DEMONS41

Chapter 41: What you leave behind

Kat proceeded steadily through the orphanage. The hall was relatively quiet, but children could be heard behind a few doors likely enjoying the break from school. Pushing open her door Kat threw the bag on her bed and proceeded to fold her clothes half heartedly and then place them in her bag. After a moment of this Lily began to assist Kat silently pulling clothes from there hangers and handing them to Kat where quickly folded them.

"Shouldn't you take a bit more care with you clothes Kat?" asked Lily

"Not really, these are all just everyday clothes they can be a bit wrinkled and I'll live" said Kat

"You should take better care of your clothes Kat" said Lily

"I mean it's fine isn't it? I don't even iron anything, so a few wrinkles are to be expected" said Kat

"Wait you don't even iron anything? I never knew that; don't you have any nice clothes that need maintenance? " asked Lily

"Well of course" said Kat. Lily waited while she handed of Kat's clothes waiting for her to elaborate. After three sets of underwear Lily asked "Well?"

Kat just stared at Lily as she folded clothes and placed them without looking in the bag behind her.

"Why are you looking at me like- oh, oh right. Is that really the only nice outfit you have?" asked Lily

"Pretty much. It's not like I don't have other outfits that look nice but it isn't like they require any special care, and this outfit keeps itself clean never wrinkles and I can summon it at will. Hell I can even repair rips and tears if I dismiss it" said Kat

"Now that's just cheating, I wonder if it grows as you do" said Lily

Kat shrugged "I have no idea. I'd say the chances are likely considering the system said that most demons only get one outfit I'd assume that it changes as we do. I mean my wings can shift through it..." Kat trailed of realising what she had just done.

"Lily did I just walk through the orphanage without anything covering my wings?" asked Kat

"Do you really want my answer to that one Kat?" asked Lily

"Fair enough" said Kat

Finishing the clothes Kat then threw in her alarm clock and her extra pillow along with its two spare covers. After this Kat then looked at the bed in consideration.*Hmm, do I take the sheets as well? Are they considered mine? Do I have space? Hmm.* After being lost in thought for a few minutes without moving Lily asked Kat "What's up? Something on your mind"

"Well, I'm just not sure what to do about these sheets actually. See they aren't exactly mine, or at least they weren't originally. Originally they were just part of a batch lot that the orphanage got but I've had these sheets as long as I can remember and Gramps never replaced them. Now I don't really mind leaving them here too much but everyone else has had the sheets replaced, some multiple times throughout the years. These are a bit tattered along the edges, but I don't really mind so it's more a matter of it someone else would use them if I left them here" said Kat

"Huh, well I mean, I guess so? Does Gramps have spare sheets" asked Lily

"Yeah we have a bunch in storage for accidents and whatnot" said Kat

"I guess just take them then, I doubt someone else will use them. If it's a problem Gramps can walk down the road and take them back" said Lily

"Well, that is true, but I don't really have room" said Kat pointed towards the duffel bag.

Unnoticed to Lily it had filled up rather quickly. Kat may not have had many things but between the halfsized pillow and a full wardrobes worth of clothes it did actually fill up quite fast.

"Right, just wrap them around the bag then" said Lily

"Nice idea" said Kat bundling the sheets together and then wrapping the outer layer around the bag.

"Now it's schoolbooks that I question. I don't really need them but I don't want to just leave them for Gramps" said Kat as she grabbed out her school bag and started filling it with other random things from the room like her phone and charger as well as her pencil case and anything else left over.

"Just bring them down with us and stop by Gramps office asking what he wants to do with them" said Lily

"Hey wait, Kat where are the rest of your shoes" asked Lily

"Well, I did have some but they've sort of worn out in the last six months and I just haven't gotten around to it" said Kat

"Kaaat" said Lily drawing the name out "How many sets of shoes do you own"

"An infinite number of shoes" said Kat

"Well, how do you figure that?" said Lily

"Well, these shoes I have as part of my Demonic Attire can be endlessly replaced as far as I'm aware so I have an infinite number of shoes" said Kat

Lily stared at Kat mouth agape. "Please tell me why we haven't gone out and gotten you new shoes"

Kat shrugged "My shoes work perfectly fine and I didn't want to take on any random jobs around town when I was so close to finishing school"

"Well, even if I can ignore the rest of your wardrobe I have to draw the line at one pair of shoes" said Lily

"Lily you only own three pairs of shoes" Kat retorted.

"That's triple the number of shoes you own Kat" said Lily

"It's two more pairs then I've needed in the last six months" said Kat. Lily just glared at Kat as she pulled the last of her books from the closet. Patting the top of the pile Kat said "Well that's everything"

"Wait that's everything? As in those books, and two bags worth of stuff" said Lily

"Don't forget the sheets" said Kat

"Am I a bad person Kat?" asked Lily

"Where the hell did that come from?" said Kat

"I mean, I just... I complain to you, a lot and I probably whine to myself even more, but I've done quite well for myself, I have stacks of random books I've hardly ever read and a few more clothes besides, and yet I'm the one always complaining" said Lily

"I mean, does it matter? I'm happy to listen to you whenever even if it's to complain. Besides I come around and use your stuff a quite a lot" said Kat

"I guess" said Lily still looking somewhat troubled. Kat just picked up her things, her hands for the books her shoulder for the backpack now that her wings were in the way and her tail for the duffel.

"Um, I can carry some of that for you if you want" said Lily

"I'm fine, I got a decent bit stronger actually when my wings came in. This isn't even a strain on me" said Kat but Lily still looked a bit uneasy

"Actually, can you take my backpack for me, the wings really get in the way" said Kat handing the backpack over to Lily who gratefully accepted the pack.

"Well I guess we go see how Gramps and Vivian are doing" said Kat as she made her way downstairs, this time eyes and ears on the lookout for troublesome individuals in the hallway. The wings could maybe be explained away but she was clearly carrying stuff with her tail which would raise several unwanted questions.

Chapter 42: Honestly I dunno. I Never Figured Out a Good Chapter Title.

As luck would have it they made their way back to Gramps' office without spotting anyone. They found Sylvie and Vivian stacking paper against the back wall helping to tidy up a bit.

"Ah welcome back, pack everything" said Gramps

"Yeah, I guess, I wanted to ask about these books and the sheets. The books can go honestly, I don't have a use for them but if you did or just didn't want to dispose of them. As for the sheets they aren't really mine but I figured you'd just replace them afterwards, so I thought I'd keep them" said Kat

"Well you're right about the sheets. They really should be replaced but I suppose you are taking care of that for me. Your pillow too, if you want to go grab that, I'll probably have to replace that after you leave anyway so it might as well be of some use. As for the books, um how did you do at school recently" said Gramps

Kat laughed "Pretty well Gramps, pretty well"

"Pretty well, Kat your grades are nearly as good as mine and I'm near the top of most classes" said Lily

"I mean the work wasn't that hard really and I don't ace that much stuff" said Kat with a shrug

"Did you not listen to all the complaints for the final set of assessment or tests? I'm sure you are considered one of the best students in the school, if not for any one subject at least for consistency and PE" said Lily

"Well you heard her Gramps, want the books" said Kat

"Hmm, well, I'm a bit torn actually. I think they'd be worth having around as examples for the others but at the same time I'm not sure anyone else will ever stick around as long as you have" said Gramps looking up from his paperwork long enough to give Kat a look conveying That's the real question.

"Huh, I didn't really think about that" said Kat

"Well, I think I'll just throw them in the storeroom anyway. Not much in there save for winter blankets and spares I'm sure I can fit them someone and if I need the space for something else they won't be hard to get rid of" said Gramps

"Sure, I'll stop around back before heading off" said Kat

"I'll leave it to you then" said Gramps

Turning towards Vivian and Sylvie who were still stacking papers Kat asked "Is it time to head of then?"

"Yup, just let me finish this stack" said Vivian flashing Kat a smile before turning back to the half completed stack. Sylvie and Vivian quickly worked in tandem with Sylvie gathering the loose papers and passing them up to Vivian and they would be done in no time.

"Hey Lily, if you don't mind grabbing that extra pillow from my room I'll throw these books into storage and meet you all out the front how does that sound" said Kat

"Sure thing Kat" said Lily stepping out of the room. Kat followed behind but just before she left Gramps said "Remember, I trust Vivian to take good care of you both, but you are always welcome here whether to visit or to stay you'll be welcomed no questions asked... Oh and thanks for the lovely rug"

"I'm just down the road Gramps, maybe I'll show up and try and catch you cooking one morning" said Kat and she heard the faint chuckling from behind her as she made her way outside and around to the storeroom. When Kat reached the door however she remembered that it was locked. *Well great... why didn't Gramps warn me the door was locked?*

Puzzling over this problem didn't actually take Kat long though as when she started to flick her tail in irritation the solution hit her, well almost, her tail would never attack unprovoked.

Sitting on the ground Kat managed to slip her tail underneath the door and wriggle it up to the door to unlock the deadbolt. *Did Gramps know I'd be able to get it here? Or did he just assume that I knew what I was doing because I didn't ask for the keys.*

Dismissing the thoughts Kat walked to the back of the room and found plenty of space for her books. Placing them down shook up a bunch of dust so Kat held her breathe and made her way back out making sure to lock the door. *Ok, next time I visit I really need to make sure that room gets cleaned. It clearly hasn't been done since last winter... Actually did we even remember to do it last winter. Never mind it isn't my problem anymore I suppose, though I'll warn Gramps.* Making her way to the front it seemed Kat's delay with the lock had allowed the others to gather on the porch before she did.

