

DEMONS 611

Chapter 611: Where do you Keep your Dead Bodies?

"That seems to be everything," said Nira checking over her data pad once more. "Do you have any more questions before I introduce you to the two demons responsible for monitoring the procedure?"

"Well... what can you tell me about the demons actually doing the procedure? I know you... sort of... but I haven't even SEEN them or what they're supposed to be good at," said Lily.

"Well, I don't know too much about them myself. I'm certainly not on personal terms. In fact, I do not know what Rank they actually are. I do know I'll need to give you a special brooch to wear so that simply standing in their presence doesn't cause issues, but I don't know if that's because you're human or to stop any contamination from their auras when conducting the scans. I don't cause enough disturbance myself, so you're fine with me.

"As to what they do... I know one is going to be responsible for working the equipment to build your new body and ensuring that there is no issues with it, while the other is responsible for ensuring your soul's safety with a minor secondary duty to ensure your current body suffers no ill effects. While watching the procedure I'll also be partially responsible for monitoring your original body alongside the second doctor."

That doesn't exactly tell me much... but I guess that's fine. It's not like I know much more about normal doctors. Granted most normal doctors don't even know that the soul exists let alone have the qualifications to mess around with it, so maybe it's more important... though wait. Nira seems to have unintentionally raised an interesting question. Perhaps a concerning one as well.

Lily scrutinised Nira who just looked back with a cheerful smile and open demeanour. Lily wanted to stare at her until she gave up the answer she was looking for, but Nira likely wouldn't know what her question even was let alone the answer to it just yet. "So... um... you sort of gave me a thought but... err... what happens to this body once I'm not in it anymore?" asked Lily.

"That..." said Nira with a finger on her cheek, "is an excellent question now that you bring it up. I have no idea. I don't really know what standard procedure for that would be. Let me just..." Nira started swiping across on her data pad, words and numbers streaming by faster than Lily could see as Nira searched. "nope, not in my notes. I have no idea. We should really find out actually.

"Still..." Nira sat up and got a slightly more serious face, "I doubt anything particularly bad will happen. My first assumption is that it would be burned because it just isn't safe to leave an old body lying around. The problems you could cause with a complete body that has had its soul removed are quite numerous. Not just to you, but on a wider scale. So destruction is certainly an option, and definitely the safest thing.

"The next most likely is that they'll keep it in secure storage for a while. I've never heard of someone having issues after the first day in the new body. If you were going to have issues they'd become apparent really quickly and if your soul isn't happy we'd know within the hour... but this is also a bit more experimental than normal, so maybe they'd want a safety margin? Not really sure how long it would be stored for anyway..." Nira trailed off as she considered what she knew of it the long term storage vaults but came up mostly blank. It wasn't really her department. "I suppose they might also

give it to you... but storage would be an issue and again, wouldn't want it stole because that would lead to bad things..."

*Well. That's... honestly I don't really know how to feel about that. I'm not exactly sure any of these options sound pleasant to me. Do I want to know my body is stored on ice somewhere? Or watch it get burnt to cinders? And like... what about keeping it? At first that sounds like the best idea, keeping it for sentimental reasons, but... it sounds dangerous to do it that way and what sort of creepy person just has a dead body in their closet.

Even if it's their body, and only sort of dead. Why didn't I think about this before? Did I just assume my body would be used in the process or something? We were told it was a whole new body multiple times and Nira has even said 'new body' a few times before. This... well this requires some thought but at the same time I don't have that time.*

"Something the matter Lily?" asked Nira with what felt like genuine concern. Lily didn't really have the brain space to properly determine if it was or not. On Nira's side of things, she really was concerned. She was under the impression Lily had wanted to go through with this. For Nira, this was the first true hesitation Lily had shown. Of course there was the more typical, which is better, type of concern she was familiar with when listing treatment options or looking at dresses, but she could tell this was rather close to an existential crisis.

"I... I... Yes. Yes there is but there also isn't? I mean... ok first thing's first, I'm getting the upgrade still, I... even if I don't like the implications, which I'll get to, I think it's worth it." *The chance to stay with Kat forever even if it doesn't work out. MAGIC. Actual REAL MAGIC and quite a few nice little touches to my humanoid form but at the same time...* "I just... don't know how to feel about what's going to happen to my old body. I mean... I just didn't really think about it I guess?

"And like... this isn't just getting a new car or saying goodbye to an old house, because well, those things suck too even if the new stuff is necessary or better," *Trust me I know how necessary it can be to move house,* "but... this is MY body you know? I never planned on getting an upgrade. And yes sure, some people get plastic surgery but I'd never want that. To... to try and 'fix' my body and make it look better that way. Yes, I do know that it might sound hypocritical considering I plan to upgrade my body...

"But I feel like this and that are different things... and even if I didn't it's not really the issue here. I have no idea what I'd want done with it. The stuff you listed... I don't particular like any of them. Part of me really wants to keep my body around because it's mine and I grew up with it and it so many ways... it IS me... except it's not and souls are real and like I thought I understood that, and with the confirmation that souls are real it's easy to say I'm a soul piloting a body...

"It doesn't FEEL like that though. I feel... I don't know how I feel. I guess... for some reason I felt like my body would get used in the process? Or just sort of dealt with somehow I guess? Now that I've had to think about it. I... I don't even know. I mean what would you want done with your body?" At some point during the rant Lily had started to stand up and gesture wildly, Nira just let her get it out of her system completely. When Lily dropped herself back into the chair, Nira even gave her a few more minutes.

Then a few minutes after that as she realised she didn't rightly know the answer to that question. "I'm not sure either Lily. I... well I have had my body since birth. I'm also not sure if it's even possible to turn my body to ashes. Additionally, as a medical professional I have a much better idea of both the security

we have here, and of the consequences of letting my body fall into the hands of others, which, actually now that I think of it... would be much worse than yours, simply due to power disparity. Still, I trust my Faction to keep it safe if they stored my body. So... probably storage or incineration. As much as keeping it may sound nice to me on paper I know I'm not strong enough to protect it properly"

Yeesh, if Nira doesn't think she could protect her body acceptably then I doubt Kat or I could. So that really shouldn't be an option... and I suppose if they need to keep my body around just in case something horrible goes wrong that's better than death... I... I'm not happy with this. I don't know if keeping my body locked up is easier on me than burning it... but I might not have a choice really. It has to be one of the other for safety reasons... and I don't rightly know which is worse, or more likely.

Chapter 612: Finding Confidence

Lily forcefully tried to push down her growing unease. *Dammit, I agreed to this. I can't stop it even if I want to and I DO NOT. This is the chance of a lifetime. I will not let my discomfort over the fact that I don't like any of the options for my old body stop me from achieving two of my dreams. I don't even know which one I'd say is more important now, ok that's a lie, I'd say the magic because I could die happy just staying with Kat for a hundred years or so, BUT it's close. The pure desire for both of those eclipses any discomfort I have.*

"I apologise for not being able to help you with this Lily," said Nira with a morose smile. Lily could only react with confusion and this showed on her face which prompted Nira to continue, "I'm apologising because it's supposed to be my job to reassure you that everything will be fine or in the worst case scenario convince you it's ok to back out.

"However... I can't really do either of those things right now. You cannot back out and would have to pay the full price to go back to your old body if it sticks around and doesn't get burnt. I also haven't ever really been in this position before. I've seen plenty of people dealt bad hands or been ignorant of the full scope of a surgery... but they could always back out if it was too much for them.

"Furthermore, I understand why this is a serious concern for you. I can tell this is a shock and I suppose having been exposed to magic for such a short amount of time didn't really help matters. You don't have a good idea of what we can and can't change or how that affects other things. For example, healing. Healing is easy for some people, myself included. I could practically grow your whole body back from just a bit of skin, the issue is keeping your soul inside it.

"On the other hand... upgrading things is much harder. I don't know the details of the process but your soul will essentially be split over two bodies as we carefully grow you a new one so that it can adapt to your soul, and your soul can adapt to that body without simply being pulled away into the afterlife." Explained Nira who was certainly starting to ramble at this point.

