

Reed's Tea Surprise

It was a wonderful spring day; the birds were happily chirping a melodic tune and the residents of a city thought it a wonderful day to be outside. Ah~ but alas, this story doesn't follow all the residents; It follows three in particular, but why spoil that now? Only time will tell who these three are. Ah yes, back to the story. This city had but one tea shop; it was very well known and there was one person in particular who loved this place more than anyone else. This one person loved the tea that this shop carried so much that he was the top customer. He would buy a week's worth of different tea each week; sometimes even buying a few boxes of assorted tea mixtures to slake his tea hunger.

On this wonderful day, it would seem as though it was tea shopping day for Reed, the red Igwulf. An Igwulf is a rare species that has both an almost iguana like body structure and has a soft fur coating like that of a wolf. It would seem that his precious supply of lemon blueberry tea had finally run out and he was in the mood to try something new this time. As he strolled down the sidewalk toward his favorite tea shop in the city, his trade mark white scarf tied about his neck, his adventure goggles resting atop his head, he had plenty of time to contemplate about what he wanted to have for the week as he strolled along down his way, passing shopping outlets and a few eateries. He pondered for several moments at a cross walk, stroking his chin fur slightly, then it hit him. *"What if she has something new in stock....?"* His mouth began to water, his green tongue hanging from his maw slightly but he quickly gave a gulp to quell the saliva building in his mouth and pulled his tongue back into his mouth. His mind raced with different ideas and combinations of assorted ingredients. He seemed to be favoring something different in his mind; something he had never tried before. The suspense was eating away at him inside and it wasn't long before he saw ***"Kat's Imported Tea Delights <3"*** Reed only paused for a second then *"squee'd"* with utter joy as he flailed his arms about. He quickly ended that little episode of his but kept that image in his mind of him charging down the sidewalk to the tea shop as he *"squee'd"* with joy and his upper extremities flailing about in the air like something out of ***Going to the Store*** with that same music playing with his scarf flapping about behind him. He chuckled occasionally to himself at the idea of his shenanigans but within a few minutes had reached his destination.

He gently opened the front door to hear the familiar sound of a bell chime above his head and a familiar female voice coming from the back room. *"Only one person I know would be walking in here on a day like this."* He replied with, *"Well what would you expect from your top customer? Hope you don't think it bad of me for taking an interest in your wonderful selection of drinkables."* He heard a chuckle and a calico cat with long red hair; shimmering

green eyes poked her head out from a door way in the back, *"Go ahead browse while I get your order."* She had an odd chuckle to her voice but Reed didn't think much of it. After a minute or so she came out from the back room dressed in something you would see on a *Star Bucks* employ. She parted her hair from his field of vision and pushed her glasses back up to the bridge of her nose. After, she set down a six inch by six inch by six inch tin on the counter and began to wrap it up in an adorable setting sun orange cloth. She knotted the top and passed it over to Reed who was eyed balling the thing as if it were the *Sword of Kings* itself. Before he could remember to pay her she smiled and winked *"This one is on the house Reed. Put a little something extra in there for you."* His face lit up like a Christmas tree and he started out the door holding the wrapped box care. *"Thank you Kat! I owe you!"* As the door closed behind the igwulf, Kat mumbled something with an evil grin as a few strands of hair dramatically fell back into place over her left eye. Her glasses gave a frightening shine like some sort of anime villain. *"Hope you like surprises because you are in for a good one."* She chuckled and returned to the back room to resume her stocking.

Reed stood outside the tea shop, gazing at the prize that he held within his grasp. His mind once again drifting away as to what goodness the mystery box contained. A few moments dragged by then he finally realized something. *"I better get going. Don't want to miss out on one second of what I might be in store for."* He started off back towards his home, an apartment building about a mile north bound from Kat's tea shop. The Igwulf occasionally glanced down at the neatly wrapped tin, still letting his mind wander as to the flavor that it might be holding. He had to, on several occasions, fight the urge to open up the tin and take the slightest whiff of the stuff. *"Hmm... I wonder if she is planning some kind of escapade against me...Nah~ she wouldn't. I'm her finest customer...although...it IS Kat I'm talking about."* Reed's curiosity suddenly hit its peak. *"Okay, that's it. The suspense is eating away at me."* He gulped and sped up his walking pace a bit. *"Got to get home and silence this nagging curiosity once and for all!"* With his increased speed, Reed's white scarf started to pick up a bit of wind and began to flap behind him. Even his tail was wriggling about and his ears were flitting like mad. This curiosity of his was visible but he didn't care what passer-bys thought, all he really wanted was to know what sweet, delicious flavor or possible knavery might await him within the tin that he held to his fuzzy red chest with both paws.

