

The orange haired girl found herself humming as rested her back on the “cushioning” of her seat. Well, what was the point of hiding it? She was laying in a giant harpy’s maw pretty casually. Her eyes closed as she listened to the sound of wings flapping on the outside. Irezumi a few months ago might’ve asked for a different means of transportation, but nowadays she went with whatever Cottonbite decided. The big bird knows best.

Besides, where else would she ride on a giant harpy? Especially if it’s the biggest and fastest of its kind! Being on top of Cottonbite’s head would be a death sentence at these speeds, her back? No. That would probably have the same casualty rating. Her talons? Actually...probably? Oh well. Irezumi sunk her head further into the surface of the tongue as she daydreamed over the hundreds of possible ways to get killed riding a pinked haired bird girl.

Her eyes suddenly popped open as a drop of saliva plopped on her face earning a small frown. Being around someone who eats people and licks you almost hourly desensitizes you to saliva quite a bit. With a thump Irezumi heard Cottonbite land somewhere and began to lean forward. Sunlight peeked into the chamber causing her to wince at the sudden change in lighting. Cottonbite flicked her tongue causing the girl to plop onto the wood floor with a wet puddle landing around her.

“I...I am gonna need a bath soon. I probably smell like bird breath.” She shook the saliva off her body as much as she could, causing the harpy watching over her to snicker. “Cottonbite thinks her breath smells niiice, mhm-mhm~” Irezumi sighed as she stood up from the puddle of drool. Finally noticing that they were somewhere new entirely, Irezumi tilted her head.

“This is...just a ruined temple? Pretty large but...are you sure your friend would live inside?” Irezumi’s small emerald green eyes looked up at Cottonbite with uncertainty. “Pia prefers places like this! Yep-yep! She loves magic and artifacts! Mhm-mhmmm!” She lowered her wing and gently pushed the small human forward.

“A-alright...are you sure you don’t wanna come in with me to make sure there aren’t any misunderstandings?” A bead of sweat passed down Irezumi’s face as she stared into the dark corridors before her. The ground shook slightly as Cottonbite turned away from the temple to spread her wings, a small smile on her lips as she nodded. “Cottonbite is sure everything will be fine-fine! Yeah-yeah!”

With that the harpy flew into the sky and disappeared into the treeline. Irezumi stood there for a bit staring off into the trees before finally gathering up enough courage to finally take a step towards the darkness. Her body instinctively began to shiver as walked into the pitch black hallways of the abandoned temple. It felt wrong to be here. “Sh-shit...I can’t see anything like this. Did I bring my flashlight?”

She explored her khaki shorts for the flashlight before pulling it out. “Yes! Dad’s flashlight always had good battery life! Good thing I asked for the same brand!” Her thumb flicked the switch, the light immediately illuminating the path before her. “AHA! TAKE THAT STUPID ANCIENT BR-”

With a flicker her light suddenly went off. “Oh.”

After giving the flashlight a few shakes she could've sworn she heard sloshing inside of it. “Damn it...saliva and flashlights don't mix apparently.” Not wanting to get rid of the light she had been gifted, she slid it into her back pockets for safekeeping. “Evil dark horrors, here I come...”

A few minutes of quiet tiptoeing followed, Irezumi's eyes scanning over the pitch blackness quite frequently. She shivered as the saliva soaking her green shirt had begun to make her feel cold. Maybe she should take it off? It sounded reasonable in her head. She took a peek around to make sure no one was looking before grabbing the bottom of her shirt and hoisting it over her head.

A pink light suddenly illuminated the room to reveal a humongous naga looming overhead. The blue haired naga turned her head as if scanning the room for anything, the pink light in her hand reflecting off the golden piece hanging from her chest. Her eyes were noticeably covered by a golden plaque with an eye etched into its surface. Irezumi blinked before slowly turning around to look up at the naga, the naga simultaneously looking downwards to spot.

Irezumi would suddenly leap back in terror “**AHHHHHHH!!!!**” causing the naga to immediately follow suit “**AHHHHHHH!!!!**” The two women screamed in tandem. The naga fell back onto her light purple tail in a desperate attempt to recover. Irezumi was shaken from the sudden weight hitting the ground, her body being sent onto its back.

“D-DON'T EAT ME!!!” “I'M THE HUMAN!!! I SHOULD BE SAYING THAT!” A moment of silence passed. “Oh...you're right!” The naga nodded before sitting up to look down at the girl. Irezumi scrambled to get off her rump but she wasn't quick enough. She was snatched off the ground and raised up to the naga's face. “W-WAIT!”

“Sorry lil fella! B-but you're in my home...and I guess I'm a bit hungry...” Irezumi's body began to shake as the maw stretched wide open in front of her. She grasped at the fingers out of desperation as she was slowly lowered onto the tongue and towards the darkness of the throat ahead. “I SAID W-WAIT!” She cried out as she began to slip on the slick surface, each inch bringing her closer to the point of no return. “ARE YOU PIA!?!?”

Irezumi felt an immediate jerk from the naga. “Yersh, I aum! How do you knowh thwat?” A beam of hope washed over the girl's heart, not a second being wasted now. “I-i am Irezumi! Cottonbite has been taking care of me! Sh-she sent me in here to be watched over while she's gone!”

A yelp escaped Irezumi's lips as she was suddenly sent rolling across the tongue and into an opened palm. “Phew! I thought I was a goner-” She stopped talking as she noticed the tears

escaping the naga's eye cover. "W-woah! Hey! There's no need to cry! It was just a misunderstanding!"