Woah. I didn't realise that she feels so strongly about this. I mean... I guess it is a bit of a big deal in some ways. Maybe this is bothering her more than me. Lily was surprised to note a lot of her trepidation had actually disappeared with this revelation, making it even more likely to be true as her worries seemed to drain away. There was a small voice niggling in the back of her mind, but it was easy to ignore now. Lily decided it was perhaps Nira that needed a distraction. "What about clones?"

"You'll have to be more specific Lily. There are a number of different things that can be considered cloning. In some ways we are cloning you for this procedure," said Nira.

"Well... could someone make a copy of me with cloning or just use my body?" asked Lily.

"Not with your memories. Some of them are stored in the brain, and it would keep a little bit of an imprint but it wouldn't really last through the process of growing up again. Clones that aren't given time to age go crazy, especially if they keep those brain pathways. The other issue is even if you do manage to grow the clone and don't make them crazy they have no memories so you'd have a child in an adults body...

"With your body though... the only way to get it to work would be to summon your soul back into it. Which IS possible, though certainly unpleasant. You'd also probably not come back entirely alive if somebody did that. Still, compared to the other things they could do, it really isn't a big concern," explained Nira.

"Why do clones go insane sometimes and how come you can get them to work but only if they have no memories?" asked Lily, not overly interested in the answer but wanting to make it harder for Nira to realise she was being placated. Nira noticed of course. She had much better senses, more life experience, and specialised in calming people down.

She didn't say anything about that though, instead she said, "Well it's actually a matter of the soul. The reason zombies go around killing things mindlessly is because they don't have a soul or only have small fragments of one. When you grow a clone properly it attracts a soul, if you don't well... it goes very crazy. Some people try to use cloning to keep themselves around, just like... keep a spare body around and summon their soul back to it when their body dies... it doesn't tend to work out well."

"Thanks for that explanation," said Lily taking a deep breath after she said the words, steeling herself one final time. "I'm ready."

Nira glanced at Lily and debated over whether that was true enough or not. Ultimately, Nira was willing to go along with it. Were there the option to back out, she might have tried to settle Lily down a bit more before moving onto the final steps but without that option, pushing forward while she was confident enough that things would be ok, that she thought it was worth it and was happy with her choice. It was enough for Nira.

So she carefully reached into her coat pocket and took out a brooch. It was a gaudy thing adorned with enough precious gemstones to bankrupt a medium sized country. The only reason it wouldn't be worth more, on Earth would be lack of knowledge about how rare it actually was. The whole thing was less a 'brooch' and much closer to a tiny shield. The whole thing was about the size of one of Lily's breasts.

It looked a lot like a tiny kite shield as well. The whole 'back' of it was a solid goldish alloy that was glowing slightly giving the whole thing a soft angelic appearance despite being handed to her by a devil. On the front, most of the available space was taken up by a red gem that was slightly darker then you'd expect from a ruby. It wasn't murky though, it almost seemed to absorb the light from nearby, it was clear otherwise though. It matched the shape of the shield exactly, leaving just a bit of space around the edges.

On those edges was a mix of gems, alternating between green and blue, but never the exact same shade of either. These gemstones ringed the edges using stones approximately the size of a fingernail, with the three in the corners, two blue at the top and one green at the bottom, about three times the size of the others and hanging slightly off the shield.

How is this a brooch! It's nearly the size of my head! How will it even stay on my shirt? That thing looks like it weighs a good few kilograms. Heck, forget the shirt, how am I supposed to lift the damned thing? Actually will it even fit on my shirt? It'd be really awkward if it's hanging across my chest... and it's a little big to fit below that... where the heck do I put it? "Um Nira... how? Just... how? I mean... how would that not tear my clothes? How can I lift it? Where do we put it?" asked Lily

Nira smiled, flashing a full set of pearly white teeth with slightly elongated canines and carefully pushed the 'brooch' towards Lily. As it got closer it shrank slightly as Nira moved it over to the side and pressed it against her shoulder instead. It was still quite large, but it had reduced its size by about a third and when Nira let go, Lily didn't feel the weight at all.

Lily waved her arm up and down and found the brooch sticking firmly to the sleeve. In fact, on closer inspection she noticed that it didn't shift the fabric or bunch up at all. Moving her other arm a few times to confirm, it was clear to Lily that her outfit was acting as if the brooch didn't exist at all. "Weird..." whispered Lily as she observed the brooch, her first real example of magic, and more specifically magical items.

Up until this point all the magic she had seen was from Kat, which, while cool, were limited things. They were all abilities that were clearly unique to Kat, or at most unique to the demon race. This was a magical item that, while perhaps not anyone, some people would be capable of making. Sure based on the clarity and appearance of the gemstones it had been exceptionally costly to make, but it was a thing. A real magical item and she was using it.

That was when the final vestiges of her concern fell away. This was magic. The world HAD magic. And soon, so would she. Lily turned to face Nira, eyes burning with passion and confidence. "I'm ready!"

Chapter 613: Two Doctors, They Have Real Certificates and Everything

Seeing Lily's burst of confidence Nira nodded and headed for the no longer so hidden door in the tree and opened it. Lily followed behind into a clean white medical facility. It smelled faintly of cleaning products but the strange thing was that she couldn't quite put her finger on which one. If pressed, she might realise that it didn't smell like a cleaning product at all, but the IDEA of one. Alas, that would be a little too hard for a human with no hints.

The door she left had 'Waiting room #034' on it when she glanced back and was much less appealing to look at than the inner door. It was just a slightly darker white, still clearly white, but dark enough to make it easy to see against the pure blinding white of the walls. The tiles were a pale blue you might find on medical masks. The whole thing screamed hospital to her. It made a part of her wonder why they went through the trouble of making the waiting room so calming if the rest was so clinical.

"Now," said Nira dragging Lily's thoughts away from the environment, "you'll be meeting the two others in charge of your surgery. They won't say much, just introduce themselves and which task they'll

be doing. Don't worry about it much. For them this is a job, not an opportunity like it is for me. Well... actually... with how experimental this is, perhaps it's an opportunity for them as well. I'm not sure..."

Lily didn't really know what was better. Well, she also didn't know what the difference would be for these other demons. She idly wondered what kind they'd be. So far, of the two demons she'd met, they were both Succubi. Kat also met a high number of Succubi, but a lot of that was down to her tour through Lust and the friendship with Kamiko. Still, it was something to think about while they traversed the corridor.

It took a full five minutes of walking to get to the elevator which was just as white as the walls and stood out because of its silver bordering. Still, Lily was still determined to see this all through and jumped on with no hesitation, Nira following behind her and putting a finger on what looked to be a scanner of some kind. After a beep, Nira took her finger away and pressed one of the buttons but was blocking Lily's line of sight.

"It's not actually a fingerprint scanner you know?" said Nira suddenly. Lily turned her head and gave a confused look. "Right of course. Sorry. See it's actually a demonic energy scanner. Nobody has quite the same... I guess frequency? Is the right analogy, or fingerprints work too... anyway, it lets us keep things secure or even grant temporary access. We don't have to worry about anyone who isn't a demon getting passed it and it's quite hard to fool. Even then, this is just the basic stuff, it's much harder to get into the building then you'd think, especially with how you got here."

Why would you just give away that information Nira? I guess it doesn't matter overly much because I can't use it either but surely I could tell someone who can? Or maybe it's something any demon would be able to tell. I guess the main bit of security is matching the frequency so it's ok? Or maybe this is actually a test of some kind? Maybe not for me... just in general. Actually wait... how did Nira open the elevator?

Realising that there wasn't a button outside to call the elevator and that it had opened automatically when they'd approached, Lily decided that it was likely such a small matter as to be irrelevant. It was then the door opened, and Lily couldn't quite shake the suspicion that it had been timed somehow.

Back into the corridors they went, though this time Nira had to go through an extra set of doors that enclosed the area around the elevator. It had a keypad lock by the look of things but it took Nira no time at all to get through. The rooms here looked the same as on the previous floor so Lily found herself zoning out.

Even with that, it didn't take long to reach their next destination, Nira pushed open the door to reveal two demons 'sitting' down behind a large panel with a number of buttons and lights that Lily felt might have been a seizure hazard. The reason for the confusion of if they counted as sitting was that one of the demons was a shadow demon, that looked to be only a 2D entity. They were essentially pasted against the chair and bent at odd angles that certainly weren't appropriate for their body parts. The backrest ended about halfway up their chest, and the end of the chair was far too high up on the legs.

