Lisanna Strauss was worried about Lucy. It had been two days since she had last fought with Natsu and everybody in the guild felt the effects. The fire mage had stormed off into the mountains to cool is head, leaving the pregnant Lucy in the care of her Celestial Spirits. Nobody wanted to comment on the state of their relationship, which had been rocky since day one, and so nobody had checked on Lucy yet. As Lisanna walked the stone path to their house, she could see why.

The Celestial Spirit Taurus was standing guard in front of the door. Natsu and Lucy had bought a modest home at the edge of town to be within walking distance of the guild. The walls had been painted pink (to the chagrin of Natsu, who had wanted to paint them red) and had been adorned with numerous stone salamanders (which Lucy hated). Lisanna sighed. She could tell that this was going to be a long visit.

Taurus knocked once of the door.

“If it’s that man, then I give you permission to take his head off.”

“It’s Lisanna, here to see Mrs. Lucy.”

“Oh. OH! Let her in.”

Lisanna entered cautiously. The house was a mess. A full tea set lay broken on the front hall carpet. A chest of drawers lay on its side, spilling its contents into the room. Horologium shuffled around with a dustpan and a broom, ticking angrily. Lucy sat in the dining room, her head in her hands. She looked up as Lisanna came in.

“Oh, Lisanna! I am so glad you came. It’s been a rocky week.”

Hefting herself off of her chair, Lucy stood. She waddled over to Lisanna, intent on hugging her, but ended up bumping her with her stomach instead.

“Oof. Crap. Always forget that. I wish the baby would come already, but the doctor says it won’t be due for another month. My body is killing me, none of my clothes fit and my husband has run off to who knows where. I don’t even remember what we were fighting about.”

Lisanna did. Lucy had nearly blown up the guild hall after Natsu had suggested that they change their curtains. The time before that, it was because Happy had accidentally locked her in the shower. The time before that, they had run out of egg rolls. It was something new every week and Lisanna was starting to see why Natsu needed a day off. He would be back shortly, flowers in hand, and the cycle would repeat. Lisanna wasn’t sure she understood their relationship.

“You’ve got a lovely home,” she said, scratching her head. Lucy seemed to be trying to pull up a seat for her, but was having trouble bending over.

“Oof. Thank you. We went through so much trouble to touch it up. It used to be a bit of a pigsty. The Celestial Spirits helped a lot, actually.”

A ‘hrumph’ sounded in the front room where Horologium was still sweeping up glass. It seemed as though the spirits had been having a rough go of it as well. Lisanna straightened up. She had to check on Lucy, not judge her living situation. Shaking herself, she gave conversation another try.

“Have you thought about a name for the baby?”

Wrong choice.

“No,” said Lucy, her shoulder rising. “Actually, we haven’t.”

“Touchy subject.”

“Yes. It’s…dumb. It’s been such a hard few months and all we do is fight and I have to remind myself every day why we got together in the first place.”

“You two have been through a lot. It makes sense that you care about each other.”

“I know, I know. I just think that maybe we jumped into it so fast. There wasn’t really a dating stage. We figured that we already knew so much about each other that there was nothing left to learn. We just dove right into the relationship and Boom! Bun in the oven. Only then did we seem to remember that for the most part we don’t get along.”

“It sounds rough.”

Lisanna meant it. She knew a little about how relationships ebbed and flowed. The closer you were to somebody, the more flaws you were privy to. It made sense that powerful personalities like Lucy and Natsu had some rough edges.

“It is. I love him, but Natsu is a loose cannon. He’s not used to this kind of family life and he’s not used to caring for a young one. It’s been hard to relax, but I have to for the baby’s sake.”

Remembering the egg that she and Natsu had hatched when they were children, Lisanna decided to keep her mouth shut. Or actually…maybe not. The egg had given Lisanna an idea. Maybe she could ease some of Lucy’s burden, at least for a day or two.

“Lucy, I have an idea. It is going to sound crazy, but do you remember my bird take-over?”

Lucy did. Lisanna used take-over magic. One of her forms was a giant green bird, reminiscent of an ostrich.

“Well,” said Lisanna, “I think I have just the thing to help you destress! I actually came here to see if I could help you in any way and with this, I think that I can! Stand up.”