Pia sniffled as she raised her palm to her face, "I-i almost ate Cottonbite's human! She would've be-been so upset and- and-" Her voice trembled as she continued to rant about all the possible things eating Irezumi could've caused. "I already said it's okay! I'm sure Cottonbite wouldn't be angry with you either!" Irezumi softened her voice to try and help calm down the clearly upset naga.

"I should've known! She told m-me you were coming today!" Out of frustration Pia hit the stone wall with the base of her tail. The temple began to shake for a moment before a large chunk of the ceiling began to fly down. "PIA! WATC-" Irezumi didn't have enough time to even warn Pia before the naga sprang to action. An ominous pink glow radiated from under the golden plate that hung over her eyes. Her hand snapped into the air and suddenly crunched into a fist. The rubble almost instantly flew into one large ball before being crushed into nothing but dust.

Irezumi sat there both shocked and impressed by how fluently the naga had used magic. It was like her body moved out of pure instinct. "Woah..that...that was pretty awesome! Like- Actually incredible!" A red tint slowly spread across Pia's cheeks, her head facing away from the girl in her hand.

"I-it wasn't anything too special...just basic telekinesis magic.." Pia scratched at her chin a bit embarrassed. "...JUST? Where I'm from NO ONE uses magic! Let alone something that cool!" Irezumi grinned as she stepped closer to Pia's face. The naga's tail tip began to subtly sway back and forth at a slowly inclining speed. "M-maybe it was just a little bit impressive..."

Pia turned around and began to slither further into the temple with her new little companion in tow. Suddenly the naga jolted and began to pick up speed, a bead of sweat rolling down her cheek. "Uh- is something wrong Pia?" Irezumi tilted her head a bit concerned with the sudden change of pace. "AH! I F-FORGOT BUBBLEGUM IS SUPPOSED TO BE COMING!"

Irezumi didn't have time to ask who that was before they had reached a lit up room. Hundreds of books sat upon bookshelves that reached all the way to the ceiling. Just as Irezumi had taken the books, she spotted a table in the center of the room, two chairs pulled up to both sides of the tabletop. In the left chair sat an enormous woman with light pink skin, a pair of large horns curling up from her head into a shape similar to a heart. She had long unkept yet smooth dark pink hair which ran down all the way to her waist. A long tail swayed behind her, the tip of the tail in the shape of a heart.

"B-bubblegum! I'm sorry I kept you waiting! I had to grab Cottonbite's little friend!" Pia slithered up to the empty chair and rested her back into it. Irezumi began to piece together everything until she finally understood what she was looking at: a succubus. Bubblegum's red pupils

scanned over the small girl, a sly grin displayed on her lips. “Ohhh, so this is the pet? How cute~”

Irezumi’s body shuddered as the succubus spoke, her heart beginning to beat a bit faster. Her voice was like listening to an audible version of pure admiration. “Y-yeah! I’m Irezumi! It’s nice to meet you!” Bubblegum suddenly tilted her head to the side. “Hm. I suppose it knows how to speak well! She chose a good one~”

Irezumi sat there a bit stunned, was that a compliment or an insult? Her mind couldn’t make sense of it or tell her how to react. Pia hadn’t replied directly, instead she chose to nod as she snapped her fingers to pull a tray of tea to them. Bubblegum took a glass and began to sip away at it, though her eyes remained locked on Irezumi’s small form. “Would you like a sip of my tea? I’m sure it’s better than water from a bowl!”

The human girl blinked as the teacup was lowered to her. Despite what was being said Irezumi couldn’t pick up on any malice, it was as if Bubblegum truly believed humans were either pets or food. Irezumi reluctantly nodded before grabbing the side of the cup and leaning her head inside to sip away. After having her fill she dropped back down into Pia’s palm. “That tastes great! Hm...maybe this won’t be so bad! Pia you should come stay the night at the treehouse! You too Bubblegum!”

“I’m afraid I have to decline sweetheart, but I’ll make sure to have time whenever you invite me again!” Bubblegum leaned forward as she spoke. “I s-suppose I could go...I’ll have to tell my mother that I plan to take a break from studying for a day! She’s a great magic caster!” Pia smiled down at the girl in her hand.

“Sounds like we’ll have lots of fun tomorrow!”

Cottonbite finally landed onto the soft grass she had been searching for, the Sunset resting on the hill which slightly hung over the Ocean below. She took a step forward, a soft smile resting on her lips as she looked at the tombstone resting before her. ‘Kautin - A Mother who fought to the end.’

The harpy took a seat down on the grass, shifting herself until she felt comfortable enough to completely rest. “Hi again Momma! Cottonbite came again like she does every month! Mhm-mhm!” She took a deep breath, forcing her eyes closed as she tried to concentrate. “I...I know you were probably worried because I was late...but don’t worry! It’s because of something good! One of the humans I’ve saved...this one stayed! I didn’t say anything before because I

was still worried one day she'd run off like the hundreds of others. She's a cute little human with orange hair!"

Cottonbite giggled as she started talking about Irezumi, her eyes opening to show her happiness. "She was very shy at first but I think she's getting comfier! I've been getting her things from that world-hopping merchant Apolka hired. *I know you two don't like each other though...*, but without Apolka, Irezumi probably wouldn't feel as comfy! Irezumi is very sweet and...I like her alot Momma. Alot alot! More than just having lewdie fun with Melany and Vivian! She relaxes in my mouth...she trusts me to not crush her under my body in my sleep! I don't know what this feeling is...but I hope it stays, and HER! Hehehe! I'll make sure to protect her like how you protected me! I'm just as big and strong as you nowadays!!"

To Be Continued...