

DEMONS 631

Chapter 631 - 631 Kat In The Q&A

While Sylvie was enjoying the feeling of running her fingers through Lily's knew fur and Lily was enjoying having someone, even if it wasn't Kat, dote on her for a bit, the other three were talking about Kat's recent bout of training. Kat was giving a brief overview of her training, certainly nothing like the level Lily got, mostly just giving the briefest of descriptions of each event before moving on unless prompted.

One of the major areas of description was Callisto interest in the various poses Kat had been taught to help increase her flexibility. Callisto had revealed to Kat that she performed her own series of exercise for that purpose as well as general health. Vivian occasionally showed up as well, but as Callisto normally did these exercises in the middle of the night when everyone else was sleeping it was exceptional rare. Though Vivian made sure to move around plenty for work, so she wasn't unfit despite skipping these sessions.

A lot of the poses were ones Callisto already knew. The bulk of the knew information came from ways to incorporate Kat's tail or wings, something Callisto did still show interest in. "Just... why Callisto? Why are you asking about these poses? I get the ones that you can use, but I don't see how knowing the specific pose for how to increase the degree to which I can move my wings up and down."

Callisto had to make a concerted effort not to glance at Lily at this point. Halfway through the discussion about posing Lily's eyes had locked on Kat. Kat didn't notice because Lily was getting some control over what she sent down the link. Her desire to not interrupt Kat or reveal her mixed feelings about staring helped mask the feeling. Sylvie just continued to play with Lily's fur. It was very smooth and allowed your hands to glide through it without catching.

Still, Callisto needed an answer, and unlike some others in the household had no issue manipulating the truth or simply lying about the answer. "Well Kat, not only is it interesting to learn there are exercises for that kind of thing, which makes sense intellectually even if it doesn't quite seem right at first glance... it also helps me further my understanding of my own poses. Perhaps only in small increments but the researcher in me can't give up that kind of thing."

Kat nodded even as she felt her eye twitching slightly. *Did I get something in it?* Kat rubbed the 'effected' eye trying to chase away that strange twitching. It stopped quite quickly so Kat put it to the side. *Must just be a little thing regeneration doesn't really deal with.* Shrugging it off Kat continued with the demonstrations as she discussed what Mai had taught her before finally moving on to her 'various' opponents.

"Seems like quite the colourful cast," cheered Vivian, "I'm surprised at how many people Mai was able to portray. It's really cool and shows she's quite talented!"

Callisto frowned at Vivian's explanation, turning to Kat to ask, "Would you be able to confidently say each form Mai used had a unique fighting style? And please elaborate more on that first opponent and how they fought."

Kat tapped her chin with her tail a few times as she reviewed the memories. "Well, yeah they all obviously had their own fighting styles. She didn't even use the same weapon multiple times except for the start. Though I think that was more a lesson in control or battlefield awareness. I had to 'save' her

life a few times because she swung the sword wrong and when I deflected it, the sword nearly or in one case did, take off an arm. Some of the mistakes she made... I honestly wonder if anyone is that dumb... but I can see it. Especially considering how little I really knew about my fans at the start of training. Surely they wouldn't go out and fight like that though?"

Callisto let out a soft whistle. "Regardless of your question about the idiocy of the standard person, this Mai is a combat genius. If she truly was able to utilise so many weapons all at a high level of proficiency that shows a mastery of combat I frankly struggle to comprehend. On top of that, to know how to make fake beginning mistakes is something else entirely, or that one fight where she was able to control multiple heads and dynamically adjust the difficulty for two combatants at a time... there is no way she wasn't going easy on you the whole time Kat."

Kat shrugged, "I kinda figured. It was never about beating Mai, it was about beating the persona Mai was using at the time. You didn't see how fast she was able to regrow heads in her hydra form. I can just imagine trying to fight her for real. Constantly shifting forms and fighting styles to throw off an opponent. Splitting in half to avoid attacks before regrowing lost mass. Heck, I don't even know how much damage she could take.

"That hydra I mentioned? Easily as large as the house and she lost a bunch of heads during the fight. I'm sure she reabsorbed a lot of it but the sheer mass required to maintain that, especially towards the end... she could pretend to be human sized and lose limbs like they were hair trimmings. I doubt it would really slow her down. The only way for me to potentially stop her would be demonic fire... but she could just cut off whatever sections I burned..."

"And even if she couldn't take those back in afterwards... she'd have so much mass stored up I'd probably be the one to run out of energy first. It's a scary thought in all honesty." Kat let out a slight shiver as she imagined fighting Mai using a better version of her own 'trade major damage for major damage and rely on regeneration' strategy. Something that Kat was surprised to realise, they hadn't really touched on. Mai had always made her fight without taking that much damage.

Hmm... I wonder if she was trying to tell me something with that... before Kat could go too far down that rabbit hole, Callisto spoke up, "Kat, could you ask Lily what food she wants and how much of it? It's already lunch time and I haven't even started cooking,"

"Oh dear, that's something I completely forgot to ask..." said 'Lily' "I know I can eat just about anything because Memphis were an engineered race even if I'll trend towards meat like a normal cat, especially in this form... I have no idea at all about the quantity..."

"Is raw food better for you?" asked Callisto curiously.

"Not necessarily? The big thing is that I only have the same number of taste buds as any other cat so I can't really taste the difference. Or I suspect I won't be able to taste the difference. Hmm... I just realised I haven't eaten at all since I woke up in this body... I wonder if that's a lingering effect from the tank this body was grown in or if I have similar eating habits to Kat now... well, I suppose I am a lot smaller... hmm... I just don't really know" said 'Lily'

Callisto noted down the information on a notepad she pulled from one of her pockets. "Alright. I'll make you a proper lunch today because it isn't that much harder when I'm already doing lunch for everyone

else... but let me know how it tastes. In the future, especially for other meals, if you still eat them, I'll keep some raw meat around if that turns out to be better tasting to you. I don't mind putting in effort when I'm cooking, but if it isn't going to be enjoyed I'm just as capable of skipping over them.

"For example Vivian has a really hard time tasting cloves. I don't know why, and neither does she. That means I pretty much never bother with recipes that include them, or when I do, I either use a substitute for cloves or just skip over them in Vivian's dish. No sense in wasting herbs if they don't do anything for you." NOveLnext.com

Vivian nodded along with Callisto's talk. "Yup. I could eat a whole pile of dried cloves and just wonder why I was inhaling so much dust. Just let us know what works for you. Somehow we managed to acquire to girls that aren't fussy at all so if we, or well usually Callisto, have to go out of our way a bit that's perfectly fine. As much as I'd like to convince Callisto to do less work occasionally, she seems to enjoy it for some reason. Like a crazy person."

Callisto rolled her eyes. "The lack of sleep is probably the cause of my slowly diminishing sanity I'm sure. Then again, it's not like I ever left space for a proper bed in my room anyway..."

Vivian snickered, "Well I could always use a warm pillow. Your always welcome. Except on days ending in X. Can't be having you around then."

Callisto rolled her eyes at that knowing Vivian would happily collected everyone in the house for a slumber party at the drop of a hat.

Chapter 632 - 632 What Is Going On Inside That Head?

[A reminder. These thoughts belong to the other part of the bond. In this case, they are Kat's instead.]

When Callisto got up to start working on meals, Lily realised what she'd been doing and felt a mixture of embarrassment and concern welling up. Embarrassment for the subject matter and concern that she was just broadcasting all of it directly into Kat's mind at the time. Of course, this wasn't true at all and Lily had in fact managed to hide it... but she didn't know that just yet.

*Oh dear... that can't be good. Dammit what must Kat think of me sending that towards her. I can't believe I had so many inappropriate thoughts just watching her stretch a bit. Dammit. Get yourself together Lily. Wait... wait a second... Lily paused as she considered her thoughts.

Wait a minute. Kat is my girlfriend. My honest to goodness girlfriend. If I wasn't having illicit thoughts about her would I actually be in the wrong? I mean it's certainly better then having illicit thoughts about other people... but is it truly right to have my mind so consumed by them? It wasn't this bad before... ok sometimes it was, but normally it was just at night when I was all alone and nobody could catch me. Now I'm just beaming it straight to Kat. Dammit.

Wait. Am I being rude to her? She doesn't feel sexually attracted to me or anyone else? Hmm... does that make this more or less appropriate? She should be able to have these thoughts about me but she doesn't... and that's fine... but should I also not be thinking about her like that? But... but that's basically impossible. She's beautiful, and rather sexy even when she doesn't try and god she doesn't know what she does with her tail sometimes... If she wasn't asexual I'd swear it was on purpose.*

[What exactly is this thing with my tail?]

