

“Feels like I got a bit carried away, but it was a wonderful wonderful time.” Ran attested at the doors out of the club known as The Painted Wolf. The manager and prime host bowed his head in warm appreciation of the compliments. His white coat was powdered and painted to look almost tiger-like if it weren’t for his lupine features.

“Oh, don’t mention it. There is still a small matter of the extra fees, those that went beyond your initial deposit, but I trust you’re good for them. We’ll keep a tab open until you can settle.” The wolf said with a smile.

“Sure thing, I’ll settle up as soon as I’m able. Just send me a reminder!”

That had been a few months ago, and suddenly the recollection hit the fox out of nowhere. Trying not to get too worried, Ran searched for a business card he knew was hidden somewhere in the messy drawer of miscellany he’d picked up. He found it, flipped it, saw the contact number on the back and breathed a sigh of relief.

The line rang for barely two beats before a smooth voice answered. “Hello, Gemini of the Painted Wolf speaking.”

“Hello, sorry to bother you-”

“Ah! Ran? Such a delight and what a pleasantly timed surprise too. You know I was just thinking about you, I half thought you might have skipped town or something but then I know that my allure is far too strong to just run out on.”

Ran waited for a lull that would let him speak. “Uh, yes, I think I never got round to settling that account of mine. You know, after the big plush parade party you thre?”

“Oh?” Gemini said, he heard a shifting through the phone, rustlings of papers. “Ah yes, here we are, looks like... oh you’re in luck! Today’s the final day of the due period. I trust it won’t be an issue?”

“Not at all!” The fox said with a feeling of relief. “Are you still open?”

“Oh, darling, I’m always open to good customers.” He said in a way that kicked through the barrier of mere flirtatiousness. “But yes, we are also staffed until three in the morning today.”

It was approaching midnight by the time Ran reached the front of the building, payment in hand.

He was welcomed in, brought into the management office when he made his purpose known. "Such a swift arrival, you must have been desperate to see me after all." The wolf teased as Ran sat before him. "I do hope you'll stay for some entertainment once we're squared off."

"If I could afford to, I just might." Ran said with a small chuckle, short on time and funds, besides. "I'll be happy to pay off so we can call it even for now."

The wolf shrugged and smiled, "That's fine, now, let's have a look." Gemini brought up the files, having a look over the accounts. "Kind of you to bring it in cash." He said, flashing his teeth in a grin.

Ran sat patiently in the office, looking over the posters and flyers on the walls, the place looked as busy as ever with events aplenty. The wolf paused in his typing, looked over the money Ran had brought, counted it up and then went back to this screen. "Alright, looks like the main payment is all squared up, now the interest."

Ran blinked and looked at him in genuine surprise. "Wait, that didn't include the interest?"

"I almost assume you forgot about interest entirely given you have the exact sum of a day one payment." Gemini said flatly.

"I-..." Ran gulped, he was sure that he'd been looking at the right papers. They had the right date on them! "I can see if I can pay it off first thing!"

The wolf leant forward on his desk, a finger jabbing to direct his attention. "I was already being as generous as I could with time, there's no denying you're overdue." The clock declared it to be half past twelve. "And just to make sure, you know what being that overdue costs, right? You read the papers you signed?"

Another gulp as the fox gave a soft nod. Gemini pushed a button on the phone on his desk. "Send someone in to direct our new temp to his post. And then, find Diane, I think scheduling another plush parade might be just the thing this time of year."

Stern hands gripped the fox's arms as a rhino led him down the halls. He went along with them quietly but it seemed they were used to and prepared for less compliant members of the 'temporary staff'. "S-so." He began, trying to start a conversation. "I'm guessing I'll be cleaning dishes and glasses? Or waiting tables?"

The amused grunt told him he was quite off the mark. From the lighting and lack of luxurious decor he knew he was being taken deeper into the staff section of the club, they turned into a dressing room with the rhino pushing Ran in first. He saw rounded shapes in the

darkness, then, when the lights were turned on, he was greeted with a trio of fixed-smiling heads, one beaming wide in a toony grin, the other two a more subdued but still cute smile.

The wide grin was plastered over the face of an already inflated foxy pool toy. Beside it was a thick duck like plush toy, with chunky softness to its limbs, and beside that another thick rodent-featured toy on all fours, though with more movable joints. All three were bigger than the fox himself and as he looked and saw an open seam, hollow and lacking ‘stuffing.’

“Since you made your down payment in time it’s your choice.”

“Choice? Oh boy.” Ran said putting two and two together. “What if I hadn’t paid that much?”

“Then it woulda been a fourth option you don’t see here which you definitely would have found confining.” The rhino said. “Now pick!”