His apartment building was within sight and he could contain himself any longer. He held his precious tin to his chest with both arms, shielding it and charged for the front of the building. Once to the front he darted for the elevator. He eyed the controls and began to mash the 3rd floor button, followed by the =>|<=, **"close doors"** button. *"C'mon you blasted thing! Hurry! I has precious cargo and I want what be inside it! Arrrggh~"* The doors closed after a few seconds and the elevator slowly climbs its way up to Reed's desired floor. The 3rd floor was reach without delay and as soon as the door opened up, Reed wasted no time. He darted out

and down the hall with great haste. A tenant was walking back to his room. He was a large grey raptor of sorts. Reed darted right passed him and turned right on a 2-way corridor. The raptor tilted his head and looked back for a second before seeing the Igwulf's head pop back from around the corner. *"Hi Evoc! Bye Evoc!"* After that, Reed continued down the hall, making one last left turn and heading to the last door on the right side of the hall. He stared at the door but dared not let go of his prize. He pondered for a moment or two then smiled. His tail reached up underneath the part of his scarf that was held against the front of his neck and pull it pulled out a small key. The tail guided the key to the locked door and set the key into the key hole. It gave a slight twist and a "click" sound was heard. Reed took the key into his mouth and used his tail to grasp the handle, pulled down on it while giving it a push. The door slides open and the first things Reed spots are his tea kettle and favorite mug with a Cthulhu head on it with *"#1 World Destroyer"* on the side. He smiled and stepped in with a scheming grin. *"There is tea to be brewed."*

"Time to get to brewin'." said Reed as he stared at the tea kettle and mug, sitting side by side to one another. A wide toothy grin slid across his face. The *Cheshire Cat* would so proud to see this *Cheshire Igwulf*. He started in his dwelling spot, his prehensile tail shutting and locking the door behind him. His tail undid his scarf and removed his spiffy goggles, gently hanging them both on a coat hanger. He suddenly B-lined it straight for the kitchen, his Cheshire grin still on his muzzle. Reed placed the neatly wrapped tin on the granite counter top; his eyes gleamed as he stared at the pretty package. He gently slid a nail under the knot and easily pulled up. The knot gave way, unraveling itself, slowly and gracefully flattening out to reveal Reed's sought after tin. The Igwulf stuck his tongue out from the side of his muzzle as he ever so delicately *"popped"* the lid off. He stared at the contents, seeing ingredients that he had seen and become familiar with over the years. After a second he gently exhaled; Reed stuck his snout almost into the assortment of cloves, pedals and other such various things. The Igwulf took a great inhalation of the contents and took a step back. *"Wh-what is that scent?"* Reed took another deep inhalation of the mix, totally unaware that he was smelling something thing that was all too familiar his sense of smell and taste as well. *"...WHAT A DIVINE MIX! Kat, you've really out done yourself this time!"* The Igwulf let out a happy chuckle and snatched up his kettle. He nuzzled his gently. *"Hello there, old friend."* Affection was heard within his voice; he then started to pour in tap water from the sink faucet. While Reed was busy day dreaming about the wonderful flavor that the tea might give off, something was stirring about within his tin of tea ingredients.