Kat!?! What... what um... shit. Of course you can hear me... um... woops? Sorry?

Lily felt amusement traveling down the link and lifting her mind out of the hole of concern she'd locked herself in. [It's fine really Lily. I was going to let you keep going with your thoughts for a little longer but it seemed to be really concerning you. Besides, you'll be happy to know that you managed to hide your emotions from me during my stretching so I didn't notice at all]

Lily wanted to cheer or find the deepest hole she could and crawl into it. Part of her was ecstatic at finding out that she could in fact block her emotions from Kat if she tried hard enough... somehow. Another part of her was mortified... and it was the stronger part because she had two differing sources for it. The first was that despite managing to hide it, she'd then gone on to essentially 'talk' about it where Kat could hear, rendering the success of hiding it completely moot. The secondary part of her despair was because she was apparently too embarrassed to admit to Kat she liked looking at her. So she decided to correct that.

Well in that case. You're hot. You have always been hot. I am a useless lesbian that has the strange urge to lick your legs slowly, and that was before I became a cat and it became more socially acceptable. I don't know why I'm feeling so conflicted over this. It's not like you don't know I find you attractive. Maybe it's because your asexuality makes you weirdly innocent? But you're also my girlfriend and if anyone should know about my weird but somehow erotic thoughts I think it really should be you. Plus, with us stuck in each other's heads you'd find out at some point anyway.

As Kat started answering, all Lily felt was comforting acceptance in response. [Well you're not getting away from me now. I also don't mind if you think about me like that. I didn't really notice overly much at school when other people did, but I probably should have. It's just never really mattered to me. I never saw others that way so it didn't matter to me if others saw me that way. I still don't really mind overly much and I especially have no problems if it's you. Just... be honest with yourself, and me I guess. We'll work it out. As I said before, the thought of sex doesn't disgust me or anything I just... don't care about it? Like asking me if I want unflavoured gum maybe? It'd give me something to do, but I hold no desire for it really. Though... I do hold plenty of desire to make you happy]

Lily couldn't stop the flood of erotic thoughts Kat's last words sent her way causing a full body shiver to encase her, making her tail whip around agitatedly. To the others, well, Callisto was off working on lunch, Vivian had gotten up to do a bit of work before lunch and Sylvie was still enjoying Lily's fur, unaware of the conversation going on in the heads of the two nearby teenagers.

Ok Kat you can't just come out and say stuff like that without warning. That's like... like pouring gasoline on a fire. I thought I was trying not to think lewd thoughts about you...

[Really? I thought we'd just established it was fine. Actually, I do kinda want to know... you're very much of the opinion I'm the best looking girl in school, what about others? Who rated highly? How do I compare in the eyes of others? I never listened to what the girls said about the boys, and I didn't really talk to any boys either... so I'm curious.]

*Hoo boy. That's sort of complicated. So... I don't know if there were any other lesbians at school. It's a small school and certainly nobody was public with it. The girls did still have opinions on who was the

best looking, and of course the boys did as well, and I know what the girls believed, and what some girls said the boys believed but it's not like I took a proper count. Still I guess... if you really want to know?*

Kat could feel Lily was reluctant to share this information for some reason. [You don't have to if you don't want to. Why does it feel like you'd rather not? You can tell me about anything you want you know.]

It's not that I don't want to... I just feel kind of bad for not properly defending you in the rankings. Oh sure, I'd always make the claim, but I never defended it, not really. I wasn't sure I could describe you as 'pretty girl' instead of 'girl I want to make out with' if I really got going. If... that makes sense?

[Not really...]

*Ok um... right so... a lot of girls have this way of talking about guys. It's very different to how they talk about other girls. For the girls, it's more about... I wanna say style and presentation. So, 'she has a good outfit' or, 'those earrings match well with her eyes' or stuff like that. They can also be like 'she's got great legs' but that's about the extent of it.

Talking about guys on the other hand it's more like 'His abs are so dreamy, and make me want to rub my face against them' or 'I bet he could bench press me' or 'He's a little on the nerdy side but those eyes really suck you in'. I guess you could say it's a lot less superficial? If I started talking about you, and really got going I could probably write an entire essay about why your legs are attractive. That's not how a straight girl talks about other girls. Does that make sense?*

[Yeah. I think so. You couldn't defend me because that would mean complimenting me, but not how straight girls compliment each other, but how they compliment people they want to date but don't want to admit it? Is that right?]

Lily winced at the correction she knew she had to give. *Well... a lot of girls... even if they really like how someone looks still wouldn't date them necessarily. Quite a few think 'He's hot but I can do better' or dumb things like that. Anyway. No. We aren't getting into it. I don't want to even touch it. How you managed to avoid all the girl politics I'll never know.*

[It's called being able to change into gym clothes in less than a minute]

*Good point. So, with that... the top ranking girls would change drastically according to if the bitches three were listening in or one of their pet snitches were. If they were around they'd always score at the top no contest... but it was... I don't want to say it was all lip service. I... I can't believe I'm saying this... but they are attractive. Granted, their personalities are repulsive, and their looks were upper mid tier at best, but honestly... it's kinda hard to find unattractive girls if they are actually taking care of themselves.

If they weren't around... well then it depended on what they were arguing for. Sally for example would always win 'cute' because of how small she is. Personally I think she looks a little... underage... so I never got into that battle. There was also Amelia, she was a good pick for most attractive. Of course, she's much shorter than you are, and her main feature is her breasts with a bit of ass.. As a leg woman myself, she loses quite heavily because of that.*

Chapter 633 - 633 More Questionable Thoughts, Ft Lily.

[So, if Amelia doesn't rate highly who would you have chosen after me?] Kat asked curious.

Lily's tail flinched. *Don't say it like that Kat. It makes me feel like you believe it was ever close at all. That's like... like asking someone after they finish their favourite meal what colour dirt they'd like to eat. Not only are you easily the most attractive girl I've ever met, your personality is so much better as well. I cannot properly explain how rare having both of those together is, or just how not close others could possibly.

It's part of the reason I was so scared to ask you out Kat. If you'd said no... there was no backup plan. No 'she's not as good looking as Kat but I could happily marry her' in the works. I know that some really scummy girls do have like... backups after backups but even most normal people at least have alternatives.

I didn't, and now I happily know that I never will. Sure part of that was because I'm a lesbian. It's not always easy to pick one out of the crowd and because I didn't want to announce it either it's not like I could try to find others using that. So, no. I would not have chosen someone after you. There was no after you Kat, and I don't want you to EVER think there was.*

Kat frowned, feeling rather guilty when she felt the surprisingly intense feelings of pain coming from Lily at this moment. She'd even stopped purring despite Sylvie's scratches and was barely holding onto a growl. Lily didn't want to give away anything to Sylvie, lest questions she didn't want to answer be asked. [Sorry Lily... I really didn't think it would be that big of deal. I just assumed you... well you said they ranked people, I just assumed you'd have someone ranked below me?]

Lily sighed internally. *Sorry. I know. Or well, I should have known. This sort of thing isn't that big of a deal to you. Um... well... honestly Vivian and Callisto both rank pretty highly in terms of attractive girls. I'm not one for blondes, but they have a maturity about them quite a few in school lacked, even the older ones. Your height helps you a lot. Wait... shit do I have a thing for older women? No I can't. I'm older than you so it can't be possible. Yes let's go with that.*

Kat just smiled at her girlfriend's antics. [Right so now that we've established that... I was looking for people at school really. Though at least I can understand why you like the look of Callisto, she's on the taller side though I'm surprised you don't think she hides her legs too much with that dress of hers]

I* can see where you're going with that... but I know she has legs under there, you can tell based on how the dress conforms to her frame and shifts when she walks. She's doesn't quite have as much leg to rest of the body as you, but she does pretty well. The real reason she ranks so highly for me I guess is the maid outfit. Not a big turn on for me, but still one I can appreciate at she wears it really well.*

[So you'd like to see if I look good in maid outfit?] Lily couldn't see the smirk Kat wore at that moment. Perhaps if she had, she would have been able to control her thoughts slightly better.

Yes! ... wait. I mean... shit. I didn't mean to answer so quickly... or at all really.

Kat giggled out loud and Sylvie glanced over with a look of curiosity. Deciding to head that off, Kat transferred Sylvie to her lap. Now Kat had Sylvie on her lap who had Lily on hers in a stack. Kat was glad that the weight was nothing to her, wouldn't want to be distracted by her legs going to sleep.