"Ooh, figured something out did ya lass? Thought it was strange you didn't ask me for the keys" said Gramps

"I've got some extra tools for lockpicking now" said Kat flexing her tail as she spoke indicating what 'tool' she'd used to open the door "Though the place is really dusty, needs to be cleaned asap, I'm not actually sure when we did that last"

"I'll get on it I suppose, and by I will, I mean that I'll send those three lazy sods to do it if they can't manage to wake everyone up properly" said Gramps. Vivian giggled openly at that while Lily hid a snicker behind Kat's pillow

"Well, let's load up the car, Lily I assume you're coming with?" said Vivian

"Yeah" said Lily as she and Kat walked to the back of the car.

"Hey Sylvie where is your stuff?" asked Kat

"Already in the car" said Sylvie

Kat just nodded at that, it seemed reasonable and she saw an extra two bags in the trunk that probably had Sylvie's stuff. Adding her own to the pile Kat threw hers in with little grace followed by Lily who gently placed down the pillow behind Kat before shutting the door. Vivian clapped her hands together. "Everyone time to go, take your seats"

Kat was making for the car door when she realised a somewhat complicated problem. *My wings are to long. They extend past my hips if they are folded up and I need to let them sit spread out in order to sit down at all...* Sylvie noticed Kat's hesitation and asked "What's wrong Kat, don't you want to leave?"

"No, I'm fine on that front, I just realised that I'm not sure I can fit into the car with my wings now, sitting down is a bit awkward unless I spread them out but I can't really do that in a car" said Kat

"How far forward can you bring you wings?" asked Lily

"Oh, quite a ways" said Kat extending her wings out all the way and then bringing them to together in front of her.

"Hmm, you might be a little uncomfortable but if you sit forward and hold your wings in front of you they should fit in the gap between seats" said Vivian holding a hand to her face

"Well let's try it I and see" said Kat.

Moving into the car was a little inconvenient having to open the door, extend her wing into the car and then carefully follow after it but it turned out that Vivian was right, she could sit with her wings between the seats. "Now the issue is how to fit everyone else in because I doubt you will have space for you legs with my wings out like this" said Kat

"I can just sit on your lap and Lily can go in the front" said Sylvie

"Great idea" said Vivian

"Indeed Sylvie, everyone can fit that way" said Kat

"Um, guys, is that really safe?" said Lily

"Well, maybe? I mean I'll buckle both myself and Sylvie up and you'll be in the front so it should be fine. Honestly I'm still at the most risk because if anything happens I'll probably break my wings but that's fine I can heal from that" said Kat

"How can you be so sure you can heal from that" said Lily

"Well I already broke them once and tore of most of my face and I was fine" said Kat

"Wait what!" said Lily

"Oh don't worry it only took a moment to heal from. Painful sure but it didn't even take ten minutes for the skin to grow back and my wings were fine after a short nap" said Kat *Though some of my muscles were still out of commission.*

"Well ok Kat, if you say so" said Lily

With that decided the rest of them bundled into the car as per Sylvie's suggestions. Starting the engine and driving off Vivian began "So sad, I've adopted two cute girls but they are hiding in the back of the car"

"What don't think Lily's cute" said Kat

"Why she is positively adorable. I mean Sylvie has her beat hands down, but she does quite well when compared to you" said Vivian sticking her tongue out in the mirror.

"I can't argue with that logic" said Kat and Sylvie giggled on her lap

"Kat's really cool though, so she gets that title" said Sylvie

"Indeed Sylvie, Kat's the coolest person in school" backed up Lily

"Oh? How do I rank on the cool factor then?" said Vivian glancing between the mirror and Lily with the corners of her eyes, careful to keep watch on the road. That seemed to actually stump the other three somewhat.

Well, Vivian is cool, but it somewhat different from what I think Sylvie and Lily were talking about with me? Or maybe not? They aren't speaking up but I'm not sure I've got enough cool people to really compare

"Hmm, that's a tough question Vivian" Lily finally managed

"Oh, why's that?" said Vivian

"Well, you aren't quite the right kind of cool? I think, it's hard to think about but Kat gets to be cool with just her presence sort of. Like she can stand there and say nothing but still be cool. You on the other hand seem to do a lot of cool things. I think, I don't really know you that well but from what I've heard you've designed some nice stuff" said Lily.

Vivian pouted at that but then grinned "Well, I can't say I don't know what you mean, especially with the wings now, Kat looks intimidating but in a good way but I'm a bit too cute for that sort of look" said Vivian. The other three found themselves agreeing with Vivian's explanation but also felt like they'd drifted off topic a bit somehow.

It wasn't long before they approached Lily's and Vivian's streets when Vivian asked

"Where do you want me to drop you off Lily"

"Um I'll just walk from the edge of the street if you don't mind. I kinda want to avoid my parents see you driving up just in case they ask questions" said Lily

"You shouldn't lie either Lily" said Sylvie

"Well, it's not really lying per say, just, when I head out it's to visit Kat most of the time and my parents can't go one sentence without insulting Kat so I don't mention it and they don't ask" said Lily as they reached the street

"Well this is my stop, thanks for the lift Vivian, I'll try and visit tomorrow" said Lily as she hopped out.

"See you tomorrow" said Kat, Sylvie and Vivian

Chapter 43: Did I Ever Mention How Hot Kat is? It's around 150°

Continuing down the road to Vivian's, the girls drove into the garage and gathered their things from the trunk. Kat had slightly less trouble getting out, but only barely. "Ooo, this is so exciting come in, I can't wait to intro-" Vivian stopped and turned towards Kat paling slightly "Kat, I told you I have a roommate, right?"

"Of course, I know you mentioned her name as well but I don't recall" said Kat

"Callisto is her name but what are we supposed to do about your wings?" said Vivian

Kat's eyes widened "Yeah, that ah, hmm. That does make this a bit harder. I'd always planned to tell her, like I knew you had a roommate when I accepted but ah. Hmm" said Kat

Well, this is actually a question now isn't it. I'd planned to tell Callisto at some point after I got to know her a bit because if Vivian trusts her enough to pay for everything, she has to be alright but I'm just not sure how comfortable I am telling her upfront

"What do you think Vivian?" asked Kat

"Hmm, well that depends, I think it'll be rather easy to hide from her because Callisto pretty much never comes out of her room, but I also feel like I should introduce you both" said Vivian biting her lips

"I guess we'll just see what happens, if I run into Callisto I'll explain it all to her and if not I guess it doesn't matter" said Kat

"Thanks, I really didn't consider that at all when I asked you to stay here. Would it have been safer for you to stay at the orphanage?" said Vivian

"Nah, the wings are brand new and I have no idea how I was supposed to hide this anyway so it's fine" said Kat

Nodding to herself Vivian went around the back to help with the bags. Kat held her own bags with her backpack in her arms and her other bag held by the tail. Vivian was carrying Sylvie's duffel bag while Sylvie had her backpack on.

"I'll show you both to your rooms, you'll have one each and they are upstairs" said Vivian as she led the group through the house to the staircase located just off the centre of the building. "I hope you don't mind that the rooms are upstairs, it's a bit of effort but it keeps me fit"

"I've never got to sleep upstairs before, that sounds nice" said Sylvie

"It's honestly not that different, I used to stay downstairs in the orphanage as well actually" said Kat

"Really?" asked Sylvie

"Well, I can't lie anymore so I'll let you figure that out" said Kat.

Sylvie pouted in response and sped up to stand beside Vivian. Reaching the landing they found themselves in a corridor with two doors on either side near the stairs and one at each end of the hallway.

"So, these two doors right here will be your rooms, I'm not sure which one you both want, they only have simple beds in them I thought you girls would want to decorate them yourselves. The door down the front of the house is mine but I don't use it much because I'm normally downstairs in my office, I'll show you that later. Down the corridor in the opposite direction is Callisto's room. It's so far away, the meanie said that she wanted the furthest room from mine when I let her pick one out" said Vivian wiping a fake tear from her eye.

"Are the rooms different at all?" asked Kat

"Nope not at all" said Vivian

"Well Sylvie, you can still pick first I don't really mind" said Kat. Sylvie, recognising that it truly didn't matter just chose the right door at random and pushed it open. The room was as Vivian described, basically empty. There was a closet on the left side wall with a mirror as part of the door, a bed in the centre of the room pressed up against the wall underneath a window and that was everything. Vivian placed Sylvie's bag near the closet.

"Sorry it isn't much but as I said we can go out and buy decoration if you don't have any" said Vivian

"Vivian, this is all lovely, the room is larger than the one at the orphanage, we get one each, it's fine really" said Kat

"Nope unacceptable, you're both officially my children now and as your mother I will make sure you decorate you rooms no ifs or buts about it" said Vivian trying to straighten herself up to be taller than Kat while grinning

"You're more like an older sister than anything Vivian" said Kat

Vivian placed her hand over her heart "I feel so betrayed, you've only been adopted for a few hours and you are already calling me old. Whatever shall I do"

Kat rolled her eyes and started helping Sylvie unpack her things "You can help unpack then"

And so the three girls spent the rest of the afternoon unpacking and setting up Kat and Sylvie's rooms. They took a short break for lunch not long after they started and finished up around tea time. It was a quiet affair because Kat was still worn out from her adventures, Sylvie was quiet normally and Vivian just didn't mind the silence, understanding that it wasn't the time for her usual endless enthusiasm. Shortly after the meal Kat had a shower and flopped onto the bed passing out almost immediately. A short time later Vivian peeked in through the door and noticed Kat hadn't even covered herself in sheets and decided to tuck Kat in before quietly shutting the door.

