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Animal Café

Volume 1

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Chapter 1 - A bunch of pets

"If I don't do it now, I will never do it..."

When I heard about this new animal café that opened recently in my city, I really got attracted to it and wanted to visit badly. Unfortunately, I was all alone and rather shy, so going to a brand new place that had a social function was not an easy thing for me.

Well, shyness was not the real reason... I have to stop deflecting the truth. The reality was that I had a communication disorder.

Talking to people was the hardest thing in the world for me. I couldn't even order a meal at the restaurant. I could mumble a few words to myself if I were alone, but not if there were people around.

It was a bit sad because I was a rather cute, mid-twenties girl with short brown hair, brown eyes, and was on the short side of the measuring tape with my little 5'2" tall. That said, I could be as cute as I wanted; I was not exposing myself to the world because of my problem, so nobody noticed me.

If I had gone to the bars, or done team sports and such, I'm sure someone would have flirted with me, but I had not, and now my life was very dull. A regular day for me consisted of waking up and going to work as a non-essential employee packaging order for a big online company. It didn't require speech and was providing me with enough money to pay for my needs. The TV shows I watched after work were no longer fun but that was still my main source of entertainment to kill all my extra time.

I had no friends, and my family was not really around, so I couldn't even practice talking with people; as per my doctor, this was mandatory if I wanted to improve my condition one day and get better at it.

One of the hardest things that came with my problem was that I needed physical contact, but I couldn't have that either without meeting new people. It was a bit of a nightmare, a vicious circle, and this was why I got this crazy idea to come to this new animal café I noticed while walking in town the other day.

I liked cakes, I loved animals, and I needed to cuddle something; this place was obviously for me. But there was a little extra detail that made my decision so nerve-wracking; the animals were not really... animals.

That is the information that had paralyzed me in front of the shop; I was reconsidering all the reasons that brought me here. That was until the door opened...

"Hey, there! Welcome to Pets & Cakes! I saw you taking root in front of our door for the past fifteen minutes... You seem to want to come in, so come on, don't be shy! You can just take a look if you want. It wouldn't hurt!"

"..."



Of course, I didn't manage to respond when the young woman walked out of the Animal Café to invite me in. I had no way out anymore as I couldn't voice a refusal. I obediently followed her to the front desk; the heart pounding in my chest was louder than my footsteps.

"I just need your ID to make sure you are an adult, and then you can go right in. It is a very slow day, so you are my first client. I'm Lucy, by the way, I'm the owner. What's your name?"

"..."

Here we go again! I couldn't form a single sentence and not even speak a single word; I was much better at getting anxious and trembling due to the embarrassment. I pulled out my driver's license and placed it on the desk for her to read from.

"Aaah, not a chatty one. That's okay. Let's see... Clara! Aww, such a cute name. And you are twenty-four, that's perfect. Is it your first time in such a Café?"

I nodded while playing with my shaky fingers.

"Oh, double-welcome, then! You'll see, you'll like it a lot. Mind you, my pets are pretty restless today, so I hope they will behave. It's always the same on quiet days when they don't get enough attention. Follow me. I'll show you our best seat."

"..."

I followed Lucy to a nearby door; she swiped her access card on the reader to unlock it.

"Don't be intimidated, okay. They are all very friendly."

As soon as I entered the dining area, which was more like a very nice comfy lounge designed to chill and relax, my heart stopped. Right away, I noticed five or six "pets." Some were lying down on couches, another was lying on a table, and two more were sitting on the soft carpeted floor. Not so surprisingly, they were all staring at me, the visitor.

"Girls! This is Clara. She is a bit shy, so you have to behave yourself, okay? Be nice to her!"

The ones she called "girls" and "pets" were, in fact, real women wearing animal costumes. If it had been just that, it wouldn't have been so shocking, but no, to add to my discomfort, their outfits were all made of shiny latex.

I may have a communication disorder and an inability to meet people, but it didn't mean I didn't have kinks. I have always been fascinated by rubber catsuits. I didn't know why or how, but it attracted me so very much since I was a young teenager. However, I never had enough money to invest in such a suit; rent and food were my priorities.

When this café had opened and saw that their "animals" were girls wearing amazing latex costumes, it was my best opportunity to experience something I always dreamed of. I would have a chance to touch a real latex catsuit for the first time and get a healthy dose of physical contact at the same time.

The pets' intense gaze froze me on the spot before I felt something wrapping around my leg. I looked down and saw an adorable rubbery red fox kneeling and holding me with her little arms.

"..."

"Aaah, Vix! What did I say? Be nice. You can at least wait until she sits down. Come on, let her go."

As Lucy shoed her away, another pair of small arms wrapped around my other leg. This time it was a little black and white cat. What was fascinating about them all, outside their colorful latex suits, were their masks. All of them were different animals, but they were definitely the same style; the molded creature faces were on the realistic side of things, and black lenses hid the wearer's eyes.

"Oreo! What did I just say! Leave her! You are scaring her! Shoo! Go sit over there, Clara, or else they are not going to stop!"

"..."

My brain understood just enough of what Lucy said. I carefully walked to the couch she was pointing at, making sure I wasn't stepping on a paw or a tail. The booth she directed me to indeed looked like the comfiest one of the place. But there was a problem... A small grey raccoon girl was lying on it.

"Don't worry about her... That's Meeka! Just move her, she won't mind. Aaah! Vix, Oreo! Stop!"

I looked behind, uncertain I could do what Lucy had asked me to do, but she had her hands full with the fox and the cat who were now clinging to her legs like velcro. I was starting to wonder if I had done the right thing by coming here. What did I get myself into?

I walked up to the couch, and the raccoon girl was very calm and quiet; she even looked half-asleep. Handling human-animals was not something I was familiar with. They all had those cushy rubber paws that made them look so cute and inoffensive. So I grabbed Meeka's wrists and tried to move her aside.

The good news was that Meeka was very cooperative. As soon as she understood what I was trying to do, she crawled aside to give me some room. This leather couch was so soft that I sank quite a bit more than I had expected when I sat on it.

Lucy, who managed to escape the grasp of the small petgirls, brought me a one-page menu.

"Sorry about that. As you may know, we only have drinks and desserts here. I recommend you to try the cheesecake. We don't cook anything on site, so this one is coming from a local shop. It's sooo good."

"..."

Unable to reply to her, I just nodded again, forfeiting my freedom of choice in favor of simplicity... plus I liked cheesecakes.

"Good, and what would you like to drink? Would you like a coffee?"

I nodded again and raised my two index fingers in front of my face.

"Ah, one cream, one sugar? Alright! I will be right back. Feel free to play with the pets, that's what they are waiting for as you can see. So, don't be shy."

Lucy was good. She didn't seem offended by my inability to communicate, but she somehow understood my body language very well. I guess working with lots of petgirls who couldn't talk made her develop some particular non-verbal communication skills.

Immediately after Lucy turned heels and walked away, all the rubbery critters rushed to me. There were six of them trying to climb on me all at the same time. I had no idea what to do, my anxiety kicked in big time, and I was on the verge hyper-ventilating. I placed my two hands on my face, hoping that it would render me invisible to the petgirls.

All I could feel was a bunch of soft rubber paws trying to tug on me! This was way too much way too soon! I loved them all, but I just couldn't handle this much touching right off the bat.

"... Stop!..."

That was the only word I managed to let out, and it was not a very nice one. I put myself in that situation; it was not their fault if I couldn't deal with that much physical attention. But somehow, the message seemed to have hit its mark.

The raccoon got off the couch and started grabbing and pulling the other pets away, and none of them were whining about it. I almost forgot that they were real people inside the costumes that could probably understand what was going on... I saw them as real pets as soon as I laid my eyes on them. That said, they probably realized they were intimidating me and decided to give me back some breathing room.

Their next move was to line up in front of me, sitting like animals, and staring at me. I returned their look, wondering what they were expecting from me. There were a fox, two cats, a raccoon, a puppy, and a white bunny. They were all so adorable.

Then Meeka started to gesticulate with her paw, pointing randomly at her friends... She was trying to communicate something to me.

"You... You... want me... to... choose?"

All the latex critters nodded energetically. That was unexpected. They definitely understood that they were too much for me to handle, and now they tried to ease me into this weird experience by only selecting the pet I preferred. I liked them all and had no clue which one I should choose but I had to decide which one I would like to cuddle first.

The raccoon was nice, but she seemed more mature than the others, I would probably feel overpowered. The two cats were very cute as well, but they seemed a bit hyperactive... I didn't like dogs that much, sorry doggy... so all I had left were the red fox or the white rabbit. I got a very good vibe when the fox girl clang to my leg earlier, she was so gentle...

"Vix?"

As soon as I spoke the name I had selected, all the other petgirls rotated their head in a way that meant something like "Not vix again!" Guilt invaded my stomach when they all scattered, except for Vix, who crawled to me on her fours, looking incredibly cute.

She climbed on my couch, laid on her back and rested her fox head on my lap. My heart melted so much she was adorable.

"Aww."

But I was not sure what to do now. I used a finger to inspect Vix's fantastic mask. I couldn't see her eyes through the black lenses. Her upper face and muzzle were bright red, and the bottom half was white. There was no separation between her mask and her suit; it seemed to be a one piece costume with everything attached. I didn't even notice where her zipper was.

The small fox gently grabbed my hands with her two cushy paws and placed it on top of her warm belly.

"..."

I guess she wanted me to pet her a little bit; it was the purpose of my visit after all; to practice and enjoy physical contacts, and maybe try to improve my speech if I had an opportunity.

As I gently rubbed Vix's belly and traced the contour of her muzzle with my finger, I noticed something interesting; the lack of eye-to-eye contact helped. I was not nearly as embarrassed when looking at Vix's black eyes as I was with Lucy. It was so great to finally be able to look at someone without feeling dread.

My heart skipped another beat when the dining-room door opened again; Lucy let two more clients in the place, a young couple this time. Lucy seemed overjoyed to get a few more clients and made them feel welcome as much as she could.

"Please! Please! Sit wherever you want! We have six pets today and they are all very cuddly... Well... five... It seems that our little fox is already in good hands."

I turned beet red when everybody turned to look at me while I was belly rubbing the rubber fox girl. Only then, I realized how strange this must have looked from an outsider's perspective.

I looked away, trying to control my breathing again until I realized that my anxiety had caused me to squeeze Vix in my arms like a comforting pillow. Then I heard a long happy sigh coming from her.

"..."

That's right... How could the petgirls breathe with those rubber masks on? There were no holes around the muzzle or nose, but they must get their air from somewhere. I resumed my inspection of the fox mask, and inside the ears, behind some cute white frills imitating fluffy ear fur, I found two small holes on which I placed the tip of my fingers.

After a few seconds, Vix shook her head and blew some air out. That was definitely where she was breathing from. It could have seemed a bit extreme, but to me, I found this very cute. Those animal masks were absolute masterpieces.

"Clara! Here are your cheesecake and your coffee. How do you like cuddling with Vix? She is nice, uh? I'm surprised the others didn't make a fuss. When there are not many clients, they are usually causing tons of trouble because of their cuddling addiction."

"... Thank... you!"

"You are welcome! Oh, and if you don't mind, here is a bit of water for Vix... Make sure she drinks if she needs to. Okay? There is a small hole under her chin in case you didn't know. You just squeeze the liquid in, she will take care of the rest. Just warn her when you start."

"..."

Lucy turned around and to chat with her other clients who were now battling all the needy petgirls.

I was alone with my foxgirl once more, alternating between belly rubbing and eating the phenomenal cheesecake. It took me about an hour, but I finally managed to relax a little bit and accept that I liked being here a lot. I learned how to make Vix drink and eat, using squeeze bottles to shoot water and blended food through her under chin hole. I must have done a decent job because Lucy trusted me to feed Oreo and Meeka as well. Lucy took care of the other ones, and she was less shy than I was on the squeezing.

A bit later, the dining room got pretty crowded. The café was not very big, so the handful of new clients filled the place rather quickly. All the pets were now quite busy receiving and giving affection to whoever was in need. Being surrounded by so many people was not something I was comfortable with, so I thought about asking for my bill and calling it a day. Turning this good experience into something unpleasant wasn't something I wished.

Speaking of the devil, Lucy, clearly swamped, came to check on me. As I was gathering my courage to ask for my bill, she proposed something quite unexpected that nullified my intentions.

"Hey, Clara, it's very embarrassing for me to ask you this, but a group of five people just showed up. I need their money badly because it's a new business. If you don't mind, I will let them sit at your booth."

"..."

My heart started racing like crazy, and my face turned white. I had no desire to share my table with strangers... I much preferred to leave right away. But Lucy saw the distress in my eyes right away and understood that she had not explained the situation properly, so she rushed to correct herself.

"Oh, no no! Sorry, Clara! I'm not asking you to share your booth with them... I have something special for you, only if you want. It's a service we are not offering yet, but I'll let you try it for free in exchange for your table."

Vix got off me and started to pull on my arm, nodding energetically. The fox girl knew what Lucy was talking about, and she wanted it, whatever it was.

"Well, Vix seems okay with my idea, come, I'm sure you'll like it too. And you won't have to pay for your bill either because you helped me feed my pets."

Whether or not I wanted to take that offer was irrelevant because I wasn't able to communicate at all. This situation was way too tense for my taste, so it was just easier to tremble and go with Lucy and Vix.

They led me out of the dining room, then upstairs to the floor above the café. The main room was clearly still under construction, but there was a series of large white sci-fi looking PVC containers along the wall.

"So, Clara, those are sleeping pods, like the ones in capsule hotels. They are very comfortable micro-rooms that I will rent to people who want to cuddle privately with my pets and to normal travelers who need a cool place to crash for cheap. Here, you two can use this one until you are ready to leave. Can you let me know how you like it? Nobody used them yet. There is music, TV, internet, and a gazillion settings for the lights. The soundproofing is pretty good too."

"..."

"Come on. I have to go back. I'll come back later to check on you in case you fall asleep, hehe."

Lucy slid open the door of the bottom capsule, revealing a glowing blue light illuminating the luxurious interior of a little room big enough to accommodate two people. Vix didn't hesitate one bit and crawled inside. Unable to express my confused mental state, I had no choice but to follow her in.

"Good. I'll come back when I'm less busy. If you want to leave before I return, just press this button here to open the door. But don't forget to say goodbye before leaving, okay? You were a super client, Clara! You took such great care of my pets and I appreciate that a lot. I have to go back to my clients now... Enjoy your private time with Vix!"

Lucy slid the door closed, and a little click indicated that it was now locked and that I would have some special time with Vix alone.

This capsule hotel surprise was an unexpected but a somewhat good turn of events. I didn't really want to leave the Café yet, but I was about to just because there were too many clients around me, which was making me uncomfortable. This pod offer allowed me to stay a bit longer for free and to keep exploring my feelings while cuddling Vix.

The capsule room that Lucy let us use was about the size of a queen mattress in width, but a bit longer and maybe three feet high. There was a TV on one end and a control panel with way too many buttons on the side wall.

Vix, though, didn't care about those fancy things and crawled to me to get some more hugs.

"Vix!"

Something magical happened at that moment. When the cute rubbery fox girl laid down on top of me, I realized that it was the first time I was intimate in bed with someone. All those years I spent unable to communicate with people led me to a life of undesired solitude. Dating was

impossible because I couldn't utter a word most of the time, and trembling was not the most attractive social skill ever.

But Vix didn't mind that. She was a petgirl who just loved giving and receiving affection... and I wanted the same. I hugged her tightly, so much that I heard her giggle inside her mask. To me, she was just a small red fox and nothing else. I didn't even want to imagine what the girl inside could have looked like, fearing it would break the magic.

We cuddled quietly non-stop for hours, it was the most pleasant thing I had ever done in my life, and it was such a confidence booster. For sure, I would come back to this Pets & Cakes café, and maybe try to cuddle with the other petgirls too. That white rabbit was so cute; I would not mind spending some time with her as well.

Vix and I were half-napping when we heard Lucy talking loudly from downstairs; her words barely pierced our capsule's soundproofing.

"Alright, girls! I'm exhausted. I'm going home. Oreo, don't forget, tomorrow is your last day this week, so don't make a scene when I take off your suit like last time, I just don't have the energy to fight you. Good night, everyone!"

Vix, who had heard this daily farewell more than once, rushed to the door and started hammering on it with her inefficient soft paws. She understood that Lucy forgot about us. I rushed to press the unlock button... but the door wouldn't want to unlock. I pressed again... and again without success.

"..."

Something wasn't right; our pod door wouldn't open. Confused as to what to do next, I looked at Vix, and she stared at me back.

"She forgot... about us?"

Vix nodded.

"Do you... know... how to open the door?"

Vix shook her head... She had no idea. Lucy had mentioned earlier that it was the first time she let someone try those. It was probably Vix's first time as well.

"I... I can sleep... here. It's okay."

I laid back down on the mattress, and the cute fox curled on me, showing that she was fine with it as well. Based on Vix's reaction, it seemed like an honest mistake; Lucy was busy, exhausted, and forgot we were still here. Obviously, none of her pets could talk to let her know something was off, or maybe they didn't even try, so they could get that sweet revenge on Vix, who was often the clients first pick.

All those theories were unimportant at the moment, as being stuck inside a capsule room with a very cute petgirl was feeling so right. Since we were going to sleep here, I stripped down to my underwear and resumed the cuddling. It was even better this way; Vix's shiny latex felt so amazing on my skin.

During this second part of our long session, I considered letting her out of her suit, but a small metal block encased the zipper tabs, and I didn't know how to remove it. Anyway, Vix disapproved of my attempt and shook her head after pushing my hand away. Ah, well; if she was happy, I was happy.



Several hours later, Vix and I were both asleep when our capsule door opened.

"Pssst... Clara? Clara? Are you asleep?"

"Mmm?"

"Oh, my God! I'm sooo sorry. I totally forgot about you guys... I swear I didn't try to trick you. I came back as soon as I realized. But why didn't you get out?"

"..."

"Look... it's 1 am already. Do... do you want to sleep here or go back home?"

"... Here... is good."

"Okay. I will sleep here too then. I will be in the capsule above yours if you need anything. I'm so sorry again. I'll let you sleep now."

Before I could construct a question to inquire about how to open our door, Lucy shut it close, giving me back my intimacy with sleeping Vix.

Ah, well. We could always figure it out tomorrow morning.

Chapter 2 - Even more pets

"Hey, Clara! You are back!"

"..."

"Haha, still not very chatty. I'm so happy to see you. I wasn't sure you would want to come back after what I had done to you the other day."

Lucy was definitely still friendly, and I was still unable to utter a single word because of my communication disorder. She more than likely knew I had a problem, but she did not act like I was different. Being treated that way was helpful.

Last time I came here, and it was also my first time in this special animal café, it went so much better than I could have hoped. Not only did I get to cuddle with Vix, a very adorable latex covered fox girl, but I ended up staying overnight in one of Lucy's comfy sleeping pods with the said pet girl. I was very fortunate that Lucy forgot about us before going home.

I left early the next day to go to work after realizing that the dysfunctional door was not. It hadn't opened because I didn't bother reading the label located right below the lock button. All I had to do was keep it pressed for two seconds and then slide the door open. On that morning, I hugged Vix one last time, to carry the good feeling for as long as I could, and left the shop with the firm intention of coming back soon.

And today was this second visit. It has been a few days already, and I couldn't wait anymore. My first time cuddling someone, even though it was a rubber fox looking pet girl, left a strong impression on me. I was so lonely at home with no one with whom to interact. I thought I was used to being alone, but, forced to admit, I wasn't... Vix made me understand how vital physical contacts were, even outside an intimate relationship.