“Okay?”

She stood, wobbling slightly as she nearly overcorrected. Lisanna felt sorry for her. Her stomach protruded from underneath her shirt. Her shorts were obviously a size too small and even with the zipper open, they chafed against Lucy’s legs.

“Now, and this is going to sound very odd, I need you to get naked.”

“What?!?”

Lucy stumbled backwards and fell into her chair. On her face was a mix of disgust and disbelief.

“Natsu and I…aren’t in that kind of relationship.”

“Oh! Oh no! No, it will just make it easier to swallow you.”

“Pardon me?”

The disgust on Lucy’s face was replaced by confusion. Her eyebrows knit together as she tried to process what Lisanna was saying, but nothing coherent came to mind. Bird form? Swallow? Was this some kind of magic? If so, what did it do?

“It’s magic,” confirmed Lisanna, already pulling her tank top over her head. Lucy gaped as Lisanna continued to strip, easing out of her shorts and laying them on the table. She was wearing a matching set of blue underwear. Lucy, unsure of what else to do, began to take off her maternity clothes.

“Lisanna, I’m not sure about this. What kind of magic is it? Will it be safe for the baby?”

“Yes! It’s rejuvenation magic. It’s part of my animal soul transformations. I discovered it when I was younger. I can impart magical energy to anything that I swallow. I’ve healed many forest creatures this way and even my sister’s broken arm. She said that it felt as though she were receiving a massage the entire time.”

Lucy rubbed her stomach, muttering to herself.

“I need a massage. Maybe this is for the best.”

Lisanna took her hands in her own.

“Oh it is,” she beamed. “This is how I can help! Please let me.”

“Alright,” began Lucy. “But do anything weir—aaAAH”

Without waiting for Lucy to finish, Lisanna lifted her above her head and into her mouth. Lucy’s head disappeared into Lisanna’s gullet as she gulped down her pregnant friend, drool running down her chin. GLURK! Lucy’s shoulders passed through Lisanna’s jaws. Her swollen breasts were a chore, but Lisanna was determined. She grabbed Lucy’s hips and pushed. Her boobs resisted at first, but then began to glide over Lisanna’s tongue.

Now for the difficult part. Lucy’s pregnant stomach stuck out much further than the rest of her body. Resolute, Lisanna’s jaw unhinged, widening further than what was humanly possible. It was a silly use for her Animal Soul ability, but if it worked, it was worth it. Lucy’s stomach as already starting to slide, the bump spreading through Lisanna’s mouth. With one massive gulp, it finally pressed against her neck, sliding down into her stomach. Lucy’s legs followed shortly after.

Stuffed, Lisanna understood how Lucy had been feeling for the past month. She could barely move. It was especially hard when Lucy, cramped into a ball, began to kick violently. Her feet made small indents against Lisanna’s skin, already stretched to maximum capacity.

“Steady, steady.”

With great concentration, Lisanna began to transform. Her body expanded, feather breaking through her skin. Her neck elongated as her legs shortened, bending awkwardly at the knee. Her arms ached as a layer of skin formed between them, attaching at her sides to create a pair of awkward looking wings. Her transformation complete, Lisanna allowed herself a satisfied squawk.

Her stomach had stretched to several times its previous capacity. Where Lucy had been cramped before, now she uncurl herself in Lisanna’s cozy interior. It was the perfect solution! The only hard part had been the fact that Lisanna’s bird form couldn’t widen its jaw enough to swallow her charge, but that wasn’t a problem if they were already in her stomach.

Proud of herself, Lisanna allowed herself a quick preen. She could feel Lucy settling within her. Hopefully Natsu would be back in the next day, but if not, Lisanna was sure that she could look after Lucy on her own. In fact, she was beginning to feel quite motherly herself with a chick in her stomach. Patting it with her wing, she wondered if maybe she should also think about settling down.

Comfortable, Lisanna waddled to Lucy’s bedroom. Her blankets would make a good nest transferring magical energy was going to take a lot out of her. She was going to need her rest if she was going to help Lucy. And so, it was there that Natsu found them that night; His friend, his wife and his baby, warm and safe and fast asleep.