and Callisto came back with the last few boxes that had the 3D models Sylvie had made. It was a bit of a tight fit, the table wasn't very large so that Kat and others could still walk in and out of the booth without trouble, but they didn't exactly have much space to work with so it would have to do.

"Well... that took a lot less time than I expected," mumbled Callisto as she looked at the setup. It didn't even take than half an hour. "Not sure what to do now... we're not really supposed to be looking around at everyone else until later... but I really did think we would need more time than this,"

"Callisto... I'm not sure what you thought we'd need to do but you and Sylvie already had everything more or less setup. The paper was all pinned or glued, I'm not sure, to the cardboard. The blocks were easy, and the models all came premade. What did you think still needed to be done?" asked Kat.

Callisto just shrugged, "No idea... but I do have a chess set in my car. I'll go grab it and we can occupy ourselves for a while,"