"Clara, you are the first customer again today, so you can sit wherever you want. Vix is working too, but don't feel you have to spend all your time with her... you can experiment a little. Vix is used to it and won't be jealous even though she has a soft spot for you."

"... Okay."

"There are some new faces as well, make sure to tell me if you like them. I try to use a good variety of pets, and the rotation allows some of them to rest."

Lucy unlocked the lounge door to let me in. This time she didn't escort me, so I would have to deal with the rubbery critters myself. Like last time, all the pet girls stared at me since they had nothing else to do at the moment. Vix, with her red and white catsuit and mask, was hard to miss; she didn't waste a second and padded toward me.

I knelt to receive my first hug of the day!

"Vix!"

Of course, she couldn't answer because of her restrictive mask, but her response in the form of a tight hug was an even better way to greet me. The other animals got closer to us but didn't interfere with our special reunion.

Most of them knew that I had spent my last visit entirely with the fox girl. The white rabbit, the doggy, and one of the cats were there, but Lucy was right, there were two new faces; an adorable snow leopard and a little grey wolf. Oreo, the cat, and Meeka, the raccoon, were not here today.

For some reason, I loved them all, even more, this time around. I didn't know who made their latex costumes, but they were incredible. They were not creepy at all, even with their black lens eyes preventing me from making eye contact with their wearers. Their hidden breathing holes in their ears and the small drinking hole under their chin made me forget they even had to breathe and eat.

When Vix let me go, I went to the same booth as Lucy had suggested last time. Immediately after I sat, Vix climbed on me and wanted some cuddles; it was hard to refuse, but last time, I almost picked the white rabbit. As much as I loved Vix, I wanted to try something new today, so I heartbreakingly let the red pet girl know about my plan.

"Vix... wait... I..."

It was just a fox! Why was it so hard to talk to a cute animal? The feeling of guilt made it very hard for me to express what I desired. I looked at the white rabbit girl and didn't know how to request her to join me.

Apparently, it wasn't Vix's first experience with shy clients. The red fox gave me a quick hug and got off my seat and headed to the white rabbit. Using her two cushy paws, Vix gave her a nudge, which was enough to pass the message.

The snow colored latex rabbit didn't hesitate to climb on the coffee table in front of me and laid down on her back, looking at me cutely with her two padded paws up to the chin. My heart melted with cuteness... Was it really okay for me to receive this kind of attention?

I used my shaky hands to explore my new friend a little bit. She was slightly skinnier than Vix, but somehow her chest, which she pushed out on purpose, was considerably larger. She must have been about my height, five foot two, and her mask was so gorgeous. Her long springy ears, including the half-folded one, were just awesome. She also had little whiskers that tickled the palm of my hands.

In the middle of my examination, the dining lounge door opened, and Lucy came to see me, wearing a broad smile as usual.

"Aww, look at you. Did you pick Trixie this time?"

My cheeks turned all red, embarrassed by my choice. It may have looked like I was aiming at something sexier today. The more I was looking at the rabbit girl, the more she looked sexy to me. I could even see her hard nipples under the latex.

Lucy sat on the couch in front of me and, without any reservation, ran her hand over Trixie's generous chest.

"That one LOVES when people play with her chest. She made sure I would tell everyone about it too, isn't that right, Trixie? Yes, you are so cute!"

"..."

My face became even more beet red as I didn't expect to hear something so raw from Lucy's mouth. Did I just pick the most pervert critter of the establishment? Was I sexually attracted to Trixie? A bit of smoke was coming out from my ears, and I lowered my head.

"Hey, Clara. Haha! What's going on? Poor girl, so shy. Sorry, I didn't mean to make you uncomfortable. Let me explain to you something about my pet girls. They are all very different. Last time, with Vix, you discovered that she was a cuddle machine. Our little fox can spend hours just doing that if she likes her client. That's why I had no problem letting you use the sleeping pod upstairs last time. I knew you were in good hands with Vix. It was a good experience, right?"

"... Y— Yes."

"Good, I thought so. All the other critters have different personalities and some of them... How to say... are more likely to be fine with... more!?"

"..."

What was Lucy saying? That Trixie would like to have sex? Even without a communication disorder, I would have had a hard time responding to what she just told me. My red face turned blue as I had stopped breathing entirely.

"Aaah! Don't worry about it, Clara! I know you have some trouble expressing yourself. I didn't mean to make it worse. Why don't you spend a bit of quality time with Trixie first? You are safe with us. I will get you your cheesecake and coffee. Then later, if you want, you can help me make them drink and eat like last time. How does that sound?"

I nodded and tried to resume breathing. While Lucy walked away through her other bored pets, I looked down at my rabbit girl lying on the table in front of me; she didn't look as innocent as I initially thought. Why did I feel so embarrassed?

Having a communication disorder sucked big time. While belly rubbing Trixie unconsciously, I did a bit of introspection. I came to this animal café in the first place because I wanted to practice speech and physical contact. I also wanted to come here because there was no doubt in my mind that I liked latex suits as a kink. So it was more than time for me to accept what I loved and try to express it.

I didn't want to be dumb about this, though. The amiable owner of this shop offered me a golden opportunity to work on my problems for no other reason than she seemed to like me and that I was respectful to her pet girls and loved taking care of them. There was no other way to go about this... I had to find a way to enjoy myself and do what I told myself I would do— practice.

I pulled on Trixie's paws to guide her to the position I preferred; on her back with her head resting on my laps as if they were a pillow. One of my hands played with her long rubbery ears, and my other kept rubbing the rabbit girl's shiny white belly; she was so warm.

My eyes kept surveying the rest of her body. I shyly looked at her crotch, and she had the same thing I had noticed on Vix last time; an invisible zipper and a little metal block clipped on top of the tabs to prevent unzipping. I guess it was proper protection against adventurous clients who would attempt to explore the pets "deeper."

"Trixie... You... you are cute."

A white paw went to my cheek and gently rubbed my face, proving that she could understand me perfectly. I attempted to continue my little one-way conversation with the black-eyed animal.

"S— Sorry... Talking... is hard."

Why was I trembling again? Why was I like this? Talking was so easy for everybody else in a cruel way. Trixie sensed my difficulty and requested me to hold her closer. As I looked in her eyes, I didn't see any judgment; there was only my faint reflection in the middle of the black lenses. Those few words I have said so far were a good step in the right direction. It was encouraging.

"I... I like it here. A lot. You are all... friendly. It helps me."

The little chat and cuddle continued for a good chunk of the afternoon. The cheesecake was delicious as usual, and the café was not nearly as busy as last time; Lucy wouldn't have to send me to the capsule room this time around. I was getting a bit too comfortable too quickly around those pet girls. I almost wanted one for home. They allowed me to open myself in a way that I never been able to before.

Trixie even dragged me deeper down the rabbit hole, no pun intended, by placing my hands on her boobs, more than once. Lucy was right about her pet; the white rabbit loved when I played with her breast. The little latex fur at the base of her ears danced around noticeably when her breathing became heavier. It was undoubtedly due to her being turned on by my chest massage.

"Clara, why don't you bring her home tonight?"

"...!?"

If I kept coming to this café, I swore, I would end up with a heart attack. I had not seen Lucy, who had observed everything I was doing to the rabbit and was now proposing something preposterous... and I didn't even want to pretend I had heard what she had asked.

"Calm down, Clara... I saw what you did with Trixie earlier, and it was incredible. You practiced your speech with her, and now you are a bit more adventurous. I know Trixie very well, she would like to help you some more. If you can bring her back tomorrow, I'm okay with you taking her home for the night. She is helping you, right?"

I was now hyperventilating again, trying to keep some sort of composure. I looked at the rabbit girl in my arms, and she was kind of bouncy-excited and poked me with her paws.

"See, Clara, Trixie is all thrilled at the idea. Come on, let us help you. For some reason, my pets are all very fond of you. Don't forget they have feelings too."

"..."

This situation was so confusing. My life was getting upside down since I decided to come to this strange animal café. Was it really alright to bring one of the pets home for the night? One I was attracted to, and who was acting kind of kinky?

I nodded.

"Oh, great! I'm so happy! Come, Trixie! We can't let you go out like this! Let's get you dressed up. Clara? Do you have a car?"

I shook my head, no.

"Are you walking home? You live nearby?"

I nodded.

"Good, I'll be right back. Oh, and your cake is on me again. Don't worry about it. I'm just happy you are helping me with my pets. I can't afford more staff to take care of them at the moment."

Lucy grabbed Trixie by the wrist and dragged her out of the lounge. I had no idea how to prepare a giant white bunny girl for a walk. Surely, as soon as we would step out, everybody would notice us. Maybe Lucy would take Trixie out of her suit, or simply cover her with pants and a hoodie.

While I was waiting for them to come back, Vix joined me and started to cuddle. More than ever, I needed supportive hugs from the fox girl. What have I done?

A few minutes later, the lounge door cracked open, and Lucy poked her head through it.

"Come, Clara. She is ready."

I nervously gave one last hug to the latex fox and headed toward the exit. As soon as I entered the reception, I saw Lucy and Trixie side by side, and I thought I was going to die.

Trixie was still a full white latex bunny with her mask, little bunny tail and all... but she was wearing a bright pink fur coat that only reached her waist, and matching fluffy knee-high boots that looked more like leg warmers. Around her neck was a very contrasting black collar.

Lucy placed a small object in my hand.

"Here, that's the key for her locks. Don't let her out of her suit unless there is an emergency, it would break the magic, but you can unlock her crotch to play with her if you feel comfortable to do so, Trixie won't mind at all either way. And here, take this bag. Put it in the fridge when you get home. It's two squeeze bottles for her meals."

"..."

As Lucy was bombarding me with information, I couldn't take my eyes off Trixie, who was standing out more than ever, and I would have to walk in the street with her at my side. I couldn't cope with the emotions. But it was not over yet...

"Alright, let me attach her leash. I don't want you two to get separated. Without you, Trixie would have no chance."

She clipped a black leather leash to Trixie's collar and placed the handle in my hand.

"Alright, you are all set. Have fun, you two."

Lucy opened the front door leading to the scary outside, and Trixie didn't wait for a second and pulled me through the door. Before I could realize what was happening, I was on the walkway, pulling a sexy white latex bunny girl wearing a very eye-catching pink fur outfit. The whole world was staring at us.

"So, Clara? What do you say when someone is very nice to you?"

"... T— Thank... you."

"Good. See you tomorrow then."

"..."

I looked at Trixie, and she was jumping up and down, she didn't seem to care at all about what just happened; she was the one behind a mask, not me. I lowered my head in embarrassment and didn't know what to do. Trixie walked to me and slid her arm under mine, probably asking me to lead her home. Did I have a choice? She seemed to at least want to give me a break with the leash, understanding that it was probably too much for me to handle.

She nuzzled me a little with her cute whiskery muzzle.

"O— okay. Trixie... Let's go... home."

Thankfully I didn't live very far. It was only ten minutes walking distance. We got so many comments from strangers... correction... TRIXIE got all the comments. She occasionally waved with her cushy paw when she received a compliment and was simply ignoring the nasty ones. Somehow, the fact that she was handling the social aspect of our walk was a relief.

My communication disorder was invisible as long as I didn't try to open my mouth. Yet, when I was walking around by myself, I always felt all the looks, judging me. It was interesting to experience traveling with a pet girl that was truly standing out; my worries had vanished. She was absorbing all the gaze, all the comments, as if she were a sponge.

I thought I was going to die of embarrassment when Lucy had pushed us out in the street, but I realized that it had the opposite effect. Knowing that I was not the center of attention gave me some freedom I never had before.

The other thing that was fascinating to me was that even if Trixie could not talk, she could communicate more efficiently than I did. Her little waves to people admiring her were so natural and spontaneous; I could learn from her.

"It's my home. It's very small."

We arrived at my one-bedroom apartment. It was all I could afford with my low paying job. I kept my place very clean, so it gave me a sense of wealth.

I closed the door behind us and turned to the latex bunny who looked around with her big black eyes. Then she pointed at her collar with her paw, wanting to be unleashed.

"... Okay."

After unclipping the leash, I helped her take her pink boots and coat off and placed it in my little closet. It was so strange. She was the first person outside my family to see my apartment... but she didn't care because she found the bedroom right away, climbed on the bed, happily bounced on it, and invited me to join her.

It felt a bit too real—even more than when I spent the night with Vix in the capsule bedroom; this was my home. With Vix, we just cuddled, but I knew Trixie probably wanted me to go a bit further.

"Wait... Your food."

Before I forgot, I put her squeeze bottles in the fridge. I noticed my hands were shaking quite a bit. I placed them on the edge of the kitchen sink and took a couple of deep breaths, trying to make sense of everything that had happened so far. My body tried to tell me to slow down.

I was sick... I had this severe communication disorder, and this little adventure was taking its toll on me. Trixie listened to me earlier at Pets & Cakes when I explained my condition, but I could understand how quickly a social person like her could shrug it off and think it was just a minor thing I was whining about. But it was not... I had a lot of trouble managing my condition, and I almost wanted to cry now that I was knee-deep in something I wasn't so comfortable with.

Then two latex arms wrapped around my waist and a head gently pressed on my back. It was a gentle hug from Trixie.

"Trixie... I... I..."

As I was still unable to control my speech, the cute bunny squeezed my arm under her armpit and led me back to the bedroom. I needed to find a way to calm her down... to be patient... to make her understand that I was currently overwhelmed. Those damn words wouldn't come out.

"... wait... wait..."

She wasn't listening...

But she wasn't doing what I thought she was going to do. Instead of leading me directly to the bed for some advanced cuddles, she brought me to my bookshelves and pointed at a series of books with her soft paw.

"My... books?"

Trixie pointed to the books and then at herself... leaving me confused.

"You... want to read?"

She shook her head and pointed at me this time, then back at her.

"You... want me... to read you... a story?"

She nodded energetically and tried to pull on the one she wanted with her useless paw.

I was baffled... She didn't want to have sex... She was just here to take care of me... to help me.

"Trixie. Are you... doing this... for me?"

The adorable white rubber bunny nodded, and so very gently rubbed my cheek.

During the evening, we spent a lot of time on the bed. She was clinging to me while I was trying to read a book to her. She was making me practice my speech while making me feel so loved. The texture of latex contacting my skin was incredible, and I didn't feel pressured anymore. Trixie had understood I was not ready for more.

I think I learned something important tonight. People are not nearly as selfish as we sometimes would like to think.

Pet girls definitely are not.

Chapter 3 - More Than Pets

When I woke up this morning, I had a cute latex rabbit girl in my arms. Who in the world could have bragged about the same thing? All my apprehensions and fears toward Trixie had been unjustified. Sure, Trixie would probably have loved to have more than I had to offer last night, but she has been so understanding.

She quickly saw that I was not ready for more than what we had done so far, so instead of pressuring me, she found a way to make me happy in a different way. We read a book together, and then we cuddled ourselves to sleep. This experience with Trixie awakened something inside me that I had not felt very often.

Trixie was not shy about it; she loved it when people played with her latex covered breasts. That was something Lucy had mentioned, and even the white rabbit repeatedly indicated the same thing herself. So last night, when cuddling, I wanted to be as kind to her as she had been to me. I gave her plenty of chest massages and squeezings, exploring the emotions it was triggering inside of me privately. I needed to discover if this was something I desired too.

I've been awake for the past thirty minutes already, but Trixie was still deeply asleep, dreaming about something. Her warm rubber body in my arms occasionally twitched adorably. It was nice to observe her.

When I spent a night with Vix, the fox girl, she hadn't done that— well, I barely slept on that night because of the excitement, and every time I was awake, Vix was too and asked for more cuddles. This time around, with Trixie, it was the first time I could really study someone sleeping in my arms, and I felt I had the responsibility to keep her in that state so that she could enjoy her dreams a bit longer.

I was also wondering how being encased in such a restrictive catsuit and mask would feel like. It looked extremely comfortable from the outside, but I had no clue what it would be like from the inside.

Short breathing tubes were probably running from her real nose to her rabbit ears, and the small feeding hole under her chin was probably going to her mouth somehow. None of the pets were talking or making any sounds. Only once, Vix had giggled, and it was very faint. Were they

gagged, or was it just training? All I knew is that it was not bugging them. They were happily wearing their suits for days in a row.

I knew Lucy occasionally let them out; Oreo and Meeka weren't at the café last time, probably forced to take a break. I was under the impression some of the pet girls were not thrilled to take their suits off. When I was investigating Vix's zipper the other day, her reaction was crystal clear. She didn't want me to unzip her at all.

Yesterday, Lucy gave me the key to unlock Trixie, but she warned me not to let her out of her suit unless there was an emergency. But honestly, letting her out never crossed my mind since we arrived at my home. I thought about this before; I forgot that they were people. They were just animals, and I had a hard time thinking about them in any other way.

Trixie started to move; she just woke up. I was behind her, spooning with my limbs wrapped around her. Her cushy paws went up to my arms as if asking for me to squeeze her harder, which I did, and it triggered a long sigh from the bunny.

She slowly turned around to face me, beautiful as ever, with her big black eyes communicating nothing but love. This position allowed her to roll me to my back and climb on top of me.

"Good morning, Trixie."

For some reason, she kept stretching and twisting; I wasn't sure what she was doing. It was as if she couldn't fully control her little white body. But then she showed me what was going on.

She pressed her crotch to my thigh and slowly started rubbing it up and down. Morning sexual waves assaulted Trixie's body, forcing her to display her arousal state. I kept caressing her, not too sure about what I should do to help her.

I wanted Trixie to have this moment; it was her reward for having been so patient and understanding. Allowing her to have this little pleasure felt the right thing to do. I was not anxious or scared, as usual. I was relaxed, happy, and loving.

Trixie kept slowly humping my leg for a long moment while we were cuddling, and I even dared to do it a little bit too. The latex rubbing on my crotch, only separated by a thin layer of fabric, was feeling like heaven. If she had not had a mask on, I would probably have felt the need to kiss her.

This morning was perfect.



"Clara, Trixie! You are back! How did your evening go?"

"... Good. Trixie... is nice."

"Aaah, so you can talk now? Haha. Trixie can have this changing effect on people. Go right in the lounge. I'll be right back. I just have to let Trixie out of her costume. She won't be working for the next few days."

We were back at the animal café where Lucy welcomed us. This time around, I hadn't felt nearly as embarrassed walking around town with the white latex bunny wearing her cute pink fuzzy clothes. After the amazing cuddling session mixed with light sexual stimulation, I was calm and peaceful.

As soon as Lucy mentioned that Trixie's shift was over, the bunny reacted strongly. She rushed to me and grabbed my arm, clearly not wanting to get out of her suit.

"Trixie, you have to behave! Oreo gave me a run for my money the other day, please don't do the same. I let you spend a night with Clara, don't be greedy! We have rules, and you know them."

If she could have flopped her rubber ears back, Trixie would have done so. She lowered her head and pushed it on my chest. I gave her a small hug.

"It's okay... Trixie..."

The white bunny returned my hug and accompanied Lucy who would let her out of her suit.

I entered the lounge to take a look at the pet girls; if Trixie wasn't working today, maybe there was a new pet.

As usual, my arrival caused all the animals to stare at me. I didn't think I would ever get used to this. I began a headcount; Vix was there, Oreo was back, and there was also the puppy, the O so adorable snow leopard, the cute grey wolf and the black cat who have been around since the beginning.

I headed to my booth, and all the animals lined up; they had no idea who I was going to choose today, but they all seemed to want to join me. They were all so friendly.

However, this time around, and with the cute rabbit gone, I had no other choice but to pick the snow leopard. Since I saw her yesterday, I couldn't get over how beautiful she was. I had never seen such a pretty latex catsuit. The little black spots covering her body were just to die for, and the markings on her mask were so perfect.