[Lily it's fine. I don't know how often you want me to repeat that before you believe it. I'm dating you now. I'm quite happy about that fact. I'm not going to be put off because you want me to wear a maid outfit or something sillier. Especially if it's just the two of us at the time. The biggest problem with the maid outfit isn't my feelings at all, it's getting one that will fit with the wings and tail]

Kat was quite pleased to feel Lily's mood stabilising and the tinge of worry and concern that laced her thoughts receding. *Sorry. I guess... hmm... I wonder if I keep trying to avoid speaking or thinking about these things because I always tried to keep those thoughts locked up before. It really wasn't appropriate conversation back when we were just friends. Or well... it MIGHT have been if I wasn't gay. I've heard other girls like to play dress up but I never did even in the past when I was younger. Stella didn't see the point when she was a kid, and I thought one shirt was much like another for a long time... then she had other friends for that sort of thing as she got older...*

Seeing where that particular line of thought was going Kat cut in with, [You didn't tell me about the boy's opinion did you? What did you hear they thought?]

Ah yes well... I suspect that whenever we heard about their opinions it was... couched in nicer language. I may not have gotten close with any of the boys but I did overhear some of the things they said about people. It's rarely 'she looks the best' or 'How beautiful does x look today' it's normally crewed things like 'Amelia has the best tits' or 'Susan looks like she put on a skirt two sizes to short today' things like that. It's the sort of thing I feel like they shouldn't be saying about girls they don't really know and aren't dating. I mean... I hardly feel like it's ok to talk about your legs still and I'm dating you AND you know that's my thing.

Kat gave a mental shrug and wrapped her arms around Sylvie, making sure to go under Sylvie's arms so she still had her hands free. [Well, I can tell you as someone who has looked after plenty of boys in the orphanage... that's just how they talk and think. They don't consider it inappropriate; they just consider it true. To them, there is very little difference between saying 'she has great hair' and 'she has a great ass' the only difference is that they know one is acceptable to be overheard by the girl in question and the other isn't. It seems to be something they sort of agree on as a collective. I know quite a few of them can't even understand why women find it inappropriate.]

Really? Are you sure?

[Yup positive. A little eleven year old came up and just outright asked me why girls weren't supposed to overhear it. I was only fourteen at the time, so it was a bit ago but I never forgot. He... he was participating but didn't understand the fascination or the secrecy. So the kid just... came out and asked me. Hmm... what did I tell him... hmm... Ah I know. I told him 'Boys and Girls are silly and don't like certain compliments. So you only let them hear the compliments you know they like. Girls do the same thing just with different words, so don't worry'.]

But... we don't? Do we?

[Oh I have no idea but I was able to lie back then and it was easier then explaining that I didn't understand it either. I thought my version made more sense to someone at eleven and he'll likely never learn otherwise. That's one trick the orphanage taught me for dealing with kids. Explain it in a way they can understand.]

Ok well... that was an interesting tangent. Um... to get back to what I was saying... normally when stuff was relayed it was filtered, because it sounded like the girl's system for the most part. Which of course meant that the bitches three were usually at the top if they were around.

[Not terribly surprising but a bit disappointing. Was I really the only person who stood up to them?]

*Yeah pretty much. Quite a few people thought you were crazy for it. Huh... I wonder... is that why you never ranked quite so highly? Not because they actually believed you lost out in looks but because the bitches wouldn't like it... or maybe just because they thought you didn't quite have all your marbles...

Wait is that why nobody listened when I defended you either? Because I was only saying that because you stopped them going after me? Dammit how did I not realise that. I REALLY want to brag to them now that I got the best girl in school. It's not like they can really cause too much trouble now outing me so I'm not worried about that... and hmm... I wonder if they'd be jealous or not...

What do you think? I clearly have the best girlfriend but I don't really know if straight girls would be jealous of that fact. I mean, to me you're much better than the rest of them, and certainly better than all the boys... but would they care? I certainly wouldn't care about whatever guy they picked up... but girls are strange sometimes...*

Kat decided to just send approval, not really understanding Lily's desire to show off in this instance.. If Kat was in that position... which she sort of was... she'd be keeping Lily all to herself.

Chapter 634 - 634 Mining The Depths Of The Mind

Before the pair could continue their mental conversation Callisto interrupted them with a call to lunch. It was sandwiches again, though there was meat off to the side for Lily as well. It was two small plates. One contained uncooked ham while the other was a small cut of steak, something Callisto had done to put on some of the other sandwiches.

Kat gravitated towards the simple ones with vegetables on them. She'd been eating well at Enuko's house, and didn't want to waste the food. It helped that she was training but Kat felt like she'd had too much food recently. She was thankful she didn't feel overly full, but there was certainly a part of her mind informing her she needed no more food, so small bites and a single triangle was her plan.

Kat had set Lily down on the table, not knowing what else to do about her seating arrangements only for Callisto to give a sigh and grab a bar stool out of another room. Callisto just lifted up so that it was in line with the table and allowed Lily to move over on her own. Once there, she got about trying the various foods in front of her.

First she tried the ham and instantly decided food was weird now. It didn't taste like her brain new ham to taste like. The best way to describe it would be 'good meat'. That was the strange part really, it was hardly a taste as she recognised it. If you asked her if it tasted like steak, or pork, or any other meat she'd have to say both yes and no. Truly a strange thing. So she tried the cooked stake... and it tasted pretty much the same. She could tell it was different to the ham, but that was largely a texture thing.

Finally she tried the sandwich and that was just as weird, though at this point it was quite expected. The flavours didn't really mix together in her mouth, simply registering as 'edible plant' 'edible strange thing'

and 'good meat'. *Well. That's weird. I can't even say it's bad. I can't really say it tastes bad either. More... informative than anything else really.*

Kat didn't comment on Lily's thoughts on the food as she didn't really know what to say. Without Lily's control of the bond improving Lily couldn't share the memory as Kat had done, and without that there really was no context to properly explain the sensation of eating with fewer taste buds. Many would expect it to be like looking at a pixelated photograph, simply having less definition when compared to normal. Sadly, that explanation does not account for how other parts of the body connect to the taste buds.

In the end, Lily just ate what was in front of her and put it out of her mind while the rest ate and chatted. She didn't really feel the need to jump in at any point and most of the conversations were pretty basic. Vivian's current jobs, Callisto's current projects, what Sylvie has been spending her time with. Things of that nature.

When lunch was over Vivian headed back to her office, and Callisto and Sylvie left together to continue what apparently had become a daily chess tournament. Each day was a best of three and whoever one two of the matches got a point. If any game went to a tie nobody got the point that day. It was an interesting system and currently they were both on two points.

Kat happily picked Lily up and made her way to her room before leaning back and placing Lily on her stomach, before pausing for a few moments and switching that position to her boobs instead. *Kat?!*

Kat shrugged. [You're my girlfriend and currently a cat. I feel like this is a good way to get you to stop being so embarrassed all the time. They're just boobs Lily, no matter how attractive mine apparently are. You can talk about them without it being weird, and even if you make it weird I'll not mind. Do you really think I agreed to date you for your sanity? Lily I remember the time you spent a week researching how different kinds of socks were made.]

Hey, that was a valid line of inquiry. I had plenty of socks that kept getting holes in them and a few really old pairs that only sort of fit but didn't have any holes at all. I wanted to buy good quality socks for the future and it was more interesting than I would have expected.

Kat gave a 'see what I mean' look back at Lily, which, along with the accompanying mental imagery was hard to miss. [So do you want to finally tell me what the boys' opinions on me are? You've been avoiding it for some reason and now I'm interested.]

Geh... it's just... I dunno, doesn't it make you uncomfortable to talk about? I never liked where I tended to place in these lists...

[Not really? I guess it would be different if I was asking for your placing, maybe then I'd think it was awkward... but I mostly just want to chat with you. We've been busy and sure we caught up a bit more recently but since school ended I've been off on so many adventures. It's been weird not talking to you so I'm mostly just trying to keep the conversation going. Oh don't get me wrong, the avoidance of the topic makes me interested, but I just want to keep chatting.]

Lily buried her face into Kat's chest and started purring. She felt a weight on her heart she hadn't realised she'd been carrying. It was strange, she, unlike Kat, hadn't consciously noticed the fact

they'd been talking so much less. Apparently her body and mind had though, because the sheer joy at the knowledge Kat just wanted to talk with her flooding her mind and connection.