The oddest thing was that they were actually wearing something, it caused a slight itching in the back of Lily's eyes when she looked at the clothes as well. The shadow seemed to both be wearing it, while at the same time it seemed like part of its body as there wasn't any definition between them... unless Lily

looked at specific angles then all of a sudden it looked like the clothes popped up slightly. They were just standard medical attire like Nira was wearing but there seemed to be something different about them.

The other demon was a Succubus, but that wasn't what was odd. They weren't just any Succubus, they looked almost identical to Kat. Everything about them at a first glance looked identical, and Lily had certainly stared at Kat long enough to know exactly what she looked like from all angles and in her demonic attire which the Succubus was currently wearing. Lily thus found it odd she felt absolutely no attraction to this figure.

She could practically feel all of her instincts screaming 'NOT KAT' at her and it was very off putting. Lily, in a rare moment of courage spoke up, "Um... I know we're here for me and that this is a big deal... and that you're quite powerful but can you stop... whatever it is you're doing it's freaking me out," Lily gestured vaguely in the direction of Notkat.

The figure actually looked surprised at the request while the shadow seemed to be stifling giggles. "Oh? What seems to be the issue? I should have a pleasant form right now, no?" said Notkat.

"Well, yes you look exactly like my girlfriend but practically everything including my soul is screaming at me that you are not, in fact her. It's really weird and off putting. I don't even know how my eyes can be showing what you look like while also telling me you don't look like that somehow. I cannot describe how weird this is," said Lily.

Notkat's eyebrows shot right up. "Quite a strong reaction. I apologise." Notkat's form then started to shift and change slowly morphing and moulding into a copy of Nira. "I'm a shapeshifter and sadly I lost my original form a long time ago. I have it set to essentially be the 'best' form for any given situation. I'm guessing it decided the form you'd be most comfortable around would be your girlfriend, which is likely true, but did not account for your ability to tell that it wasn't her. It is odd that you had so many warnings though. I wonder what gave it away..."

"Yes, yes I'm sure you'll be thinking about it for the next week," said the living shadow whose voice sounded like soft velvet. It seemed to linger around the ears and sound like the words were being whispered even though they carried through the room at a decent volume. "However, we are not here to question why this relatively normal human can see through your shapeshifting. It was probably just your posture or something. The girl clearly likes the real version, and spends a lot of time around the authentic article, the little issues probably screamed out. You weren't exactly trying.

"Anyway," the shadow turned towards Lily... which was really weird because the 'head' didn't shift so much as the eyes moved across the plane so that it appeared like the shadow was looking at Lily now. "My name is Slethnoth and I'll be handling the soul side of the equation as well as scanning and protecting your old body during everything."

"I suppose I should introduce myself. Sometimes I wonder if my parents were Seers or something because my name is actually Nobody. It's my real legal name and it is not any less annoying to know I'm more powerful than they'll ever be. It was a stupid name before, and is still a stupid name now that I've lost my form. I'll be in charge of building up your new body," said Nobody with a slight bite in her tone.

Chapter 614: Step into MY Office

"Um... no offence but... if you have no body of your own... why are you qualified to make one for me? I mean... I... sorry that was probably really rude..." Lily trailed off embarrassed she'd even asked such a question.

Nobody let out a long suffering sigh that didn't fit well with Nira's default behaviour and looked rather strange on her face. "Look, the lack of a body is mostly my own fault. I wanted to build a shapeshifting body that anyone could use instead of relying on inborn talent like myself. I also tested it on myself, thinking I could change back to my default form in case it failed. It failed. Spectacularly and I don't want to risk screwing things up further with another body. I'm lucky I managed to survive at all. Still, I have more experience with experimental procedures than anyone else. I learnt my lesson with my first major screw up and haven't had another in over a millennium"

I... holy shit I'm glad she didn't take offence. A millennium of successful surgeries? I can't imagine what that's like... I... I just have no concept of how much time that really is. And for that not to be how long she's been practicing but how long she has gone without accident... I'm not really sure I can understand that...

"Sorry... and um thanks..." mumbled Lily.

"None of that," said Slethnoth voice distorting slightly to sound as if it was coming from a deep hole. "we've been given the chance to test one of the most interesting racial changes on the menu. The cost of it has kept a lot of the worry from even trying this. It will be truly interesting to see if it works out well."

Slethnoth then 'stood' up which was more akin to peeling of the chair. This didn't seem to give them any extra dimensions though, wherever Lily looked the shadow was flat and looking right at her... it made the back of her eyes itch slightly. "Step in to my office" Slethnoth added with a giggled and gestured to a door that certainly wasn't there before.

None the less, Lily didn't hesitate... long. Slethnoth was an exceptionally strange being to look at and she couldn't help the slight bit of unease that crept into her mind because of it. Her determination was strong though, and battered the unease into a dark corner to be dismissed. Walking into the 'office' Lily could see it wasn't much, or perhaps, like the trick with the door, it was more than it seemed.

There was another panel with a monitor large in size and almost nothing in thickness covering about half of the right wall. In front of it was a keyboard and a number of other, smaller screens that Lily thought would have looked at home in an airline cockpit. At the back of the room was a large cylinder of glass that she had no doubt she'd be ushered into.

When it opened up at her approach she just steeled herself and marched towards it. Before she could enter though Slethnoth said, "Please remove all clothing and enter the pod for scanning. While in the pod please remain as still as possible."

"What about the brooch?" asked Lily looking at the gaudy device on her shoulder. Slethnoth paused and 'turned' at that.

"Bother, I had forgotten we had such a low level patient. One moment." Slethnoth said before pushing a few buttons on the control panel. Suddenly a thick sheet of glass slammed down cutting the room into two sections, with Lily's side only really containing her and the scanner. "There you go."

Lily felt some slight hesitation over stripping naked in front of someone she didn't know, but that same determination that had been powering her so far berated her again. *Slethnoth is about the scan my whole body, every single inch of it, likely inside and out. Why am I feeling embarrassed about taking of my clothes. They'll be watching as they build me a whole new body from scratch. This should be nothing. Also... he's a shadow monster, can he even find me attractive? Wait is he even a he? Based on the voice I assume so...*

Lily let her thoughts wonder in that direction partly as a distraction while she removed her clothes, glasses, and brooch before she let them drop in a bundle beside the scanner. Lily hopped in and watched the doors closed praying, knowing it was silly, that she'd have slightly more modesty behind the second set of glass doors. She didn't of course, but it was nice to dream.

A bright green light shot out Lily flinched as it went right in her eyes. "Ouch"

"Sorry about that," Slethnoth said. "Would you like me to turn that off?"

Lily rubbed at her eyes that were now certainly watering growled out, "Why is it even on if it's optional?!"

"Some doctors felt like the scanning wasn't working so they company that makes them added in the green light to make people feel like it was working better. It doesn't do anything at all. In fact, the light has to be specially manufactured to prevent it from messing with the scanner," Explained Slethnoth. Lily grumbled a little more at that but Slethnoth just ignored it and turned the light off.

Honestly. I wish I could say that was silly, and I suppose I will... but I know plenty of silly things we've done on earth. Like the fact that car locks still click close they don't do that. It's not how locks work. Or... or that click light switches make. That's part of the design. They don't do that if you don't want them to.

A few minutes later the doors opened and she stepped out. A small part of her admitted that it felt a little silly to sit in a glass tube as she was scanned and nothing visible happened. However, based on the large image of her up on the screen as well as more personal details about the exact dimension of everything. EVERYTHING. Which she was ignoring a little. It was quite clear that Slethnoth had indeed scanned her.

"Well, pick up your brooch. Wouldn't want anything to happen to you. I'll throw over a coat though, we won't want your clothes getting ruined," said Slethnoth this time his voice sounded like an approaching train, which Lily personally felt was the strangest effect his voice had generated. The researcher within her wanted to know if it was done on purposes and if it could be controlled. The rest of her body though moved to pick up the brooch and once that was done the wall shot up.

Slethnoth threw a big white coat over her, it looked like the coat clipped through him several times during the throwing motion and that itching in her eyes got stronger but she ignored it. Lily just wrapped herself up in the medical gown and followed Slethnoth back out of the room. Nobody reacted by turning and smiling a slightly too wide smile for Nira's face before quickly tapping away at the control panel.