The leopard girl immediately climbed on my seat and started nuzzling me, tickling me with her little whiskers!

"Haha! You are so pretty."

My routine with new pets had not changed. I made the leopard girl lay down on her back with her head resting on my laps, and I rubbed her belly while I was discovering her features. Her mask was even better than the other ones I have seen so far. Whoever was making those was getting better at it. Lucy was so lucky to have found such a great artist to create her costumes.

As I was exploring the not so big cat, I was wondering what her name could be. Maybe they should all wear name tags. This questioning led me to another amusing thought; if I were to be a pet girl, what would be my name? What animal would I be? I had no idea, but it was fun to think about it for a short moment.

A bit later, Lucy entered the lounge with my cheesecake and a coffee. But instead of smiling, as usual, she had a frown on her face.

"Clara! What do you think you are doing with Asha? Asha, get off her right now!"

"...!"

What did I do? What did I do? I didn't understand why Lucy was angry all of a sudden, but Asha didn't wait to find out and quickly got off me and rejoined the others. My heart started to race, and my hyperventilating came back along with my trembling. What was going on?

Lucy placed the cheesecake on the table, and the coffee next to it then sat in front of me. I wanted to die.

"Hehe. Did I scare you? Don't worry. I'm just pulling your legs. I wanted to see how you would react if I scolded you the same way I do with my pets. Your reaction is priceless. Sorry about that."

"... ffff! ffff! ffff!"

"Aww! Sorry, try to breathe. I didn't mean to scare you that much. You can have Asha back, hehe. Asha! Come!"

The snow leopard girl immediately climbed back on me and gave me a tight hug to calm me down.

"Pick another one, now."

"...?"

"Yes, Trixie said she had a lot of fun with you last night and this morning, so I'm sure you can handle two pets at the same time today. So pick another one. As long as there are no waiting clients, it's okay to do so. My pets don't have much to do anyway."

Could I really handle two pets at the same time? How would this work? I was barely getting used to taking care of one at a time; I was unsure how I could give attention to two animals concurrently.

Yet, the first time I visited the Pets & Cake, I had no idea how to give affection to a single critter, and here I was, a couple of cheesecake later, not nearly as shy as before and providing hugs to a critter I never met.

"Come on, Clara. It's okay. Don't overthink this... as I said, all my pet girls are amazing. You can't go wrong."

"... Vix?"

As I pronounced the red fox's name, all the other pets rolled their heads. People always choose Vix among the first because of her infinite cuteness.

It only took a second for the fox girl to join us. So now I had one adorable snow leopard resting her head on my laps and a fox girl wrapped around my arm, nuzzling me. Lucy called the two cats to her side, Oreo and Misti. Those two were easy to tell apart even though their masks had the same shape; Oreo was black and white while Misti was all black.

"See, Oreo... your time off was not too bad. Why did you make a scene again when I took you out of your suit? You are just making my life more difficult."

Oreo nodded.

"Did you have fun with your family?"

Oreo nodded again.

"See, I told you. It's nice to be a pet girl, but you need real-life fun too. You can't just be a cat forever."

Oreo shrugged.

"Haha. Funny cat. I bet you think you can. So, Clara... I wanted to ask you a little favor. But feel free to say no, I'm happy just to have you as a client."

"..."

"... I mean... I'm working really hard since I opened my café... and... I didn't have a day off in a month. I love what I do, but it's a lot of work. I would like to take a day off."

"... Okay?"

"So, I was wondering... We are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, would you like to take care of my pets on one of those days next week. I would love to have a small break."

I gasped for air. Did Lucy just ask me to take care of all her pets while she was away? Would it not be simpler to just let them out of their suits during those two days instead of babysitting them?

I tried to articulate that line of thought using my limited speech abilities mixed with anxiety.

"But... Why... Keep them in... costume?"

"Aaah! I see what you mean. Well, you don't know much about pet girls yet. Look at this..."

Lucy turned to Oreo and grabbed the small cat by the shoulders; she asked her a simple question.

"Oreo, do you want to get out of your suit so I can take some time off?"

Immediately, Oreo shook her head, almost in distress. Then Lucy turned to Misti...

"And you, Misti?"

She received another strong negative reaction from the other cat. None of them were in agreement with that horrific plan. I started to understand where Lucy was going with this... but then she asked them another question.

"Okay, so what? Would you prefer if Clara was taking care of you on Monday?"

The two cats went ballistic and jumped on the table in front of me and tried to reach me for hugs. Oreo crushed my cheesecake with her knee and Misti bumped in my coffee cup, which fortunately was already empty.

"MISTI! OREO! STOP! What a mess! Alright, Misti, get off Clara right now! You, Oreo, come with me. I need to clean you up, and then you'll get punished. Bad cat!"

This chaotic incident ended our little discussion abruptly, which was a good thing because I needed time to digest what Lucy had proposed. I wasn't sure what taking care of her pet would involve, but it would probably be a lot of work. Lucy was always running around, keeping an eye on everybody to make sure they were okay, feeding them, and making them drink. There was no doubt in my mind that it was a demanding job. It is no wonder she was thrilled to let me take Trixie home last night; it had lightened her workload.

I was not working on Monday and only started at noon on Tuesday, so I could technically do it. It was now the time for me to ask myself the real questions and come up with honest answers.

Did I want to do it?

I looked at my snow leopard and my red fox, they were beyond incredible. I loved taking care of them. So, yes, I wanted to do it... badly.

Was I too scared to do it? What if a pet needed something and I couldn't understand her... What if there was an emergency and I had to call the first responders... what if I didn't feed them properly...

"Vix... I'm scared..."

As soon as those distressed words escaped my mouth, Asha got off my lap and kneeled next to me, and Vix did the same. They both wrapped an arm around my neck, and Vix placed her delicate paw on my mouth and shook her head.

"But... I don't know if... I can do it."

This time, Asha placed her two paws on each side of my face and gave me a solid, confident nod while expelling a short stream of air by her ear tubes. It was her way to tell me, "We trust you! You can do it."

Using the back of my hand, I wiped my watering eyes. Why was it always so hard for me to do new things? I was so used to being by myself and repeating the same dreary day over and over for the past years, not exposing myself to fun adventures. Now that I had an opportunity to do something different, I felt like crap.

For a long moment, I stayed there in silence, cuddling with my leopard and fox, and thinking about what I had become.

Lucy came back, dragging Oreo by her wrist. I was wondering what kind of punishment she was talking about earlier. I couldn't remotely picture Lucy brutalizing her beloved pets, but surely she must have had some tricks up her sleeve to keep some order and obedience in the place. Then I noticed it... Oreo had a bright red collar around her neck.

"Aaah, that will teach you! Look, Clara, this red collar means that nobody is allowed to cuddle with her. I usually put it on them when they need to rest, but it can also serve as an efficient punishment. See, Oreo! That is what you get for being reckless. Now sit over there and stay quiet! Not cuddles for you until I decide it's enough."

Oreo lowered her head and went to curl in the corner of the room. Misti walked toward her, but Lucy intercepted the cat who was feeling bad for her friend.

"Misti, do you want to wear a red collar too? No? Then stay away from Oreo! I tell you... those cats sometimes... as if I didn't have enough work already."

Lucy came back to me and let a long sigh out.

"See... That's why I need a break. So, would you like to help me?"

I nodded. It was more than time to explore the social world a bit and walk away from my old self. So far, my time with the pets filled me with love and understanding, and there was no reason to believe it would be any harder if I stayed with them all for one full day.

"I will... do it. Monday."

"Aaah! You are so awesome! I swear everything will go well. You can start at 8 am on Monday until 8 pm... would that work?"

"... No."

"Oh? No?"

"Can... Can I do ... more?"

"More? What do you mean? Take your time, we are in no rush."

"I... 8 am is good... But... Can I sleep... here? I can stay. Until 10 am."

"You want to take care of them from Monday 8 am to Tuesday at 10 am?"

"... Yes."

"Clara! I LOVE YOU! You are a lifesaver! Of course, you can do that! Finally! I will get to have a real day off. Don't worry about anything! I will prepare all their meals and make you a list of everything you have to do. It's not all that complicated! You'll have so much fun, I promise!"

Well, that got her excited. She seemed to need that day off badly. Offering to stay overnight was something she didn't want to put me through, but since I requested, she didn't need to think about it twice.

I couldn't stay much longer today because of my job, but it was a fun visit. I still wasn't sure why Lucy trusted me so much with her pet girls, but I was certainly not going to complain about it. I got to pet all the latex animals I wanted and even had a chance to have private moments with some of them.

Agreeing to help Lucy on Monday while she was enjoying a well-deserved break got me more excited than I ever been in my entire life. I liked her pets so much, and I was looking forward to spending more time alone with them, even though I knew it might be challenging.

I wanted to spend time with... my new friends.

Chapter 4 - A World Of Pets

"This is all their keys in case you need them. As I said, don't try to take them out of their suit unless it is absolutely necessary. It would be the best way to make them angry at you."

"... Yes."

"So, all their meals are in the fridge, and I labeled each bottle with their names. They each have an extra, just in case."

"... Yes."

"Oh, and this is my cell phone number, don't hesitate to call me if you need anything!"

"... Yes."

"Don't forget, Vix love to cuddle with you, so when you go to bed, it would be nice if you could let her sleep with you."

"... yes."

"... As you know, Trixie loves when we play her boobs, or else she gets grumpy."

"... yes."

"... And... And... I'm being too motherly... right?"

"..."

It's been like this since I got here at 8 am. Lucy was out of control, trying to ensure everything was perfect during her day off. It was Monday, and I would be keeping an eye on all her pet girls until tomorrow morning. I expected to be nervous, but quickly discovered that Lucy was the anxious one.

"Clara... You'll be okay, right!? I am not asking too much of you?"

'... It's... fine."

"Good, good. Sorry... I tend to treat everybody like pets these days... I'm so used to being on my own with them. I didn't mean to be bossy with you."

"... It's... okay..."

"Alright! Okay! I'm going now. I'm going to visit my family. It has been forever. Thank you so much again for accepting to do this for me. Please, try to enjoy yourself as much as possible. I fully trust you to do the right things and keep everybody happy, including yourself."

"... Thank... you."

Out of nowhere, Lucy pulled me into a big motherly hug... It was the first time she did that to me. Before I could even raise my arms, she let me go and headed to the door, throwing some more advice at me.

"Don't forget... Oreo hates apple juice, and Asha needs some cuddling after eating! It helps her digestion."

"..."

"Okay, okay! I'm going! See you tomorrow, Clara! You are fantastic!"

Lucy walked out, and I headed toward the door to lock it; the shop was not open today, and the last thing I wanted was to face a stranger that had no business in the café. But just as I was about to put my fingers on the lock, the door opened brusquely... Lucy wasn't done...

"Oh, and if you sleep with Misti, she prefers to be on the left side of the bed. Okay ... Bye now!"

"..."

As soon as the door slammed close, I hurried and locked it... Right before Lucy tried to open it again, unsuccessfully, this time.

I stayed there for a minute or two, making sure she was really gone this time and headed toward the lounge where all the pets were undoubtedly waiting for me. Who knew how they would behave now that Lucy was gone. There was potential for this to turn into a nightmare pretty quickly.

I swiped the access card in front of the reader and pushed the door open. Either they would rush to me and cause trouble or behave like little angels as they always did in my presence.

I stepped in carefully and closed the door behind me...

There were five of them today; Vix the fox, Trixie the bunny, Oreo the cat, Asha the leopard, and Misti the black cat. The doggy had finished her shift last night, or maybe Lucy just knew I was not that much of a dog person.

All the small animal girls stared at me, and I didn't really know what to do or say to them... I guess we were stuck together until the next day, no matter what happened next.

"Lucy... is gone."

That was apparently the little critters cue to start converging toward me. I kneeled to welcome them, but they quickly overpowered me, and I ended flat on my back, with all the pets trying to get cuddles.

"Eep! ... Careful!"

It was intimidating, for sure, but they were so sweet. The latex animals just wanted to give me some love and probably a preview of how our day together would look like.

Being covered in small rubber pets was fun. I took a moment to appreciate how much I changed since I started coming to this café. A short while ago, I would have panicked if this had happened to me, but now I could cope with it. It made a world of difference to know that none of them would make fun of me because of my communication disorder. All they wanted was to give me affection and receive some.

"I... I have... to make you eat. Go... Go sit. Okay?"

The pet girls made it so easy for me. They knew I wasn't good at talking and gave me some slack because that was what I needed. While they were getting off me, one by one, I thought about this for a second.

Around Lucy, they often misbehaved and could get annoying as hell. So why would they act so differently around me? The only thing I could think of was that they adapted to the person they were dealing with. Perhaps Lucy loved receiving affection in a different way than I did. She was very motherly, so maybe her pets were giving her a run for her money because she liked her life action-packed.

I slowly raised back on my feet and went to the kitchenette to retrieve the food bottles for breakfast. There were five rows of squeeze bottles on the shelf labeled with their names, so I proceeded to grab one of each.

“Vix, Asha, Oreo, Misti, Meeka... Meeka!?”

Why was there a Meeka bottle? She was not even here... Trixie's was the one I needed. I looked deeper inside the fridge, but there was nothing else... Did Lucy, anxious as she was, made a mistake and provided me with the wrong food for Trixie?

Well, food was food... It was not like they were real animals... It was probably all the same anyway, and the labels were more for roleplay than anything else. That said, I didn't like olives... I would be pretty mad if someone forced me to eat something I didn't like.

I placed the five food bottles on a tray along with some water bottles. Then my eyes landed on a little notebook on the countertop. Curious, I opened it to see what it was...

"Pet girls cookbook."

Ah, there we go... It was the recipes Lucy used to prepare their meals... I would just have to ask Trixie if she was good with what was in Meeka's bottle.

I entered the pet lounge with my tray and placed it on the table.

"Who is... first?"

Of course, Oreo rushed to me. With a name like that, I wasn't surprised she loved eating. I made her climb on my bench and laid her down, head on my lap. It was the best position to feed the pet girls because the feeding hole was under their muzzle. It was barely as big as a pinhole, very well concealed, but when I pressed the squeeze bottle's tip to it, it got larger to allow the blended food to go in easily.

My fingers squeezed the bottle, and Oreo started swallowing what entered her mouth. It was an excellent opportunity to pet her cute cat ears and try to bond.

"You like... food?"

She nodded while sucking happily.

"You... you've been a pet for a long time?"

Oreo nodded some more...

"How long? ... One year? No? Two? ... Oh... That's a long time."

Our casual chit-chat was fun and lasted for the 10 minutes it took me to feed her. I rinsed her mouth with some freshwater and thought she deserved a big hug for making it so easy.

Trixie was next in line, but I told her I would feed her last. That made her a bit suspicious, and she stared at me the whole time until Vix, Asha, and Misti finished eating. I always tended to forget they were smart girls wearing costumes and not just pets. Hiding things from them and expecting them not to figure it out was not a good plan.

When I called Trixie back, she straddled me, facing me with the adorable bunny face and whiskers, waiting to hear what I had to say.

"Lucy... She prepared the... wrong food."

One of her soft rabbit paws went to her forehead and shook her head.

"It... It is not... the first time?"

Trixie shook her head and looked on the table, trying to find out who's food she would be getting. I helped her a little bit by spinning the bottle so she could read the label.

"It's Meeka's... food."

Instantaneously, her two white paws went to her throat, pretending that Meeka's food would kill her. I grabbed the pet cookbook and flipped the page to find Meeka's recipes. There were several, but I quickly figured why Trixie might have had a problem with it.

"Oh... Meeka's a vegetarian..."

The white rabbit nodded and let herself fall down on the couch, pretending to have died.

"Trixie, come on. It's just food. You have to eat... Do it... for me?"

The dead animal let out a long sigh and slowly got up and placed herself in a feeding position. I knew one rabbit who would give Lucy some hell upon her return.

I inserted the nozzle in her under chin hole and squeezed the bottle. As soon as the food hit her tongue, Trixie twisted her head out the way, causing me to spray her white neck and shoulder with the green mixture.

"Trixie! Don't... do that."

Using a paper towel, I wiped her clean. It was a good thing that latex was not absorbent, but I was; I didn't want to end up with food all over me. I brought her back into position and plugged her feeding hole with the bottle again.

"Stay... Please. I have to feed you."

But as soon as I squeezed the vegetarian food through, Trixie did the same thing, and even slapped the bottle off my hand, sending it to the floor.

"Trixie! Stop!"

I wiped her clean once more, while Oreo brought me back the bottle.

"Thanks, Oreo. Trixie... It's... just food... please."

The white rabbit was not having a good time and shook her head, refusing to cooperate. It was time to change strategy...

"If you eat... I will let you... sleep with... me... tonight? In... in the pod."

That proposal caught her attention because she slowly turned her head back to look at me with her big black eyes. She let a loud sigh out and gave me a little nod.

"Good... Let's do it faster. It... will be easier."

This time, when I injected Meeka's food, Trixie accepted it all despite some body twisting. As promised, I went much faster, and she swallowed everything like a champ. A bit of water helped rinse the bad taste, but after that, without even asking for a hug, she left my booth and went to crash on another couch nearby, holding her belly. I felt so bad for her because we would have to repeat it two more times today.

The entire day went so well. I could cuddle with whoever I wanted whenever I wanted. I was also busy with some side tasks. Lucy had asked me to polish the latex animals and keep them active by playing a bit with them.

One thing I didn't expect was that the pet girls loved cuddling with each other. I guess the absence of clients triggered that behavior. Some nice scenes took place, like when Vix and Asha gave Trixie a good time. It turned into something quite sexual with boobs and crotch massage, but I didn't dare stop them. Lucy had not mentioned any rules about this, so I simply assumed it was normal for them to do that. To see my three favorite pets cuddling each other like this kind of made me jealous.

But Misti and Oreo were caring for me in the other corner of the room. The two cats were warm and affectionate, and I even took a nap with them after lunch.

All day long, my little animals were just fantastic. There were no conflicts or trouble. Feeding Trixie with the food she didn't like was the only downside of my pet sitting adventure.

"Time for bed!"

As soon as I spoke those words, the white bunny came to me and attached to my arm. I had made a promise, and I intended to honor it.

"Yes... You can sleep with me."

The four other rubber pets, however, had a little surprise for me. They all lined up, looking even cuter than before; they were doing this on purpose... But why?

"You... don't want... to sleep?"

They all shook their head together, leaving me confused... Trixie got her paw into motion; she had something to say.

She pointed at the four pets, then pointed at herself, and finally pointed at the ceiling.

"You want... to turn off the light? So... they can sleep?"

All the pet girls giggled at what I just said. For them to do that, my best guess must have been hilarious. Trixie tried again. She pointed at them, at herself, then she placed her two cushy paws on one side of her leaned head as if to sleep, then pointed at the ceiling.

"Oooh... You want them... to sleep... upstairs? In the pods?"

Trixie nodded and clapped her hands together before scraping my chest with her non-existent claws.

"I... I don't know... Is... Lucy okay with this?"

They all nodded and walked toward the lounge door.

"Okay... but don't... get me in trouble... I don't want her mad... at me."

I opened the door, and they all escaped the dining room and rushed upstairs. After a final check to ensure all the doors were locked and the lights turned off, I joined them in the room where the capsules were.

When I got there, the five pet girls played with each other in front of the pods. I quickly understood that they couldn't open the doors themselves with their cushy paws, which was why they were waiting for me.

There were four pods, and we were six. I would be sleeping with Trixie, so the other would have to decide on their sleeping arrangement.