Feeling all the emotion coming from Lily Kat pulled her up further to near her neck and sat up so that she could squeeze Lily against her. *I didn't know I was worried about that. Thanks Kat. I suppose it's not even that bad, or good really. You always ranked somewhere in the top ten but rarely in the top five, especially if the bullies were ranked in the top five. I believe the prominent sentiment was that your breasts were on the smaller side... which is weird and untrue but whatever, it's probably just the fact you never wore push up bras... anyway it was that, plus the fact you were one of the people who actually wore correct length skirts...*

So they never really thought you had 'anything' to display and not enough of them appreciate legs and thighs like I do. Still, with all those negatives you rated quite highly. Not sure why actually. They mostly pointed out the stuff you didn't have... and then gave you somewhere around seventh place consistently. No idea why. Like... if they really think you lack so much why rate you so high? Not that I'm saying you should be lower... but well... yeah you know my thoughts already...

[Yeah that doesn't make a lot of sense to me either. Hmm...what else do I want to know... oh you mentioned maid outfits before because of Callisto. What other things would you want to see me in?]

Lily let out a choked sound that as a Memphis sounded more like a mewl. Still, she held back her instinctual reaction which was to deny everything and sucked in a deep breath, preparing herself to give a true answer. *Well... before we get to anything else... I certainly have a thing for kimonos now. I blame you entirely for that. If you didn't wear one all the time I wouldn't have developed it. I know this because I didn't have a thing for them last year. Now I certainly do, and I've have many... many... yeah... it's a lot...*

Right um... no I can admit this. I have had more than a few dreams about you wearing a kimono a size or two too small so that... certain things spill out. Still, even just your normal outfit now is great. It looks amazing on you, and I wouldn't change it. Other than that... well, maids aren't really my thing but I suppose if we do ever get around to this I'd still like to see you in one anyway, just for completeness sake I suppose.

[Of course, of course] said Kat mentally with a sage like voice, [Purely for completions sake]

Other than that, thought Lily pointedly ignoring Kat's prodding, *bunny girl outfits are probably right at the top. They just show off everything I like really well. Sure the stuff up top is nice, but it'll highlight your legs and ass astonishingly well, I'm sure. With or without stockings, I can appreciate both easily. Though... hmm... I suppose it'd be weird for you to have a bunny tail as part of it now you have an actual tail. We can leave that off.*

[Of course, my illustrious girlfriend. What else?]

Chapter 635 - 635 Hidden Mind Gems

Lily was clearly hesitant to answer this next question. Kat could feel it. Not just that, but she could feel through the connection that there was an answer. Kat hesitated as she pondered what to do. She was

trying hard to let Lily feel comfortable opening up to her and feel less embarrassed all the time. Would it be better to push? Offer reassurance? Do nothing? Eventually Kat settled for lightly running her hands through Lily's fur. Approval, hope, slight expectance. All without any words to cement her stance properly.

Eventually, after sufficient application of scratches, Lily caved. *Ok... I... I don't know if this is racist? Species-ist? Maybe just weird? But I also kinda want to see you in like... what we think Succubi would wear. Leather straps and little else. I mean... I'm not into... THAT side of thing. I mean, I'd call you mistress anytime you wanted but no pain for me. That isn't something I like.*

[Tell me more about this one then. The bunny outfit makes sense and I can see why you'd like it. The maid costume as well because of Callisto wearing one all the time and the kimono... well that one just makes sense to me even with my limited understanding. What about this one drives it though?]

*Hmm... how do I explain this... I guess... it's much more... wish fulfilment I suppose. Before you became a demon I'd never have asked. Imagined yes... and... I guess I'm not as ashamed to admit that as I thought... but anyway... imagined yes of course, but I didn't think I'd ever see it in real life even if we did date. That and fake horns, wings and tail would just look a little weird and since domination isn't my fetish...

Well it just seemed like a lot of work to essentially see you in revealing underwear made out of leather. So it was in the 'cool to think about, but silly to do' category in my mind. Like getting covered in chocolate or slime or something. Hot to imagine... kinda gross in real life more than likely. Now though... well you're a real demon. Now it feels... I guess it feels a lot less like silly dress up? You don't need fake props because you have real demonic parts and that makes it so much better. Plus I bet you could find a proper outfit someone in the Hub without too much trouble. So... now it's something I wouldn't be opposed to in real life.*

[Oh, 'wouldn't be opposed'] taunted Kat slightly to get Lily to just admit...

Fine. I think it'd be hot. You asked for this though! You asked for what I'd want to see you in!

Kat gave Lily a little kiss on the cheek. Just a light press to avoid fur in the mouth and get the point across. [I did and I don't regret asking Lily. I'd like to keep talking about this sort of thing if you will. It really is interesting to try and work out why you'd want something like that, and I can make a list. With perfect recall I won't forget and I can surprise you with something in the future.]

Oh

Kat waited for Lily's thoughts to stop drifting to various strange places. She didn't get many images though she did get brief flashes of her in a made outfit, as well as covered in chocolate. Kat chose not to comment. While she did want Lily to be more open about her desires... she didn't want to push things too far just yet. Despite her calmness about this sort of thing, she too believed they weren't really ready for all that.

When Lily finally came back to herself, she cast a worried glance at Kat who just smiled back. Lily assumed this meant Kat saw nothing. She was wrong of course, but it was a nice thing for her to believe for now. *Um... ok... what else... I guess... it's much lewder than the others but I guess if you want me to mention it... stockings. Like just stockings and nothing else.*

[I'd have assumed you of all people would prefer to see all of my legs]

Lily swallowed heavily but chose to answer properly. *Well, yes sometimes. However, I can appreciate stockings as well. You don't really wear them, which is fair, it doesn't get too cold here... but I think it'd be nice. Not all the time, but if we're talking about interesting things I'd like to see you wear it probably counts.*

[So, stockings, what about garter belts and just normal lingerie]

No garter belts. Snapped Lily with a shockingly firm mental voice. *I can't understand the point of the damned things. I don't know why people think they look sexy at all. It's all this extra material and it doesn't feel tasteful at all. I did a bit of research about them and I STILL don't understand them. I don't get why people think they look sexy at all. I mean... nope. I don't want to rant at you about this.*

We're having a nice discussion... albeit an embarrassing one for me and I do not want to yell mentally... not even at you, but in your direction about an article of clothing I doubt you even own. I doubt you'd want that.

[Honestly Lily. If you really want to talk about it. I'd be happy to listen. That's what this was about remember? Getting to chat. This wouldn't be the first odd thing you researched.]

Lily smiled internally. As a cat smiling externally showed a lot of teeth now so she limited that. *Ok... well... in that case... I guess it's because people still like them for some reason? I mean there whole purpose in life is to hold up stockings, which... ok fine, back in the day that was somewhat needed. The thing is...*

*They aren't comfortable. At all. I'd know, I tried on some once when Mum suggested it after going lingerie shopping a few times. They just... feel weird and we don't need them anymore. Even back in the day before elastic they had other options, though nobody likes to talk about them. The best one, in my opinion, was to just... use a bit of string and tie the top off same as pants.

Still, I don't get why people think they look good. Like I get fancy underwear. It's to show off and entice instead of just being naked. It has... a bit of class to it rather than just showing up naked or something. Plus almost seeing someone naked is sometimes better then just seeing them naked. The problem is... the garter belt is just more material, it's finicky to put on, finicky to take off carefully, uncomfortable to wear and underwear does the teasing so much better.*

[Feel better now that you've gotten that off your chest?]

Yeah, a bit. Sorry for ranting about it. This is something I knew before I met you. I actually brought it up with Stella and her friends once and they looked at me like I'd told them wearing underwear outside of pants was the new fashion trend. So... yeah little bit more... distaste alongside that one on top of the topic.

[It's fine. I've never really looked at them. Kept things simple because bras are expensive, especially for an orphanage where that money could usually be spent better then on high class underthings. Especially when I was the only person they were really for. Most of the other girls were too young for them. As the oldest it was easy to chose basic stuff when the younger ones could use the money.]

Was the orphanage really that poorly off?

[No... no... not at all. I mean, I couldn't get top of the line stuff all the time or something like that... but Gramps manages the place well. He also gets a decent number of donations. We were never all that hard up for cash but you had to pick your luxuries you know? Like would I prefer nicer underwear or for the kids to get new blankets? Sure the old ones work fine, but some of them could get a bit ratty towards the end of their lives so if that bit of saving let them get new things more regularly... well I never minded.]

Well... you've got Vivian now. You can get some proper underwear!

Kat shrugged. [I uh... didn't exactly put on a bra when I first got my demonic attire. I wasn't thinking about it... but now I have one. Somehow. Not sure where it came from, or when it showed up because being a Succubus means it wasn't really an issue... but yeah... now I have great feeling and fitting underthings and no idea where they came from.]

Kat how could you forget something like that?