Nobody moved faster then Lily's eyes could see, her whole form blurring as the requisite movements were made. "Now!" said Nobody standing up and swishing her white doctor's coat behind her like a cape, "Follow me into MY office!"

Lily's eyes followed Nobody as they walked passed her... to the same door that Slethnoth had used. Feeling a slight twitch Lily watched as Nobody opened it to a completely different room. The walls were now a light blue and there was a big tub in the middle that had ten tubes on either side of it that fed into the walls. The tubes went straight up to the ceiling and ran along it to give space to look around. Each tube was transparent and the tub in the middle was as well, though it was slightly harder to look through.

Around the tub were yellow lines, cleaning separating it from the rest of the room. There wasn't anything else there though, and Lily wondered if a wall would drop down. At the side of the room was another large screen and it had the same information on it as well. Lily once again pointedly ignored the more embarrassing details. One might think those were her three sizes. You'd be wrong. They had much more intimate and embarrassing numbers Lily hadn't even considered would ever be mapped out. She also had no desire to remember them and made a point not to look at them long enough for the numbers to sink in.

Nobody swished through the room glancing over at the large screen once before she pulled out a holographic tablet from somewhere before tapping a few icons Lily could see through the back. She'd repeat this action a few times while checking the larger screen before she swiped the screen closed and then pointing it at the tub. In a blink there was a body there. Lily's new body. Lily's jaw dropped as she stared at what was going to be her new form. "It's not done just yet dear, this is just a projection to show what you'll look like. What do you think?"

Chapter 615 - 615 My New Body And Me Part 1

Lily couldn't help but stare at what was going to be her new body for a while. It was hard to just take it all in. The body was so similar to her own and yet also very different. A part of her, the part that she was ashamed to admit found her new body sexually attractive, wanted to believe that this body looked nothing like her old one. It was a lie though. For every difference there was ten similarities, even if those differences truly stood out. Lily wanted to burn ever inch of her knew self into her mind, to perhaps understand a few things about herself... or something.

She didn't know where to start, the top the body, maybe the sides. There was so much to stare at in front of her, but in the end she decided to start at her feet, as they were unremarkable at least in her mind. Things had been fixed up, whereas Lily currently had uneven toes with the second to last toe next to her big toe was actually shorter then the two next to it, and on the other side was the same size as it's neighbour on her new body it was a perfect arc.

Her nails had also changed, at least on her feet. She might not have decided to go with claws on her feet but she could tell that her knew nails were much sharper. They were still a soft pink but where they drifted off into white they tapered off into a sharp point instead of a flat line. Lily made a note to be careful when wearing socks in the future. Other than that though, it really wasn't all that exceptional.

Feet just aren't my thing. I mean... they're just feet in my mind. I guess it's nice to have symmetrical feet and even toes that aren't all wonky but Kat... actually I have no idea. I was thinking that Kat didn't have awkward toes before her transformation but I can't even remember. I don't even know now. If I can't remember KAT'S toes... well... I feel like that says everything it needs to really. *nOvElnext.coM*

Then Lily moved onto her new legs. The first thing she noticed was actually the lack of freckles. *That makes sense. Kat lost her freckles during the transformation though she was lucky and didn't have too many before. I have freckles everywhere... though I guess I don't or won't anymore. I can't say I mind. People say that freckles can be cute but it's not like I had many on my face. I mostly just had a few here and there but they were just all over my body. Even some right around... that area... and I have no idea how they got there. It's not like I'm bathing suit material... though... maybe when I was a kid?*

Lily shook her head and moved on. It would be an interesting test to see if she developed new freckles over time with this body in front of her. If they would end up in the same places or if she was now free of them entirely. So Lily focused on the legs proper. She noticed that the hairs on her new legs were thin and basically see through. They were also quite short and Lily felt herself appreciating the change.

Hopefully they stay like that. Shaving isn't something I ever cared too much about because I kept my legs mostly covered but... if I ever go... well let's not jump straight to that. It'd just be nice to feel Kat run her feet or hands along my legs and I think it's nicer when I have less hair there alright?

Lily wasn't sure why she was justifying this to herself, but it felt necessary with a second body being shown off to her. With that out of the way she moved on to examining her legs properly, especially the thighs. Lily noted that the new body actually had a bit of muscle development. Nothing too extreme, but for a thigh girl like herself, quite noticeable when she was looking. In the end though, they were nothing to write home about, not in Lily's mind anyway.

She just couldn't help but compare her own thighs to Kat and despite the slight bulk the new muscles brought to her legs they were rather stick like in Lily's mind. She didn't mind being thin, and was quite happy with it on her own body as a matter of fact... but that wasn't her preference. She couldn't sink her hands into her thighs. Anyone resting their head on her lap would just encounter a thin layer of skin and muscle before hitting onto bone. For someone who looked to the thighs for sexual attraction, she gave herself a solid 6/10. Points for the muscles, points for not being just fat, and nice enough shape, but so lacking in definition and the slight thickness that made them truly worth noting.

In the end though, it's not so different to my actual thighs just a bit more muscle. Which to be fair, makes a lot of sense. It's still ME after all. It also doesn't really matter if I'm not turned on by my own thighs. That'd be really weird. Then again... I wonder if I'd still have a thing for thighs if I had thighs like Kat? Now I feel the need to find other Lesbians to check with. If you have a trait does it make it less desirable on others?

Lily then looked slightly further up before instantly moving on. She did not have the desire to stare overly much at her own genitals. Appreciating her new body was one thing. Appreciating that particular area, especially while it was a picture in front of her, felt rather uncomfortable and she glanced further upward instantly.

This was where both the least, and most had changed. Lily knew she didn't exercise... at all really so her stomach... while it wasn't fat by any means was a little flabby. It just sort of was, and while Lily didn't exactly find it an pleasant thing to have, it didn't bother her. Now though, she saw her new body had a taught stomach that was giving her the strange desire to eat food off of. Lily had no idea where that thought came from and promptly tried to shove it away only for the image of Kat licking chocolate off her stomach to pop up instead and send a shiver down her spin.

NO. Bad Lily. Why am I like this? I mean sure it'd be nice... but also kinda weird. Food is just... it's just a thing... but Kat's tongue... mmmmmmm. Yeah I can go along with that. Wait NO. Stop. Do not have... well actually all things considered this is a more normal sexual fantasy. I'm not thinking of using this body, I'm thinking of Kat enjoying it while I'm in it. Does that make this more acceptable? Nevermind. I approve of the stomach and... I think I really want to keep it looking like that.

Lily then moved her eyes up to her chest and was surprised at what she saw. It was a large pair of perky breasts and Lily found herself surprised by the size. Why did they give me chest padding? "They're the same dear" said Nobody from the side.

Lily whipped her eyes over. "What?" asked Lily incredulously.

"We didn't change those. Exactly the same as your current set," said Nobody firmly.

Lily gazed down at her chest and back up to the chest on the new body. I... I never really noticed... Lily knew she was larger than Kat, quite reasonably sized in fact. Just shy of huge really and avoided the back pain that came from having breasts no sane woman would truly desire. Still they were quite large on her small frame, it seemed to be where all her fat had gone throughout her life. It just never really sunk in to Lily.

I didn't realise I was that much bigger than Kat. I mean, Kat has great breasts, I wouldn't trade them for anything except her perfect thighs but I have both of those now so that's fine. But... I just... they never felt small before. Then again I guess mine never felt big either. I don't think they're like... Sue sized or anything but I'm happy with that.

Lily let her eyes drift to the side after that realisation to find her arms and grinned. She'd gained a small helping of muscle there as well and stopped her looking like a stick figure. She was actually happier about this change than the ones on her legs because that slight bit of muscle really made all the difference to her arms. Her fingers looked delicate now and no longer had the slight callousing from forever holding books on the ends of her fingers. They did seem to curl just ever so slightly and her nails had the same sharpness as her toenails but that was fine. Lily thought it was one of the better improvements.

Just the face left... oh... wait no... face and all of the back. Shit. How long have I been staring at 'myself' for?

Chapter 616 - 616 My New Body And Me Part 2

The answer was about ten minutes. Lily had spent ten minutes taking in everything below the shoulders on the FRONT of her body. Lily debated if she should ask Nobody to turn her over and then get back to the face, but decided not to worry about that. She could do it later. Now it was time for shoulders.