I crouched down and opened one of the bottom capsules. I slid the white door open and moved aside to let in whoever wanted to use that one.

Misti went in first, followed by Oreo, of course... and Asha... and Vix... What were they doing? There were four of them in it now.

"... Guys?"

Trixie tapped me on the chest and pointed at the crowded sleeping pod.

"You... want me... to go in... with them?"

She nodded and started to clumsily pull on my clothes as if she wanted me to undress. What was going on? Did they really want all of us to sleep in the same bed? We were all small girls, but still... It would be the six of us piled up in a room barely bigger than a queen mattress.

"Trixie..."

The bunny girl pressed my two hands together with her paws and gave me a determined nod. She took a deep and long breath in and let it out slowly, making her ear fur wiggle. It was her way to show me that if I were to relax, everything would be alright. I suppose she was right. What did I have to lose anyway? If it was too much for me, I could just get out and use another pod. They would understand.

I started taking my clothes off, and in a snap of a finger, I was down to my underwear. I crouched down to enter the pod, but Trixie stopped me. With her paw, she pointed at my bra and panties.

"You... you want me... to be... naked?"

Trixie nodded and caressed my red cheeks. I hesitantly took my underwear off, and this time she let me go in. I was wondering who was the pet at this point. She had more control over me than I had over her, at least at this point in time.

Inside the pod, Vix, Misti, Oreo, and Asha were sitting, two on each side, leaving the middle of the mattress to me. This scene was surreal. Was I really doing this? Laying down on my back, naked, while surrounded by adorable latex pet girls? I would never have been able to do such a thing if I had not fully trusted them to take good care of me.

Trixie entered the pod after me and slid the door close behind her. I was pretty sure this micro-room wasn't designed for six people, but it probably could handle it. The fans were working harder, but they were not that loud.

Then it began. I was about to receive my ultimate reward for pet sitting all day. All the animal girls used their soft rubber paws to caress and massage my body. Trixie played gently with my ankle and feet, Oreo and Misti were taking care of my lower body while Asha and Vix had fun with my upper body. It was better than a dream.

Very gradually, they approached my most sensitive spots, waiting for my cues before going farther.

"Girls... this... this feels... very good."

What was I doing? I was getting turned on like crazy because of what they were doing to me. I didn't feel threatened, rushed, or manipulated into this. They were taking all the time in the world to make me relax and ensure I was enjoying my experience.

The latex rubbing everywhere on my skin, and now boobs and crotch, was so delicious that I started moaning a little, which was my way to express that I wanted more... I wanted much more from them.

I couldn't see Trixie's smile, but I knew it was there, behind her mask. She slowly crawled over me, making sure her thigh rubbed on my crotch, sending waves of pleasure through my entire body.

I loved those pets beyond reason!



"Clara? Clara? You in there?"

"..."

Hearing my name pulled me out of my profound sleep. An incredible feeling washed over me when I saw myself buried under a pile of cute rubber animals after opening my eyes. The capsule door quietly cracked open; it was Lucy.

"Heeey, here they all are. I was getting worried when I couldn't find anyone... It's 9 am already... I just thought I would let you know, so you are not late for work. I knew you were going to take amazing care of my pets. Thank you so much. It was so good to have a day off."

"... No... Thanks to... them."

"Aww... Okay, Clara... I'll leave you alone with them. Come downstairs whenever you are ready. We need to have a chat about this, okay?"

Lucy closed the door, leaving me happily confined with the five sleepy rubber pets. I was ready to nap just a bit longer, to enjoy the wonderful feeling... But then I felt a rubber paw rubbing on my crotch...

I was not the only one who was awake.

Chapter 5 -My Lovely Pets

"Thank you!"

Wow... That came out well for once. I just ordered a smoothie from the kiosk at the mall, and when they handed it over to me, I didn't hesitate or think; the words flew out of my mouth flawlessly. Regularly talking to the pet girls was making a big difference. Saying thank you maybe was not a big deal for most people, but to me, it was a small victory.

I walked to one of the empty tables and sat there with my drink and cellphone. The goal of my visit to the mall was to shop around for a new pair of shoes. Usually, my communication disorder was in the way of such simple activities. Shopping for new shoes could be scary to me; the thought that I would have to talk to someone during the process was paralyzing me, to the point where I didn't want to go anymore.

But not today. The smoothie order was not my only victory. I also felt confident to go from shop to shop, trying to find exactly what I wanted, not just buying the first pair that fit me to avoid going to other stores.

Also, just sitting here at the table in front of the smoothie kiosk was something I would not necessarily have done in the past. I ran the risk to have someone walk up to me for a chat, forcing me to expose my disorder; like when those two girls sat at the table right behind me, some anxiety set in as if they entered my oversized personal bubble.

But I resisted. I sipped on my smoothie and checked my emails even though none of them were from people. They were either bills or online orders, which was rather sad. But while I was pretending to do that, it was an opportunity to listen to people around me and observe how they were socializing. I eavesdropped on the two girls behind me who were chatting about a new purchase.

"Why did you buy that dress anyway?"

"What? You don't like it?"

"It's not that... I'm just wondering why. Are you going on a date with a hot guy?"

"Nooo... I just like it..."

"Right! A hot girl then?"

"Nooo! I just like it!"

"So when are you going to wear it then?"

"I dunno... Maybe after my next shift. I'll find an occasion!"

"You are hopeless! You know that?"

Those mundane conversations were something I was incapable of. What they were saying was inconsequential and purposeless; the poor girl didn't need a reason to get a new dress if she had the money and liked it. The other girl should have minded her own business. Yet, I saw this all the time... Friends were teasing each other to have fun, and I was unable to do the same with the people I knew.

This is part of why I liked going to the animal café so much. I didn't need to use speech all that much to communicate, and it took a lot of pressure off my shoulders. I understood the pet girls well even if they were mute, so it gave me a break from real life. Practicing my communication skills was not imposed on me if I didn't feel like it.

I kept listening to what they were talking about, admitting to myself that I envied them for being able to discuss in such a friendly manner. It looked like a third girl was about to join them.

"Heeey! Over here! We're here!"

"There you are, guys... Well hidden. I couldn't find you."

"It's quieter here... Give me my food!"

"Hey, calm down, let me sit first... So, here's your pad thai, and you, I got your teriyaki chicken."

"Thanks! What are you having?"

"I got vegetarian egg rolls."

"Aaah! Gross! How can you live without meat!?"

That last bit of conversation almost made me chuckle. It immediately reminded me of my little pet sitting adventure the other day, when I had to feed Trixie with Meeka's vegetarian food. It didn't agree with her too much. I didn't mind it personally, but some people just needed their meat.

I guess the latex animals were not that much different than regular people after all. They all have different personalities, different tastes, and different ways to cuddle. The pets were just much cuter and didn't talk nearly as much.

Their little chit-chat continued.

"So, when do you go back to work?"

"Tomorrow... I'm doing four days in a row this time. And you guys?"

"Tomorrow as well for five days."

"In two days for me... I don't remember for how long, though."

"But hey, Meeka, too bad you missed last Monday. Lucy took a day off, and Clara got to pet sit us! It was sooo much fun!"

"No way! Lucy let Clara take care of you all?"

I sprayed my smoothie all over my table when I heard what I just heard and started trembling like a leaf. As the white liquid was dripping down my chin under everybody's stares, behind me were three of the pet girls that I cuddled and had sex with. But they were ordinary people. I couldn't see them, but just hearing their voice sent me to a terrible place. What if they recognized me? What if they talked to me?

"Hey, you okay there?"

"..."

A voice... perhaps Meeka's voice... paralyzed me further...

"Hey? You good?"

"... Y— Yes... Thank... you!"

Turning around to look at them was not an option. I grabbed my napkins and started wiping my chin and table clean as people resumed their normal activities, including the three pet girls behind who lowered their voice for a moment. They were possibly scared by the freak who had spat her smoothie everywhere like a child.

My visits to the animal café during the past little while were such a life changer. That place became the most important thing in my entire existence. The pets were now my friends, and they helped me grow so much through understanding and enjoyable experiences. I didn't want to change anything for now. I wanted things to continue the way they were. Why did my destiny bring those three girls to me, here at the mall? What were the odds? Why? I didn't want to change... I didn't want to see them as human... not yet.

As my eyes welled up with tears, the three civilian pet girls behind me resumed their loud chat, having fun as if nothing had happened.

"Ah, anyway! What are we doing this afternoon?"

"MOVIES!"

"Asha... can't we do something else for once?"

"No!"

"And you, Misti? Movies too, I guess!"

"Yes! Yes!"

"I give up! You guys are killing me... Okay... Movies it is! Eat your food so we can go!"

Asha... Misti... Meeka... They were so close to me... I knew them all so well and even had sex with two of them. The curiosity was eating me alive, but I refused to turn around. It would destroy everything.

I stayed there, trembling, and hoping they would not discover me... I couldn't leave or stay; on the one hand, I wanted to keep listening to them, and on the other, I wanted to flee. Two decision walls were slowly closing on me, leaving me with a fear for the worse and not daring to take any actions that were susceptible to compromise everything I had worked for recently.

For the next twenty minutes, I sipped on my smoothie and tried to render myself invisible while the three pet girls had a lot of fun. I had no idea they were also friends outside the café.

Eventually, Asha, Meeka, and Misti left... They walked away in the opposite direction, so I couldn't even see what their back looked like; I probably would have closed my eyes anyway.

After a minute or two, I carefully turned around to confirm they were really gone... and they indeed were. I let out a big sigh of relief and let my head drop on my forearms. Now that this madness was over, I was left with an absolute loser feeling.

Who was doing that? Any average person would have been happy and thrilled to meet the pet girls out of costume... but not me. Instead of being overjoyed like I should have been, my messed up head made me feel miserable and scared...

Out of the blue, as I was banging my head on my table in despair, two small hands landed on my shoulder, almost making my heart explode. My breathing ceased.

"Clara... don't turn around... We recognized you."

"..."

"I'm Asha... Don't worry about anything, okay? We know you, and we love you. Nothing will change."

"..."

"Come on, breathe a little bit for me... I just wanted to make sure you were okay. The others are waiting for me elsewhere... It's just the two of us... Good... Breathe..."

As I tried to take some air in, I recognized the gentle touch of the snow leopard girl, but instead of soft paws, they were hands... and it felt so good. Somehow, the way Asha was talking to me right now was the same way the pet girls had treated me so far... with kindness and understanding. There was no judgment in her voice.

"Clara... Would you like to look at me? You don't have to, but I think it would be good for you."

"... I... I..."

"Take your time... Think about it."

This was not fair... Ending up in a situation I didn't want to be in. Asha wanted me to look at her, but it was way too scary to do so. The animal café has been so good to me... changing anything would mean risking losing something too precious... It was too soon for that...

"... N— No."

"It's okay. Another time maybe... but I want to give you a big hug... Can I at least do that?"

"... Yes."

From behind me, Asha wrapped her naked arms around my shoulder and placed her chin on my shoulder, to the point where I felt her soft cheek rubbing on mine. She then whispered something in my ear...

"We love you so much!"

Her words... The faint wind of her warm moist breath brushing against my ear fuzz... Her lips must have been so close. All of that sent an amazing shiver down my spinal cord. Nobody ever did that to me before. It felt so intimate and so genuine.

When her arms slid off me, she made sure to drag her hands around my neck and also in my hair.

"See you at the Pets & Cakes, Clara!"



"CLARA!"

"..."

"Where were you!? We were so worried. We thought you were DEAD!"

"..."

I was at her animal café only 5 days ago. Lucy was a bit over dramatic and motherly as always.

"So... did you think about my offer?"

"... Yes."

"Aaaand? Would you like to pet sit again? I was hoping twice a month."

"... I can do it... Mondays I can."

"GREAT! ... But... I don't really have enough money to pay you right now. The costumes are expensive, and I need to keep my pets alive and healthy."

"... It's okay... I'm fine."

"Well, you may be fine, but it's only fair that I compensate you for your hard work..."

"... They... They are... my friends."

"Aaaw! You are so cute, Clara. No wonder why they like you so much. Okay, so what about this... I will let you bring a pet home whenever you feel like it. Would that work for now?"

"..."

I couldn't answer because my throat froze due to the surprise... but it was definitely a big YES. This was the best payment ever.

I nodded.

"You are not a pet, Clara..."

"..."

"Use words with me... I know you are getting better at talking."

"S— Sorry... Yes."

"Alright... Here, take this... It's your own access card for the lounge. You keep it. Now go see your friends, they will be happy to see you."

I headed to the lounge door but was a bit apprehensive after having bumped into Misti, Meeka and Asha yesterday. While I eavesdropped, I learned that two of the three girls were going to work today, but I didn't know which ones.

I opened the door and squeezed myself into the lounge. There were a couple of clients already, so some of the pets were already busy. I initiated my usual headcount. The grey wolf was sitting between a young couple, Vix the fox and Oreo the cat were cuddling with three girls, and Trixie launched herself into my arms, asking for a hug and interrupting my task.

"Trixie!"

So that was four of them. As I was walking to my favorite booth, I spotted Misti, who was napping on the carpet in a corner, she was wearing a red collar, meaning that she had done a bad thing, or Lucy simply wanted her to rest.

"Is Meeka ... here?"

Trixie shook her head, no.

"And Asha?"

She nodded and pulled on my arm, then pointed at my booth. Asha was lying there, on the bench, probably napping as well. It made me wonder if Misti and Asha had done something cuddly late last night after their movie night.

I sat next to Asha and gently placed her head on my lap, trying not to wake her up. For the next fifteen minutes, I cuddled Trixie, telling her about random things, but certainly not about my little encounter with the three girls at the mall. I preferred to pretend it didn't happen. Lucy brought me a little piece of cheesecake and my usual coffee, but she didn't stick around as she had other things to do.

I was so happy that nothing had changed so far, I still loved my cute rubber pets and still treated them as real animals. They made me feel so comfortable. The only difference was that Trixie was much more adventurous than before. She playfully massaged my boobs and slid her paw near my crotch, just to tease. I couldn't deny that the sexual white rabbit was the one turning me on the most, and it was directly attributable to our hot night together inside the micro-room with all the other pets.

Then the door opened, and Lucy let more people in. Two nerdy looking guys this time. This café was bound to attract all kinds of people; I certainly wasn't the first one who never had cuddled before. Trixie pointed at them in a way to notify me that she had to leave me and go to work. There was a rule not allowing someone to hog on multiple pets at the same time if there were other clients without one.

Trixie slapped Asha on the head, not so carefully, then gave me a quick hug before going to sit with the two new guys.

Asha stretched adorably then sat up to look at her surroundings. When she realized I was here, she pulled me into a tight hug and wouldn't let go. The snow leopard was so affectionate, and what happened yesterday between the two of us was no stranger to it. I felt like giving her a lot of love as well. Asha was the only critter that ever spoke to me using her real voice, and the only reason she did so was to make sure I was okay. She was a genuinely caring person, in or out of costume.

But a little feeling of guilt burned inside of me.

"Asha... I'm sorry."

The leopard girl cocked her head, probably not sure why I was apologizing.

"I... I should have... looked at you. Yesterday."

She shook her head and patted mine.

"I wanted to... but it was too scary..."

Asha leaned on my chest and gave me a little squeeze as I scratched the back of her head. It was not easy to admit, but when I walked home last night, I couldn't help but think I had chosen the wrong path. I should have been more courageous and discover who she really was.

"Would... would you like to come to my place... tonight?"

She pushed herself from me, a bit in shock due to the bold question, then she pointed her paw at my chest.

"Yes... Lucy said I could bring one of you home if I wanted to... Would you like... that?"

Raising her two arms in the air, Asha started dancing on her seat, some sort of victory dance. She alternated several moves, showing her unambiguous agreement with the idea.



"This... This is my place, Asha..."

The snow leopard, wearing a black hoodie that Lucy had forced her to wear, looked quite badass. As soon as I let her leash go, she started roaming around my small apartment, not needing any permission. She was definitely nosier than Trixie was when she had visited.

She looked at my shelves and tried to learn new things about me. The pictures seemed to be what interested her the most. She pointed at a specific one with her cushy paw.

"Those... are my... parents. They are not in this city."

Using her paw once more, she pointed at my parents then hugged herself... then pointed at me.

"Yes... They love me. They are... nice."

While she kept exploring my place, I took off my shoes, placed my coat in the closet, and put her food in the fridge. I brought her back to the entryway, undressed her, and hung her leash and collar to my door handle. If I were going to bring pets home on a regular basis, I would have to add a hook to the wall for the pet gear.

"Okay, Asha, you can rest on the bed, I just need to take a shower first."

I couldn't believe how much better my speech got when I wasn't nervous. I was home with one of my favorite pets, and I felt very safe. Maybe I was slowly finding a way to crack my communication disorder... Maybe the key was to manage my anxiety and irrational fears.

Asha jumped on the bed and hugged my body pillow.

"You are so cute... I'll be back."

When the shower temperature was to my taste, I pulled the curtain and entered the steamy cloud. I soaped up my body using a body wash that smelled like lavender; it was my favorite. Closing my eyes and enjoying the relaxing aroma seemed like the right thing to do at the moment.

Then I heard a suspicious noise. I cracked my eyes open...

“AAAAAH!”

She scared me so much... Asha pulled the curtain with her paw and was looking at me with her head sideways.

"ASHA!"

The little snow leopard stepped in the shower and tried to reach me with her cute paws.

"Asha! No! ... You'll slip! It's full of soap!"

As I was warning her, she started to lose control of her legs... Latex feet on a soapy PVC surface was robbing her from all traction. The snow leopard quickly ended up on her knees, pulling me down with her!

"ASHA!"

I had no idea how we ended up like this, but I was now on my back with an adorable rubber pet on top of me. My soapy body in contact with her slick skin couldn't do anything else than provide me with an incredible feeling. Asha just wanted to play, and this unexpected situation turned into her favor. She got a bit of water in her breathing holes, but outside that, she was more than happy to be on top of me and had no plan of letting me go until I gave her what she wanted.

She laid her torso down on top of mine, and sensually moved around to make us feel amazing.

"Asha... You could have waited... But... this feels good."

Aaah... Pets... Those crazy little things.

Chapter 6 - A Universe Of Pets

She was beautiful.

My shy finger traced the shape of her black spots, standing out on her white latex skin as she was sleeping. Apparently, Asha, the small snow leopard, liked sleeping a lot.

After our shower incident last night, we cuddled ourselves to sleep without having sex. It was not so evident for me to determine when was a good time or not for this type of extra play with the pets.

I mean, with Trixie, it was easy to know... she always wanted sex. But most of the other pets seemed as happy just to cuddle, which was fine by me. I was still very new at physical contact; therefore, I was in no rush to get naked and do dirty things with them.

Asha still smelled like lavender from when she cuddled my soapy body in the tub; I hoped this wouldn't get me in trouble, and Lucy would have a good product to restore her original latex smell. I could sense a good scolding coming my way because of this stunt, but as long as Lucy didn't revoke my permission to bring pets home, it couldn't be too bad.

"Asha? ... Asha? Are you awake?"

I had time to get a coffee, breakfast and do some cleaning, but Asha was still asleep. It broke my heart to disturb something this cute, but I had no choice. If I didn't want to be late for work, I had to wake up the pet girl, feed her, and bring her back to the animal café. Anyway, Asha worked there, so assuming Lucy was paying her, so she had an obligation to fulfil.

"Asha... You have to wake up!"

I shook her shoulder a little bit, which triggered a long sigh. Then Asha turned her back to me and pulled the duvet over her head.

"You want to... sleep more?"

She curled into the smallest, latex pet ball.

"I have to go to work... you must wake up... else I'm going to be late."