Galileo slowly started to wake up after a nice long nap that he had. He slowly pushed himself upright, trying to figure out what that wonderful herbal smell that he was smelling was coming from. The Lucario rubbed at his eyes and gave a mighty yawn. *"...ugh...where am I? And why is it so wonderful scented in here?"* Poor Galileo was completely lost; he continued to rub

his eyes and yawn until he heard something like a metal top being pulled off a tin. Then suddenly, light flooded into his chamber from the ceiling. Galileo watched as a nailed red paw pulled the lid of his container off; he heard it being set off to the side somewhere. "What in the world...?" The Pokémon poked his head out of the tin and took a look around. To his shock he was in a giant kitchen. "What!? But...how!? I must be dreaming..." He shook his head in disbelief. A large figure moved into his peripheral vision, so he glanced to his right side and to his amazement he saw a gargantuan Reed. "R-R-Reed?! This...this can't be! Now I know I'm dreaming!" Galileo slipped into a corner on the tin while he tried to sort all this craziness out in his mind. "What happen to me? How long was I out for? Why am I pocket sized and why am I in Reed's tea tin? The last thing I remember was sipping tea in Kat's shop then...." The confused Lucario's mind whisked around a multitude of theories and the occasional hypothesis for what seemed like hours when really it was only a few agonizing minutes. He finally gave a heavy sigh and climb up into the opening of the tin. "Maybe I can get his attention somehow..."

Let's travel back in time, about an hour before Reed acquired his surprise tea from the tea shop. Galileo the Lucario was out for a midday stroll about the city when the sudden feeling of a dry mouth was creeping up on him. "Ugh...better get something to drink..." The Pokémon looked around only to see that all the restaurants only allowed you in if you were going to eat. He growled softly to himself. "There has to be somewhere I can go to get something to quell my thirst..." Galileo walked another four blocks and happened to come across **"Kat's Imported Tea Delights <3"** "Hmm...Kat should have something...she has to!" Galileo gently pushes the door open a smidge, just enough to get his head in. "Hello...? Kat? Are you in today?" The blue Pokémon pushed the door open all the way, causing it to smack the bell and ring out over his head. He took a few steps into the tea shop, moving his large ears about to see if maybe he could hear Kat in the backroom but he heard nothing. "Strange...why would she leave her shop open but not be here? She'd never do something like that." The Lucario let out a deep sigh and started to look around. "Hmm...wonder if she carries anything with dragon fruit in it..." Galileo started to nose about Kat's shop, seeing a few things that caught his eye; he snatch up a tins and a box of tea leaves. "Ok...now I guess I'll just wait." He walked up to the counter, set down his desired teas and waited. He eventually got bored and propped himself up on the counter, crossing one leg over the other. Something caught his eye off the right of his vision. It was two tea cup filled to the brim with warm tea; the smell easily got to the blue Pokémon. He looked about then back at the cups. "Ohh... I'm sure no one will mind...." Galileo gently took up one of the cups. He gave it a slight sniff and was amazed to smell dragon fruit in the mix. He wasted no time in downing the entire cup, giving loud gulps as the tea slid down his throat. "Ahh~ that was wonderful. Kat, you have a gift for mixing this stuff." He chuckled, feeling his thirst being drowned away then he glanced at the second cup. He thought about taking that one as well. The blue canine licked his lips and gulped, tasting the

tea still. "Oh I'm sure it'll be ok. It's just tea after all." Galileo snatched up the second cup and quaffed it down with a few loud gulps. "Ahh~, now that's the stuff." He set cup back to their original spots and rubbed his stomach, enjoying the warm. A few moment pass by, Galileo is clearly lost in his blissful day dreaming when his Omni-Tool lights up on his left arm. "Huh? What's this now?" The Pokémon lifted his arm to check his Omni-tool but before he could see what his Omni-tool lit up about, he gasped and fell over limp.