Which, were a lot like her feet in that they were just shoulders really. They seemed like the only part of her body that hadn't been changed at all. The angle they fell at was even the same as far as Lily could see. They didn't really have that dip around the collar bone that Kat had that Lily enjoyed burying her face in and while she'd heard some people describe the way a neck and shoulders connected, Lily just saw it as... well as a neck, which also seemed unchanged except for the missing freckles of course.

The big shock came when Lily finally locked eyes with 'herself', It drove her breath away. The eyes, which she'd get to later, seemed to make everything else sharper. Her rounded oval shape face now felt like it had edges to it she'd never seen. Lily felt it gave her a cleaner, more defined appearance even if a more thorough glance revealed not all that much had changed. Which was a little odd considering her ears weren't on the side of her head anymore but that's how she felt, it was the eyes that gave so much more character to her face.

Which, speaking of them, were stunning. Lily felt herself unconsciously licking her lips as she stared into them. Lily felt calling them 'orange' was a grave disservice to what she saw. Her new eyes shone brightly like the last rays of the setting sun, or the cracked orange stone at the tip of the Grand Canyon. There even seemed to be little flakes of gold dotting her new eyes, catching the light beautifully as she moved from side to side to look at her new eyes from every angle.

*I love it. I don't... I can't believe I'm saying this, but I don't even care if Kat likes this or not I LOVE this. I mean, I'm sure she will as well but... I never thought my eyes could be beautiful, not like Kat's and especially not like Kat's when hers glow. That... that seemed like a special magical thing I could never possess. Yet... yet here it is. Here they are and I am so unbelievably happy. I do not know what I would have done had I missed the chance to have these. They are wonderful.

They also change my face so much in other ways. It... feels embarrassing to say... but I feel like they also make me look a bit more like Kat. She has sharp eyes and sharp features even with her round face. Huh... I guess it really is the eyes that make or break a face isn't it? I... I'll never be that plain bookworm again will I? Well that's not true, with sunglasses on I might be... but... I think this has helped push me over the edge into beautiful. It's all in the eyes.*

Of course, had Kat been asked, she would have happily called Lily beautiful before with eyes like chocolate diamonds. Perhaps an exaggeration, perhaps not, but it was clear Lily's new set of eyes were something else, something otherworldly, and something she was very happy to have.

So it took a strange amount of effort to pull her gaze from them to move on to her other features. Next was her nose, which... well it was her nose, the same as always unchanged by the transformation. Not overly big, not overly small really, but it fit well on her face. The pieces around it though... they had shifted.

She had whiskers now! Lily was also happy to report that they didn't make her look weird at all. They were thin silver streaks that reached just ever so slightly past the edges of her face. Lily had some reservations before this thinking they might look strange or silly, but they worked well on her face, and softened it slightly against the harshness of her eyes. Combining that with her thin lips currently curled into a slight smile Lily decided, she her face as a whole, was quite cute.

*Wait. Cute, beautiful eyes, rather nice proportions... strong desire to give myself a hug and I haven't even looked at the ears yet... I'm cute. Not quite sexy-cute but nearly or maybe that's just because I can still see this body as myself... is... is this how Kat feels about me? Does Kat think I'm cute? I mean it would make sense.

It's more of a happy bubble feeling mixed with a desire to protect, and I know Kat's desire to protect me is rather large. It certainly isn't the intense burning or the glassy eye inducing intoxication I can

experience looking at Kat but... if she feels about me the way I sort of feel about my new body... I think this can work. I can be happy with this. Now though... onto the important part.*

Lily raised her eyes up to her head, ignoring the hair for now and focusing on her new ears. Lily could already imagine them twitching every which way and intensified the feeling of cuteness. Her ears were perfect triangles, bending outwards slightly with smooth black fur, or was it hair, covering them. The ears had a small tuft of black fur in them that Lily knew had some purpose.

Yeah Kat's going to go nuts when she sees me like this. I'm a little disappointing about being stuck in cat form for a while, now. I can't wait to see Kat react to me like this. It might not be sexual, but I bet she won't be able to keep her hands from petting me all the time. I want this. If I didn't before, I do now. I want this yesterday.

Lily looked over her hair and couldn't help but by a little disappointed. It was a nice smooth black now that caught the light slightly. How a projection caught the light, she wasn't sure, now that she really thought about it, but decided the technology was probably just that good. It wasn't the colour change that she was disappointed in, it was the fact it was still quite bushy. Having fresh new hair seemed to have changed nothing in that area. It still seemed to puff up around her head and bunch together somewhat.

Well I have no complaints about the colour... and even if I had a slight hope it would fix the bushiness Kat actually likes it. So, I can be ok with how my new hair has turned out. "Can you um... flip... me? Her? It? over please?" asked Lily and nobody easily complied.

Now, with Lily's new body lying down she'd already seen enough of the thighs and stood by her judgement. Nothing more needed to be said. The bottom of her feet looked almost like they had pads with the faint colour difference between areas, but Lily didn't make a note of that. The next major thing she looked at was her but.

Lily couldn't help but feel disappointed by that as well. Unlike other areas that had gained a bit of muscle, this had as well, but it hardly helped matters. She was not blessed in the rear like she was in the chest. Lily wasn't an ass girl, so it didn't feel like the end of the world, but it was completely unremarkable in her mind.

Her tail though, Lily was very happy with. The same black fur that looked so soft to touch. It also had the faintest hint of purple so dark it blended with the black, but Lily could tell and she was quite pleased but the slight colour change, bringing her closer to Kat. The tail itself was decently long, about as long as her arm, which was quite short compared to Kat's own tail but Lily didn't really want her own to be that long. It got the full stamp of approval.

With that done, she'd seen basically everything. There were no surprises further up her back, and the back of her hair was just as much of a mess as it was at the front. Overall though Lily was happy with her new body.

*Even if I didn't get magic out of the deal this body would be worth it. I've even lost a lot of my hesitation about what could happen to my old one. This new one is just... better. It's not perfect but that's its own kind of charm. I love my eyes, and my cute little ears even if they aren't really that little... anyway... I love the tail, the hint of purple is something I didn't know that I needed. Max points for the

eyes which... I was thinking the ears and tail would be my best feature at the end of this. I was wrong. The eyes sell it all so well. The whiskers are pretty cute as well, not weird at all which I was worried about.. Looks good, no FANTASTIC.*

Chapter 617 - 617 The New Body Finale. The Cat

"I'm happy with this. I like how my new body has turned out," said Lily slightly breathlessly as she took a few steps away from the tank.

Nobody raised a quizzical eyebrow that looked right at home on Nira's face. "Really no little touch ups? No complaints about your noes being too big or your breasts too small? I mean you didn't even look at your new smile!"

Nobody pressed two buttons on her tablet and the body spun around now with a fresh grin on it. The teeth were all blindingly white and the canines were huge, coming in two sets, one on top and one on the bottom where they interlocked together giving her a much more feral appearance than Lily thought was possible with her face.

My jaw hurts just looking at those teeth. Actually... that is a question. "Will my jaw be strong enough to actually use those? I don't know if that comes alongside changing my teeth," said Lily with a curious not to her voice.

"Um... hmm..." Nobody tapped the tablet a few times, swiping across multiple screens to look for that information. "That is a very good question... I don't actually know at the top of my head. I know it does apply for some humanoid forms but not others. If the teeth were naturally part of the form it WOULD come with extra jaw muscles... but I know they were added in so... let me check."

Nobody pressed a few more buttons on her tablet and the skin dropped away from the body around the face. Lily had always been able to detach herself from medical diagrams before now but it was something else entirely to watch the skin on her own face get peeled off. The missing eyes didn't help matters. Gritting her teeth though, she looked at the jaw muscles and saw they had indeed been changed, but she wasn't sure if it was enough.

"Yup, that looks about right. Hmmm... yes I do think that will count. Your new jaw won't be as strong as the equivalent for your Memphis form but it will be enough to utilise your new teeth properly. It'll let you rip into relatively tough things for your power level," said Nobody.

Lily nodded, not really caring either way, mostly just wanting confirmation they could be used. Though she did have to dismiss a few dark ideas about biting into her old bullies' hands but that was just a minor thing. *Glad she reminded me about the Memphis form though. I was all ready to confirm everything, I wasn't really thinking about it.* "Well that's good then. I'm ready to look over the Memphis form."