Another loud sigh came out from under the blanket.

"Ashaaa! Please!"

"..."

"Okay, then! Let's make a Leopard sausage."

I climbed on top of the lazy pet and started wrapping her tightly in the duvet. She struggled a bit, but there was not much she could do to stop me with those soft paws pinned to her sides. Very quickly, I ended up with a small pet roll on top of my bed.

I went to get her food and water and sat next to her.

"Breakfast time, Asha-roll. You are so cute... I want to keep you like this forever."

She had no other choice but to eat this time, and it went fairly well. Maybe Asha just didn't feel like going to work today, and I could totally relate to that as my workday would consist of preparing random items for shipping. I really didn't like this job; I was only doing it because that was all I found to pay the rent. They were kind enough to hire a girl who couldn't say two words in a row; I should be happy. That said, if I were a talkative girl stuck in a workplace where it was not allowed to talk, I would probably be even more miserable. There was always worse.

After eating, I cuddled for a few minutes with the wrapped up pet, but then we had to move.

With her black hoodie on, Asha didn't attract attention nearly as much as Trixie did with her bright pink fur coat and giant ears, but still, we got a few comments; her rubber legs and tail were not something people were used to seeing.

It was only a ten-minutes walk, but it always felt longer when I was with a cute pet. Asha's arm was wrapped around mine, letting me guide her around. It almost felt as if we were a couple; she even leaned her head on my shoulder. I never knew what the pet girls thought precisely, but they always found a way to let me know they had a good time.

When we arrived at the café, Lucy greeted us with her usual smile.

"Aaah, here you are! Almost late for work, Asha... I bet you overslept again. It's not nice to abuse Clara like this, you know. And... wait a minute... What's that smell... Asha, come here!"

Uh oh! And me who thought she wouldn't notice.

"Asha? Why do you smell like lavender? Clara? What did you do to her?"

"... I'm... I'm sorry."

"What happened? Did you put Asha in the tub with soap?"

"... N— No..."

"I told you that is not how we wash latex. Clara, those suits are costly. Why would you do such a thing?"

"It was... Asha..."

I was in trouble... I couldn't find a way to explain to Lucy what had happened. All I could do was tremble and fear that she would revoke my permission to borrow pets.

"Are you blaming Asha for this? She wouldn't even be able to grab a soap bar with her cushioned paws..."

"... No... but..."

"Ah, it doesn't matter, Clara. I'm a bit disappointed. Listen, I don't know what happened, but it can't happen again. I can't have my pets smelling like flowers. You were responsible for her. At what time do you finish working today?"

"... E— Eight o'clock... but..."

"Good, then come back here right after. I need your help with something. And you, Asha, go to the bathroom upstairs right away. We need to get rid of that smell."

There was no room for argumentation. I lowered my head and walked out of the café. It was better to obey anyway if I didn't want Lucy to separate me from my friends.



The day at work was long and painful. My mind kept drifting back to the animal café. It was more fun helping Lucy take care of her pets rather than work in this giant warehouse, packaging shoes and books for clients who had more money than me.

When I arrived at the Pets & Cakes, Lucy was not at the reception, so I went right to the lounge since I now had access. As soon as I stepped in, Vix jumped on me.

"Vix!"

I walked to my favorite booth with her and sat down. Immediately, my cute fox girl straddled me and requested cuddles. I barely had time to react when Asha showed up and climbed on the seat next to me. Right away, I noticed something that took some of my nervousness away.

"Asha... You smell like before... Lucy managed to clean you?"

She nodded and clung on me. Knowing that I had not permanently damaged her costume was a huge relief, I didn't know how much one of those costumes cost, but I certainly didn't have the money to have it replaced.

As I was slowly getting covered in rubber pets, Lucy entered the lounge and walked directly to us.

"Asha! Get off her! We talked about this already. You two are not touching again until your next shift. It will teach you both a lesson."

"..."

"Don't worry, Clara, I'm not mad at you. But I have to protect my investment through a bit of discipline, right? At least I'm letting you play with all the other pets..."

That was directed at Vix. The fox girl leaned on me some more and squeezed me tightly, obviously not wanting Lucy to take me away from her as well. I held the small fox girl in my arms and rubbed her back. Doing this also gave me some courage to ask a question that I had on my mind all day long.

"Lucy... you needed... help?"

"Ah! So you remember what I said... Good. If you are up to it, yes, I have a favor to ask. Do you have a few hours in front of you?"

"... yes."

"Good, I received a new costume, and I need to make sure it's fine. Unfortunately, I can't hire another pet girl at the moment. Would you mind trying the costume for me for an hour or two just to make sure there are no flaws?"

My lungs automatically constricted, and I couldn't breathe anymore. I gripped Vix tightly, trying to keep my trembling in check. Did Lucy really ask me to wear one of her pet costumes? This was insanity...

"Hey! Calm down, Clara... It's not like I'm asking you to become a pet girl. I just need you to wear it for a short time, that's all. I just need to confirm to the seller that everything is good. A simple visual inspection won't be enough."

"..."

"Would you breathe a little bit, please? You are turning blue."

It took me a little while and a lot of hugs from Vix to regain my composure and re-establish my oxygen level, but I managed to calm down. I still had no idea what to say or think, though. Wearing a latex suit was the last thing I expected when Lucy told me she needed help with something. She wanted to turn me into the thing I loved the most... a cute pet girl.

"So? Is it a yes? Plus, it will be useful for you to know how it feels to wear a pet costume. You'll realize how much you have to rely on people and why you would not want them to wash you with lavender soap.

"..."

I lowered my head, and shyly nodded. Vix was now bouncing on top of my laps; at least someone was excited about all of this.

"Alright then, come with me. Vix, do you want to come too?"

Of course, Vix wanted to come and watch the transformation. As a pet girl, she loved pet costumes and probably haven't seen that new one Lucy was talking about. She must have been over-excited to discover what critter would temporarily join her crew.

Lucy was emotionally disconnected from this. She made it sound like there was nothing to it, and it was just a formality, something that needed to be done. That said, Lucy always behaved around her pets as if everything was normal. Having critter girls roaming around the place was the equivalent of seeing waiters in a restaurant; nothing more natural.

Vix and I followed Lucy upstairs to a room I have never been to before. When I got in, I understood that it was the costume room, or the changing room, whatever was the most appropriate term.

Right away, on a shelf, I noticed Trixie's costume, which turned my stomach upside down. It was as if I looked at a white rabbit that had its skin removed. I never thought I would see her empty costume one day. She probably ended her shift this morning and was replaced by Meeka.

Vix climbed on a stool to watch the show as Lucy pulled a cardboard box from the shelves and placed it on the table.

"Alright, Clara, take off your clothes!"

"..."

"Stop worrying, I've seen you naked, remember? Mind you, you had a few pets on top of you. You can turn your back to me if you prefer."

"... Okay."

It was not a bad idea. I turned around and started unbuttoning my shirt, but then Vix got off her seat and decided to stand in front of me. She had seen me naked... and even did sexual things to me... Plus, I saw her like an animal more than a human, so I didn't feel as embarrassed as I was when facing Lucy.

When I took my shirt off, Vix extended her arms, asking me to put my clothes in her arms. The next item to pile up in her paws were my jeans... and socks... and bra... and panties.

Before I knew it, I was naked like a worm, which made Lucy giggle.

"Aww, you are the perfect size for the costume. I'm so jealous, I always wished I was shorter so that I could be cuter. Okay, close your eyes, I think I want to surprise you. Once we are done dressing you up, I will let you look at yourself in the mirror. You'll love it."

"..."

"I'll take that as a yes. Vix is going to help you keep your balance... You don't have to do anything. I'll take care of everything."

As Lucy began to encase my legs in the suit, my corrupted brain was only worried about a single thing; what animal was she turning me into. It could be anything, really. So far, in her menagerie, she had three felines, one rabbit, a doggy, a fox and a raccoon. It was all over the place. I didn't have a chance to guess correctly.

But what would I like to be? I knew this costume wasn't mine, but still... What animal would represent me better? I didn't want to be a dog, but that was about it. For the beauty, I would love to be Asha... for the cuddliness, a fox like Vix would be nice. Red pandas were cute, but it was a bit of a stretch.

When the rubbery suit covered my hips and reached my crotch, I stopped thinking about this; the excitement hit me hard. Lucy knew exactly what she was doing and noticed my anxiousness.

"You are doing really well, Clara. Keep your eyes closed and relax. You'll love it, I tell you. Now, place your arms inside the sleeves. You'll see, the paws are funny. There are three holes for your fingers, so you have to separate them as if you were a Vulcan, then your thumb will curl inside your palm."

I had no idea what a Vulcan was, but I got the idea. I felt the two holes, in which I inserted two fingers each, then the third hole for my thumb, which, as Lucy said, made it curl under my palm. Somehow, it was mostly how I imagined it was going to be. All the padding rendered my hands useless.

After my other arm went inside the sleeve, Lucy pulled the suit over my shoulders and zipped it up to my upper back, making me feel a notch sexier as my waist got slightly compressed.

"Alright, almost done. Only the mask to go. It's a little tricky the first time, but trust me, you'll find it very comfortable once it's on. Trust me, okay? All your pet friends love it very much."

"... Yes."

"Good. First, you have to bite in this mouthpiece. It's like the ones to protect your teeth when you do sports, but way more comfortable. And don't worry, it's all clean. Hehe."

Lucy pulled a corner of my mouth with her finger and inserted the mouthpiece. I didn't taste anything, and she was right, as soon as my teeth ended up inside the trenches, it was not annoying at all. But now I fully understood why the pets were not making any sounds; they were just not able to.

"Next, the nose tubes for breathing. It sounds scary, but it's not. You'll feel nothing outside being able to breathe better. I'll gently insert them now. Don't move and trust me. I've done this so many times."

As if I were going to move! I was way too busy trying to appreciate what was happening to me to even argue with anything. When I arrived here today, turning into a pet was the last thing I expected.

I felt some tubes entering my nostrils, they felt larger than I had anticipated, but it didn't hurt at all. Lucy may have lubricated them with something first.

"Alright, I'll pull the mask on now, see you later Clara. Hehe. Just kidding, we won't leave you alone. Ready?"

It was a rhetorical question, of course. Lucy pulled the mask over my face; the nose tubes went farther down my nose, at least it felt like it, and my head got fully encased inside the rubber mask.

A wave of sexual pleasure washed over my body, only realizing now that this was one of my biggest fantasies, wearing a full latex suit. I trembled, but not out of fear this time. Before Lucy even finished to zip me up, Vix pulled me in a tight hug.

I was so... happy!

I finally opened my eyes, and through the smokey lenses, I saw the world from a pet's perspective.

"Aww! Clara! You are so cute! This suit fits you like a glove. Can you breathe okay? Can you see okay?"

I nodded.

"Aawww! She nodded. So adorable. Let me just test the locks now. They are just clipping on the zipper tabs."

It felt so unreal. I turned into a pet, and Lucy acted with me as she did with all the others. Because I was wearing an animal costume, it changed her attitude entirely. I was now wholly dependent on her.

She clipped one of the locks to my crotch zipper and another one behind my neck. Those were the flat little metal blocks that all the pets were wearing.

"Ah, you are so pretty. Trixie will be thrilled that I let you try her suit."

WHAT? I looked at Vix, and her two paws went up to her muzzle as if she was laughing. When I turned to Lucy she was doing the same thing as if they had just pranked me. Was... I... in Trixie's suit?

I looked on the shelf where her costume was earlier, and it was GONE!

"Haha! It is so funny. The box I pulled from the shelf was just full of crafting supplies. It was not a costume at all. Come! Come to the mirror... You'll see. You look amazing as a white rabbit."

She grabbed my wrist and led me to a full-length mirror. When I arrived in front of it, my heart skipped a beat. In the reflection was one of my favorite pet girls... Trixie. This animal wasn't me... But it was so cute.

"See? You are beautiful! As cute as Trixie. Hehe. But you know... I just wanted to teach you a gentle lesson. When you are a pet, you have to rely on your friends to keep you safe and prevent you from doing bad things. When Asha slipped in your shower, it was your responsibility to ensure it didn't happen. You should have leashed her somewhere first, even if that had made her grumpy. Leaving pets in a new environment without supervision is asking for trouble."

I never told Lucy about the shower. Probably she got this info from Asha when she cleaned her suit earlier today. But now that she said that, Lucy was right. I have to be more vigilant around the pets to keep them out of harm's way. Lesson learned.

I looked at my white paws, and there was not much I could do with them outside cuddling.

"So... Do you like it? The costume?"

I immediately nodded. Of course, I liked it. It was even better than I could have imagined.

"Alright, you two adorable things. Come to the lounge. I have another little surprise for you, Clara."

Another surprise? As if I didn't have enough yet. Vix and I went back to the lounge, but we had to wait for Lucy to let us in. When I entered the room, the other pet girls seemed to be very confused. Trixie was not working today, yet, she was in front of them.

It was impossible to tell which of the pets understood what had happened or not, but Lucy quickly explained what the deal was. And as soon as she did, all the pets converged to me and submerged me with touchy cuddles.

As I was lying flat on my back, a victim of all of the cushy paws, I couldn't believe how lucky I was.

I was wearing the cutest rubber pet costume around all my friends. The surprise could wait a little longer.

Chapter 7 - And There Were Pets

"Would you get off Trixie, please! She can't breathe!"

I was indeed stuck on my back with all the pet girls piled up on top of me, much enjoying the fact that I turned into a temporary white rabbit. Lucy just called me Trixie too, probably out of habit... or not. The real Trixie was not working today, but the living costume made it hard to believe.

The pet girls somewhat obeyed Lucy and got off me, one by one, but stayed very close. What a rush. If they kept doing this, it would be a long two hours until the café closed for the night. As I was standing up and making sure my long ears were still in place, I was now wondering what the "surprise" Lucy was referring to was.

I turned to her, and she pulled me into a big hug. I really felt like a toy. The pets and the owner of the store were doing as they pleased with me apparently.

"Aaah! How can you be so cute! I might just take you home tonight!"

Home? I didn't know Lucy was taking her pets home? Or maybe it was just sarcasm.

"So, Trixie... I mean... Clara... I think I might just call you Trixie else it's going to be so confusing. Usually, we have a client coming to the café around this time. Every single time, she always asks for Trixie. The bunny is her favorite pet ever. Trixie is not always there, so she can play with the others too, but if Trixie is around, it must be Trixie, you understand?"

It was simple math... Lucy was about to ask me to keep a special client company. That was her surprise for me. The good thing is that I didn't have to answer anything, and for some odd reason, I didn't get nearly as nervous as I would have been out of the pet costume. Wearing it made me feel safer... protected.

"So, if she comes, would you mind spending some time with her? It would be a bit heartbreaking if she sees you and we have to put a red collar around your neck. She is super sweet. Plus, it is out of question to tell her you are not the real Trixie, it would devastate her. I can't afford to lose any clients. So, can you do that for me? I would double your cheesecake portion next time."

I saw that request coming from a mile away, and I didn't feel I had a choice in the matter unless I wanted to be an ungrateful person. Lucy always had a bizarre way to ease people into new experiences.

Chewing on my mouthpiece gave me some courage, and I nodded, agreeing with her request. Why not. I got plenty of physical contacts from the pets already, and I had not died from it. If the girl client is sweet and nice, there was no big reason to overthink this. Plus, a double cheesecake sounded appetizing.

"Aaah! Thank you, Trixie... You won't regret it. I tell you, she is super nice... but you know how Trixie is, right? And what she likes? So just try to go with the flow and don't act too different, or else it's going to look suspicious. If there is anything wrong, just call Vix over, and she will help you. She is our cuddling specialist."

I rabbit-nodded again, making my long ears sway back and forth.



For the next fifteen minutes, I just sat in a corner, cuddling with Vix and trying to absorb the moment... I was a pet girl... or at least, I was experiencing what it was like to be one. Trixie's suit was extremely comfy, and it was pretty cool to look at myself and only see my snow-white skin. The color was clashing with Vix's bright red body.

Forced to cuddle with those cute cushy paws made me feel adorable, and pushed me to act the part. I was understanding better why the pets were behaving the way they did... having no fingers changed things. The way to touch people was different, but I quickly got the hang of it.

Suddenly the door opened... and Lucy let a new client inside the lounge. She was small, blonde with pretty blue eyes and she looked around for something. Vix poked me behind the head a couple of times with her soft paw... Was she the girl I was waiting for?

Then...

"TRIXIE!"

Vix pushed me harder as if to say, "What the hell are you doing! At least try to look happy to see her." Without having time to process what was happening, I got off my bunny butt and stepped toward the girl, who caught me in her arms.

"Aaah! Trixie! I missed you so much! Sorry I couldn't be here last week!"

She grabbed my wrist and dragged me to a booth... my usual one. She sat down, and I joined her, not too sure what to do.

"You... You don't want to sit on me as you always do?"

I looked down, embarrassed... nobody told me anything about her habits with Trixie... How was I supposed to know what those two did together in the past? Lucy just told me to spend time with her and be tolerant if she was doing things to me that the real Trixie enjoyed. I didn't expect to have to take some initiatives. I was disappointing the girl...

"Aaah... It's okay... If you don't feel like cuddling... I... I guess I can come back another day... But... I missed you so much, Trixie."

Oh crap! Way to go, Clara. I was doing this for Lucy, so she didn't lose clients and revenue, but I made the girl want to leave within a minute.

I turned to her, placed my paws on her shoulders, and shook my head in disapproval. It was one of those rare moments when I would have loved to talk and ask her to stay.

Vix slapped her paw on her forehead, shaking her head, not believing how quickly I messed things up. This negative judgment pushed me to attempt something.

Holding her shoulders, I climbed on top of her, straddling her as many of the animals did with me. Then I gave her a big hug.

"Aww! Trixie... I missed your hugs so much. Can we stay like this for a while... I... I had a bad day, and you make me feel so much better!"

I nodded happily. It was so strange to be on the other side of the fence and be the one that provided emotional relief to humans. She was indeed the very gentle client Lucy said she would be. Her little hands rubbed me all over, and she was even kissing my mask, which was weird since I couldn't feel anything. But it was making her happy, so it was a good thing.

A few minutes later, Lucy brought her a piece of chocolate cake. It looked delicious. Perhaps I should try it next time. I guess this was my first frustration as a pet; I couldn't eat cake.

"So, getting along as usual? If you continue like this, I might just let you take Trixie home!"

"SERIOUSLY? You would let me take her home?"

"Well, I wasn't that serious, but based on your reaction, you probably would like that a lot. We could probably arrange something."

"That would be AWESOME! I mean... I don't have much money left... so I don't think I can afford that."

What? No way! Did Lucy really offer my body to the cute girl who was struggling with money? First, I didn't want to spend the night in a pet suit; it was too much too soon! Second, why would she ask her a fee when she gave everything to me for free... Why was this girl any different? She was as sweet and nice as I had been with the real Trixie... I really hoped Lucy didn't have money in mind when she talked about "arranging" something.

"How about a hundred dollars? You can bring her home tonight, and you bring her back tomorrow morning."

"... A... hundred... dollars? But... It's a lot... I... I have my rent coming and..."

"Ah, well... I guess it would be for another day, maybe."

I automatically wrapped my arms around the blonde girl... My heart was about to explode in my chest because it was beating so hard. This was wrong on so many levels... Lucy was trying to get money out of this girl using me without consent... Where did the super nice shop owner girl go all of a sudden? I have never heard her talking like that to other clients before.

"Mmm... Trixie seems a bit nervous... I think she needs to rest... Come, Trixie. Your friend can cuddle with another pet if she wants to..."