The blue Pokémon was downed on Kat's counter, feeling a sense of bliss but also weakness. He looked down at his stomach and saw a pair of calico paws kneading at his small abdomen. When he looked to where the arms were coming from he's saw beautiful female calico cat with burning red hair, piercing green eyes and a pair of glasses on. Galileo struggled to form words as his weak spot was being caressed by this familiar feline. He tried his best to muster up the strength to talk. "K-Kat...what are you...doing? You... know that's my... weak spot..." Kat only grinned and continues to knead over Galileo's delicate mid section. "Kat... why are you doing this? Is this about the tea?" She shrugged and flipped her hair back. "Don't worry too much Galileo, everything is in place and you have nothing to worry about..." She chuckled but to Galileo, it had sounded like her words were trailing off. His eyes felt heavy and he started to feel a bit groggy. "What... what did you put in that tea...?" Those were Galileo's last words before he had succumbed to sleeping powder Kat had sprinkled in the cups of tea. "Heh, now to wait for the second side effect to take hold. Reed should be here in a bit to pick up his "exotic" and by then...everything should be ready." She cradled Galileo's limp body, carrying him into the back room and laid him down on her tea bench. She goes and grabs an empty tin from off the shelf. "Hmm... now what can I surprise Reed with? I could throw in some jasmine...maybe some ginger, a touch of cinnamon, a bit of orange, some pomegranate with a small splash of cloves. OH! And maybe a green base! And one tasty nom cario surprise." Kat begins to dart around the back, picking various amounts of her selected ingredients. But while she was busy dancing through from cubby to cubby, Galileo's body start to shrink. Since the Pokémon had downed both cups of the tea, he got a double dose of the sleeping powder and the Micro-izing dust. Within ten minutes the once six foot tall blue canine Pokémon was reduced to a two and a half inch tall Lucario. Once Kat was done getting all the things she needed for Reed's tea, she started to think of anything else that she had missed but nothing had come to mind. She heard a sudden chime of the bell come from the front of the store. A Cheshire Cat grin crept over her face. *"Only one person I know would be walking in here on a day like this."* A male voice replied with, *"Well what would you expect from your top customer? Hope you don't think it bad of me for taking an interest in your wonderful selection of drinkables."* Kat poked her head out from a door way in the back, *"Go ahead browse while I get your order."* She had an odd chuckle to her voice but the Igwulf in the front didn't think much of it. Kat quickly pulled her head back in the back room, staring at Galileo's small, sleeping body. *"Hope you enjoy surprises~"* She gently set Galileo at the top of the assorted mix and covered

up in some the ingredients to give him cover from Reed's sight. She promptly closed the lid and took the tin out to the front. A bright light flashes and we are suddenly returned to Reed's kitchen where Galileo is trying to think of a way to get Reed's attention.

Before he could even ponder up an idea, a loud whistling sound started to build up from the stove. Galileo looks around and saw Reed getting up from his desktop. The Igwulf almost seemed to float gracefully into his kitchen to turn off the stove, take hold off the kettle by the handle and pour himself a mug full of the scalding water. Galileo gulped and started to scramble his way out of the tin. He go to the top and tried to jump to signal his friend but ended up slipping on the edge and landing back in the tin. He stared up at the opening but before he was able to get back on his feet, a large red paw reached into the tin, snatching up some ingredients and Galileo to. The Pokémon squirmed about in the softly padded palm of the Igwulf. *"What's he going to do with me? Maybe he saw me!"* He was sure the Reed would let him go or at least that's what he thought until being crammed in a tea ball along with the ingredients. Reed latched the tea ball shut so none of the good stuff would escape with a small hook latch. *"Hey, Reed! What gives!? Stop messing around and let me out of here...please?"* The Pokémon's plea was in vain as the tea ball that confined his was slowly submerged into the hot water. *"Hey hey hey hey hey! It's not nice to burn Pokémon you know!"* The tea ball sank like a rock into the hot water before a portion poked out of the water. Galileo took advantage of this by poking his nose up above the tea water to allow himself to breath. *"This is bad! This is really bad!"* Galileo looked around in the hot tea water, feeling a lot like a sauna and decided to unlatch the hook of the tea ball to escape as Reed walked over to the couch.