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Kat awoke feeling somewhat unwell, and slightly hot. Throwing off the blankets she sat up and headed for the shower, grabbing out a set of clothes before putting them right back in the closet. *How am I supposed to even wear anything with these wings now? I was so tired yesterday that I just put my kimono back on instinctively and didn't even think about it but I can't wear shirts anymore. And why am I so hot all of a sudden? After the change to my skin I'm pretty sure I haven't really felt the temperature at all but now I feel like I'm burning.*

Having a cold shower didn't seem to relieve the sense of heat at all, so Kat just killed time on the sofa downstairs until Vivian woke up hoping to ask for her opinion. Luckily the seating was soft enough that Kat's wings could sink into it without a need to sit awkwardly and for that she was thankful

It wasn't long past 7:00 am when Vivian walked downstairs and noticed Kat lounging around. "You're up awfully early, I hope you slept well" said Vivian

"I did, well at least until I woke up. I feel really hot for some reason and trying to have a cold shower didn't help me at all. I think I might have a fever" said Kat

"Oh, dear. Let me see" said Vivian as she walked over to Kat. She pressed her hand lightly against Kat's forehead only to flinch back instantly as pain shot through her hand. Vivian stared at her fingers now bright red. "Kat, you're burning up. Like, you might be on fire or something, is this one of your demon powers?" said Vivian

"I hope not, I really don't feel well and this sense of heat is sort of suffocating" said Kat

"Well you wait right there and I'll grab the thermometer" said Vivian as she ran into one of the nearby rooms.

She returned shortly triumphant smile on her face. "Found it, and in record time too. Let's just see here" said Vivian as she moved to slip the thermometer under Kat's arm but paused. "Um did you want to do it? I don't want to make you uncomfortable by opening your shirt" said Vivian

"Nah, it's fine" said Kat lifting her arm and pulling her kimono forward. Placing the thermometer under Kat's arm they waited for a moment before taking the reading.

"Well, that's really not what I wanted to see" said Vivian

"So I have a fever then?" said Kat

"Well maybe. You seem to have broken the thermometer" said Vivian turning it around to reveal the thermometer reading three zeroes.

"Oh, I have an idea" said Vivian as she ran to the kitchen. Opening and closing several cupboards Kat heard an excited shout and then Vivian came running back over. "Found this thermometer. It's for food normally but your skin really burned me when I tried to touch you before so I think this is the safest bet" said Vivian proud of her innovative idea.

Kat shrugged and allowed Vivian to take her temperature once again.

"Well, that still isn't good. In fact I'm quite concerned" said Vivian looking shockingly unconcerned

"You seem fine to me" said Kat

"Yes well it just seems so silly and your obviously fine. Well not fine per say but a lot better than having a temperature of 150 degrees would make you think"

"That's really quite high even for a Fahrenheit thermometer" said Kat

"Dear, this is a reading in Celsius, I'm surprised the couch hasn't caught fire" said Vivian

"What!" yelled Kat jumping up from her position on the couch. *This can't be normal. Um system what the hell is going on*

Chapter 44: Did I Ever Mention How Hot Kat is? It's around 150° Part 2

This can't be normal. Um system what the hell is going on

D.E.M.O.N.S IS UNSURE WHY USER KAT IS EXPERIENCING HIGH TEMPERATURES. WOULD USER KAT LIKE TO GRANT D.E.M.O.N.S PERMISSION TO DO A FULL BODY SCAN TO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

Yes, also why are you able to scan now when you just said you didn't know for so many other changes in my body

D.E.M.O.N.S IS UNABLE TO SCAN REMOTELY AND IDENTIFY DEMONS' ABILITIES. USER KAT IS EXPERIENCE DRASTICALLY INCREASED TEMPERATURES WHICH IS NOT A STANDARD PART OF AWAKENING THUS D.E.M.O.N.S WISHES TO ENSURE THAT NO MAJOR ERROR HAS OCCURRED.

SCANNING ...

INTERPRETING DATA...

ERROR

RECHECKING RESULTS...

ERROR...

IDENTIFYING PROBLEM...

RESCANNING USER KAT...

WARNING CRITICAL ERROR DETECTED

USER KAT, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

System what on earth is going on

D.E.M.O.N.S WILL EXPLAIN THE ERROR TO USER KAT ONCE MOVING. PLEASE LEAVE THE VICINITY OF ANY OBJECT USER KAT DEEMS UNDESIRABLE TO DESTROY. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO LEAVE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ENTIRELY.

Shit ok

"Hey Kat, what's wrong, your really pale. I mean, you were pale before but now it's a lot worse" said Vivian with a strained smile on her face

"I don't know, I've just been told to leave my residential area as soon as possible" said Kat as she moved towards the door.

"Wait, let me drive you, it will be fast" said Vivian. System is that safe?

D.E.M.O.N.S IS UNSURE. DEPENDING ON NECESSARY TRAVEL DISTANCE MAKING USE OF ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION MAY BE NECESSARY. HOWEVER IT IS RECOMMENDED TO TRAVEL THE FINAL LENGTH AWAY FROM INDIVIDUAL VIVIAN TO PREVENT COLLATERAL DAMAGE

"Vivian, apparently I might need your help, just this is going to be dangerous are you sure" said Kat

"Yup I'll just run upstairs first and get Callisto to make sure to keep an eye on Sylvie" said Vivian bolting upstairs. A short time later Kat was buckled into the back seat of the car and Vivian was pulling out of the driveway.

"So what exactly is going on, where am I headed" said Vivian

"I'm not exactly sure, the system said it would explain further when I'm on the road and it just told me to leave. I guess just away from the town maybe?" said Kat

"Well ask it, we need to know what's going on" said Vivian *Right system, can you explain now.*

YES. USER KAT IS SUFFERING FROM MASSIVE DEMONIC ENERGY OVERLOAD

And why exactly is that?

A CRITICAL ERROR ON D.E.M.O.N.S PART. TO FULLY AWAKEN A DEMON THEY MUST BE OVERLOADED ON DEMONIC ENERGY AND THEN LEFT IN THAT STATE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. IN USER KAT'S PRIOR INSTANCES THE GIVEN ENERGY WAS MUCH LESS AS EVEN MINOR AMOUNTS OF DEMONIC ENERGY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. FOR THE FINAL STAGE OF AWAKENING USER KAT MUST CREATE HER DEMONIC FLAME. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS ALL DEMONS ARE GIVING LARGE AMOUNTS OF DEMONIC ENERGY IN THE TIME LEADING UP TO DEMONIC FLAME CONVERGENCE

Right, so why did things go so wrong in my case.

PROCESS FOR INJECTING DEMONIC ENERGY IS AUTOMATED AND NOT CLOSELY MONITORED. A USER IS DETERMINED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT ENERGY ONCE A CERTAIN AMOUNT BEGINS TO LEAK OUT FROM

HOST INDICATING THAT USER'S BODY IS UNABLE TO HOLD ANYMORE DEMONIC ENERGY SAFELY. HOWEVER IN USER KAT'S CASE NO ENERGY IS OR HAS BEEN LEAKING OUT. THIS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY DUE TO THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF USER KAT'S DIMENSION.

Well, keep explaining, the whole thing please

UNDERSTOOD. EACH KNOWN DIMENSION SUPRESSES AT LEAST ONE FORM OF ENERGY 90% OF THE TIME. THIS SUPPRESSION LEADS TO A DOMINANT FORM OF GROWTH AMONGST THE SENTIENT AND NON-SENTIENT RACES. DEMONIC ENERGY HOWEVER IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SUPPRESS AND AS SUCH DIMENSIONS SIMPLY DON'T EVEN ATTEMPT IT AS FAILING TO SUPPRESS DEMONIC ENERGY THREATENS THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNIVERSE.

USER KAT'S DIMENSION INSTEAD SUPPRESSES ALL FORMS OF ADDITIONAL ENERGY AND THIS STRANGE FORM OF SUPPRESSION ACTUALLY DOES WORK ON DEMONIC ENERGY MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN ANY OTHER KNOWN DIMENSION. THIS SUPPRESSION FACTOR PREVENTED DEMONIC ENERGY FROM LEAKING FROM USER KAT'S BODY AND AS SUCH D.E.M.O.N.S CONTINUED TO ADD DEMONIC ENERGY LONG PAST THE POINT OF WHICH USER KAT'S BODY COULD SUSTAIN IT PROPERLY LEADING TO THE INCREASED TEMPERATURE AND CURRENT SITUATION

So what is going to happen to me? You said it was too much for me to contain can I release it somehow?

NEGATIVE, ATTEMPTING TO RELEASE EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF DEMONIC ENERGY WOULD ALLOW FOR A PATHWAY OUT OF THE BODY BUT ALSO THROUGH IT. THE RESULTING ENERGIES WOULD LIKELY TEAR USER KAT APART. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO AVOID USING ANY FORM OF DEMONIC ABILITY SUCH AS CALM AURA AT THIS TIME.

Just great, and you didn't say what we are going to do about this.