Lucy grabbed my wrist and tried to pull me off the girl, but the girl pulled me back, almost panicking.

"No! Wait... I... I will get you the money... I can borrow some... I have forty-five dollars now... I can give you the rest tomorrow morning..."

NO, NO, NO! This was so wrong! What was going on? I didn't want to be part of this blackmailing scheme! I wanted out of the costume right now and leave this place. Why was she doing this to me? Why was she treating the poor girl so horribly?

Almost raging, I pushed and struggled myself off the girl and Lucy, and ran to Vix and Asha, who were looking at us from afar. I sat with them on the floor and frantically tried to get out of my pet suit.

Asha and Vix tried to calm me down and to keep my paws away from my neck. Then, a big smile appeared on Lucy's face, and she started chuckling.

"Awww... Poor Clara... I think we pushed her a bit too much."

"Bahaha! You were right... She is the cutest rabbit in the world! Maybe we should let her use my costume indefinitely!"

... Uh? HER COSTUME? Was that what the blonde girl just said? Vix and Asha squeezed me tightly, and the small client went down on her knees and crawled toward me. Her hands reached my mask, and she grinned at me.

"Yes! I'm Trixie, silly! Haha! Sorry... When Lucy called me to tell me she wanted you to try my costume, I'm the one that came up with that little prank. It was so mean! I'm sorry that I scared you like this."

I stayed immobile for many long seconds... then when I fully understood what was going on, I let out a long, loud sigh of relief, making my latex ear fur wiggles.

"Sorryyy! I just couldn't resist. We love playing tricks on each other like that. I guess that's because we love you so much, Clara. Hey, Lucy... Can we borrow one of your sleeping pod-things upstairs? I would love to spend some quality time with Clara-rabbit before you close."

"Sure thing! She deserves it. But only if she is okay with it. And no more than two hours, though, then we take her out of your costume."

"What do you say, cute rabbit? Want to go cuddle with me to recover from your strong emotions?"

Before I could even answer anything, Asha gave me a nudge... then Vix grabbed my head and forced me to nod. I guess it wouldn't be bad to go relax for a bit after what they made me go through.

I slowly stood up and went to Lucy and stared at her in the eyes.

"Awww... So cute."

Then I slapped her repeatedly on the chest with my cushy paw.

"Haha! Stop! Stop! I'm sorry! It was Trixie's idea... Okay, the suit was my idea... But stooop! You are tickling me!"

The real Trixie grabbed me by the waist and pulled me away from the trickster shop owner.

"Come, Clara! We don't have much time... Let's go rest."

Unbelievable. Those two totally pulled my leg and almost traumatized me for entertainment purposes. That said, it somehow made me happier in the end as I felt a bit more part of the family. This little adventure had forced me to do something I was unsure I desired to ever do, seeing one of the pets out of costume.

Not long ago, at the mall, Asha gave me an opportunity to look at her real self, and it made me freak out to the point that I declined her offer. In this case, I thought Trixie was a client, so it didn't bug me to look at her and cuddle with her. But now that the cat was out of the bag, the ice was broken, and it was as if my fear had never existed. Odd.

Another noticeable thing was to function without having to talk. Because of my communication disorder, I never had it easy. If I needed to do anything, I had to talk, and people also expected me to talk to practice my speech. All my life, they diagnosed me, gave me tips and tricks to get better, and put me in situations where I had no choice but to speak to get what I wanted.

At the end of the day, I have always been treated as a medical condition more than a person. I mean, I wanted to get better and improve, but I also wanted to live without being labeled as a defective human being.

Since I was wearing this animal suit, nobody had expected me to say anything. They knew I couldn't, so it never crossed their mind that I would answer with words. They communicated with me differently, and it worked as well. There was no issue at all. So what was the deal here? People couldn't communicate with me when I was a person, but they were communicating just fine with me when I was wearing a costume? I found it incredibly disturbing that a single piece of clothing changed people's perception of me that much. Today, I learned that they were the problem, not me.

When we got to the capsule room, Trixie opened one of the pods, let me in, and followed me. After closing the door behind her, she surprisingly sat in a corner and started chatting instead of cuddling.

"Aaah! Finally alone. Listen, Clara, I know it must be a bit of a shock to see me like this, out of my suit. So I don't want you to feel pressured or anything. Believe me. It is very strange for me as well to see my bunny-self alive and moving in front of me. I'm wearing that costume most of the time, and it is vital to me."

Wait... Was Trixie the uncomfortable one now? If she were wearing her rabbit costume, she wouldn't have behaved like this at all; she would have been all over me already.

"Sooo... I don't know what to do, really. Usually, you would be the one telling me if you are okay. Or at least I could see your face. I know you are the shy type, so I don't want to do something you don't like."

Trixie was as cute out of her suit, after all... Like all the other pet girls, kindness and understanding were driving her. There was only one thing I wanted from her at the moment.

I raised my arms toward Trixie and motioned my paws in a way to invite her for some cuddles.

"Awww... Clara! You are so sweet! That's why we all love you so much. Can... Can I take off my clothes?"

I nodded. Why not? She let me do it before, so it was not something I could refuse.

"Nice... I... I like cuddling naked with my latex friends. I don't get to do it often. And cuddling with someone wearing my white rabbit suit would be a first."

In no time, I rested my back with Trixie, who was down to her underwear on top of me. There were no more tricks, no more teasing... The only remaining element was genuine affection shared between a girl and her pet.

Trixie spent a long time exploring my body and features. The long moment she spent playing with my ears confirmed that she was not used to cuddling with giant rabbits. The blonde girl did play with my boobs quite a bit but didn't go farther than that. It was just because she was Trixie, and in or out of a suit, she loved playing with boobs and vice-versa; horny little bunny.

My mask's black lenses made me see things almost in black and white, but I loved her short blonde hair. It is evident that she chose a cut this short for practicality while wearing a pet costume, but it suited her.

Toward the end of our cuddle session, she flipped me on my stomach and gave me a long and skilled back massage. That was another level of friendship. While she was massaging my butt, she continually played with my fluffy rubber bunny tail. I stuck my butt out to make her laugh, but she rewarded my move with a nice stinging slap.

On this night, I discovered playfulness... which was not something I was used to. Was I getting a glimpse of what friendship was all about? At the mall the other day, when I heard the three pet girls teasing each other, it was a concept that was escaping me, but now, without words, Trixie and I were having this kind of fun too... At least it seemed like it to me.

After my massage, we laid down, chest against chest, belly against belly. Our legs and arms wrapped randomly around each other, and we quietly napped. It was fantastic.

Lucy knocked on our capsule door and cracked it open.

"Awww... Rabbit pile. Hey, I'm closing to shop for the night. Come, Trixie... I mean... Clara-bunny."

"Ah! Why? Can't we sleep here tonight?"

"No. Clara needs to get out of your suit. It was fun, but it's enough for her first time. Come, rabbit."

Trixie complained and wasn't ready to let me go, but Lucy was the one who decided. She had dealt with many pets in the past and knew what she was doing. I separated myself from Trixie and crawled out of the mini-room where Lucy grabbed me by the wrist; I really was just a pet to her, it was kind of funny. I didn't think she was doing this on purpose; I could have just followed her.

Once in the dressing room, she unlocked my back zipper, slid it down, and guided me through the removal procedure.

"The nose tubes are the only annoying things... It tickles a bit when we pull them out. I recommend you close your eyes, like all the other pets do when I take off their masks. It just makes things easier. Ready?"

I squeezed my eyes shut and nodded. Rapidly, and painlessly, Lucy peeled the mask of my head and pulled the nose tubes out. Right away, a wet wipe dragged on my face and nose. Lucy knew what she was doing. She probably wiped the tubes as well to get rid of anything that would be gross to the view.

"Very nice... now open wide."

I opened my jaw, and she effortlessly pulled the mouthpiece out, repeating the same process with a fresh wet wipe.

After that, Lucy helped me out of the paws and bodysuit and covered me with a blanket to keep me warm. While she began cleaning the suit, I sat on a chair and had to answer a few questions.

"So? Not too bad, uh?"

"... It was good!"

"Want to do it again someday?"

"I... I think so."

"Do you understand better why it is important to take good care of the pet girls? You were pretty helpless, right?"

"Yes... When you... exchanged me... for money. It was very scary."

"Aww, sorry. It was really Trixie's idea!"

"Lucy is a pimp!"

Out of nowhere, Trixie entered the costume room and threw a funny comment, which made Lucy chuckle. The blonde girl headed right to me, opened my blanket, sat on my lap, and wrapped it back around us.

"Sooo... Did you like being me? The cutest rabbit girl in the world."

"Yes. It was... fun!"

"So, you are going to come to work with us here?"

"Trixie, leave her alone! We have enough pets already. You know that," Lucy said.

"I know, but I still want her to join us."

"Stop, Trixie. You sound like a child. Clara is not a toy. She will help at the store for now. That's all."

Trixie kissed me on the forehead and squeezed me hard in her arms. I turned beet red and stopped breathing. Even my parents never kissed me... not that I recalled at least. Was it the first

time someone kissed me? It seemed so natural for Trixie to do that, and Lucy didn't even react either. Was it normal that I reacted anxiously?

It was all involuntary, but those people were providing me with a continuous stream of new experiences. I was so lucky to have such wonderful friends.

"So, Clara. Can I sleep at your place again tonight? I really enjoyed it last time."

"..."

I paused for a moment after Trixie's request, remembering my lavender incident with Asha. I was not sure Lucy would allow me to bring another pet girl home tonight... I looked at Lucy, trying to figure out if she had something to say about me borrowing the white rabbit again.

"Don't look at me, Clara... it's between the two of you. I'm not her mother."

"... Okay... Yes... I would like Trixie to come home tonight."

Wow, that went well. I got to bring a pet to my place again.

Trixie helped Lucy clean the suit while I was dressing back up in my street clothes. As soon as I finished, Trixie hugged Lucy and thanked her for the evening.

"Thanks for the cake and the rabbit. It was super fun! We should do it again soon."

"Maybe. Have a good night, Trixie! See you in two days."

"Aww! Two days? Can I start earlier this week?"

"No. Now go. Clara is waiting for you."

"Fine, fine! Let's go, Clara!"

Trixie grabbed my hand and pulled me out of the room. We were going home. But one thing I didn't expect at all was that she was NOT going to wear her rabbit suit tonight. Maybe I was a bit slow, but I had not understood that part. Apparently, I was going to share my bed with a real person and not a rubber animal tonight.

I wasn't certain what I was feeling about this, but it was surely better than going to a random client's place while being helpless. My fingers gripped her hand a bit tighter, Trixie turned to look back at me, closed her eyes, and smiled.

She was so happy!

Chapter 8 - An Ocean Of Pets

It was the middle of the night, and I couldn't sleep. She was so warm.

Her silky skin pressing against mine was something I had never experienced before. She was so peaceful that I was even wondering if she was still breathing. Her mouth was so close to my neck, and she even drooled on me a little.

Never in a thousand years, I could have expected this... Going back home with a pet girl who was not hiding her true self within the confine of a cute animal costume. Trixie, the white rabbit, was my friend. But... Who was she to me as a human girl?

It was striking that Trixie didn't seem to care whether I was wearing a pet suit; she expressed her love without hesitation. I didn't think it was love in the "couple" sense, but more in a friendly way.

When we walked home last night, she didn't let go of my arm, the same manner she always did as a rabbit. Then we went to bed right away, and she clung to me like velcro. Trixie wiggled around to find the most comfortable sleeping position as if I was her body pillow. She didn't attempt chatting... She didn't try anything sexual... She just wanted to sleep by my side and find some comfort in my warmth.

Her face was so close to mine... The human Trixie was so pretty with her short blonde hair and tiny nose that, oddly enough, made her look like a rabbit... Perhaps I was simply overlaying the mental image I had of her wearing her mask over her real visage.

What was this feeling? I wanted to touch her face... I wanted to play in her hair. Trixie was asleep, so she didn't manipulate me to feel this way. No, it was all coming from me. It was a real attraction.

I carefully pushed her hair around her ear using the tip of my finger.

"Mmm... I can feel that, you know."

"..."

Trixie was supposed to be asleep, but that wasn't the case. There was no way I could deny what I had just done to her. My heart started beating a bit faster while a little smile appeared on the sleepy girl.

"You did nothing wrong, Clara. I liked it. Keep going..."

"..."

Keep going? Did Trixie really want me to keep touching her like this? Well... I wanted to.

I brought my finger back to her hair, barely brushing it. It was fascinating to see how soft it was and how it bounced back into place, particularly the very thin fuzz near her temple. The back of my finger went down to her flushed cheek... and on the ridge of her nose.

Trixie was not moving, and her smile melted as if my simplistic attention relaxed her fully. It wasn't that much different than what I was doing to her when she was a rabbit. Instead of bouncy whiskers, it was her miniature body hair.

Next, I decided to explore her thin lips. Using the tip of my index finger, I approached the sensitive pink skin... but then she let out a long sigh of well-being. I didn't want to do anything that would take her out of this bliss, so I pulled my hand away and closed my eyes; It was time to sleep anyway.



"Good morning, Clara!"

"Mmm!"

Some quiet words put an end to our little nocturnal moment of tenderness. My eyes slowly cracked open, and Trixie's face was only an inch away from mine. She was on top of me with her legs and arms on each side of my body.

As soon as she saw me returning to the world of the living, she lowered her lips onto mine for an unexpected kiss. My nervous system was not awake enough to react or understand what was happening, but when Trixie pulled back, her cheeks were visibly red. She then lowered her little body on top of mine and hid her face in my pillow.

"Hug me!"

Her muffled words asked for something I was about to do anyway. I wrapped my arms around her and held her tightly against my torso.

"Eep! Clara... You are so nice!"

"... You are too."

"Do... Do you think... we should... date?"

"..."

"Sorry... Forget that I asked, Clara. I'm getting ahead of my horses. You only know me as a white rabbit."

"... I don't... know. Are you not... playing with the other pets?"

"Well... yeah! But it's not the same. The pet girls know what I like, and they are my friends, so they always try to give me what I want. But we are not going out. It's not the same. When I'm with you, bunny costume or not, I get the feeling you like me differently."

"Trixie... I... I don't know. It's... It's very hard... for me."

"I am going too fast for you, am I not?"

"A little bit... yes. I'm scared."

Trixie pushed herself up, sat on my hips, crossed her arms over her chest, and put on her usual happy smile and chuckled.

"Haha! I'm a rabbit, after all, I'm super fast! Don't worry about it! Let's be good friends for now! But I still got to kiss you!"

She let herself fall next to me, bouncing on the springy mattress and placed her finger on my nose.

"So... Was it fun being a pet yesterday?"

"Yes, very much... But the prank scared me."

"Aww... I know! Sorry. I think you did really well. It was your first time. You were even more relaxed as a pet than you are now. I know the feeling. Wearing a mask changes things a lot. People don't look at you the same way."

"Yes... I liked that. I... didn't have to... talk."

"Haha... Yes. I can imagine that in your special case, it gave you a well-needed break."

Trixie pulled me closer to her and started to rub my belly.

"So... about that... How come it is so hard for you to talk? Is it a physical thing?"

"... They... don't know."

"I mean, since we met you, you got so much better... Sometimes you even spoke as we all do, but only when we were alone with you as pets. I think you may just be scared of people."

"... You are helping me... a lot."

"I bet we do... You know what? All kinds of people come to the animal café. Everybody is different, but they often open up to the pets more than they do to other people. I can't tell you how often clients told me they were too fat, too dumb, too ugly, or too shy. You would be surprised how common it is. They go to the café to get a break from life, and it is our job to ensure they leave in better shape than they arrived in."

"How... How do you do that? Why do I feel so good... around the pets?"

"Nothing, Clara. We do nothing. The clients do all the work themselves... We are just a non-judgemental comforting presence, and it makes them naturally open up. They think, change, and get better all on their own. Of course, Lucy always has her special way to cheer them up as well... Like she did with you."

Was this possible? Were all the improvements I noticed in my condition lately driven by myself? Just because the lovely pet girls surrounding me made it easier for me to open up? What she said made sense, but surely she could take a bit of credit. If they had annoyed the crap out of me, I would not have been so happy.

"So, Clara? Are you working today?"

"... Yes."

"Awww... I thought we could have spent the day together. I have nothing else to do and Lucy won't let me wear my suit until my next shift tomorrow. Ah well! It's okay. Another time maybe."

"I will be back... around 8 pm. Can... you come back?"

"That would be awesome! Do you want to watch a movie at the theatre? I'll pay!"

"... Yes. It would be fun."

"Great! Let's meet at the theatre around 8:30 pm. But now... Do you have time to cuddle a bit more before leaving?"

"... Yes... About an hour..."

"YAY! More Clara for me alone!"

Trixie jumped on me for additional human on human affection.



Work was not any more fun than usual. The highlight on my day was when I had to pack a set of baby hands shaped candles... It was very creepy. If I had money, I would not spend it on things like that.

I got off the bus a few stops earlier than usual and walked to the theatre. I haven't been there since they refreshed the interior. They replaced all the seats for those big leather recliner chairs. It would be a fun thing to experience.

When I got there, I sat on a bench outside and texted Trixie to the phone number she gave me this morning. She had asked me to let her know when I arrived.

She replied right away, stating that she was only five minutes away. People were converging to the theatre; some looked in my direction, which made it hard for me to look elsewhere than at my feet. I didn't go out often, and it was a lot more crowded than I was used to.

Then a small pair of arms wrapped around my neck, startling me!

"WAH!"

"... Eep!"

"Look, Clara! I brought friends!"

"... Friends?"

I turned around, and my jaw dropped when I saw what I saw... Coming our way was Lucy and her six leashed rubber pets, pulling in every direction at once, which was clearly infuriating her.

"Guys! Stop pulling! I told you... If you want to go watch the movie, you have to behave!"

Not only was she struggling with all her pet girls, but random people taking pictures caused the pets to pose cutely. In front of this incredible scene, they kept asking who they were and complimenting them for their costumes.

At first, I thought she was absolutely crazy for having done such a thing, but when I heard her reply to those picture-taking people, I understood her real motives.

"Sure, you can take pictures of them. You can also come to meet them at Pets & Cakes café! We have all kinds of delicious cakes for you to try, and you'll get to pet my animals too! You'll love it!"

This whole thing just turned into a big promotional event for the animal café. It was as insane as smart. Lucy brought Vix, Oreo, Asha, Misti, Meeka, and the gray wolf whose name I didn't know. They were all here having a blast showing off their cuteness, ears, and tails.

As soon as they got close enough from Trixie and me, they all climbed on my bench to hug me. Lucy, smiling widely, greeted me as well.

"Hi, Clara! We closed early and decided to have a bit of fun instead. I hope you don't mind if I brought them all to your date with Trixie?"

"..."

"Stop it, Lucy, don't embarrass Clara further. It was not a date... I mean... not really!"

"Haha, Trixie, it was a date! I know you well enough! So, what are we watching today?"

Was Lucy seriously going to bring them all inside the theatre? It would be chaos and she won't have any opportunity to watch the movie. Trixie didn't seem worried about that at all, and I quickly understood why when she replied to Lucy.

"Miami Pets! It's a family movie, but whatever... It came out last week, and I want to see it! I'm so excited. So, because there are nine of us, I reserved a private room. It's going to be much better that way and even a bit cheaper, which is good since none of us have much money."

As she explained the plan, I noticed that people around us kept taking pictures of us, and I was in the middle of the pack, buried under a pile of latex animals. I turned beet red and struggled to breathe again. This was way too much attention directed at the little me. Good thing Lucy decided to move.