[Well it's not like I put on a bra all the time when I wasn't going to school. I probably should have but that was more washing for everyone... and really I always felt it was strange to make the little kids wash my underwear when it was their turn so I normally did my own stuff throughout the week and then didn't wear bras on weekends if I could get away with it so the kids wouldn't get confused or do silly things with them]

Kat. When I get my human body back.. I'm forcing Vivian to take you shopping.

Chapter 636 - 636 Planning For Special Events

Lily takes the wheel

"So, are there any other outfits you'd be interested in seeing me in?" asked Kat as she scratched behind Lily's ear.

Not the way we've been speaking about. Nothing else comes to mind as like... an erotic thing I'd want you to wear. I mean, I guess there is a swimsuit but I've seen you wear one to the pool before and it's not all that different to lingerie in my mind. Oh it's still very nice to look at, even if you only wore one piece swimsuits that cover basically everything... but I have no specific love for swimsuits. If you'd prefer to wear one then lingerie you could do that instead.

[I'll keep it in mind, I guess. I'm not entirely sure that swimsuit would still fit me. I still have it in the cupboard but I've grown a bit since I lost used it. I'm certainly taller, and I might have grown in other areas as well... though perhaps you'd prefer that Lily?] Kat wiggled her eyebrows down at Lily. Sadly, the person in question was enjoying her current position to much to look up and see that.

So Kat was pleasantly surprised when Lily answered with, *Yes Kat. Yes I would prefer that. As long as it doesn't hurt you overly much. I imagine it would be a bit uncomfortable digging into places but I would in fact like to see that.*

Kat beamed and sent a wave of pure joy down the link startling Lily. *What?*

 Kat kept up her smile and gave Lily a few more scratches before turning her so that she could see Kat's face. "Yes Lily. I am happy

about your answer. You kept shying away from them. To just admit it makes me quite happy. Remember, even if I don't find anyone sexy doesn't mean I'll ignore the fact you DO find me attractive. I want you to be open with me about this sort of thing Lily. It'll be important in the future because you'll need to tell me.

"I won't get urges for things like this, nor will I be able to use my own reactions to things to guess. Like... take the leather Succubus outfit. Sue actually wore one of those. My main thought at the time was to wonder how she avoids flashing people and if it was at all comfortable. I wouldn't have been able to guess you'd want to see me dressed up like that. Or... hmm... the bunny girl outfit was a slightly easier guess because that is the entire point of those outfits... the maid one? I probably wouldn't have thought about it. It's just what Callisto wears for some reason. I don't think so deeply about these things so you'll need to do the thinking for me," said Kat.

Lily nodded and Kat put Lily back down once it was clear Lily knew she was serious. [Now that we've been a bit serious. Do you have any silly costume ideas? Not to look erotic just because it'd be funny to try them?]

Hmm... might be funny to see you in like a fake angel outfit? The wings and a fake hallow with robes and stuff, maybe even get some flood lights and backlight it all but not bother to hide any of your demonic parts. Actually, it'd be even better if we didn't go through the trouble of making it look good. I think it would be so much funnier to see you in a really bad angel costume.

Kat frowned at the idea, [I do agree that would be funny... but having met a real Angel... not sure I'd want to risk annoying them. I mean, I doubt something like that would annoy them but... not sure it's worth the risk. Fun idea though]

Lily tried to give a shrug but her shoulders didn't exactly work like that anymore and it was more like a head bob. *Hmm... yeah I guess you make a good point. What about you then? We've been going through my ideas but that was when they were all attractive. What about silly ideas for me?*

[Well if we made me an angel I guess we'd have to make you a dog girl. Extra points if the headband for the dog ears are clearly visible and the tail is just a belt. With your cat features still quite prominent the contrast could be amusing... though I'll admit it's not as good of an idea as the angel one is in theory. Other ideas for me? We can take turns.]

*Alright... um... well first I guess... the dog girl thing seems kind of boring. Sure there is the stereotype of cats and dogs not getting along but it's not as funny as angel and demon. I think if we were going with animals I'd have suggested I wear like... fake tiger ears or something. Make it like I was a cat pretending to be a larger cat. Double points for doing it in Memphis form maybe...

Wait no, I can't be giving you ideas for your turn. Hmm... dressing you up as a ghost could be really cool. You can make your eyes glow and you're already pretty pale. Maybe just add in some fake black tear streaks dirty up your clothes a bit... maybe apply some other make up and hide your demon appendages and we'd be good to go. Wings and tail you could hide under a baggy outfit... not sure about the horns though. Oh, and you can do the spooky voice too! It'd be perfect for Halloween.*

[Yeah! We should write that one down. As funny as the angel one it, that's more of a private joke. The ghost though... we could do some fun things with that. If it was at night... I might even be able to get away with flying a bit if my wings blend into the sky or something. Use that to really creep people out.]

[Hmm... I guess if we're doing Halloween themed stuff now... for you we could make use of your glowing eyes and fanged teeth? Go vampire perhaps? Hide your ears with a top hat or something and tuck your tail into your outfit. Then you can run around baring your fangs at people and you can pass the eyes off as contacts. I imagine they glow properly like cat's eyes in the night so that's a big plus.]

Looks like we can actually participate next Halloween. I never really cared for it... but if I can dress up with you and have a bit of fun I'm down. Plus, we don't have to worry about running into anyone weird late at night. You could easily take them and I could probably claw them. I wonder if it would be better to find like a bigger place for it to show off our costumes? Or just hang around town here and have fun with some of the kids? OH if we have time... maybe we could do a haunted house for the kids at the orphanage? That way they don't need their own costumes but they can have a bit of fun. I'll 'own' the house and you can be my... head servant or just a nearby ghost or something. *nOvelnExt.Com*

Kat couldn't help but smile at the idea. [That sounds lovely. We can probably count on Vivian and Callisto to help as well. Vivian because I bet she'd think it'd be great fun and Callisto because I imagine she'd enjoy making props to scare people. She just seems like that type.]

Lily tried to giggle at the mental image but it sounded more like a series of hisses. *Well. Apparently cat's can't laugh. Not the biggest surprise. But yeah, I can see those two loving the chance to do something cool for Halloween. Any other fun holiday ideas?*

[Well... not a fun idea per say... but for Valentine's what do you want to do? Would you rather I come up with something? Try to make it romantic? Or would you rather plan it? Is that something you'd be interested in? Or perhaps just curling up together and watching a movie or something... I don't really mind but I feel like you'd care right?]

I... I hadn't really thought about it? Um... at this stage... I'm not sure. Let's just... let's wait for me to get my humanoid form. I'd hate for either of us to plan something and then find out I'm still a cat. Also... I mostly just ignored Valentine's. As many times as I thought of asking you out... I never once made a plan to do it on Valentine's Day. It felt... wrong to use it as an excuse you know? That and some people in more recent times hand out chocolate to friends as well... it just feels so forced and god I would have been mortified if I gave you homemade, or, more realistically, a big store bought heart and you thanked me... and just didn't comment on it.

[Yeah... that sounds like something I'd do. Probably be like 'that's sweet of her getting me chocolate, I should have got her something as well' and that'd be the end of it unless you made it REAL clear.. Heck... I might even... yeah... even if you actually had 'I love you' on it I might have just assumed you bought it that way and didn't notice.]

Chapter 637 - 637 A 'Little' Familiar

A large yawn for Lily's small frame escaped her mouth. It wasn't too late in the afternoon but her small body, barely out of kitten years decided she needed sleep. Kat instantly made note of it but Lily argued

back. There was a little more arguing over if she should rest or not but when that same argument was interrupted by two further yawns Kat knew she had one. So Lily curled up and let herself drift to sleep.

While she was asleep, Kat focused on training her demonic fire. Something she'd meant to do in the past multiple times but had always put off. After seeing the huge leaps she'd made with her fans though... Kat decided it was time to do a bit more training. The last time she'd even attempted anything like this was back when she'd messed around in Thyme's training room during the final stage of the tournament.

It was clear, both now and from previous practice, that control of her fire drastically fell the further away from her body it was. Sure she could throw it from hand to hand without too much issue, but she lost control part way through the transition if she wasn't paying very close attention to it. On the other hand, she could create a fingernail sized flame and run it all over her arm, drawing complex patterns with hardly an ounce of effort.

With Lily on her chest, Kat had no desire to get up to find a better testing ground. As such she focused on pushing her flames away from her hands and then moving them around as accurately as she could. Using both hands let her also get practice trying to split her focus. It was... rather difficult. Moving two flames in the same pattern wasn't difficult, but moving those same flames in opposite directions or taking it further and trying contradicting patterns, was a nightmare.