"Really? No changes here? I mean I do good work but I'm sure you could touch something up?" asked Nobody clearly surprised at the lack of changes.

*Perhaps but do I really want to? I mean what would I really change? Ask her to double the size of my ass? That's just stupid. Plus this isn't some video game character creator. This body looks like it belongs to a real person and I don't want to make anything that looks weird. Then again, maybe I already look

weird to other people? Nah I just don't think it's worth changing anything, even my rather flat backside.*

"Not really, I'm quite happy with it as it is. It's different and I love quite a few changes but it still feels enough like me. Would you even be able to change anything?" said Lily.

"Depends really," said Nobody with a shrug. "What I'd do is make a few changes based on your request then ask the program if it thought your soul would still be compatible. The program isn't perfect and honestly I'm not sure we'll ever perfect it, but it helps. Plenty of 'valid' configurations have failed but when dealing with stuff like this it's hard to figure out the 'why' of the failure on both sides."

"Ok then. I think I'll keep everything as is. I mean... I could maybe use a bit more muscle on my back but that's a performance thing not a looks thing. My legs and arms look powerful enough," said Lily.

Nobody waved Lily off, "You're back muscles are fine. They've been improved already you just can't see them pretty much at all unlike the other ones."

With that though Nobody clicked over to show Lily what she'd look like as a Memphis. In a word, she was adorable. The new body wasn't quite kitten sized, but it was certainly no adult cat either. She would be able to rest comfortably on Kat's head in this new form and Lily was already making plans to that effect.

Her little crown was thing and rather petite. It felt less regal than Kat's, but that might have just been the size difference. The eyes as well looked so cute on her cat form for some reason. It was a stark contrast to the predatory gaze she felt she'd gained a 'human'. She also had tiny little bat wings that were actually decently large for her size. Everything else really was about what was expected for a cat of that colour and size, with the only notable exception was that her claws were also black.

"Why weren't wings an option for my human form?" asked Lily curiously.

"A lot of issues with how they connect to things. Your humanoid form is essentially a cat beastkin form, or that's how we started while your Memphis form is a proper Memphis. Things will merge and equalise eventually, it's why you can't transform straight away." Explained Nobody.

Lily took one more look over at the body before nodding.*SOLD to the bookworm in the front row. This is perfect.* "No changes" said Lily firmly.

I have no desire in the slightest to mess around with this. I don't know how Nobody did it but my Memphis form is adorable. I just want to reach out and pet it... me? I can't wait to feel what it's like to use that body. Oh I am going to practically live on Kat's lap in the future, maybe her head if we're moving around. If her breasts were larger I could maybe ride there but I doubt it'd work.

"You accepted that a little quickly, are you sure?" asked Nobody with a slight bit of concern. After the huge amount of time Lily had spent with her humanoid form Nobody really did feel this was a little fast.

"Yes. Yes this is perfect. I'll look adorable. That body hasn't drifted into cat territory still firmly a kitten but an older one. The eyes somehow work just as well but in a completely different way. The noes and whiskers are even better than my human form and the sleek black coat makes me want to run my hands through it already. There is NOTHING I would change about this. I am confident of this fact," stated Lily with utmost confidence.

"Well... alright then," said Nobody. "As I believe you've already been told you will be locked into your Memphis form for a while. We don't know how long at this point in time, you should instinctively know when it will be safe for you to make the transition.

"Changing from Memphis to Humanoid isn't overly quick, but not too slow either. It's about a thirty second transition. Don't transform when injured unless you really have to because while the injuries don't carry over, they can get worse during the transition.

"Additionally, as your will be a Memphis we'll need to call in Kat to bond with you somewhat quickly. This is to stop the build up of demonic energy that will undoubtedly become a problem within the first few days. Kat will probably be called in within a day or so but we do want to give you a bit of time to acclimatise to your body. The bond is normally performed within an hour but with your soul being slightly unstable we're going to wait a bit longer than that. All good?"

That all sounds fine to me I suppose. I don't really have any questions. It all sounds rather straightforward especially considering I'm getting a new, untested body. I... hmm... I kinda want Kat to be there as soon as I come out. Just for sentimentality reasons.

"Is it possible to call Kat in straight away? I mean... even if I can't bond to her I would like her to be here... I think..." said Lily awkwardly as if she was asking permission for something naughty from her parents.

"Not realistically" said Nobody. "See, thing is, we don't know exactly when this is going to finish up, but once it does, we need you out of solution and moving so that we can run through a few tests. If Kat really wanted to I suppose she could but it would potentially require her waiting around for days or a week, maybe two in extreme cases, doing nothing just to potentially be here when you come out of the tank. Sorry about that... and I mean we can ask if you really want but I just don't see it as likely"

No you're right. I couldn't ask Kat to do that for me. Especially not while she's supposed to be training. "I won't even ask then. Kat might even accept that offer but I don't want her to just sit around doing nothing for me. Still, if you can request her as soon as possible that would be nice."

"Of course, Lily" said Nobody softly. "Now just have to get you into here..."

Chapter 618 - 618 A Whole New World

For a moment Lily felt like she was flying... but she didn't have any chance to get used to that sensation as soon the ground 'rushed' up to meet her and she felt her stomach hit the ground. Trying to take in air after the landing was a bit of a problem though. As she sucked in oxygen, the primitive part of her brain started screaming at her for having water in her lungs. This was countered somewhat by the more conscious part of her brain that realised she was in fact breathing normal despite this, but primal instincts were strong, especially in a brand new body. novelnext.com

Lily let out a harsh cough as large amounts of 'water' was released from her mouth as she both tried to get rid of it as fast as possible and keep breathing. The fact that the second thing on that list was mostly working fine only causing more confusion. Before it could get too bad though, she felt a soft hand on her back and all the 'water' was pulled from her lungs.

Lily let what tension had crawled into her legs leave as she collapsed onto the ground, or at least that's what she thought it was. In actuality what had happened was Nobody, still using Nira's body, had moved Lily from the tank her new, and now current, body was growing in onto an examination table. She had yet to open her eyes and look around properly to realise this fact though.

Eugh, what was that. It tasted... well honestly it tasted like clear water. I don't understand how it can taste specifically like clear water, or why that part of the information feels notable but this was not a fun experience.

"Hey Lily? I need you to give me a sign you're ok. What's the last thing you remember?" said Nobody softly from nearby. Yet, to Lily's new hearing it was like somebody was talking right next to her ear which flinched back in surprise. This started a small chain reaction as Lily realised her body didn't feel quite right.

Last thing I remember? There was... something... what was it?

Lily's thoughts slowly coalesced and her memory started returning. *I was... I was looking at my knew body... then I was supposed to do something... what was it? I... hmm... I should know what it was...* Lily could feel the answer on the tip of her tongue and pressed against it until a rush of information came through to her.

Oh! I'm in my knew body. I... I still don't remember anything after Nobody asked me to get into the tank... which is a little weird but I know what's going on at least. Lily snapped her eyes open and tried to look around, but she was immediately overwhelmed by the clarity of her vision. Little details could hardly hide from her now. She could see the little pieces of dust that were floating in the room, though she got a feeling there was a lot less then there would be normally.

Turning her head, she managed to spot Nobody and Nira standing nearby with Slethnoth further into the background. Seeing the two standing next to each other, Lily almost wondered how anyone could mistake Nira and Nobody, before reminding herself that she couldn't really see the difference before now. It was all in how they stood. Nobody was making no effort at all to emulate that and it really showed in their posture.

"I'm... fine... a little confused..." is what Lily wanted to say but it came out as a series of slight meows which caused her face to crinkle up in confusion for a moment before transitioning to annoyance. Looking around further revealed she was up on a table, around waist height, with a piece of thin cloth underneath her, but certainly nothing to actually communicate with nearby.

She tried to stand up to glare at Nobody properly for asking such a question but she stumbled as her legs fell out from under her after only a few seconds. Lily let out an irritated growl causing Nobody to giggle at the sight. Nira, however, sighed at Nobody's antics and walked over to a cupboard, another thing the office wasn't meant to contain and certainly hadn't been noticed before, even with her new and improved eyesight. Nira pulled out a board with Two large buttons on the bottom, and three smaller buttons at the top.