D.E.M.O.N.S IS CURRENTLY SUPPRESSING THE ENERGY TO THE FULLEST OF ITS CAPABILITIES. THE DIMENSION IS LIMITING THE ASSISTANCE D.E.M.O.N.S CAN PROVIDE AND TRANSPORTING USER KAT USING A SUMMONING CIRCLE AT THIS TIME COULD LEAD TO POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC RESULTS FOR USER KAT AND LIKELY IRRELEVANT DAMAGE TO D.E.M.O.N.S. D.E.M.O.N.S PLANS FOR USER KAT TO FIND A REMOTE LOCATION BEFORE D.E.M.O.N.S LOSES CONTROL OVER THE SUPPRESSION IT HAS PLACED ON USER KAT AND THEN USER KAT WILL NEED TO CONDENSE USER KAT'S DEMONIC FLAME TO ALLOW USER KAT TO CONTROL THE EXTRA ENERGY.

Great, just great. So tell me what are the chances I die?

IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE. DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF USER KAT'S DEMONIC FLAME AS WELL AS THE STAGE OF CONDENSING USER KAT IS ON DRASTICALLY CHANGES THE PROBABILITY OF DEATH.

Just great, so what do I need to do to condense my Demonic Flame then?

USER KAT MUST CONDENSE FURTHER AND CONTROL THE DEMONIC ENERGY WITHIN USER KAT. IT IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS TO EXPLAIN PROPERLY AND EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST SUPPRESS THE ENERGY IN A DIFFERENT WAY. THE MOST COMMON WAY TO CONDENSE A DEMONIC FLAME IS TO ATTEMPT TO SUPPRESS IT WITH USER'S AURA HOWEVER IT IS UNLIKELY THAT USER KAT'S AURA WILL WORK IN THIS INSTANCE *Why not, won't it calm down the energy somehow? That is what it does?*

D.E.M.O.N.S DOES NOT POSSESS FULL DETAILS OF USER KAT'S AURA HOWEVER USER KAT'S AURA IS LIKELY INCAPABLE OF CONDENSING THE ENERGY WITH IT. PERHAPS IT CAN ASSIST IN THE CONDENSATION, BUT USER KAT'S AURA BEHAVES SO DIFFERENTLY TO STANDARD AURA'S THAT D.E.M.O.N.S DEEMS IT LIKELY TO BE UNSUITED FOR THE TASK.

Great, so what else do can I try

USER KAT WILL LIKELY HAVE TO ATTEMPT TO ...

ERROR.

ERROR

USER

KAT

CANNOT

MAINTAIN

CONNECTION

SUPPRESSION

EXPIRING

01:43:22

01:43:21

01:43:20

System? Hey System? You still there.

But no text appeared before Kat. *Shit ok that countdown has to be how long the system can keep the energy suppressed.*

"Ok Vivian, here's what I know. I'm supposed to be condensing a Demonic Flame" said Kat

"Well that isn't quite so bad" said Vivian

"And I'm probably going to explode" said Kat

"You seem awfully unconcerned about that" said Vivian

"Well it isn't a sure thing. So apparently, I've been given too much energy, so I need to get as far away from everything as possible before condensing it to avoid destroying too much stuff. So we have to get as far away as we can I around an hour and 40 minutes" said Kat

"Ok, I think I know a good road for that, why only an hour and 40 minutes" said Vivian

"Something interfered with the system I talk to at the end and it left me with a countdown, it said an hour and 43 minutes at the time and was counting down" said Kat

"Ok, righto" said Vivian who put her foot down and 'certainly' wasn't speeding. Though Kat couldn't say that.

A tense hour and fifteen minutes later Kat spotted a place to pull into just on the side of the road. "Vivian pull over here" said Kat

"Sure thing" said Vivian driving into the parking space.

"Why did we stop so early" said Vivian

"I plan to run the rest of the way, straight into the forest" said Kat

"Well I'm coming with you, it can't be safe out here" said Vivian

"Even if it isn't it's much more dangerous for you to come with me, besides I can fly away if anything to scary comes by" said Kat

"Ok, but you better promise to come back to me in one piece. I've only had my daughters for a day, and I don't want to lose one already. Gramps would kill me" said Vivian pouting, clearly willing to go with Kat despite the danger if she'd asked.

"I promise to come back, Vivian" said Kat as she sprinted off into the woods

Chapter 45: Don't you hate it when you are the but of the joke?

Running through the trees Kat just kept running straight ahead, on the lookout for anything that might get caught up in whatever was about to happen to her. *Should I be trying to fly? I'm not sure if that's actually faster and I've really only had the chance to glide. Better not risk it I can test that out later.*

Thought Kat as she passed a small clearing without stopping. Kat could feel herself heating up, at an alarming rate, rapidly increasing her temperature and she noticed that if she brushed past branches the leaves were singed where she passed. *Shit, am I even shorter on time then I thought? Is it the running? Is my body heating up from the exercise or is it that the timer was wrong. Perhaps neither though, perhaps the running is wearing away at whatever protection I have. I wish I knew. Would it be better to slow down and walk? I can't risk it though; I have no idea what the fallout from this is going to be.*

Kat continued to run, trees whizzing past and yet everything started to blur together as she progressed on her journey. The heat clouded her ability to think and the scenery hardly changed. Kat tried to force some energy into her eyes which resulted in a lot of the heat moving into them causing her eyes to water but that brief moment allowed her to spot something useful. Off in the distance was a rock outcropping with a noticeable lack of trees. At this point Kat didn't know how long she had left or if she was far away enough at all, but this clearing seemed like the best that she was going to get on short notice.

It took Kat perhaps thirty seconds to get to the clearing, but even that was uncertain, time had begun to be radically distorted in Kat's mind and the heat was starting to overwhelm her. Kat tried to stay standing and catch her breath, but she immediately fell onto the stone. Where her body touched the ground dried leaves and other debris burnt up turning to ash rapidly. Despite the ever increasing heat Kat was pleasantly surprised to note that her skin and hair were doing quite well it seemed, suffering no damage whatsoever either from the temperature or scratches from running through the trees.

Ok, try and think, what do I need to do. Thought Kat as she tried to wrangle her mind into order. Without thinking about it too much she pressed her aura into her head towards her brain hoping for some clarity in her thoughts. Searing pain was her more immediate answer before a startling clarity gripped her mind. The burning was still present, but she could simply choose to ignore it as she considered what to do. *Something has to change. My body doesn't seem to be taking too much damage on the outside, but I don't know if my insides have been changed yet so I'm probably being cooked alive. The system said that I needed to condense my Demonic Flame. It used the word condense specifically, so somehow, I need to condense this already excessive amount of energy somehow. I remember it said a normal aura could subdue it but not mine. Do I have any other choice though?*

Kat pondered on that question. *Do I have any other choice?* Her mind spun through as many possibilities as she could manage unaware of the passage of time, and yet as it wore on the clarity, she felt increased but so too did the burning sensation but at a faster rate. I need to act now. I'll try my aura. Aura flaring around Kat, she initially tried to use it to compress the demonic energy burning inside her however as soon as she released her aura fire exploding from her eyes, mouth nose wings and tail. An eruption of purple flames raced up into the sky continuing on until it was out of sight. Kat felt her control over her aura slipping and the clarity she had momentarily attained was leaving with it.

Not like this, I have to do something. Thought Kat through gritted teeth as she desperately tried to reign in the growing column of fire. Just as the fire started to slip completely from her grip, something cracked. The air churned and an unbelievable weight descended on Kat driving her into the stone. The fire followed suit slamming into her back burning through her Demonic Attire and started to tear instead of burn into her back. The moment the fire entered her back the pain skyrocketed again but a measure of clarity also returned. *I have to do something else. I need to deal with this somehow.* Thought Kat as she reached towards the energy pressing her aura into it, and for lack of a better word twisting. Instantly the ground around Kat froze solid and darkness claimed her.

Kat clutched her head in pain as she tried to stand up. Shakily finding her feet she looked around to find nothing but darkness. Stretching out as far as she could see there was just nothing. The floor didn't exist or perhaps she couldn't see it. But Kat found her body in full colour, nothing seemed amiss except for the endless inky black.

"Why do you look so confused"

Kat whirled around looking for the source of the voice until her eyes landed on... herself? Now in front of her stood a face she saw in the mirror every day. Same pale face, dark blue eyes, wearing the same kimono Gramps had given her. However that is where the similarities ended. The wings behind this other Kat were a burning purple fire, and on her head were a set of horns beginning at the back and running around her forehead like a tiara ending in two points in the centre of her head.

"What are you?" said Kat

"Well that's rather rude I'd say I certainly qualify as being a who" said Kat(?)

"Alright then who are you?" said Kat

"Well, I'm you" said Kat(?) "Your me?" said Kat "No I'm you, you're me" Kat(?) "So, I'm you?" said Kat "No, no, I'm you, but you are me" said Kat(?) "So I'm... me?" said Kat "Yes" said Kat(?) "And this joke has gone on too long?" said Kat "Also yes" said Kat(?) "So who are you?" said Kat "Why I'm you" said Kat(?) "Really? You didn't get it out of your system the first time?" said Kat "You have to admit we're never getting a chance to make that joke again. We really had to do it" said Kat(?) "You're right... I would like some answers though" said Kat "But what makes you think I have them? Are we not the same person?" said Kat(?) "No I'm me and your you" said Kat "I thought you wanted to move on from that joke" said Kat(?) "We both know I couldn't resist one more" said Kat "Touché" said Kat(?) "So what are you then" said Kat "I'm hurt me, I thought we agreed that I was at least a who" said Kat(?) "Would you take a when?" said Kat "No, we are not having time travel in this story, it's already hard enough to keep track of the passage of time when the author made sure all the dimensions run on the same time scale" said Kat(?) "What author?" said Kat "I didn't say anything about an author" said Kat(?) Kat glared at Kat(?) suspiciously. "Right I suppose not. Am I really that bad when people ask me questions?" said Kat

"No, but we do like to beat around the bush when thinking to ourselves on the occasion" said Kat(?)