Kat also found out that if she really concentrated it she could pack quite a bit of power into small flames. It was harder of course, but not as hard as she felt it should be. Compressing flame took about twice the effort of forming a small flame and then pumping power into it... but the trade off was that it was slower. She could compress a flame in about half a second while feeding it power required about two seconds of concentration to prevent it from ballooning in size.

Eventually, Lily's nap was interrupted by a call from Callisto that it was time to eat. Kat was pleasantly surprised to see Lily's twitch and catch the sound, awakening her without interference from Kat at all. Waking an adorable sleeping cat Lily was not on Kat's to do list. Lily was always adorable now and disturbing her sleep felt close to sacrilegious in Kat's mind. Still, Lily was awoken and Kat took no part in it.

They headed downstairs for dinner, a roast, something else for Lily to try really. Once again, she found it wasn't all that different though she noted the texture felt very wrong to her in Memphis form. It was too tender for the cat part of her brain. Even though it tasted fine, other parts of the experience were telling her the meat shouldn't be safe to eat despite the taste. She ignored it and finished the meal, but not all that happily. It was more out of stubbornness and the knowledge that she had liked Callisto's roast back she was human. Kat refrained from eating anything despite the weak glares from Callisto and Vivian.

There was no talk about if Lily was staying or not. The older two assumed Kat had already asked, Sylvie knew it was a foregone conclusion and the pair in question hadn't even considered the idea they could have been separated for a bit. Perhaps a side effect of the bond existence... or silent subconscious communication. Who knew? At this point in time, nobody, as the pair in question hadn't even realised they were doing anything strange.

So, when they headed back upstairs there wasn't even a question. Kat just picked Lily up and headed upstairs. Kat did however pause at the bathroom doors. She had been intending to shower. Lily, seeing this jumped away and scampered off to Kat's room to hide under a pillow. She did not want Kat catching

on to the ideas it provoked nor did she want Kat being 'helpful' and bathing them both. Plus, she was a cat now. Surely that meant she could skip bathing for at least a little bit. Lily knew normal cats didn't need to be bathed for over a month, and many people bathed them less frequently. She'd think on it... just... not when a naked Kat featured quite so heavily in her mind. The best solution would be to be humanoid again before the month was up.

Kat didn't send any teasing images to Lily while she was bathing. Perhaps she would have if she thought of it, but she didn't even notice anything strange about Lily's departure, simply assuming it was a cat thing, as cats didn't like water. For Kat that's all a shower was, a place to get clean. Her state of dress hardly factored into it.

When Kat finished her rather quick shower, which to be fair she didn't even really need, she hopped onto the bed and was about to throw herself onto her pillows when she noticed Lily's tail sticking out. [Woops. That could have been bad...]

What?

[I was about to jump on my bed like normal but that would mean I fell onto my pillows. Pillows you are currently heading under.]

Oh. Oh yes... um... woops?

 Lily shimmied herself out from under the pillow not abusing the relatively large strength of her small form to just throw the pillow off. Kat of course said nothing. It was adorable seeing her try to be careful with the pillow despite really not needing to be. Kat pondered if it was because Lily didn't realise her current strength or if she just didn't want to throw Kat's stuff around. She suspected it was the first option. *novELnext.Com*

[Lily... do you know how strong you are?] Kat mentally asked as he picked up Lily's small form to put on her lap. Kat had moved the pillows back and was sitting up straight instead of lying down like earlier in the day.

No?

Kat sighed. "Ok, here's what I'm going to do..." said Kat carefully as she moved Lily to the side. "I'm going to try and carefully push your hand up. I want you to push down on it as hard as you can, and I'll tell you roughly how much force that is,"

Lily looked sceptically at Kat, well, as much as a cat could look sceptical about anything. It was mostly the feeling from the bond that led Kat to that conclusion, but she got started anyway. She felt Lily start trying as soon as Kat place her hand under Lily's paw. Kat carefully pushed up and it didn't take long before she overwhelmed Lily's strength and the paw started to rise. It was at this point, as Kat was using more force to lift Lily's hand than she would to lift a Lily's whole body, that she wondered how that made any sense at all.

[On the one hand... you are stronger like I thought... on the other I have no idea how it works. I mean I don't know how my own super strength works but... where did you get the leverage for that?]

What do you mean?

[Lily I used about the same amount of strength to move your ONE paw up as I'd use to lift a person... or around that anyone. I want you to think about that... especially considering how tiny you are.]

Oh... I wait... what? That doesn't make any sense.

[And my strength does?]

Yeah but you have demonic energy! I might have it but it's not like I can use it...

[You have mana as well though.]

But... but I don't feel myself using it at all? How did that pack all that power into muscles the size of thick straw?

[You... why are you comparing your leg to a straw?]

I... I dunno what else is the size of a not quite kitten sized cat's arms? It's not like this is a frequent thing to need comparison.

[Why not just say like... electrical cabling? That seems about right...]

Lily looked at her arm then glanced at the electrical socket in the corner of the room. Huh... that probably would have been better... still that's not the point. It just... it's just weird now it's me I guess. It was fine when it was you... you're Kat and I just... I guess I find it easier to believe you can casually break the laws of physics than I can.

[Lily... with a bit of training you can become a magical witch cat. Arguments could be made that I'M YOUR familiar.. I don't think this was ever going to make a lot of sense.]

Chapter 638 - 638 Specific Tastes

Back to Kat

[These are now Lily's thoughts]

Kat opened her eyes and glanced out at the room. She felt no tiredness at all having had such an easy day the past two days. Her mind was clear, and alongside the demonic energy exercise she did yesterday she wasn't slowed by the lack of use in that area either. Lily could be faintly heard sleeping on her chest. The soft breaths from her small form inaudible without advanced senses like the ones Kat possessed, or Lily now.

With her mind so clear, Kat could feel a slight niggling at the back of her mind. Somehow, she could tell she was going to be summoned today. She wasn't sure how she knew, and would endeavour to ask Lily if she felt anything once she was awake, but Kat was certain she'd be summoned. For now though, it was a quiet morning and she was willing to relax.

Until she heard a loud crash coming from downstairs. Kat shot up, grabbing Lily in her arms so the girl in question didn't go flying. Lily woke with the sound as well but somehow knew what was going on thanks to the link and simply curled up closer to Kat. The pair flew downstairs to find... Callisto calmly sweeping up.

"Good morning you two," said Callisto with her lips pressed into a thin line. "I suppose you came for the crash. It is nothing serious. The clock just fell off the wall. It seems the structure on the back that's

supposed to support it wasn't made properly and it gave way just now. Don't worry, it is not even a clock Vivian is particular fond of. It actually came with the house. The builders put it up for some reason and Vivian just told them to leave it. Frankly I'm annoyed with the fact they took it upon themselves to make a hole in the wall back when it was barely a week old...

"But it is not my house nor my money that paid for the builders. So instead of being sufficiently cowed Vivian just thanked them for the... 'nice'... clock and asked them to leave it. I wonder how they felt about that. Was it a clock they actually liked? Or just an old one they found lying around and took with them to construction sites? Vivian had that smile, the one that looks nice but says 'you're in trouble' as well? She used that and they folded like a weak poker player when the chips start going down."

[I don't know why but I was expecting something so much worse. I do wonder why Callisto was so close to the clock though?]

Lily the kitchen is right there. I want to know where the broom came from. It isn't the small one she keeps under the kitchen sink but a full sized broom. I have no clue where it's stored so maybe it's reasonable... but I have demonic speed. Even if I didn't use it to maximum in case I damaged the floor or something she found that broom really fast.

"Would you like a hand?" asked Kat as if she wasn't trying to figure out what magic Callisto managed to pull to be ready and sweeping by the time the pair got downstairs.

"It's fine, you have your arms full with something much more important to you," answered Callisto with a nod towards Lily.

Kat couldn't help the fact her lips started to twitch upward at Callisto's words. She didn't really understand why either, it was simply a fact she was holding Lily, and Lily WAS more important than that clock. Before she could ponder it too long though Callisto asked, "Do either of you want breakfast? Not right now of course, just in a more general stance. I could tell you were not overly enthused with the food at all yesterday Kat.

"No thanks. I'm fine... I don't really want anything to eat," said Kat. *Even if I'm getting summoned today. What do you think though Lily?*

[Well... I'm not hungry. I don't feel like I want food at all. At the same time... if you're right about the fact we're getting summoned today... maybe I should have something anyway? There's no certainty that food will be easily available and even if you will be alright we don't yet know if I will be. Blegh... I don't really feel like forcing myself to eat. Hopefully it won't be too bad...]

"Something light for me I think," said 'Lily' "I'm not hungry but just in case we get summoned I want to have eaten something."