Reed sat on his couch, lounging with his eyes closed as he held the 'Thulhu mug firmly in his paws as he took a long sip of the tea with it was withholding. His eyes bolted open as the tea made contact with his taste buds. It was nothing he had ever tasted before. As Reed tilted the mug slightly, Galileo had just gotten free of that tea ball prison but the motion of the mug shifting caused the tea ball to re-latch itself and knocked Galileo to the side of the mug. The Igwulf began to sip slowly at the tea while Galileo had swam settled himself down at the bottom of the mug. He took a long sip on occasion so that wonderful flavor never left his taste buds. Eventually the Igwulf got down to about half his mug, a slight grin crossed over his muzzle. Reed tossed the last of the mug of tea into his mouth along with a tea drenched Galileo. The micro sized Pokémon tried to get a word out as he drift out of the cup but the torrent of tea blocked him from speaking out. Seconds passed by, Reed was obvious as to the Pokémon that was within his green maw, even though his tongue continuously prodded at and around him. Finally, Reed gave a one heavy, final gulp, taking the warm, exotic liquid into his green esophagus. *"Reed, wait! It's me! It's Galile~"* That was all the little Lucario was able to get out before he was taken in the Igwulf's green esophagus as well. He groaned and wiggles about as best he could as his small body was pulled deeper into the Igwulf's esophagus. He couldn't

help but blush at his predicament since he had been sent to the chamber ahead time and time again when Reed was feeling rather peckish. Eventually, Galileo felt himself free fall from the confining tube and plop into the green stomach that he had visited many a time in the past. He looked around and knew that he wasn't anywhere fast so he just closed his eyes for another nap. Mean while, Reed blinked and looked around his apartment after he heard the voice. *"Gali? Are you in here?"* He set the tea mug down and looked about the apartment for a minute or so but came up with nothing. *"Why would he ask me to wait...?"* Reed sat back down on his couch and looked into his mug to see if any tea remained. *"!"* His eyes widened up once again. He was staring at something that looked exactly like Galileo's red tattered scarf at the bottom of his tea mug, only it was dramatically smaller. He gently fished it out with a nail and gave it a slight lick out of curiosity. The exact same taste came back to him. He dropped the scarf back into the mug and rubbed at his throat as he swallowed. His paws slowly traced down to his stomach when he rubbed it rather affectionately. *"It couldn't be..."* Reed wondered if he did, in fact, swallow a micro sized Galileo. Time passed by and it was getting late, yet Reed continued to ponder. As darkness fell upon the city and it was time for the Igwulf to get some shut eye, that thought never left his mind. *"Even if I did...why would he be in the tea? Bah~ listen to me...talking to myself over something so silly."* He shrugged his shoulders and curled up under covers of his bed. *"I'll ask Kat about it tomorrow~"* The Igwulf let out a great yawn then slowly drifted off into dream land.

The next day had come. Reed starts off by taking a stroll on down to Kat's tea shop. He's whistling a little Earthbound tune as he pops his head into the door way. *"Hey, Kat...where are you?"* The calico cat pokes her head up from front desk. *"Over here Reed! Just rearranging some things around the shop. What can I do for you? Need some more of the wonderful tea?"* Reed stepped over to the front desk, gently leaning on it with both arms. *"Actually, no Kat. I was wondering if you had seen Galileo at all... I thought I heard his voice yesterday when I was enjoying some of the WONDEFUL tea you gave me."* Kat slowly stood up, fixing her glasses and brushing her hair back a bit. *"Well I did see him yesterday as a matter of fact, Reed. He came in to look for some dragon fruit tea. I think he got a snout full of jasmine and started to feel groggy, so I had him lie down in the back and I gave him some tea to clear his mind. He loved it so much he had two cups of the stuff. Then you came in about half an hour later..."* Her voice kind of trailed off after that. *"But how was the tea? Did you like the little something extra I put in it?"* The Igwulf rubbed his chin in a contemplating manner. *"Yes, yes I dare say that I loved it."* The cat smiled and nodded. *"But what happen to Galileo? Did he take off later that day?"* Kat licked her lips and smiles at Reed. *"Well that special ingredient in your tea... yeah...that was...kind of...him."* She smiles and shrugs. Reed's ears flitted slightly and he couldn't help but laugh while face palming. *"Poor Gali, ever the fate of that tasty Lucario. I will say one thing though, he sure made that tea wonderful."* Reed's stomach let out a slight gurgle. The two

friends clucked like a couple of hens. "*Kat's Imported Tea Delights <3*"
had now become "Kat's Hen House" :V bawck

FIN