"Does this really count as thinking to myself?" said Kat

"How should I know I'm your delusions right?" said Kat(?)

"Are you a delusion?" said Kat

"Well I sure hope not, maybe you're the delusion instead" said Kat(?)

"We are running around in circles" said Kat

"Really? I thought I was standing still at the very least" said Kat(?)

"Has my sense of humour always been this bad" said Kat

"Yes. Sadly it is" said Kat(?)

"Well that's just dandy isn't it. So how did we get here, I can't seem to quite recall" said Kat

"I think we were running away from Vivian" said Kat(?)

"Running from Vivian? That doesn't quite sound right, but then why do I remember it?" said Kat

"Perhaps the context matters?" said Kat(?)

"Perhaps" said Kat

"Ok, how about we go back as far as possible and work forward. Can you still remember your parents?" said Kat(?)

Kat just gave her counterpart a deadpan look.

"What. It's a valid question" said Kat(?)

"Neither of us should be able to remember them we were a baby" said Kat

"Dam, I was hoping you'd know something" said Kat(?)

"Really?" said Kat

"Nah we made our peace about that whole thing a long time ago" said Kat(?)

Chapter 46: The Grand Finale Part Two Enough Clowning Around

"So, I think we need to be at least a little bit serious about this" said Kat

"Indeed, we are suspended in an infinite void of blackness as time slips by and the memories of the last time we spoke to our friends drifts ever further away" said Kat(?)

"A bit morbid don't you think" said Kat

"It's rather true though. We don't know how much time is passing while we are just sitting here, and we've already discovered that out memory isn't quite up to scratch at the moment" said Kat(?)

Kat sighed "I suppose you're right. First order of business is finding out where we are"

"Well, my vote is that we are in whichever one of us is the real Kat's head" said Kat(?)

"What if we're both fake though" said Kat

"An interesting thought. Are we both delusions of another version of Kat?" said Kat(?)

"I think we are at the point where we have to consider every angle here. We've turned into a demon, perhaps fully at this point so we know that magic is real" said Kat

"That we do" said Kat(?)

"Wait, why do I think that we've become a full demon? Aren't there still steps in my awakening left... I feel like there was still something I had to do" said Kat

"Could it be the horns? Those are new" said Kat(?)

"But only you have horns, right?" said Kat

"I think you should check your own head and see for yourself" said Kat(?) as she nocked her hand against her head and to Kat's surprise she heard it connect with the fire. Kat reached up toward her skull and found that she did in fact have a matching pair of horns though she couldn't see if they were made up of fire or not.

"Are mine on fire like yours?" asked Kat

"Nope, just mine. I wonder if that makes a difference or what it could mean" said Kat(?)

"I feel like that has to be important for some reason. I feel like fire was important" said Kat

"Well, perhaps we should get back to the whole, where are we thing first, we can deal with why my heads on fire later" said Kat(?)

"I feel like this is important though" said Kat

"Well we can't exactly take a vote on it" said Kat(?)

"Right... do you have a coin we could flip" said Kat

"Ah yes, because wherever the hell we are I managed to bring coins with me, because we are well known for keeping spare change on us" said Kat(?) with her hands on her hips glaring at Kat slightly

"Fine fine, we'll go with your idea, trying to figure out where we are first" said Kat

"Great, so the current working theory is that we are in a Kat's head, is there any way we can confirm this" said Kat(?)

"Could we try to change the scenery somehow, maybe thinking really hard at it?" said Kat

"You know how ridiculous that sounds, would we really want our mind to be an endless abyss" said Kat(?)

"*Well you don't have to be so dismissive about it. I didn't think I was that unwilling to test a few ideas*" thought Kat

"Rude" said Kat(?)

"Wait, did I say that out loud?" said Kat

"Of course, what are you talking about" said Kat(?)

"*How about now*" thought Kat placing her hand over her mouth

"Yeah, I can still here you even with your mouth covered. I don't get it what's the point" said Kat(?)

"Aha, I think I have proof we are in someone's mind. Thoughts get projected" said Kat

"Ooh, let me try, yes indeed, I think this does work" said Kat(?) without moving her mouth

"So we are in our head, great, now how do we get out? Did something break" said Kat

"I don't really think so" said Kat(?)

"No, no that isn't quite right, I'm certain something broke" said Kat

"Nothing failed Kat, why are you so worried" said Kat(?)

"Failing, wait that's it. I failed something, something went horribly wrong and, did I do something to my mind?" said Kat started to get agitated

"No, we are fine, everything's fine, why not calm down a little here" said Kat(?)

"Calming, calming, shit. Something to do with fire, and calming down..." said Kat

"I don't really think we are getting anywhere" said Kat(?) starting to sweat slightly

"Wait, Minor, did I manage to shatter my mind somehow like Major?" said Kat

Letting out a deep breath Kat(?) didn't know she was holding she nodded vigorously "Yes, yes that must be it. We have to be here to reconcile some things if that is the case"

"Huh, but would could we have to reconcile, something still seems a bit off" said Kat

"No, we um, this must be the last part of becoming a demon, you need to reconcile our new demonic nature" said Kat(?)

"Reconcile like what?" said Kat "We seemed to agree on pretty much everything so far"

"Well, we are a succubus now, so surely we have to find some... prey" said Kat(?) licking her lips

"Nah, I'm not doing that" said Kat

"What, but you are a Succubus, I mean we are a Succubus, it's what we do now" said Kat(?)

"Hmmm" hummed Kat

"And I mean, what about um, that one guy, the popular on that's always wearing leather jackets all the time" said Kat(?)

"What, Brent? No way, I haven't talked to the guy in years and I never liked him anyway. I certainly have no interested in, um how did you put it, preying on him" said Kat "See, this must be it, you can't come to terms with the fact that you should go after people now" said Kat(?)

"No, I'm not like that" said Kat

"Correction you weren't like that" said Kat(?) with a predatory grin

"I cannot agree with you" said Kat

"And that must be why we split" said Kat(?) visibly excited "You have to let me in Kat, accept what you are now"

"I am not like that" stated Kat firmly. Kat(?) slid up next to Kat and reached her hand out to touch her face to caress it when Kat's tail instinctively slapped her on the face. Kat(?) raised a shaking hand to her face and glared towards Kat, anger in her eyes.

"What are you doing, is attacking me really going to solve your problems? You have to let me in Kat" said Kat(?)

"You're not me, you were never me" said Kat with a calm gaze

"Now, that's rushing to conclusions. I most certainly am you" said Kat(?)

"Ha, you really think that? You don't even have a tail" said Kat pointing behind Kat(?)

Kat(?) leapt fire pouring from her demonic features trying to attack Kat but it all washed around a bubble surrounding her.

"I'm afraid that isn't quite going to work. You're the demonic energy aren't you" said Kat

"I'm you, I already said that, just embrace it Kat, that's all you have to do" said the flaming figure.

"But I'm not like you. I'm a demon yes, but I certainly don't need to debase myself by, how did you put it? Preying on people. Think of all the contracts I've already completed a number of contracts it was never even close to happening" said Kat

"Accept it, you're a demon now. You can't fight it, there is nothing you can do, nothing" said Kat(?)

"See, that's where you're wrong. I remember now, I need to condense my Demonic Flame, and that's you isn't it. You couldn't even remember my tail, honestly I'm a little annoyed with myself that I took so long to figure it out" said Kat

"A tail? You accuse me of forgetting a tail? In the face of my power why does something so insignificant matter" growled the rapidly deforming shape as it poured more fire towards Kat

"See, that's just it. That tail is what started it all. It was the first of my changes and to this day still on of my more useful. I've unlocked doors, I can use it to defend against things like you and it's able to comfort the people I care about" said Kat

"Haha, fool, comfort? There is no comfort, you cannot escape your instincts, you will succumb" said Kat(?)

"But I just went over this, they aren't my instincts, they might be yours, but they aren't mine. Perhaps you need to calm down" said Kat as she started to press her calming aura into the fiery shape. A horrible screech echoed through Kat's mind as the fire seemed to collapse in on itself

"What's the matter no more jokes for me" said Kat

With a final screech the fire seemed to fold in on itself before expanding once again into a shape mirroring Kat's, however this time the figure was still with its eyes closed, fully made of fire and included the all-important tail.

"Hello?" said Kat, waving her hands in front of the figure. Poking it in the side Kat felt her own side being poked.

"Ok this is weird, what the hell is this?"

THIS IS USER KAT'S CONDENSED DEMONIC FLAME

Great. Thought Kat. *If you're back that means I can rest...*

Chapter 47: The Long Road Home

"Urgh" groaned Kat as she started to regain consciousness. Kat could feel stone pressed against her whole body and struggled to recall what had happened in her fevered run. The conversation she had with herself(?) was still clear but whatever had come briefly before was foggy. Struggling to her feet Kat wobbled a few times, coming extremely close to falling over when she felt arms wrapping around her. Cracking her eyes open she found Vivian bearing Kat's head in her shoulders. "It's ok Kat, it's going to be ok" said Vivian

"Shouldn't I be saying that to you?" said Kat

"I'm not the one surrounded by ice that was just passed out on the ground" said Vivian

"I don't even feel the cold, I'm fine" said Kat

"Then why are there tears frozen on your cheeks" said Vivian

"It's been a long day Vivian, I'm ok now, but it's been a long day" said Kat squeezing Vivian tightly and trying to bury her face further into Vivian.