When Nira placed it on the table in front of Lily she saw the closer two buttons had 'Yes' and 'No' stamped onto them. The three in the back had, 'maybe, I have a question and I don't know' stamped on in that order.

It still doesn't give me a way to tell Nobody off. She asked me 'what's the last thing you remember' which is NOT a yes or no question. Still, it was something. Lily tried a few more times before eventually getting her feet under her. Once she was 'standing' it felt quite natural and she was able to walk all over the counter without issue. She wasn't quite confident in running but it didn't even feel strange to be on four legs instead of two, which was perhaps the weirdest part.

Once confident in her range of movement, she stopped and sat down so she could glare up at Nobody. "Aw, she's so cute glaring at me like that. I wonder what her issue is?" said Nobody in confusion. Nira just let out another sigh and wondered if the real reason she was here was to remind Nobody about common sense.

"Nobody, she can't talk, and the board we prepared for her can only really react to yes or no questions. You asked her a question she has no way of answering. So let me ask you, what could the issue possibly be?" said Nira as if she was talking to a child, something she did very well considering her experience.

"Ooooh. Right..." said Nobody in realisation. "My bad. I mean, normally when we do something like this the person is allowed to transform back and forth and explain things to us. Slipped my mind a little" Nobody let out a little giggle as if she couldn't really be blamed.

Nira just held her gaze on Nobody as she tried to work out how that could have slipped the older demon's mind and how looking at Lily in Memphis form didn't jog that part of Nobody's memory at all. Nira had no ideas. "Anyway..." said Nira trying to get things on track now that Nobody had proven incapable, "Are you feeling ok?"

Lily hit the Maybe button.

"I see..." Nira pursed her lips and looked between Lily and the buttons wishing they could get more complete answers. "Is there any major problems you've already found?" Nira asked instead.

Lily hit the No button.

"Ok that's good, we can work with that. Just to check, you're breathing fine?" 'Yes' "You shouldn't feel hungry, but you may... I guess do you feel hungry?" 'No' "Feel weakness in any of your limbs?" Nira rattled off questions but Lily paused on the last one.

She padded around in circles a few times before swishing her tail in irritation as she tried to work out what she'd forgotten. The answer of course, was the very same tail she was moving around at that moment, but it took her a few seconds to work that out. When she did, Lily was rather glad she couldn't blush, or if she could, it certainly wasn't visible under her fur. 'No'.

"Ok that's good. Slethnoth how are things on your end?" said Nira as she looked away for Lily over to the shadow creature. When Lily followed her gaze, she noticed that while Slethnoth didn't look different the itching in her eyes had stopped.

Slethnoth bobbed his head in a weird approximation of a nod and spoke, voice sounding like the wind, flowing around Lily. It did help her notice she could hear the wind a lot better, but put that thought off for now. "I would not call the results great but they are at acceptable levels. Her soul is stabilising still despite having woken up which is certainly a surprise. While perfect stabilisation will always take a

while, the fact she seems to have woken up around... I want to say 60% stabilisation? Maybe less? Is strange in the extreme. It is not dangerous as things are holding steady...

"Perhaps... hmm... I wonder if it is because she is searching for a bond. As a Memphis she must know instinctively she needs one to survive. Though I don't think we programmed that into Memphis genetic memory so maybe not? Still I'm not overly concerned. It is an issue to be watched but not a problem at the moment"

*I really don't know what to think of that.. My soul isn't stable? What does that mean? I feel mostly fine, perhaps a little tired but I wouldn't have guessed my soul was the issue. I wonder if that means I'll be stuck here for a while... *

Chapter 619 - 619 Running In Circles

"Well we can't exactly summon Kat right here. We'll need to wait for permission and even then she'll have to be directed through the compound," said Nira. "Is there anything we can do for Lily while we wait for that?"

Slethnoth 'tapped' his chin. It looked more like a finger was blending into his face and separating over and over but there was a SOUND. Lily didn't know what to make of the fact that strange shadow demons made sounds. "Perhaps teaching her to use the body? A small obstacle course including running, jumping, a bit of flying? Careful with the flying though. If she doesn't take to it quickly it might cause dissociation."

Wait flying? Oh my god I forgot my wings! I thought I just forgot my tail. I'm an idiot. Lily tried to flex her wings and found it much less intuitive compared to her tail. It seemed to have a bit of a mind of its own and could easily wiggle around behind her back. Her wings on the other hand seemed to need a firmer hand. She needed to know what she wanted them to do and they acted a little like an extra set of arms.

Or would it just be set of arms because in this form I don't have any? Wait... my default form is a Memphis now. Am I not actually a catgirl but instead a girlcat? Or does my previous human form weigh in and make me a catgirl again. These are important questions.

Truth be told though, Lily was mostly just passing the time as she further attuned herself to the new body. Her soul might not be synchronising properly but she felt that was no reason to stop her mind from making an attempt. After about five minutes she was successfully running around on the table, though she knew it wasn't her full speed. The table wasn't really large enough to attempt it.

In the background of those five minutes Nobody and Slethnoth were going over the details for setting Lily up with an obstacle course of some kind. Lily wasn't really paying attention and was surprised to find that her ears could much more easily filter sound. What she didn't know was that it was more to do with the changes to her brain than to her ears. Some more experimentation would be needed.

Eventually though, Lily felt a hand on her back. It was soft and gentle, something only to get her attention. Her knew instincts reared their heads though and she spun around and clawed at the 'offending' hand. As soon as her head was around to see what she was sniping at Lily tried to stop her arm but failed at that. She did however manage to retract her claws in time and only lightly batted away

Nobody's hand. Granted, with the durability Nobody had as a high ranking demon it wouldn't have even cut her skin, but it was the thought that counts.

"Sorry for startling you," said Nobody. "I wanted to let you know we've worked out a tentative way to go about that. I'll be heading out to get it sorted then we'll call you later."

How do I convey 'it's ok that was my fault' as cat? The board doesn't have something like that... hmm... wait I know.

Lily moved herself forward and started to lightly head but Nobody's coat. Nobody was a bit too far away to bump properly but the coat flared out enough to just barely reach her. Seeing this Nobody reached a hand out and gave Lily a light scratch on the head before swiftly exiting the room.

Once Nobody had left, Slethnoth went back to looking over Lily's new medical charts while making sure to keep a steady eye, literally, on the chart that gave information about her soul and how it was settling in. Nira on the other hand, offered Lily a chance to get off the table for a bit and try running around which was accepted.

Once on the ground Lily spent most of the next twenty minutes trying to get to her maximum speed to no avail. Her initial acceleration was great, and allowed her to get up to the equivalent of her best sprint in just a few seconds, but once that initial boost from pouncing left her, further acceleration was much more gradual and took a decent bit of effort on her behalf. The size of the room was still limiting her ability to find that max speed.

It did help her get more in tune with her wings though. She was starting to use them to help with turning and slowing down when she wanted to stop. Their range of motion was generous vertically but rather limited horizontally and only slightly better diagonally. Still, the acclimatisation was going quite well. The only thing she hadn't gotten used to was sensing electrical impulses through her whiskers, but that was because the effect hadn't started yet for some reason. Something she did wonder about.

Eventually Nobody returned and gestured for Lily to follow along before taking off down the corridor at a speed Lily couldn't really match. Nira sighed behind the Memphis and scooped her up into a hold and 'sprinted' after Nobody. For Nira, this wasn't even a light jog in terms of effort but Nobody had neglected to remember how 'slow' Lily was.

Lily was mostly just conflicted about the whole thing. She had no warning before Nira snatched her up, and felt slight annoyance at that fact. She'd reacted so strongly to a soft hand but couldn't avoid being carried like, well, a large part of her mind wanted to say child but the more reasonable part realised she was being carried like she was. A cat.

It was also odd watching the walls rush past as Nira slowly gained on Nobody, not wanting to move faster and risk hurting Lily. Lily found herself unable to lose track of the movement. She could always tell which direction they were going and roughly how fast even if that didn't translate into understandable speeds. It was also worth noting that she still didn't have the quality of vision to watch things as they blurred past, her eyes improved, but not so far improved to compete with a Rank 5 demon at all.