"Alright... Clara, you take care of Asha and Vix, and you, Trixie, you take care of Oreo and Meeka... Don't let the leash go. They are totally going nuts since we decided to come here."

The pets forcefully dragged us inside the theatre. Then the cuteness took over... The manager woman even came to check why there was a commotion. As Lucy explained that we all worked at the same café, the pets worked their magic and started cuddling with the manager.

Fortunately, she fell in love right away, and after a few pictures with them all, she decided to give us a free movie night along with some popcorn. Those friendly little rubber animals came with some nice perks.

With Asha and Vix around my arms, we entered our private movie room. It only took five seconds for the pet girls to start running around, over-excited, and fighting for the best seats. They were all excellent seats, so what they were doing was pointless; it was just to cause trouble.

Having the use of my hands allowed me to move them aside and sat right in the middle; Trixie sat right next to me. This caused another problem. The pets started to fight to decide who was going to sit on top of us.

Meeka and the wolf ended up together next to Lucy, Oreo and Misti paired up, as usual, Trixie ended up with Vix, and finally, Asha was the one who sat on my lap.

"Asha! You are too warm... I'm going to get all sweaty!"

The walk and the intense socialization turned the pets into little furnaces. Trixie complained about the same thing.

"Vix! Just sit on the floor for now, or else it's going to be a very long movie... AAAH!"

Of course, Vix knew Trixie too well, so instead of complying, she started massaging Trixie's chest with her cushy paws. As if her rabbit moan was the cue to start the movie, the light dimmed, and the trailers began.

To avoid expulsion from my recliner, the warm Asha found the most comfortable position to stay on me, and I wrapped my arms around her latex waist. I loved her encased body so much. It was hard to describe...

Last night, I cuddled with Trixie out of her suit, and it was good. But compared to the other times when I did the same thing with the latex pets, including Trixie herself, I don't think it was as good. Latex just felt so clean... It separated me from the wearer as if this thin layer of protection, gave me a peace of mind that I loved to have. It just made me more comfortable.

When Trixie gave me a little kiss, it was great, and I didn't regret it... But was it something I enjoyed more than just cuddling with a rubber pet? And more importantly, was kissing something Trixie liked to do better than being a pet?

I never really asked her the question. There was no doubt that the white rabbit loved being a pet, but was it just a job, or was it something she decided to do despite the money? Obviously, Lucy wasn't filthy rich, and I was even wondering how she could pay all her pets just by selling

cakes. They probably didn't make much. So I had a gut feeling that the paycheck was probably not Trixie's main motivation to be a cute pet.

I squeezed Asha tightly in my arms; she smelled so good. Their latex suit had a pleasant rubber smell, but nothing nearly as violent as a bag of rubber bands. Lucy must have worked very hard to keep them as good-smelling as possible; no wonder she was disappointed when I brought back lavender Asha the other day.

"Aaanh! Vix! Stop... I wanted to watch that moviiiiii!"

I looked at Trixie, and she was in trouble. Vix had lifted her shirt, exposing her breast to provide a better massage experience. That was when I discovered Trixie had no willpower at all. She could have pushed the teasing fox away easily, but instead, she was losing the battle due to her love of being fondled.

Not even halfway through the movie, Trixie was helplessly dragged down to the floor, half-naked, and several pets joined Vix to assault her pleasantly. They quickly lost interest in the film and turned to their favorite activity instead. Good thing we had this private room, or else it wouldn't have gone that well for them.

Lucy, her, had not intervened at any point. It was a bit surprising because she usually liked to keep a certain discipline, but she was probably very happy to see them having that much fun; they were perhaps not going out often, so this extra leniency was undoubtedly a little reward.

The shop owner even came to steal Trixie's uneaten popcorn and pat Asha on the head, but that was about all she did for two hours.

When the movie ended, the light turned back on, and we witnessed the extent of the damage Trixie took from the pets. She didn't have clothes anymore outside of her panties, so Lucy thought it was a perfect opportunity to scold her.

"Alright, Trixie! That's enough! Dress up before the cleaning staff comes in."

"That's enough? But they did this to me! They started it!"

"I don't care. This is your own doing. Come on, girls! Leash time. Don't make me repeat!"

"Where are my clothes! Vix? Where did you put my bra?"

I helped Trixie find her clothes while Lucy prepared the pet girls for the walk. I found the bra under one of the chairs, and Trixie found her shirt, but we couldn't find her skirt. Trixie whined

some more when the staff opened the door and asked us to leave so they could clean before the next group entered.

"Wait! I can't leave without my skirt!"

"Well, Trixie, it's too late now... Come... Just stay in the middle of the pets so they can hide you."

"But... my skirt... I just bought it!"

"You had to think about it before playing sexy with your friends. Come now! We are leaving."

Trixie grumbled and lowered her head, slightly humiliated to exit the room butt naked. Just to make it worse, as soon as we got out, people started taking pictures of the pets again, not realizing that Trixie had no pants. Who knew where those pictures would end up.

It was night when we exited the theatre, so the outside was not nearly as bad for the embarrassed rabbit. Only then Lucy handed Trixie something.

"Here is your skirt... bunny!"

"HEY! YOU HAD IT ALL THIS TIME?"

"Of course... I needed to teach you a lesson. Doing sexy things outside the café or a bedroom is inappropriate, you know.

"Hahahaha!"

Oops... I didn't mean to laugh out loud... Now everybody was looking at me in silence, humans, and pets alike.

"Clara? You laughed?"

"... S— Sorry?"

"What? NO! That's great ... It's the first time we hear you laughing like this. Haha! This is great! You had fun tonight?"

"Yes... very much."

"So, then? Who are you taking home tonight? If you take two, it will help me."

"I... I don't know."

Trixie, who was pulling up her skirt, rushed to me, but Lucy recalled her right away.

"Nope, Trixie, come back here. You go back to your rabbit suit tonight instead of tomorrow."

"Really? You'll let me wear it early?"

"Yes... I guess hiding your skirt was not that nice. So why not."

"Yay! Sorry, Clara, I'm going to go with Lucy! I miss my suit too much already!"

I guess that answered my earlier question. Trixie probably loved being a rabbit more than being a human. But now that Trixie was no longer available, I chose Asha and Vix, my comfort pets.

"Good. See you tomorrow Clara. It was fun going out altogether. Come on, girls. Say goodbye to Clara, and then we go back to the café."

All the little pets came to me for a cute group hug before going back to Lucy. The simplest things in life are definitely the best.

I grabbed the two leashes and started walking. It was the first time I brought home two latex friends at the same time.

It's going to be another interesting night.

Chapter 9 - A Multitude Of Pets

"Asha! I'm super tired... You must let me sleep!"

It was 2 am already. Vix was deep asleep next to me on my bed, but Asha just wouldn't leave me alone. She was still on a high since the movie night and the unexpected sleepover at my place, but I needed to get some sleep as I was working tomorrow. The snow leopard wouldn't stop cuddling me, and I didn't know what to do anymore.

"Why don't you listen? You won't be able to wake up tomorrow, either."

Nothing worked. As much as I tried to explain Asha we needed to sleep, she climbed on top of me again and wrapped her paws around me. I was exhausted, and she pushed me to my limits. Lucy's words then echoed in my head; I needed to take charge.

As much as Asha was the cutest and sweetest thing in the whole universe, she was such a disobedient pet. She wouldn't sleep, she wouldn't wake up, she got in the shower even if I said no... It became clear to me that she wouldn't listen to me tonight either.

"Asha... Enough! Come!"

I got off the bed and wrapped my fingers around her collar. Despite her attempt to resist, I dragged her to the hallway, where I retrieved her leash.

"You'll sleep on the couch... until morning."

After clipping the leash to her neck, I dragged her to the living room and tied her to the coffee table's leg; her cushy rubber paws would prevent her from untying herself. It was mean, but at some point, she had to listen. I couldn't afford to stay awake all night.

The little snow leopard just stared at me, making me feel all guilty, but she left me no other choice but to take this harsh measure. I heartbreakingly turned around and returned to my bedroom.

I rejoined Vix and pulled the blanket over both of us. The latex fox was so warm and soft; I got closer to her, and we spooned for the remainder of the night while SLEEPING!



I felt something pushing me in the flank...

"Mmm?"

When I finally cracked my eyes open, I saw Vix, kneeling next to me on the bed, trying to wake me up; that was unusual behavior. Vix was more the type to cuddle with me gently until I opened my eyes.

"Vix... Let me sleep more... I'm... tired."

The cute fox girl shook her head and kept pushing me, a little bit stronger this time. Then she pointed at my cellphone on the nightstand.

"My... phone? What about it?"

I stretched my arm to grab it, and the first thing I noticed on the screen was the time. The blood drained from my face. It was 10:15 am, and I was supposed to be at work at 11 am today. I would barely have time to get there because of the slow public transport. On top of that, I had to make the pets eat and bring them back to the café; this alone would take me almost an hour. There was no way I could leave them here, starving all day when they should be at the café with Lucy.

"Vix... I'm in trouble... I will miss work..."

Then my phone vibrated... I rechecked it, and this time it was a message from Lucy. "Where are my pets? We are opening soon!" I started to panic. I couldn't lose my job; it had been hard enough to find one because of my communication disorder. The company I was working for was so big that they wouldn't hesitate to fire me or put a negative mention in my profile. Trembling was the only thing I was good at when the time came to deal with stressful situations.

"Viiiiix... What do I do?"

Based on how she cocked her head sideways and brought her paw to her chin, the poor pet girl wasn't too sure either. She had warned me I was late as soon as she could after waking up, but she, too, went to bed very late because of Asha's bad behavior.

Then out of nowhere, she tapped on the back of her neck with her cushy paw...

"Vix?"

She tapped again and motioned her other paw, asking me to hurry.

"You... You want me to... take off your... suit?"

The fox girl nodded energetically and tapped on top of her wrist, meaning that I didn't have time to argue.

Two days ago, I met Trixie out of her suit, and it had been a very special moment. It went fairly well, but it had also been very strange. Doing the same with Vix would be even more bizarre because she was my favorite pet so far. She was the one I was always going to for comfort because her hugs were just magical. If I learned what she looked like as a human, it would probably change things... For the best or for the worse... that remained to be seen.

Then a paw poked me in the forehead, pulling me out of my negative thinking loop. Vix tapped again on her wrist and motioned her paws some more. I guess there was no other option anyway, and Vix was pretty convinced that she wanted to go through with this.

"O... Okay. Stay."

I got off the bed and went to get her key that I had left on the kitchen countertop last night when we got home. It was easy to tell which one was her key because it dangled from a rubber keychain shaped like a fox's head; this was as adorable as the pet itself.

I made a quick stop to the living room, where Asha was still asleep on the couch, and I unclipped her leash from the coffee table before vigorously shaking her shoulder.

"Asha! Wake up! Wake up! We have to go now!"

That side task completed, I headed to my small bathroom to retrieve a wet towel. Remembering my experience in a pet suit, I roughly knew what to expect, and wiping Vix's face after removing her mask would be the right thing to do.

When Vix saw me returning to the bedroom, she turned around to expose the lock behind her neck. I knelt behind her and tried to figure out how to unlock this little metal block covering her zipper tabs.

"... Okay, Vix... Don't move..."

Just as I was about to insert the key in the small hole, a spotty rubber paw smacked my hand, way harder than any pets had done before, and the key went flying to the carpet. The snow leopard separated me from Vix and pushed her fox friend to the wall.

"A... Asha?"

Vix tried to struggle out of Asha's grip, but she was not strong enough. What was going on? The pets were always so cute and funny, why were they fighting now? I didn't like to see this... Was it my fault? What did I do? My eyes welled up, and I wanted this to stop. The stress disrupted my speech again, making me sound like an idiot.

"A... Asha! ... Stop! ... I... I... STOP! ... WORK! TIME!"

Asha pushed Vix away one last definite time, then walked to me with determination... She turned around and slapped herself on the neck.

"Y... you want... out? Instead of Vix?"

She nodded. Vix was now in the corner, curled into a small fox ball, and lowered her head. Something was very fishy here. It was as if Asha tried to protect Vix from something. Usually, the pets never wanted to get out of their suit, but now there was a battle for it. It made no sense.

I had no choice and no time; I needed to leave for work as soon as possible, so I ran back to the kitchen to grab the snow leopard key and came back to let Asha out of her suit.

After removing her lock, I started unzipping her mask. The first thing that struck me was how contrasting her shiny black hair was in comparison with her snow-white suit. As more of her humanity revealed, I saw her coffee-colored skin, making me wonder what her genetic heritage could be.

I did the same as Lucy had done with me; I stood behind her while I pulled her mask forward and immediately cleaned her face with the wet towel as I pulled out her nose tubes and mouthpiece.

"Bleeeh! Grooosss!"

As she complained, I recognized the same voice that had spoken to me at the mall a while ago. I had decided not to look at her back then, but now, there would be no way around it.

It was not fair. Asha had seen me countless times so far, so she wouldn't be surprised by what I looked like; but me, on top of all this morning commotion, I would have to absorb the shock that the identity revelation of a new pet accompanied, something I wasn't too keen on doing.

Asha turned around, and my heart skipped a beat. She was a pretty Indian looking girl, something I had not expected one bit as she didn't have a different accent than mine. My prejudices tricked me.

"Oh! Hi!"

"A... Asha?"

"Haha. Yes, it's still me! Help me take off those paws. Then you have to go to work... I'll take care of Vix."

"B... But... Vix..."

"Calm down, Clara... It's all good. Vix will be fine. She is just a bit sad right now because of what I did. I'll talk to her."

As I was tugging on her cushy mitts, Asha took a quick look at the depressed fox girl sitting in the corner of the room.

"I have my reasons for doing this... I prefer you to see me rather than her, at least for now. I'll explain later. It's all going to be okay, I promise."

"Are... Are you... sure?"

"Yes. Now go to work. Just leave me your apartment key. Oh, and can I borrow some of your clothes too? You can pick them up at the café tonight."

"Yes."

"Oh, and Lucy is going to be furious too, but I'll try to calm her down before you arrive. Go now. Go! You'll be late."

All of this was not fun. As I was rushing to the bus station, I was beyond confused by what had happened—bringing two pets home, punishing one of them, seeing them fight, seeing Asha as a human, all of those things for the first time. It was way too many emotions. I hoped that my day would change pace quickly because I wouldn't be able to endure too much more of this.



My workday dragged but was finally over. I took the bus back to downtown because I wanted to drop by the café before going home.

In a rush, I forgot my umbrella this morning, so it was a wet walk from the station to the café. I wished I had a latex skin like the pets; I would not have felt as miserable in the rain as I was right now. But I hadn't, resulting in me being cold and sad.

Arriving at the Pets & Cake, I paused in front of the door for a moment, trying to make sense of my chaotic day. Vix prevented me from getting fired, which was great, but I didn't like what happened after. If I were to enter the café, I certainly would have to talk about this with either Asha, if she were still out of her suit, or Lucy, who would have certainly heard about the whole story.

All this excitement was not why I liked coming to the café. I didn't want problems. I didn't want to explain things. I was simply coming here to cuddle and improve my life in a safe environment. I didn't want those pets to feel as if they were humans to me. I just wanted them to be pets and nothing else.

I was aware that the real world was not made of cakes and cuddly pets; I knew that. But I liked it. My life was not easy, and this place was my escape. It was a world that didn't remind me of my problems, poverty, or social isolation. Was the recent chaos I experienced with the pets a sign that I was about to lose it all through mishandling and familiarity? The thought was like a set of claws shredding my heart.

The door opened, and Lucy poked her head out.

"Clara? What are you doing standing in the rain like that? Come inside right away before you get sick!"

"..."

Lucy couldn't see me crying as my tears merged with the rain, but as usual, she was an expert at reading the body language of beings who couldn't verbally express themselves. She walked out to meet me on the walkway and pulled me in her arms.

"Heeey! What's wrong, Clara? Why are you so sad?"

"I... I don't... know."

"Are you afraid?"

"... yes."

"Asha told me what happened this morning... Things are going a bit too fast for you, uh?"

"... yes."

"I know... I know. Those pets can be very intense. Come inside... There is no client. I know what will make you feel better. Come. I'll take care of you."

Lucy's presence was always reassuring. I saw her almost like my second mother at this point because she always knew what I was going through and always knew how to cheer me up.

Before I knew it, I was sitting in my favorite booth and had a cheesecake piece and a delicious hot chocolate in front of me. To my left was Asha, who was back in her suit, and to my right, Vix, who was still looking down a little bit. Lucy had told them just to sit there and not attempt to cuddle with me. Still, Asha dared to lean her shoulder on me to get a bit of warmth.

Her minimal display of affection was probably not authorized, because as soon as the lounge door opened, she pulled off me, perhaps fearing to be scolded by Lucy. The owner came to sit with us with her own hot chocolate mug.

"So, I closed early today... now we can talk to my pets quietly. Come here, Asha girl."

The snow leopard didn't hesitate and transferred to the other side of the booth to lay down on Lucy.

"You are so cute, Asha... But, you know you scared Clara this morning, right?"

Asha nodded.

"And you know that it was Vix's decision to take her suit off... right?"

Asha curled into a ball.

"Ashaaa... Answer me."

Asha reluctantly nodded.

"Good... You have to stop being so protective. Vix can think for herself. So no more of that, okay?"

Asha nodded again.

Lucy's gaze turned to Vix as she kept petting the now pacified snow leopard.

"Now, Vix... What you did was very brave."

Vix shrugged and lowered her head.

"It was! You were ready to do something very challenging for you to prevent Clara from getting into trouble. I'm very proud of you."

Vix leaned on me and grabbed my arm.

"Do you want me to tell Clara why it was so brave of you to ask her to remove your suit?"

Vix shrugged again.

"Vix, you know we discussed this before. It's part of you, and you need to trust your friends. I'm not going to force you, though. But you know what my opinion is."

Vix nodded and let herself fall on top of my laps, like a potato bag. I couldn't help but wonder what Lucy was talking about. What secret could Vix be hiding behind her cute fox mask? I lowered my hand on her lower back and began to pet her.

"So, Clara, Vix needs your support. But, seriously, I don't even need to tell you because you are already best friends. So, the reason why Miss Asha, here, prevented you from removing Vix's suit this morning is that she wanted to protect her."

"... From... me?"

"Hehe. No... from shame."

"Shame?"

"Yes. Shame. Our little Fox, she has a big scar on her head and face. If you ask me, it's really not that bad. But it's there, and Vix always had a lot of trouble accepting it."

"A... scar?"

"Yes... When she was little, she got attacked by a big dog, and it caused some damage. Kids made fun of her a lot and bullied her because of it. But now that she is an adult, she slowly understands that it doesn't matter... Right, Vix?"

Vix shrugged some more.

"So, anyway... Vix was ready to let you see her out of her suit just to help you. It means a LOT. She really likes you, Clara. It's the first time she does something like this since she is my pet."

"..."

"See, my pets helped you a lot since you started visiting us, Clara, but did you realize how you are helping them too? They learn what it means to take care of someone vulnerable and that, sometimes, they have to put their own fun aside to do that."

"..."

"But it's not perfect, right, Asha? You kept Clara awake until late at night because you wanted to cuddle? And that is why you are not going to her place for the rest of the month."

SLAP!

That was unexpected. Lucy landed her hand somewhat hard on Asha's butt, who also had not apprehended this. There was probably no real pain due to this, but based on the pet's reaction, it looked like it was the first time Lucy did such a thing.

"Surprised? Alright, go play with the others now."

Lucy pushed Asha off the couch, and the pet went to sit with Trixie right away. Those two were definitely good friends.

"So, Clara. Do you want to sleep here tonight? In one of the capsules? It's raining too much to walk back home."