"Ooh, be a bit careful when you shake your head like that Kat" said Vivian

"Why?" said Kat lifting her head up. Vivian flinched backwards to avoid Kat's horns.

"Kat, you have very pointy horns now, and I like having both my eyes. I'd trade them to make you feel better any day but I don't think that would work here" said Vivian

Kat paled slightly "I am so sorry, I forgot and I just-" pulling Kat back into her shoulder Vivian stroked the back of her hair just under Kat's new horns.

"It's fine, it's fine" said Vivian

The pair stood there together for five minutes before Kat carefully moved her head off Vivian's shoulder and said "We should go, I don't want you to catch a cold"

"I'm fine I've never caught a cold in my life" said Vivian

"Really?" said Kat

"Why of course. I did get a fever a few times, and all the sore throats but the weather here has always been great so I've never been cold" said Vivian. Kat let loose a light chuckle.

"Well, we wouldn't want to break your record. We should head back" said Kat. Extracting herself from Vivian's grip she tried to step in the direction she thought the car was and promptly collapsed on the floor. Without missing a beat Vivian scooped Kat up in a princess carry draping Kat's left wing over her shoulder and supporting the other side with her hand slightly.

"Wow, you're surprisingly light" said Vivian bobbing Kat slightly as proof

"I'd not thought you would be one to talk about a ladies weight" said Kat

"Lady? What lady?" said Vivian spinning them around searching with exaggerated motions of her head. "Only thing I see around here is some trees and an adorable girl in my arms"

"I'm seventeen Vivian" said Kat

"That's right, an adorable girl" said Vivian as she started to jog back towards the car. Kat just sighed and rested her head on Vivian's shoulder keeping in mind her new horns.

The path Vivian took back to the car was far from straight as she followed the trail Kat had carved out in her fevered stupor. Snapped branches and singed leaves giving plenty of indication of where to travel. The trail wound left and right seeming without order and even circled around slightly in places.

"Was I really that out of it?" said Kat

"Just towards the end dear. I imagine you were really burning up towards the end. I mean you literally shot a massive plume of fire into the air" said Vivian

"Wait, Vivian, how did you even get to the clearing? What were you doing there it wasn't safe" said Kat

"Well, after I saw that fire I had a choice to make. Either wait around for you to get back or go and see if you were alright. Obviously, I had to check up on you" said Vivian

"But you could have been hurt, the trial wasn't over yet, it wasn't safe" said Kat

"So? You were in the middle of the forest it wasn't safe to leave you passed out and unable to defend yourself, so fair is fair" said Vivian.

"But my transformation was much more deadly then an animal attack, you mentioned the fire anything near me would have been completely destroyed" said Kat

"Yes, and you'd already released that fire so it was well worth the risk" said Vivian.

"Thanks" said Kat

"Anytime Kat. You don't have to worry about a thing, I'll look after you" said Vivian

"I can look after myself Vivian" said Kat

"I never said you couldn't, besides do you really want to make that argument while I'm carrying you to my car?" said Vivian

"Right, I suppose not" said Kat.

But it is really nice to know Vivian cares. This wasn't the way I wanted to test her character to determine if it would be completely safe to stay with her but, running towards a giant pillar of flame to check on the girl you just met a week and a bit ago sure does say a lot about her character.

The path had straightened considerably, and the charring less noticeable. Though this posed little challenge as simply following a straight line was more than enough to keep on track.

Another fifteen minutes of walking found the pair back at the car. Vivian helped Kat sit down in the back before hopping into the front and starting the drive back. "Hey Vivian, what time is it? How long was I out" said Kat

"It's about three in the afternoon. I'm not sure how long you were unconscious but at least four hours" said Vivian. Kat nodded at that.

"I suppose it could be worse" said Kat. Hey system, I'm still really tired, will I be summoned tonight?

--

User Kat is currently not registered for additional summonings

--

What why?

--

The circumstances surrounding User Kat's awakening are highly unusual and create a number of contradictions in D.E.M.O.N.S. As such this issue was given to Designated Supervisors to determine what happens next. Currently User Kat is required to rest for at least 24 earth hours.

--

Wait you have a supervisor?

Inner workings of D.E.M.O.N.S requires higher classification to answer your question

--

But you just mentioned you have supervisors? Kat waited for a response and found nothing forthcoming. *Fine then, what sort of things do I have access to, now that I've awakened.*

--

User Kat has been given rank 0.5 which provides increased classification only in relation to User Kat's current error

--

Wait what is rank 0.5? I thought I was supposed to get to rank 1 when I awakened

--

User Kat was intended to rise to Rank 1 upon awakening however due to unforeseen circumstances User Kat has been given Rank 0.5. Rank 0.5 is considered a special holding Rank for User's that have created conflicting Errors in D.E.M.O.N.S that are not yet resolved.

Great, so you said I can rest for 24 hours when will I be summoned next?

--

That information is not yet known to D.E.M.O.N.S, however User Kat will be notified once User Kat's contradictions have been clarified.

--

Well, can I change my settings so that I'm not summoned instantly after the weekly reset

--

User Kat requires Rank 1 privileges to change default summoning settings

Just great. How about a notification to remind me when I can change default settings? Can you do that

--

D.E.M.O.N.S will inform User Kat once User Kat's rank has increased.

--

Thanks. Thought Kat as she leaned further back into the seat.

Hopefully this means all my changes are over for the moment. And I have a chance to rest. Should I go talk to Callisto while I'm on break perhaps? I can't avoid her forever and I trust Vivian's judgement. Well, I trust her judgement of people. Thought Kat thinking about Vivian's decision to run towards the fire instead of away from it.

And I have horns now, I guess?

"So Vivian what do my horns actually look like? I'm guessing I know the general shape; they curl around my head, right? Is there anything else you can tell me about them?" said Kat

"Yeah they do curve around your head. Um, they're a really dark purple actually, I thought they were black the first time I saw them. That's about it too be honest, I don't really see anything especially demonic about them" said Vivian

"Having black horns isn't demonic?" said Kat

"Well, I did say they were slightly purple but even then there are a few animals with black horns, they aren't that strange" said Vivian

"I'm pretty sure no other horns curve around the head" said Kat

"Meh details, as I said hardly demonic they look nice on you, gives you a bit of a regal vibe" said Vivian. Kat just shook her head and relaxed, content to enjoy the rest of the journey home. The lush green woods and the slightly mountainous terrain was a joy to look at when your body wasn't on fire and threatening to incinerate the surrounding area.

Chapter 48: Everything is Fine

By the time Kat and Vivian returned to their house it was well into the afternoon and the sun was setting. Kat had recovered somewhat and was now capable of exiting the car by herself however her mind was still somewhat fogged, and her body felt strange to her.

Perhaps talking to Callisto will need to wait. I'd like to be fully functional for such an important conversation. Then again if I run into her when I walk through the door should I just have the conversation then and there?

Vivian opened the door for Kat before she could walk into it accidently. Giggling slightly at Kat, Vivian followed her into the living room where Lily was reading a book next to Sylvie who was similarly engaged. Lily and Sylvie looked up upon hearing the sound of the door shutting. When the saw Kat's dishevelled state, covered in twigs and random bits of grass then immediately got up and went to meet her. Lily worked on getting the debris out of Kat's hair and horns while Sylvie worked on the stray bits stuck in the kimono's sash. Thankfully the rest of Kat seemed clean, the kimono hadn't picked up grime and Kat's skin wasn't marked with dirt, but they just chalked that up to her changed skin. After cleaning Kat up they leaned in to hug her and Kat responded in kind.

"Is everything alright." Said Lily.

"It's fine, I'm fine." Said Kat being careful not to poke out her friend's eye.

"What happened?" Said Lily

"Don't worry I just froze a bit of a national forest" said Kat

"Sylvie said you had a fever; how do you end up freezing a forest" said Lily

"Well I really needed to cool down didn't I? Had to get rid of my fever somehow" said Kat

"We were worried about you Kat, can you tell us what happened" said Sylvie

"Now girls, Kat's had a rough day, if she needs to she can tell you all about it. I'm sure she'd love to tell you both when she's had a bit of rest" said Vivian

"Thanks for the consideration Vivian but I'd like to tell them both now." Said Kat

"So, I woke up this morning absolutely full of energy. I was practically vibrating in my seat, in fact perhaps I was considering how hot I was running. So I had a quick chat with Vivian, and she agreed to

take me out for a run. Obviously, it wasn't safe for me to run in the neighbourhood considering everything, so I headed for the forest instead.

"Eventually I just couldn't wait anymore so I hopped out of Vivian's car and took into the fire and let off some steam before a took a short rest with my face in some stone, highly relaxing. I managed to chill out a bit, possibly freezing some other stuff but that's fine. Met up with Vivian a bit later and then we came back. That about sums everything up" said Kat.