Callisto nodded as she started to group the pieces of the now destroyed clock onto a dustpan she'd taken out of the large pocket she had in the maid uniform. Kat was very surprised to see Callisto manipulate the pan with her foot, moving it around so that she caught everything in it without needing to bend down at all. *Ok that's just cheating. I have great body control now... but I have no idea if I'd be able to do that. I'd probably cheat and wrap my tail around it.*

[I haven't seen you use your tail for anything that complicated... you think you could?]

Well, I opened a door with my tail once... from the other side of the door. Had to get into the orphanage shed for something.

[Nevermind then. If you can manage that moving a dustpan around is nothing.]

By this point the show was over and all the little pieces of clock had been collected. Callisto picked the largest pieces of the clock up and dumped them in the pocket the dustpan came from before collecting said dustpan from the floor and taking it all out to the rubbish bins. Kat frowned at Callisto's exit, a niggling feeling that she should have helped despite Callisto's insistence she was fine.

In the end though... everything was already clean so Kat just dropped herself onto the couch. Sylvie made her way downstairs not long afterwards, having been woken by the crash. Kat explained what it was, and Sylvie just nodded and joined the two already on the couch. Sylvie snuggled into Kat's side and used the chance to give Lily some more scratches. Everybody was happy with this arrangement.

Callisto did work in the background, fancy pancakes were done for the three humans in the house, while Lily had some diced chicken on offer. Vivian somehow managed to make it downstairs at the exact time Callisto finished cooking. The pair clearly had the timing down to science. *novELnext.Com*

"I hope you do not mind the chicken, Lily. I noticed that you found bread to be strange and suspect the same will be true of pancakes. Basic chicken breast in manageable chunks seems like a good thing to try. Let me know how it is,"

Lily sniffed the chicken carefully but didn't know what she was looking for at all. It was purely an instinctive reaction but without that bit of extra knowledge involving what to look for she might as well have not bothered. Still, it felt right to embrace her instincts a little and couldn't be called a waste from that perspective.

Lily tried a few bites and found it acceptable. She quickly cleaned up the rest of the chicken before stopping and wondering about a glass of water. Something she'd not needed yesterday. Kat fetched it for her, putting it in a bowl instead so that it was actually possible for her to drink it. Callisto waited for Lily to finish with that before asking, "So how was the chicken? I did not do anything to prepare it specially of course, but it is a good baseline."

Lily let out a mental sigh and got Kat to answer for her with, "It's really hard to describe Callisto. I can taste that it's different from other meat. It's distinctly chicken... but at the same time it isn't. I could tell you? it's chicken but... but it also just feels like generically good food. Grrr, it's so hard to explain this properly..."

"It... it's like... hmm... Ok so... eating... eating is kind of an experience. For humans, there are lots of tastes and flavours and they combine in all sorts of interesting ways that can give a dish a complex and layered taste. That doesn't happen now I'm a Memphis. I get... just... it's almost like just swallowing a single block of 'ok taste'. Imagine if a sugar cube tasted like... I don't know... let's say carrot.

"It's ALL carrot at that point. There is no other taste, it's a carrot. Now, you try another cube. It's a different colour and clearly it isn't carrot. So you try it, and in this case, it's actually cucumber now... but to me it would still taste like carrot.. Because of the texture I could tell it wasn't carrot and the taste is slightly different... but not enough for me to realise it's cucumber and not carrot if I couldn't see the difference with my eyes. Does that make sense?"

Chapter 639 - 639 Three Familiar Faces

Once Lily finished explaining the intricacies, or rather, the lack of, when it came to food for her Memphis form, Kat brought up her impending departure. Sylvie wasn't the most pleased with the news, but limited her 'complaints' to a bit of pouting. It did still hit rather hard, something Kat and Lily were in agreement with, but there was nothing to be done. So Kat helped clean up, gave Sylvie a big hug and then waited to get called...

Then waited some more...

And yet still more...

Sylvie, at this point asked, "Are you sure Kat? It's nearly lunchtime and nothing has happened... I'm happy to sit here, your hugs are still the best, but I mean... yeah..."

Kat checked and found she could indeed still feel the little niggling in the back of her mind... but Sylvie was right nothing was happening and the feeling hadn't really changed in the past few hours. "Let me just ask..." mumbled Kat. *Hey D.E.M.O.N.S what's going on here?*

User Kat is reacting partially to one of User Kat's beacons. An Entity is holding the Beacon with intent to Summon User Kat however they have not yet started the process.

Hmm... guess it has to be the tournament guys. Nixilei, Green, Gareth and Kress. Or well, I'd guess it's them. Minor would have either messages me if it wasn't serious or just summoned me if it was. I wonder... system, what counts as holding?

'Holding' in this instance means that the Entity in question is currently holding the Beacon, or the Beacon is in a bag or pocket the Entity is holding.

Hmm... so they might be carrying it around in a pocket or something with the intent to summon me later in the day... I see...

[Feels kind of rude honestly. Almost like ringing the phone constantly but hanging up when you get to the phone.]

It's not that bad, I can just... sort of tell. It isn't too annoying.

Lily didn't make another comment, simply prompting Kat to explain to Sylvie what was going on, which Kat happily relayed. Sylvie got a thoughtful look on her face for a few moments before shrugging and resettling herself into Kat's hug. Callisto actually took orders for lunch, something Lily ended up declining this time. She could now feel that eating more was a bad idea. It wasn't the same as feeling full, but she knew nonetheless that it wouldn't be the best idea.

A good thing too, because right as Sylvie hopped up to eat the tell-tale symbol they all recognised at this point shone to life around Kat. Kat put Lily on the top of her head as she dashed over to everyone and gave them each a hug. "By guys!" said Kat for both herself and Lily as she waved and activated the Summon.

The familiar fire came into view and the pair enjoyed the scenery. Lily also took note of the fact that despite being on Kat's head, she didn't feel uncomfortable at all. The transportation felt smooth and

seemed to be able to keep them together without any issue. Something Lily wasn't really worried about before, but after the flash of fire, it did jump into her mind.

Once the fire burnt down Kar found herself in the back of a small room that looked to have been used for storage at one point based on the dust marks in the shape of boxes and the single light in the ceiling. In front of her stood Nixilei, Green, and Gareth. Kress was notably missing from the group and Kat wasn't exactly sure how to feel about that. She knew they were all close but he'd never been anything more than 'accepting' of her... and that was a stretch in all honesty. Only the fact that they so consistently won in the first round likely helped stave off an outburst before the end of the tournament. Which, Kat knew, was in no small part due to her own efforts, though Green did help quite a bit as well.

Green was dressed in more casual clothes this time around. She had a green sundress on that matched her hair, something that had been grown out slightly from before. She still wore knee high leather boots that had seen better days but Kat knew Green was quite comfortable in them. She was currently bouncing around behind Gareth with her arms around his left, smiling at her appearance.

Gareth took this as stoically as possible but had a grin on his face as well. He had thick leather boots like you'd find on heavy duty workers. He had a loose tunic on that showed off his muscles well. Perhaps sadly for him, the only person who really seemed to appreciate them was Green. His pants were a thick cloth but only went to just past the knees.

Finally, there was Nixilei. She was wearing black leather monk strap ankle boots that were slightly covered by the long pants she had on. They were completely black, and didn't quite look like leather, but were certainly not cloth either. Perhaps the fantasy equivalent of jeans? Kat didn't know, and neither did Lily. Her shirt was also long, coming all the way up to her wrists and cut in a light grey. Her glasses remained unchanged.

"Nice to see you again Kat," said Nixilei calmly.

"Yeah! It's great to have you back. I'm ready for the next round of the tournament! I'm so excited and it's great we got you again for this round. I can't wait to see what's going to happen," cheered Green. Kat was honest enough to admit the attitude was a little surprising. Sure, she was bubbly a good deal of the time, but sleeping seemed to be her default state.

Gareth just gave a polite nod in greeting. [Huh... is this what normally happens when you get summoned?]

Not really. I know these guys, so it's a bit different. Plus I don't see a circle for me so I can just walk out if I want to. I mean, from what I know it isn't overly hard to just walk out normally. It does defend them a while though. Anyway, point is I don't have much to compare this to. I asked Minor to call me last time, and the time before that she was dying so... guess we'll have to see?

"Happy to be here. Um... if you don't mind my asking... where is Kress?" asked Kat.

Nixilei's smile pulled into a thin line. She was about to answer, but Green butted in with, "He's off being all broody. He tried for like the last week to convince us not to summon you again. Talked about how we could manage by ourselves even down a member. Which is just silly because he agreed to summon a demon the first time. No idea why it's a problem now, especially when the demon in question is a nice as you!"