Eventually the pair managed to catch Nobody just as she reached the door they were headed for, calling into question just how unplanned the whole thing might have been. Nobody didn't say anything though and simply pushed open the door to reveal a large gymnasium like room. It had lines drawn all over the

floor in various different colours but with a quarter of the room covered, Lily couldn't easily identify what sports they were. Her best guess was a set for basketball but the other colours weren't easy to guess the full layout of.

In that corner though was a full obstacle course that had clearly been shrunken down. The fact that it fit so easily into a quarter of the room seemed to imply that it was a quarter of the size. I wonder if it was just shrunk the way Kat's knew chair does. Plenty of things seem to have that ability so I think it's a reasonable guess.

There was all sorts of things in the obstacle course. Stairs, a climbing wall, a few hoops Lily thought she was meant to jump through but were actually meant to be swung on at human size. There were plenty of obstacles to try and get through, and Lily was wondering how hard it would be. The course was clearly designed for a more normal sized individual and the climbing wall in particular was for something with HANDS but otherwise it seemed quite possible to her.

"Well Lily. Want to test this out?" said Nobody with a grin.

I don't know... how do I want to do this? What I'd really like to do is use the free space on the side and try and find my max speed or perhaps use it for flying practice. Sure the obstacle course looks interesting but it clearly isn't designed for me, it's designed for people. People have hands normally and I can already tell the climbing wall will be an issue unless I can fly up it... probably. Then again... some of those spots... no. I could probably have used them as places to stand at full size but shrunk down like this it would be too hard.

Then again... it does look kind of fun... Lily's knew Memphis instincts were flaring in the background. The chance to show off and prove she had control over her body mixed with an instinctive need to play were pushing her towards at the very least trying out. Lily gave Nira a slight bop before wiggling out of her arms. A surprisingly difficult task that she only really accomplished once Nira let her go towards the end.. Not that Lily would admit to that fact, especially when she was allowed to lie.

Chapter 620 - 620 Obstacle Course 2, Now With More Cat

As her feet touched the ground Lily dashed off towards the start of the obstacle course. It was a simple set of stairs and not really something that counted as an obstacle. With the reduced size it was simple for her to take the stairs three at a time pulling herself up as she went. It was actually how thin the stairs were that proved even a modicum of a challenge but her balance was more than enough to deal with it. Her wings didn't need to get involved at all, though they were always ready.

When she got to the top, Lily saw that the next obstacle was a series of floating platforms angled slightly. It was clear that a normal person would have to run and jump quickly between them to avoid falling off... but the smaller size meant Lily could just about walk across them. The small size made it hard to find purchase but they were much closer together.

Hmm... this looks a bit easy. I think I'd rather just try the normal sized version of this course. It seems so much more interesting that way. Sure I can do this more normally by running and stepping but with four legs this should be harder. It just so happens that it's all so close together that it doesn't end up that way.

Testing her theory Lily pounced on the first platform and found it easy to ignore the slant. The platform was small enough for her to grip around the edges while standing on it and simply jumped her way across. It was a little awkward at first but once she realised her back could bend almost in half, it was a simple matter of getting across.

Once that was done, she intentionally jumped off and sprinted back to Nira and Nobody who were watching off to the side. "What's up Lily? Why did you stop?" asked Nira. "It didn't really look too hard... so it should be something else."

Hmm... how do I want I explain I want it to go back to normal size and use it to practice my jumping ability rather than my absurdly good balance. Oh! That could work. Lily tapped on the ground a few times to make sure she had their attention before taking off sprinting. First she rounded the entire obstacle course, which still took a while even in its shrunken state, before moving diagonally out towards the furthest corner from the set up. Once there she started to circle the room and Nobody figured it out.

"Oh. You want it to go back to full size?" said Nobody at around normal volume, something Lily could actually still hear quite well. YES. I'm so glad you guessed that the first time. Lily nodded vigorously, something that looked adorable now that she was a cat.

"Cool, well, if you and Nira want to leave the room I can expand it all back to full size. Shouldn't be too hard. It was just the fiddling to get it all to the 'right' size that took so long. I see now though that this sort of thing can't really be scaled easily," said Nobody before making shooing motions for them to leave.

As they exited Nira opened her arms, silently asking Lily if she wanted to be carried again for a bit. Lily was torn. It was actually quite nice, especially with her new instincts. Being wrapped up in warmth like that was quite pleasing. On the other hand, she was practically an adult, wasn't it humiliating? *Then again... Nira is so much older than me I might as well be a child in her eyes.*

With that excuse found Lily easily jumped straight into Nira's waiting arms and snuggled in. Nira had her situated just below her chest, which was awkward not because of the proximity but because Lily had to be careful to avoid poking Nira with her new horns. It happened twice before they left the door and caused Lily to just lay down at accept things. It wasn't quite as nice as when she was looking around but it was still relaxing.

Lily also decided to use the chance to try and get her whiskers to work. She might have succeeded. For a few moments she certainly felt something... but whether that was the beginnings of her electro sense or merely her more refined hearing was a question that would go unanswered.

Nobody pulled open the door, now covered in oil and grease stains for some reason. Closer inspection revealed that these 'stains' were only on her skin and the white coat she was wearing was completely untouched. Nira just huffed at the joke but didn't say anything. Lily couldn't say anything of course and just nodded before jumping off onto the floor to start her second run.

The stairs were no more a challenge then last time once she found her rhythm. Despite the increased height, the increased size meant finding her footing for a light hop was even easier. The floating steps were also easy. She could fit her whole body on them, and the angle wasn't too bad for her feet. With a

bit of careful balancing she could rest on them for as long as she liked. The jump was a little difficult to perfect because of the risk of sliding upon landing but two hops was enough to get that down.

The next obstacle was a wall filled with moving bricks. The idea behind it was to avoid being pushed off as you ran... but for Lily it was simple to sprint low to the ground and avoid all but the lowest of blocks which she jumped over with no difficulty.

The next obstacle was a slide down to the rock wall, if the slide could even be called an obstacle. Once at the ground, Lily carefully examined the wall itself. *Do I want to just try and fly up?* Lily flapped her wings experimentally but didn't get too much lift. *Did I not get any lift because I didn't want any or because I'm doing something wrong? Kat's bounce around when she walks but when she actually tries to fly she has no issues.*

Lily paced at the base of the wall. Part of her wanted to challenge in. Find a path upward without resorting to her wings. The other part wanted to learn to fly, and completely blow off this obstacle by essentially 'going around' it instead of using the intended path. In the end, Lily decided to split the difference. She'd start trying to climb it properly, but if she felt her wings were coming out.

The first few steps were easy. The handholds were large. Not large enough to stand comfortably of course, but she could fit three legs on with a little bit of manoeuvring. It made the next jump a little awkward, but her increased strength when compared to normal cats of her size meant it was still very much possible. A few jumps later and she found a big platform a person would need to use to swing. For her, she could settle into the crevice and take a short rest.

Looking up at the wall, Lily found she was only about a third of the way up. Jumping around in a zig zag pattern to reach the easiest handholds was not conducive to speed. That niggling to simply fly up came back but she pushed it down. This wasn't so hard just yet and it would feel a little too much like quitting. So Lily steeled herself and continued the climb.

It was going well until she needed to make sure of one of the indented handholds instead of one that stuck out. She only managed to fit two paws in and started to fall sideways. Her mind slowed, not to the extent of Kat, but still more than she ever could as a human, and analysed the situation. It took less than a second to realise that she needed room to open her wings and kicked off from the wall as hard as she could.

Which was a bit too far in truth, she was most of the way up the slide and the 'ground' was approaching much faster than it would have had she made a weaker jump. Still, now wasn't the time for doubts. Lily flared her wings as wide as she could and tried flapping them. It was an effort. Something Kat had never mentioned, because it wasn't an issue for her, was that flying was hard. She felt her wings pushing hard on the air below her to keep her aloft and her momentum slowed before she ended up just floating in place. Lily knew she'd be cackling right now if she still had the vocal cords for it. Now that her flight had stabilised she couldn't help but want to cut loose. So she did.

Lily dove down before flaring her wings again and swinging around the obstacles she'd already passed before swooping right by the two demons in the room. Lily let herself just enjoy the fact that she could fly now.. Any doubts she had about this form, not that she had many, fell away as she soared through the gym.