"I mean, I can pretty much confirm that I suppose" said Vivian. Lily and Sylvie however did not look impressed with the joking pair. $nove\ell$ next. cO m

"We've been seriously worried, and I hate that I know you can't lie so obviously what you said is close enough to the truth but even still. What happened?" said Lily

"It really was basically what I just said, but with a lot more fevered insanity and a lot less out for a nice jog. Got some neat horns out of it though, so I'd say it was worth it." said Kat

"Kat, you look really cool now" said Sylvie. Kat laughed and patted Sylvie on the head with the top of her tail, her arms still occupied with hugging. Lily pouted as if she wanted to contradict Kat but, in the end, she wasn't willing to spoil the moment. Kat really did seem fine now and the fact she couldn't lie about it was of some comfort.

After standing in the hallway for another minute they group waddled over the couch unwilling to let each other go just yet. Despite Kat's explanation and assurance, as well as Lily and Sylvie's willingness to accept them they also still understood that Kat is lucky to have come out of this as healthy as she did. No one was willing to mention that fact, but they all seemed to understand it. Vivian chose this time to sneak off to visit Callisto. She'd had her time to look after Kat already and she was more than willing to let Sylvie and Lily have their turn by themselves.

"Kat, what are the chances something like this happens again? Do we need to be worried about more of your future changes" said Lily after fifteen minutes of relaxing on the couch.

"I think you've got nothing to worry about. I've completely awakened or, so I've been told. So nothing like this should happen again, in fact what happened this time was never supposed to happen so it should be fine" said Kat

"What do you mean a mistake? It- it could have been really bad" said Lily not willing to quite say what was on her mind.

"Just a minor technical difficulty with the process Lily, it's all been resolved now, I think" said Kat

"Why did you add that I think on the end, I saw you pause, you had to add that on the end so it wasn't a lie didn't you?" said Lily

"Well, I mean..." stammered Kat in surprise. *I didn't think Lily would already be using this sort of thing against me.*

"There, are some ongoing issues. None of them are dangerous though, in fact I even get a break tonight from summoning. I might have to do a job later in the week but I swear I'm not in any extra danger" said Kat.

"I trust Kat can deal with anything." Said Sylvie. "She came back to us this time, despite everyone worrying. That means we don't have to worry as much next time."

In the silence following Sylvie's sentence the three girls heard a door shutting and turned around to see Vivian getting some water out of the fridge.

"Um, sorry to interrupt you I was just sneaking down for some water and I wasn't planning to interrupt you guys." Said Vivian.

"Join the hugs Vivian." Said Sylvie.

"Well, if you insist." Said Vivian placing her glass on the counter. Vivian picked up Sylvie and placed her on her lap then snuggled in next to Kat.

"Seeing as I'm included now, I'll add that we need to take you girls shopping. There is still nothing in your rooms and I was going to take you today but well, things happened so I guess it's fine. Lily you are more than free to come as well, I plan to take these girls and maybe Callisto though I doubt she will want to come, to the city two hours away to buy some things." Said Vivian

"I'm happy to come, there is actually a few books I was looking at that I can't really pick up around here. Also because schools over my parents probably won't freak out too much. I wonder if it would be better or worse to tell them Kat's adopted mother is taking us..." said Lily

"Um, Vivian, how exactly do you plan on hiding the fact that I have wings, a tail, and even horns now?" said Kat.

"I'm glad you ask Kat, I've actually been thinking a lot about this. If we go to the city I think I have a master plan that will work and it's only because of the location." Said Vivian

"Well, don't keep us waiting" said Kat

"The answer is... Nothing" said Vivian big smile on her face accompanied by grand hand waving gestures

"I don't follow." Said Kat

"Absolutely nothing." Said Vivian. Kat stared at Vivian with a deadpan look.

"Ok fine. So that city actually has some conventions throughout the year, and sure none of them are happening at the moment but I bet if you just act naturally and don't do anything weird people won't even comment on it. At worst people will take a bunch of pictures but that's fine right?" said Vivian.

"Do you really want to go shopping and be interrupted by random people taking photos every few seconds?" said Kat. Vivian shrugged, and Lily made a concerned face but didn't say anything. Sylvie just shrugged with a smile on her face as if it had nothing to do with her.

Well, I guess it won't be so bad. It will be nice just hanging out with Lily without having to worry about schoolwork or demon stuff. We haven't really been able to just hang out and it will be a good chance to get to know Vivian a bit more, see what kinds of things she likes. Besides I haven't gone shopping in the next city over before, I wonder what it will be like?

Chapter 49: On the highway to mall

Kat was getting ready for the day trip by fixing her hair in the mirror. Her outfit was set because nothing other then her kimono could properly allow for her wings. Fixing her hair though Kat noticed that she'd been slightly mistaken about how her horns sit around her head. Kat found that her horns start behind her ears going backward and then curving and returning to the front rather than simply started at the base of her neck like the fiery counterpart she'd seen.

Well, this makes styling my hair a bit easier. I thought I'd have to deal with two horns splitting my hair at the back, but this is considerably more manageable. Kat played around with her hair a bit before deciding that keeping it unbound was best. I never really liked doing anything fancy with my hair anyway. Even the hair sticks were just to avoid people noticing how long it's gotten. Now that I can just leave it down and my hair is kind enough to stay straight and orderly, I can just forget about it.

Kat found her way downstairs and ate her part of the breakfast left on the table. Callisto had apparently told Vivian she wasn't coming today but it seems she was nice enough to still prepare breakfast. While Kat was eating Sylvie joined her for the meal and the two ate in companionable silence.

"Huh, I'm not sure if I'm early or late" said Vivian as she came down the stairs. Vivian was wearing a light blue knitted turtleneck sweater with a complimentary pair of long pants.

"Well, your later than me but around the same timing as Sylvie I'd guess" said Kat glancing between Vivian's outfit and Sylvie's pyjamas.

"I suppose so. Do you know when Lily will be here? I don't think I actually gave her a time" said Vivian

"I'm sure she will be here soon. Lily likes to sleep in a bit, but she hates being late to anything. I'd say there is a good chance she arrives before you finish breakfast" said Kat

"I'll go get ready then" said Sylvie heading back upstairs for a shower.

Vivian ate quickly and then disappeared upstairs while Kat waited for Lily to arrive. It was only around a minute after Vivian left that Kat heard a knock at the door. Kat peeked through the window to double check it was Lily before opening the door to reveal Lily in a long navy-blue coat and an even longer grey dress.

"Morning Lily" said Kat

"Good morning. I hope I'm dressed alright, I haven't been to the city in ages" said Lily

"You look great Lily" said Kat ushering her inside

"Sylvie's just having a shower and I'm not quite sure what Vivian is up to, she seemed in a rush" said Kat

"That's fine I just didn't want to be late" said Lily. *Ha called it, shame Vivian ate so fast and I might have been correct on the timing as well.*

Kat and Lily spent a few minutes on the couch waiting for Sylvie and Vivian to arrive but what they saw was a shock to both of them. Walking down the stairs was Sylvie dressed in a black kimono with white flowers that looked shockingly similar to Kat's own.

"What? How did you? I have questions" fumbled Kat

"It was Vivian's idea, and I think it's great" said Sylvie smiling wide.

"Well, I can hardly take all the credit, I just suggested getting her something nice to match your kimono. After I found out that you'll be wearing it a lot I just had to see Sylvie in something that matched" said Vivian

"That's so cute, good job Sylvie" said Lily.

*I don't see what the big deal is guys. Sylvie is always cute. I don't see how she looks any better than normal. *

"Well, I'm glad you agree with me" said Vivian "Now that we're all here shall we get moving? It'll take around two hours to get into the city and I have a few places in mind to visit" said Vivian

"Where are we going?" asked Kat

"Well that's a surprise. At the very least we are heading to the mall for a few random things and some books for Lily, right?" asked Vivian

"Yeah, um" said Lily "If you don't mind, the bookstore I'm looking for is in the mall"

"No worries, I'm sure everyone can find at least something in the mall to occupy themselves" said Vivian

"And, um, are you sure Kat will be fine looking like that" said Lily "Not that there's anything wrong with how you look Kat, I mean-"

"It's fine. I understand what you mean Lily. I am somewhat noticeable it's the wings that really cause the issues. Even my horns aren't that bad if I wanted to hide them. I really have no idea what to do about my wings though, even folded they are quite noticeable" said Kat

"Oh, and how should I hold them Vivian? It was your suggestion to just act naturally but how naturally for my wings?"

"Well, how do they normally sit? I guess it depends really" said Vivian

"I can keep them folded without too much trouble but that isn't actually that comfortable. I feel the urge to stretch them out after a while. Something closer to half unfurled. It's hard to explain I'll just stand up and show you the difference" said Kat.

Standing in place Kat unfurled her wings, stretching them to their maximum length. "So this is mostly for preparing to fly, it isn't actually that comfortable to hold. I can kind of compare it to being in a runner start, your muscles are prime and ready, but you can't just sit there forever" said Kat. "Then you have this at the other end of the spectrum" Kat closed her wings all the way folding them against her back and keeping them tight.