Ran could guess what any of the three toys would entail, The Painted Wolf was after all a kink club where paying customers came to sample all manner of entertainments. Of the three before him, the second large plush toy like option seemed the most comfortable and least likely to test his limits.

“This one.” He decided. Hands falling on the duck. “Do I just... slip myself in the back?”

“First time paying a debt? That’s not how it’s done. You go and stand in that machine there. Also get your clothes off, I’ll have them sent to your locker room.” The rhino said, pointing to a tube.

Blushing, Ran moved to obey while the Rhino lifted the cumbersome suit. As he dragged it to a corner, he pushed a button on a panel starting Ran’s ‘dressing up’. It began by dropping Ran through a hatch in the ground, making him yelp as he vanished from the room. The rhino threw the duck plush into a second chute and walked to retrieve the fox’s belongings, ignoring echoes of Ran’s surprise.

In the darkness, Ran felt soft fabric catch his fall, then robotic arms and hands shoved him around, tugging the fabric over him. Padded and smooth cloth pressed over his head and limbs, catching his arms and legs in cushioned sleeves, even tucking his tail away. It happened so fast that he was already covered by the time he worked out where ‘down’ was. His lips parted, feeling air around them, but the soft pressure over his head and eyes lacked any other holes.

Machine arms held him aloft by the torso, then dragged him around a short distance before lowering him. Another thick softness pressed over his arms, the pressure of overstuffed fabric greeting his limbs at the middle joints, his elbows and knees. In the sheer darkness, the machine was pushing him into the duck plush, with his limbs folded!

“Wait! Wait, I picked the normal toy, not the quadruped!” He tried to shout at the unfeeling machine. The only error was in his understanding of his eventual pose. The thick limbs were pulled and stuffed over his bent hands and feet, tightening above them, effectively turning them into pouches. “This wasn’t what I had in mind!” He attested, before feeling a gentle but firm pincer at the back of his head with another gradually pushing between his lips. “Mnhhgh?”

The latter pincer left just as suddenly as it had arrived but as Ran tried to close his jaws he felt a firm obstruction, a gag with a long tube that anchored to the duck head from inside. It was tugged over his face, the tube connecting to air and letting him breathe but otherwise cutting off the cool currents from his face.

“Mnngh, mmh-hmmhgh.” He moaned, he tried wagging his stubby limbs when he got the chance but they were so very heavily stuffed, they weighed him down and suppressed his motions. He felt pressure against his back as even more thick stuffing was added, ensuring the fox would be buried by softness at every angle. When it had packed the suit full, he heard a whirring, not the sound of something pulling a zipper, like he hoped, but the sound of a specialised loom that hooked threads into the openings, drawing them tight and stitching fabric so that it was unbroken and sturdy except for the barely visible emergency access seams.

He’d seen the advanced toys that the club had produced for that first parade event, he wasn’t exactly surprised by the machinery but he knew he was in way over his head!

A new hatch opened up below him, allowing some light and a glance at the guts of the machinery, intimidating with how many tools and arms there were that had stayed dormant. Slowly the thick fat duck plush containing Ran was lowered through the hatch and into a tube, one that was already open with a trolley and the rhino waiting boredly before it.

As soon as Ran was released from the machine the rhino reached in, bodily lifting him and transferring him before wheeling him away. “Mmmh! Mmmmmph!” Ran called out, his words totally ignored.

Through a corridor and up a service elevator he went until he was being wheeled back into Gemini’s office, the wolf was in discussion, his voice muffled and indistinct that far away from the stuffing-filled ears of the helpless debtor. The rhino lifted Ran off the trolley, turning him so his back was to the wall and putting him down there and excusing himself.

“I hope you’re still awake in there, foxy.” Gemini said, loud enough to be heard as he brought his laptop over. “I know they’re wonderfully cosy after all so I wouldn’t be surprised if you were asleep.” The wolf dropped back, his short height meaning he could recline on the plush with Ran’s head poking over the top of his own. “What better way to figure out inspiration for the event than to rest in the soft grip of what it will feature?” He said with a chuckle.

“Now, naturally you’ll only still be there in that suit if you haven’t paid off your tab by then. We’ll just have to see how many people want to rent a room with a cute duck in the corner until then. Oh, and also we’ll have to tack on the bill for the three toys. Picking them out and

tailoring them to your dimensions didn't come cheap." The wolf said. "I reckon about... half a year will see to that? And then we can get around to the interest on your debt."

"Mmhh hh yhmmh?!" Ran yelled out in shock. Surely he was just playing around. If not, it was going to be quite the warm, stuffy stay.