"Personally, I suspect he wanted the chance to enslave a demon in a harsh Contract without really considering the fact that Gareth would be the one discussing it, and he's a total softy. It was never going to be anything particularly restrictive. The only alternative answer is that he was hoping to see a specific demon and get a bit of revenge. Not that he knows what that demon looks like, or what its name is. I also wonder, after meeting you, if it was a demon at all. Still, he is nothing if not stubborn," said Nixilei.

Gareth looked a little sheepish at the girls' description of his friend but knew they weren't inaccurate with their words. Kress hadn't been a particularly good team player during the previous round... nor was he kind in his words after Kat had left, something nobody really wanted to delve into.

It was at this point that Green noticed something 'different' about Kat. Specifically the fact she had a cat on her head. "Hey Kat, who's that cutie on her head? Did you pick up a pet recently? Or a familiar?"

Kat's mouth flattened into a line. *Lily... how the heck do I explain what exactly you are? With you trapped in Memphis form it's a little weird to be like, 'hey yeah, that's my girlfriend Lily. Just ignore the fact she's a cat at the moment, we're working on it'. I mean... yeah... no idea what to do here. If you could transform things would make a lot more sense. That and the fact you can only talk to me...*

[Yeah I can see the problem. I don't know Kat... I really don't know. I don't want them to think I'm just a pet... but I didn't consider how awkward it would be talking about me to people who didn't know I was human at one point. You can just be like 'oh, this is Lily she's a cat now' because they'll just look at you like you're crazy... hmm... maybe just skip the girlfriend part?]

Kat bit the inside of her lip, the idea had merit but she could feel that Lily didn't really LIKE it. It was a suggest meant to make things easier for her, and didn't take Lily's feelings properly into account.. Kat sighed.

Chapter 640 - 640 The 'Cottage'

I'm just going to own it. I've decided it's completely normal to have your girlfriend on your head if she's currently a cat.

[Wait what? I thought we agreed it was better to skirt around that issue...]

No, you offered it as a solution despite the fact I can feel the idea causes you pain, probably from the fact I'd be denying you're my girlfriend and you know what? Frankly a bit of embarrassment on my end is worth it to keep you happy. That's not even considering the fact that... now that I've thought it over... is it really any of their business? We can at the very least prove your intelligence and at that point I see no further issues.

Lily didn't have an answer to that. She felt very warm at the idea Kat was willing to go out of her way like this. Even if Kat insisted it wasn't too big of a deal, Lily was pretty sure that even in a fantasy world this wasn't exactly a normal situation. Still, Kat answered without further hesitation. "Quite a lot has happened since I last visited. I got a girlfriend, and now that same girlfriend has become a Memphis, which is just a type of cat. Also, we've been magically bonded so being in separate dimensions wouldn't be healthy."

Gareth looked a little sheepish but a glance at Green revealed she was just nodding seriously as if Kat's insane explanation made a great deal of sense. Nixilei still looked a little confused, but when she asked, "What's a girlfriend?" it was clear the sticking point was not the fact Lily was a cat at the moment.

"Um... did that not translate properly?" asked Kat confused as she looked between everyone.

Green shrugged, "I dunno what Nix is questioning about it. The translation WAS a bit weird but it makes perfect sense."

"I disagree Green, clearly. I mean do I just take, 'very committed but not to the level of courting except there is a magic bond involved now' at face value?" asked Nixilei

"Wait that's what you heard? I just got 'Not quite courting culturally speaking but about as serious a relationship as you have with Gareth' from Kat just then... weird... Gareth what did you get?" asked Green.

"Same as you Green, or well pretty much," answer Gareth, likely receiving the same but with Green instead of himself as the named party.

Nixilei frowned further. "So... you mean to tell me we all hear different things when Kat speaks?" asked Nixilei with some concern.

Kat shook her head and hopped in to answer, "Not normally. It's just when concepts don't quite translate across languages well, or when you lack certain things to know what the word might mean. If I say something that you don't really have a word or translation for it tries to fit it into something you CAN understand. I guess for some reason you think the bond is particularly important to your understanding of the word. Perhaps because you're more magically inclined?"

"Yes... yes I suppose so... it makes me question why you aren't simply engaged?" said Nixilei.

Kat blushed lightly. Even for her getting married was still somewhat embarrassing to think about, "Um... well... where we are from you tend to get to know people for a while before getting engaged. It's not really appropriate..."

"But you are magically bonded? It's not like that's something you can just get rid of... you had to pretty serious when you agreed to it. The bond would have failed if either of you had any doubts about being together forever. It's why most people don't go through with during a marriage ceremony. Particularly embarrassing when it fails... so it dropped out of favour," said Nixilei.

Lily do you know if that was the case with our bond? I mean... I kinda was thinking it was forever but... I also just wasn't thinking about it all that much? I mean it was just something to do if you wanted to be a Memphis and I knew you wanted to be a Memphis so you'd live as long as I did...

[I don't know Kat... maybe? I don't really know how the normal Memphis bonding works. They aren't as intelligent as I am so... maybe it's different?] *noVelnex.com*

Let's just go with the easy explanation then. "Nobody in my home dimension really gets bonded. It's not something that they even know about, and I got access to because of a favour I did to some powerful things... so... while we do have the bond, it's not like that means anything to everyone else. We'd still like to do things a bit more normally for everyone else's sake," answered Kat.

Nixilei nodded at this, understanding it was really just a cultural thing. Lily however... [Kat did you just sort of propose to me?]

Nope. Technically you did that already when you decided to become a Memphis and magical bind yourself to me forever. I just agreed with everything.

Lily wished she had a good response to discount Kat's explanation but it made a lot of sense. It's not like either of them went into it with the plan to abandon one another eventually. Lily had nobody she'd rather be with than Kat and Kat knew that even if things didn't work out how Lily wanted, she'd never abandon her friend, regardless of if everything else worked out or not.

Green, at this point, decided they'd stopped talking for too long and announced, "Let's all get out of the cellar. Why are we even having this conversation here? We'll pay Kat at the end depending on what we get up to in the tournament but sitting in this dark cellar trying to work out the exact details of a friends relationship is just kinda weird don't you think?"

Gareth just sighed and let himself get pulled out of the room by Green, labelling this whole thing as firmly 'not my problem' and accepting his fiancé's stance on things. Nixilei looked a little sheepish now and bowed slightly to Kat before following behind the other two. Nixilei knew her main concern wasn't the relationship at all but the translation and the fact Green and her did not share the same 'explanation' of the word. Still, Green was right, it was a strange line of questioning she decided to abandon for now. She would however keep an ear out for any other strange translations and pounce on the chance to investigate them.

Kat followed after them with an amused smile while Lily experimentally flapped her wings. Not enough to get any sort of lift, but enough to realise there had been a sort of pressure on her back on Earth, something noticeably absent now. She knew Kat had similar issues on Earth, especially in regards to flight and was a little upset to note it clearly applied to her as well now. Earth might have been her home, but it clearly wasn't all that happy to have her there.

Kat noticed the melancholy mood from Lily but said nothing. It wasn't particularly powerful at the moment, and Kat believed letting Lily handle it by herself would be for the best rather than just trying to drown the feeling out with her own feelings of support and care.

Green got to a closed door set into the 'ceiling' of the place that Green swung open to reveal a strange forest scenery. It was strange because the trees all had green bark instead of the usual brown and the leaves were blue like the ocean. They blended somewhat with the sky, but the branches and lack of 'clouds' made it clear where the leaves ended and the true sky began.

"Welcome to my one of my parents vacation cottages. You'll see it on the right, but it's not really a cottage, they just call it that. This is pretty close to the meeting point we were given for the next round so we're staying here. We head off tomorrow," announced Green.

Kat looked over at the 'cottage' in question and found Green was right. Even if it was done in a cottage style with vines crawling up the sides and bricks stacked together to make it, the 'cottage' was about the same or slightly larger than Vivian's house. It had two stories with a large balcony she could only kind of see from this angle. The cottage, or in reality, house was forward and to the right of where the group

was currently. It seemed like the storage cellar the group had exited was in the back off to the side of the house.

When Kat finally saw the front of the house, she just smiled. Everything had been done to make the place feel like it had sort of... grown into the scenery. The vines were the same green as the tree trunks and had made their way into the slight gaps in the bricks in a few places, the front side of the house had a collection of ragged bushes that made it look like the house had grown its way out of the ground instead of being built there, and the door was painted the same blue as the leaves. Shaped the same way too.

"Well, come on. Don't just stare at it. Let's go inside and get settled in!" said Green cheerily.