"This I'd say is comparable to standing in place. You can do it for a while, but you feel the need to fidget and when it comes to my wings the fidgeting would be rather noticeable" Finally letting her wings relax they rested somewhere around two thirds extended with slight bends in the material. "This is totally relaxed. My wings can comfortably sit like this pretty much forever, but they will probably bounce a lot as I move which is honestly not that bad, I hardly notice it "Well..." said Vivian dragging out the word as much as she could "I think as long as your wings aren't full extended it's fine. You will just have to commit to a pose and keep it. Assuming you had fake wings, I doubt they could move much or if they can it will look really fake. I think that will be the only point of concern, natural movement, but I bet a few little things here and there if you are careful will go unnoticed" said Vivian

"Ok, just one more question then. What about the fact that they phase through my clothes" said Kat

"Huh. Right I forgot about that. I mean obviously that's how you wear that kimono at all but I just hadn't considered what that would look like" mused Vivian "Meh, I'm sure it will be fine, just don't move around too much"

"Would it be safer to hide my tail then? It's a little expressive and it moves a bunch when I'm walking" said Kat

"But your tail is so cool" said Sylvie

"Yes, but Kat needs to be careful about these things" said Lily

"Well, I think the tail is the easiest to get away with actually, a few robotic fake tails have come out recently, and I mean, they aren't great but they are surprisingly well done, if anyone asks we can just say Kat is testing out a prototype of the newer ones and I'm sure it will be fine" said Vivian

"Why do you know so much about fake tails" said Kat

"Well, don't robot limbs seem so cool? I could get even more work done if I had four arms. I keep up with these things" said Vivian puffing out her chest.

If it was anyone else I'd call there bluff but Vivian's certainly enthusiastic enough about everything that she might actually choose to have extra arms if she could.

"Indeed Vivian, I wish the robotic eye replacements were a bit further along as well, they just aren't practical at all. The technology is basically non-existent, but a girl can dream" said Lily

"You as well Lily? I thought you liked your glasses" said Kat

"I spent a week on robotics about oh, three four months ago now. The theoretical technology level is shockingly high but practical stuff just isn't there yet. It's all really cool to look at though. Didn't I tell you about it?" said Lily

"I think that must have been during term 3's exams, I vaguely recall you mentioning it once. Wait is that why you got such middling grades on your modern history exam?" said Kat

"No" said Lily finding Sylvie's kimono much more interesting than she did thirty seconds ago.

"Lily, I have magic vision. I can tell you are lying" said Kat

"Wait, you can see lies? How does that work" said Lily

"It doesn't I cheated. I have magic vision, and separate to that, I can tell you were lying" said Kat. Lily pouted at this and walked towards the garage blushing.

Why are you embarrassed? Or actually, why did you think you could get away with one of the most obvious lies ever. Vivian and Sylvie could probably tell and they don't know you that well. Shrugging her shoulders Kat followed Lily to the garage

Chapter 50: Just Ignore the Demon Walking Casually Through the Mall

Entering the city outskirts Kat was, underwhelmed. *Lily and Vivian seem so excited. The city isn't even that impressive though. Sure you have some large buildings but it's just missing something. It's all so boring.*

Kat gazed out the window listlessly. Sylvie was strapped into the seat next to her and seemed to be enjoying just sitting around with Kat rather than the city itself. Sylvie had her eyes closed as she leaned into Kat with an adorable smile on her face. *Sylvie seems to have the right idea, enjoying the moment with calm grace. Though I suppose I can't help but respect Vivian's unending enthusiasm,*

"So, first stop is the mall. Now when we are there, I want you all to pick out at least one thing, that includes you Lily. You can pick whatever you want except a desk. I have plans for that later when we visit a good friend of mine" said Vivian

"Shouldn't you be encouraging us to spend less on useless things?" said Kat

"Well, your rooms are so bare anything to liven it up cannot be useless. And besides I trust you both not to go overboard. If you girls start spending money like water then I'll need to rethink some things but I have seen your rooms at the orphanage" said Vivian

"Well it isn't as if we had the spare money to decorate in the orphanage, we could be horrible with money" said Kat

"I doubt it dear. You both know the weight of money, so let me spoil you a little. Just this once I don't promise" said Vivian trying to obfuscate the 'don't' in her sentence.

Kat just sighed. *It's at times like these that make me wonder if Vivian is the most childish out of all of us or if she is the wisest. I suppose she has the money to spend but at the same time is this responsible. Then again, she also recognises that she is likely to do this again but only if we behave well...*

"Vivian, how long will we be in town do you think? Originally I was going to have my wings in resting position but now I see the crowds I think doing that will take up too much space especially if we are on the sidewalk" said Kat as she looked over the busy streets.

"Well, we can't stay too long especially in the mall because my friend we are visiting shuts his shop at 3:00pm on Saturday's. I'm sure he'd be happy to chat with us a bit longer but I don't want to keep him too long. So assuming we can find everything in the mall we will probably spend three hours at most" said Vivian, after glancing at the dashboard clock.

"Ok, I think I can manage three hours with my wings folded. If not I'm sure I can find somewhere to hide for a moment and stretch" said Kat as the car started pulling into the parking lot.

"Well, if you think you'll be fine. I agree with your reasoning but I wonder if you will find enough space to stretch" said Lily glancing towards Kat whose wings were currently occupying the entirety of the back seat.

"What do you mean? I just need a bit of a quiet corner with no people around" said Kat

"Kat, I guess maybe it's a bit different from your perspective, but your wings are huge. Stretching them will require a lot of space and I just feel like some random shop corner won't actually be large enough" said Lily

*Huh, she's right. I hadn't considered the extra space required to stretch. These demonic additions can be weird like that. On the one hand I can walk and balance perfectly with wings and a tail and I can move them as if I'd grown up learning. But on the other hand I still fail to take these things into consideration, like size.

I know instinctively how big they are and where I can fit with them spread but thinking about more abstract things like stretching somewhere, eventually doesn't seem to give me the same aid. I think I'll still keep them closed though, the last thing I want is for someone to run into them and have nothing happen to me. My muscles are strong and my wings can support my whole body weight essentially, I don't even know if I'd notice someone running into me and that could shatter the whole 'Kat totally isn't a demon it's a costume' plan.

"I think I'll keep my wings folded even still Lily, I wouldn't want to shatter the illusion" said Kat

"What do you mean" asked Sylvie

"Well, normal fake wings that people are going to assume I have would be flimsy light things made of Styrofoam. My wings are strong, supported by a number of muscles and are capable of supporting my entire body weight, having someone knock my wings and then have them remain intact would probably make it hard to believe this is a costume" said Kat

"Hmm, interesting. I hadn't considered that Kat... How strong are your wings exactly" said Lily as Vivian managed to find a park.

"Well, I know they are strong enough to lift my whole weight, and nearly enough to lift a second person but not quite. I can glide, carefully, holding someone but doing anything more advanced then flying in a straight line is a massive strain on me" said Kat

"While interesting, you should make your decision quickly, I can see a few people around the parking lot so I think it's best to pick now" said Vivian as she glanced between the groups traveling around the parking lot. Kat folded her wings and got out of the car, fixing her tail in a comfortable s shape so that it could bounce a bit. She refrained from letting her tail rest close to the ground like others might expect because for some reason her tail always rested up if possible. Vivian walked up to Kat and whispered "Just act like you normally do and no one will notice"

Everyone started walking through the parking lot towards the mall. It was a rather large but stocky looking building, as if it had intended to be two stories tall at one point but the decision was changed halfway. Despite this the building sprawled out and covered a large chunk of the outer city area it resided. The group followed Vivian as she led the way.

"Where are we heading first" asked Kat

"Well, I mostly want you girls to just wander round, but I think I know the bookstore Lily is aiming. So I've been heading roughly that direction. You're looking for the old second hand bookstore behind the hairdressers, right?" said Vivian

"Ah, yeah, how did you know?" said Lily. Vivian just looked back and wiggled her eyebrows playfully at Lily.

"How is it behind another shop" said Sylvie. Vivian looked pointedly at Lily, asking her to speak.

"Well Sylvie, the shop used to be something else I think, and the hairdressers didn't need all the space so it was split between the two" said Lily

"Close, the bookstore is actually the owner of that space, not the hairdresser" said Vivian

"Wait what? Why would they take the back section then?" said Lily. Vivian just shrugged; she had a few guesses but nothing concrete.

As this conversation was going on Kat was watching everyone's reactions to her group. With her improved eyesight, and her newly improved ability to process information she could keep track of everyone she passed with only some minor thoughts, still focusing mostly on the conversation.

Vivian was right, these people really just aren't bothered. Most people just keep walking like I don't have wings or horns. A few do double take but just keep walking, and even less stop to take pictures. And I think I can see about five groups of people who are conversing about me. Actually can I try and listen in?

Kat pushed some of her energy into her ears, using the same process of compressing her aura and pushing it towards her head. It was a bit harder to split the feeling between both ears rather than just throwing it to the front of her face but it did the job.

"Woah, do you see that girl in the demon costume, that's next level"

"I don't recognise her from anything, do you know what show she is supposed to be from"

"The craftsmanship on those wings I'd hate to be whoever made those, but I'd love it as well"

Focusing on that last conversation, just in case they'd noticed something strange. That group consisted of a man missing one of his fingers, who had just spoken, and a lady who had her arms wrapped around his.

"I don't get why you think they are such high-quality productions. Her wings are so plain, it's the details on the horns that interest me" sad the lady

"No you don't get it, those wings bounce along with her steps" said the man

"So, everything bonces, her clothes bounce, my clothes bounce, that's how people walk Julian" said the lady

"Look, it ain't like that. They don't move like a single piece they move more like, hmm. Not quite sure what it's like" said Julian

"Well, if you can't even explain it let's go. We are already late for the gathering at Pauls" said the lady as she started pulling Julian through the crowd.

I guess I'm being a bit too suspicious.