

Chapter 13

Mal glanced towards Cantaloupe as they prepared to move out in the parade and noticed the plush cantaloupe in his paws. “Is the cantaloupe prop new? You didn’t have it last night.”

“Yes, I got it recently, and I forgot about it last night,” Cantaloupe replied. Mal noted a slight bit of nervousness in the tone of the raccoon’s muffled reply.

“It squeaks,” Sheila added. Cantaloupe gave it a quick squeeze making it squeak like a dog toy.

Mal chuckled. “That’s cute.”

Throughout the parade route, they waved to the crowd. High fiving as requested, especially by kids. Every now and then, Cantaloupe squeaked his prop. The parade wound its way outside into the sunshine. Eventually, the organizers attempted to “herd cats” and get them gathered together for a group photo. After several photos were taken, the group began to disperse.

Cantaloupe dropped his prop and knelt down to scoop it up. As he picked it up, he unfolded a flap opening it up. He held up the contents to Sheila. The crowd fell silent as Cantaloupe proposed to her. She paused for the briefest of moments before nodding and pulling out the prop ring within the cantaloupe and slipping it on her handpaw finger. Within the cantaloupe prop there was a second smaller open box with a real ring displayed within. The two embraced. Rick/Mal was both pleased and a little disturbed as he suddenly recalled the previous night’s dream.

They soon moved inside to the headless lounge with Mal designating Melissa as his ‘spotter’. He soon got other furs taking a break to agree to brief interviews as long as she only used their furry names. Sheila wiggled off her left-hand paw and quickly slipped the real engagement ring on her ring finger and embraced Cantaloupe a second time. Many congratulated her and Cantaloupe.

“Is that normal?” Melissa asked Rick at one point.

“Do you mean the proposal?”

She nodded.

“I don’t know if I could say it’s normal or not. I do know it’s not unusual for two furies who met through the fandom to also propose to one another at a furry event like that. I just met them this weekend. So, I had no idea how close they were to one another or how long they’ve known each other.”

“I guess I’ve got more questions to ask them later for the news story.”