"... Yes. With Vix."

"Haha! Of course, with Vix. And because of all the trouble that those two caused you, do you want to do something special? Do you want to be a pet again for the night so you can play with your friends? I think you could use some pet time."

"..."

All the pets in the lounge turned their head in my direction. That offer certainly caught their attention... and mine. A wave of excitement coursed through my body. My usual lack of self-confidence made me tremble a little bit.

"Haha! That face! I'll take that as a yes... Come with me, I'll dress you up."

"... Which... costume?"

"AH! Not telling you... It's a surprise."

I was not even in costume when Lucy started to treat me as her pet. She grabbed my wrist and led me upstairs to the costume room, eyes closed. It didn't take long for her to undress me; for some reason, I wasn't as shy as my first time. Then, the shapeshifting process began.

Before I knew it, comfortable latex covered my body, cushy paws took away the usage of my fingers, and an amazing mask covered my face. The nose tubes and mouthpiece didn't feel nearly as awkward as when I was Trixie. Perhaps wondering what kind of animal I would be this time around was a higher priority for my mind. I could barely remember which pets were in the lounge today. I noticed Vix, Asha, and Trixie, so I knew I wouldn't wear one of those costumes, but I kind of forgot who the others were.

After locking my back zipper, Lucy turned me around and blushed at the result.

"Aaawww! You are sooo cuuuute! Look!"

She led me to the full-length mirror. Seeing my reflection made me stop breathing. This time, I was a small grey wolf with fluffy latex ears and tail. This was one of the pets I didn't interact with so far, and I didn't even know its name.

As usual, Lucy couldn't understand that I was still Clara in the suit... She was not even trying.

"Come, Accalia! Let's go back downstairs... The others will be thrilled to play with you."

Accalia? What a cute name! That was adorable. I turned around and jumped in Lucy's arms for a hug.

This animal café certainly was a magical place for me.

Chapter 10 - Limitless Pets

"Now, Oreo, you climb on top of them! You can do it!"

At the bottom of the pyramid, there was Asha, Meeka, and Accalia, on their knees and paws. On top of them were Misti and Trixi, trying to keep their balance. And Oreo was now climbing to the top for the third time, and, hopefully, she wouldn't make everybody fall again.

"Oreo... Don't put your foot on Accalia's head... Nooo!"

Well, it didn't take long... Accalia gave up and let herself fall flat on her belly, not wanting to play anymore, and causing all the other pets to lose balance and fall on each other like a crumbling house of cards. I now had another pile of entwined pets before me in the middle of the lounge.

Yesterday was my pet sitting day. Lucy took a well-needed day off, and put me in charge of her pets until her return this morning. Sleeping with them all in the capsule last night was great, but it took me a while to retrieve all my clothes this morning. Those little creatures hid them here and there in the café.

Lucy was supposed to show up soon, so I was just playing with my friends to kill time. I thought it would be fun to make them climb on each other to build a pet pyramid, take a picture and stick it on Lucy's fridge. But it didn't work too well. The pets were tiny and not very strong. We would have to try again later... maybe with some practice.

Trixie extracted herself from the pile first and crawled to me while the others used the opportunity of being all together to cuddle on the floor.

I went to my favorite booth with Trixie and made her straddle me. I pinched her little bunny rubber whiskers and gazed in her deep black eyes. Since I saw Trixie out of her suit, it never happened again. I barely remembered what she looked like as a human. I remembered her being a cute short-haired blonde with blue eyes, but her visage had mostly faded away from my memory.

Actually, since the time I wore Accalia's suit, I didn't see any of the girls out of their costumes. I couldn't be sure, but I think Lucy had asked them to give me some breathing room because of how much I struggled to keep up with all those new experiences.

She must have been right because It has been three weeks already, and everything has gone perfectly since then. I was amazed at how comfortable I became around my latex pet girls, to the point where I started to feel ready to interact with them as humans again... Or at least try. I remembered all the fun Meeka, Misti, and Asha seemed to have at the mall, and I thought it would be a good thing to walk toward that goal slowly. It looked fun to have friends.

Trixie was familiar to me since I got to sleep with her out of costume, and she was super friendly too. I also remembered that she was interested in going on a date with me or something, but she didn't push me at all when I told her I was not ready just yet. It made me trust her.

But maybe now, I could talk to her and see if she would like to do something after her pet shift. Perhaps not a date per se, but just something casual to see if I could deepen our relationship and get to the next level of human interaction. Could I have a relationship like that too?

"Trixie?... When... is your... shift over?"

The bunny cocked her head and brought a paw to her chin, possibly trying to find a way to answer. She then grabbed my hand and opened my fingers before folding a couple of them.

"Two days?"

She nodded.

"Would... Would you like... To do something... with me? When you are done?"

Trixie slammed her two paws to her chest to simulate a heart attack and pretend to be shocked.

"Aaah! Trixie... Don't tease me! I just... would like to do something with you... Outside the café."

Trixie nodded and gave me a big hug. She seemed thrilled. Our personalities were undeniably clashing; I was always reserved and never really expressed myself, not smiling often. Trixie was the opposite; the bunny was always so expressive, happy, and energetic, always looking forward to every activity and opportunity to have fun. I could learn a lot from her.

Out of the blue, the lounge door opened, and Lucy walked in.

"Hey, girls! How did it go?"

It only took a fraction of a second for all the pets, including Trixie, to rush to Lucy to grab her legs, torso, and arms. It was always so cute to see them do that. They loved her beyond reason as an owner and caretaker. But her reaction was always priceless.

"Aaaah! Stop it! You'll make me fall. Meeka? What are you doing? Stop tugging on my bag. It's not a surprise. It's just food. Trixie! Don't you have anything better to do? If you break my bracelet again, I'll be mad! Yes! Yes! I'm happy to see you all! Go sit now! Let me go talk to Clara for a sec. I need a break."

It took some effort, but Lucy managed to peel off the rubber girls from her body and come sit with me. As usual, she was extremely grateful for my willingness to take care of the pets during her day off.

"That was so amazing, Clara! I went shopping with my sis, and we went to the restaurant, and then we watched movies together. What you are doing for me is priceless for my mental health. I will have to find a way to repay all your hard work. How were the pets while I was away. Did they behave?"

"Yes. They were nice."

"I know they are, but they can be troublemakers too!"

"No. They were just nice."

"You must have a magic touch then. Or they like you better than they like me..."

"..."

I didn't think she meant that, but it still shocked me that she could have said such a thing about her beloved pets. It was probably sarcasm, something I was not too good at grasping.

"So, Clara? Are you working today?"

"Yes, soon."

"Awww! Too bad. We never get to spend a lot of time together."

"Can... Can I do... something... with Trixie?"

"You mean sex? Sure!"

"..."

My face turned beet red. It was not at all what I meant. Why would she come up with something so raw?

"Haha! Sorry, I was just teasing you. What do you mean? You want to bring her home tonight?"

"No... After her shift."

"Oh? Trixie the girl, not Trixie the pet? Sure... I told you, I'm not their mother. But after the little incident with Asha and Vix, I thought you preferred just to do things with them as pet girls. I mean, if you think you are ready to try again, I have no problem with it. "

"I'm good now. I'm ready... I think."

"Well, Trixie will finish her shift in two days. You have time to think about it."

"Yes..."

"Oh, you know what? Why don't you go visit Vix with her? Did I tell you? Vix just got a bad cold. Probably from a client or something. She had to skip her shift. I'm sure that in a couple of days, she would be happy to see you."

"Where... Where is she?"

That was one of the questions I wanted to ask for a very long time, but I never got a good opportunity. The pets were very mysterious, and one of the missing elements was where they went when they were not working at the café? I had absolutely no idea.

I think Lucy realized that too.

"Ooooh! That's right. We never told you about their home?"

"Their... home?"

"Yes, my pet girls all live in the same apartment. Because they are often here, they don't need their own place as you do. So they share one. It's a pretty nice place. You should go for a visit. I'm sure Trixie would be thrilled to show you. It's not far from here either."

Sharing a place seemed like a good idea considering that only two or three of the pets were out of their suit at a time, and they seemed to be only off for a couple of days in a row. It was not easy to find something affordable in a bigger city like ours, where even a tiny apartment could be challenging to find; I barely managed to pay my rent with my low salary. There was no way I could save anything at the end of the month.

Because of my communication disorder, I never put many thoughts in sharing a bigger place with someone else. In my head, I was born to be alone, so living with others was kind of emotionally prohibited.

There were eight pets that I knew of; Vix, Trixie, Asha, Oreo, Misti, Meeka, Accalia, and the doggy that I haven't seen around too often. Generally, five or six of them were working, so it meant that only three of them were sleeping at home every night; they didn't need something that big.

I was quite excited about this opportunity to learn more about my friends.



"CLARAAAA!"

"Eeep!"

As soon as I opened my apartment door, Trixie jumped in my arms for a hug. The small blonde girl was clearly excited to spend the day with me as a human.

"I just finished working, and I came here right away. It's much easier to get out of a suit when you are going on a date!"

"... a... date?"

"Aaaah! Well... I call it a date... It just makes me happy! Don't worry about it. So, Lucy told me you wanted to visit our place? Vix is doing better, but she would be super happy to see you since she hasn't been able to go to the café all week."

"Does... she knows... I'm coming?"

"No! It's going to be a surprise!"

"..."

"Come. Let's go now! I can't wait to show you our place!"

"O... okay! But wait... I have something... for Vix."

I walked to my kitchen and grabbed a plastic box that contained a special treat for the mending fox girl. Last night, knowing I'd probably visit her, I baked some chocolate chip cookies. I was about to put the box in my backpack when a chin landed on my shoulder.

"Oooh... Cookies! Give me one!"

"No... They are a gift for Vix."

"Aww! Really? She won't mind if I eat one or two. I'm sure."

"Trixie... no!"

Trixie tried to take the box away from my hand, but I tugged back.

"Ah! Come on! I'm sure you ate one already! I'm sure if I kiss you, I'll be able to taste it!"

"Trix... Stop! Stop! Haha! Stoop!"

I was turning my head away from the cute girl who tried to playfully kiss me at the same time as she was trying to steal my cookie box. She pushed me in a corner and wrapped her arms around me.

"Mmm! You are so warm, Clara... I want to cuddle with you forever!"

"I... I like cuddling you too."

"When I'm a pet or when I'm a human?"

"..."

"You have to say when I'm a pet..."

"... When you are a pet?"

"YAY! I love being a pet so much more! Alright. Let's go see Vix. She must be miserable. But, I'll do all I can to steal a cookie from her, though."



We have been walking for the past half hour, heading deeper downtown. Trixie hung to my arm the same way she did when she wore her costume, probably out of habit. I guess we can't take the rabbit out of the bunny. She said we were close, but I found it quite strange that she led us to the business area where only big lawyers firms and such surrounded us. I was not aware of any apartment buildings in this area.

"Alright, it's here. Let's go in."

"... Wait..."

"Uh? What's wrong?"

"Trixie... This is... an office building."

"Yes? It's an insurance company... but it's okay. Just follow me. We are in the right place."

No, we were not. It made no sense. That building was an office building about twenty floors high, not an apartment building.

Trixie grabbed my wrist and tugged me inside anyway. She was small and barely strong enough to pull the heavy glass door open. As soon as we stepped in, I became so embarrassed. There was so much luxe around me that I felt as out of place as an apple core on a castle floor.

Talking about floors, this one was all made of big white glossy marble tiles. Everything around here seemed so expensive, something I didn't see often. This company probably made more money in a day than I would make in my entire life. I felt so oppressed.

My friend didn't seem intimidated whatsoever, though. Still holding my wrist, Trixie made us pass in front of the security desk without even looking at them. Then we walked next to a couple of clients wearing business suits who looked at us with prejudice. Finally, we arrived at the elevators.

I couldn't do anything else but tremble. My conviction was that we would get arrested for trespassing and end up in jail where they would shave our heads... or something like that.

"Relax, Clara... oh, this one is coming."

"..."

One of the elevators arrived, and we got in it. Trixie slid a magnetic card out of her pocket and swiped it on the reader before pressing the P button at the very top of the panel.

"P? ... What does P... stands for?"

"Haha... P for Pets."

"... Pets? Trixie... It doesn't mean pets!"

"Well, I don't care. To me, it means Pets. We are going to the pet floor."

She had a big grin on her face while she kept joking, but I wasn't sure why she would hide the truth from me. The pets couldn't possibly live in this building. What was this about?

As I tried to figure out what was going on, Trixie took advantage of our long elevator ride to get closer to me and nuzzle my neck as if she was still wearing her bunny suit. It was not tickling as much without her whiskers, but it still made me smile to see her unable to behave in a different manner than her rabbit persona.

"Maybe we should stop the elevator and cuddle for a while."

"..."

"Haha! I won't do that to you. But I really want to!"

"..."

Her incessant teasing had the benefit of keeping us entertained until we reached our destination. On the ringing of a bell, the doors parted, and as soon as we got out, there was

another giant wooden double door. Trixie swiped her card once more on a reader which granted us access to the place.

"Aaah! Come on in, Clara! Welcome to our home."

"... Your... home?"

I passed the door, and my jaw dropped. It couldn't be... It was a giant luxury apartment, the biggest I have ever seen. That was impossible. How could a bunch of small pet girls afford something like this? An entire wall made of large windows and a big staircase that followed another betrayed a second floor's presence. Something didn't add up.

"Trixie... This is... too big."

"What do you mean too big? Pets need room to play and run around, you know."

"But... How... How can you pay for this?"

"We sell a lot of cheesecake, haha!"

She just wouldn't stop teasing me. I knew it was not true. No amount of cheesecakes would be sufficient to afford this. The kitchen area alone was bigger than my apartment.

"Come! Let's go see if Vix is awake."

"But... but..."

The excited rabbit girl grabbed my arm again and pulled me up the staircase. I swear, ten people would be able to go up and down at the same time without bumping into each other... maybe fifteen pets. I was just a baffled body that Trixie dragged around like a doll, knowing very well that I was beyond confused.

The soft carpet absorbed every sound that our feet would have made, and even the air we were breathing tasted expensive. Some lights turned on as we progressed in the upper floor hallway until we reached one of the bedroom doors.

"Sshhh... Let me check if she is awake first."

"... Okay."

Trixie cracked the door open just enough to squeeze her head inside the dark room.

"Pssst... Vix? Are you awake? You have a visitor."

"Mmm... I don't want a visitor... I just want to feel better!"

"Clara is here... That should make you feel better, foxy!"

"AAAH? CLARA? But... Why did you bring her here."

"Because she is our friend... So, I'll let her in. You aren't naked, are you?"

"N... No... but..."

Trixie closed the door and turned to me.

"Yeah... Lucy told you about Vix's face, right? She is embarrassed by her scars, but she is making too much of a fuss about it. She is still a cutie. Come on. While you go see her, give me your cookies, I'll put them in the kitchen."

"Trixie! No!... It's for Vix!"

"Aaah. Give me just one... I will give you some time alone with Vix because I have to go take a well-needed shower. Just one... Pleaaase! They smell so good!"

"... Mmm... Okay... But only one..."

"Sure! Only one!"

I placed my backpack on the ground and pulled out the cookie box. I bent the lid open and presented the sugary treat to the drooling girl.

"AH!"

"TRIXIE! NO! You said only one!"

"Byyyye! I'll come back in thirty minutes!"

I grumbled while the happy rabbit bounced away with a handful of cookies that she stole without any shame. I placed the lid back on as I was shaking my head, then I slowly opened the bedroom door again.

"Vix? Hi!"

"... Hi."

It was so dark in there. I could see Vix's shape on the large king bed, her lower body covered by a blanket, and her back resting on too many pillows. I walked to the window as I wanted to open the curtains, so I could see her better.

"No! Leave the curtains closed, please. I... I have... a headache."

"... Oh... Okay... How... How are you doing?"

"Better... Thanks."

It was so awkward. Usually, Vix was the one rushing to my arms to get a hug, but her human form was not as much in a hurry to do the same. Her voice was timid and unconfident, pretty

much like mine. I tried to look at her face through the darkness, but she was wearing an animal pajama with a hoodie covering almost her entire face... Her lips and chin were pretty much all I could see. I thought it was adorable that she was dressing up like a fox, even at home, even though I thought this wasn't latex.

"I... I brought you cookies, Vix. Do you want one?"

"... Cookies?"

"Yes. I made them myself. For you. To make you feel better."

"I... I love cookies..."

I extended my arm and gave her her gift. Silently, she peeled the lid off and slid it under the box. Then she used her two hands to grab one cookie and bring it up to her mouth for a nibble.

"Mmm... Chocolate chip... They are good. Thanks so much!"

"I'm glad you like them... Can... Can I sit with you?"

"... Yes. NO! Sorry... Can you sit on the other side?"

"... Okay."

I took a long walk around the large bed, knowing very well why she didn't want me to sit on her left. Her scars were probably on that side, and she didn't want me to see them. I wasn't going to argue because I was relating to her discomfort so much. My communication disorder wasn't a physical injury, but it was a scar nonetheless. I knew the fear of being discovered and judged by others, even if they were close to me. There was nothing to be offended about. Vix reaction was normal under the circumstances.

I climbed on the bed, sinking in the soft mattress, and slid under the blanket to sit shoulder to shoulder with my fox friend. She tried to pull her hoodie a bit lower, but she had reached its range limit.

"I... I like your voice, Vix. It's very cute."

"T...Thanks. This is so weird."

"Yes... It was the same thing when I saw Trixie... and Asha..."

"Yeah... but those two are pretty."

"They are... But everybody told me you were pretty too."

"Mmm... I'm not so sure about that..."

"I know... what you mean. It's okay. I thought the same of myself... before I met you. It's better now."

As if my words struck a sensitive chord, Vix turned her head to me. The fluffy fox ears attached to her hoodie laid flat on the sides. A faint smile appeared on her lips, and for a moment, she tried to resist the urge to get some affection. But her will was not strong enough, and when she was done hesitating, she wrapped her arms around my waist, without asking, and rested her head on my chest.

"I want to cuddle... so badly. I was so lonely this week."

"Aww. I know."

"I'm so happy you came."

I squeezed the small fox girl in my arms, and we stayed like this for a while, murmuring funny things to each other and making fun of Trixie, who stole nearly half of the cookies. Latex costume or not, she was still the little Vix that I loved so much. We shared some more sugary treats and then laid down deeper in the comfy bed. Doing this with her was very special, even though it was quite strange to feel her tiny fingers crawling on me.

Unfortunately, Vix was still recovering from her cold and quickly fell asleep on my shoulder. She must have been exhausted. This could be a good opportunity to...

I dared to pull her hoodie out a little bit using my fingertip, just enough to uncover her tiny nose and closed eyes. They were right... she was so cute... so peaceful. It made me wonder if natural cuteness was a mandatory trait to be hired by the animal café or if being pets transformed them after the fact.

I was curious about her scars, though... How could such a thing cause so much shame to such an adorable girl? It was just not right... not fair.

I pulled the hoodie a bit more to the side until I noticed the beginning of a mark, carved in her soft skin. It was beginning there, right in the middle of her cheek. It would be easily noticeable in broad daylight, and for sure, people were probably drilling with the same questions over and over when she was not a latex fox; how did this happen? Does it hurt? Can't it be surgically removed? Or the pitiful encouragement; poor girl. I've seen worse. It's nothing. You make a big deal out of nothing.

I pulled the hoodie back over her cheek, not desiring to see more of what was not for me to see. I bet the small fox girl much preferred to hear more pleasant words.

"Can I get a hug?... Can we cuddle?... Do you want to come to my place?... Do you want to be my friend?... Can I kiss you?"

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