

Lumen skipped through the campgrounds, their curiosity piqued by the rumors spreading like wildfire. Whispers of a mysterious water cryptid spotted in the lake had ignited a fervor of excitement among the campers. As they bounded from group to group, Lumen eagerly lapped up every detail, their eyes wide with wonder.

"Have you heard about the water cryptid in the lake?" Lumen asked, practically bouncing with excitement.

The campers exchanged knowing glances and nodded. "Yeah, we heard it's been lurking in the deeper waters," one of them replied.

Determined to uncover the truth behind the rumors, Lumen set off on a mission to find the camp counselor, Felix. Logically, the camp counselor would know all about the mysterious lake cryptid. The pride bun burst through the counselors' cabin door without hesitation.

Lumen's tail couldn't stop wagging as they asked, "Felix, I heard a rumor that a cryptid was sighted in the lake! We have to find it!"

Felix was attempting to get a momentary breather; his visor tipped over his eyes while he was resting on the couch. The sudden intrusion was met with a jolt as well as an alarmed yell. The greed bun clutching at his heart for it to calm as he met the gaze of his guest. Beginning to calm realizing it was Lumen though his ease quickly vanished with the mention of the latest rumor making its way through camp.

"Good to see you too, Lumen." Speaking politely despite the deep inhales and exhales he was taking after. Hesitating on addressing the other bun's curiosity towards the supposed creature lurking within the lake. He didn't exactly believe there was one, at least he desperately hoped there wasn't. But seeing Lumen's excitement did he bite his tongue on mentioning such.

"I... suppose someone has to look into it- for the camper's safety." It wouldn't do well for any of them should something be actually there. Hopping off from the couch figuring his break was very much over. "We're going to need to secure one of the boats, life jackets, maybe a net...?"

Lumen nodded in agreement. "A net would definitely help catch the cryptid!" They grabbed a net from one of the storage sheds and handed it to Felix. "Can you believe it, star occultist finds their first cryptid!"

Lumen's tail wags while they dramatically strike a pose with the net. Their cheeks tinted pink with giddy excitement.

"The other campers say the lake monster has been sighted deeper in the lake. It could be a siren! Or an ancient lake spirit! It could be like 10 feet tall and have fangs and tentacles!! I hope it's not dangerous though... What if it's a siren and tries to sing me into the water? I don't know what to do!"

Taking the net did Felix attempt to at least smile at the idea of the sudden investigation. Unfortunately there was plenty of nervousness displayed within it. Praying there was some logical explanation to the rumors of the cryptid- he'd even accept it being an elaborate prank if it meant not finding anything dangerous.

"The first of many maybe?" Wanting to be supportive of Lumen's passion for their interests. Humoring them in making a pose as well but it wasn't nearly as confident and perhaps a bit awkward. Listening to the theories of what the creature could be; Felix nearly reconsidering the entire attempt just so the fellow bun didn't fall into the water.

"Let's hope that whatever it is that they're friendly..." Gesturing for Lumen to follow him towards the boathouse; gathering other necessary supplies for their search. Unable to hide his slight shake as he took things, immensely more anxious actually being much closer to the water. "S-Shall we?" Motioning to the boat once everything was prepared.

Lumen was so excited they couldn't sit still. They climbed into the boat, eager to set sail. They helped Felix carry the supplies over to the boat and sat down, tail wagging the whole time.

"I'm so excited! This is a dream come true!" They bounced in their seat, unable to contain their excitement. " Seeing a real cryptid would open more doors of occultism as a whole! "

They leaned over the side of the boat, staring into the water with rapt attention. "There could be a monster in the depths, just waiting to pull me under!"

Felix took deep breaths as he slipped on one of the life jackets, inching one to the other bun as well. Not that it would really help them if they were dragged down he supposed- shaking his head of the horrid thought before beginning to row. Having them inch towards the very center of the lake slowly, both out of caution and growing fear.

"Just be careful Lumen, cryptid or not- I'd rather neither of us go for a swim today." Keeping his tone light so he did not come across as scolding. Gripping onto the oars tightly as he scanned the water for anything suspicious. Nothing so far matching what he had heard from any of the campers. "I'm not seeing anything yet... are you?"

Lumen leaned over the edge of the boat, looking over the edge with their hand shielding their eyes. "Not yet..."

A shadow passes beneath the boat, the sound of a faint splash. "Wait, I think I saw something! Do you think that's it? It's probably a siren! We have to keep an eye out for the singing, sirens are known for luring people in with their hypnotic songs. Sirens are said to look like beautiful mermaids, and they use their beauty to lure their prey. But I've also heard of sirens being vicious monsters with teeth and claws, they can also have tentacles! It depends on what region you're in. Oh! Maybe this is an unknown breed of siren, or a new type of siren, or maybe this one is a shapeshifter who can turn into a human to trick people into going out with them. But maybe the

siren is a girl, and she's a nice siren, and then she would become my girlfriend and we'd go out on dates and cuddle by the lake..."

Lumen looked like they were getting lost in their own little fantasy world, a blush spreading across their cheeks. Another splash hit the boat, rocking it back and forth.

The greed bun's head whipped towards the sound of the splash, eyes darting to whatever the source to have seemingly missed it. Becoming more tense at the idea they were not alone along with the fact Lumen seemed to lean more over the edge. Listening to their ramblings politely despite the growing dread within him. The light laugh that escaped him was slightly amused yet still bore his anxiety over the situation. While the pride bun was theorizing what the creature could be should there be one, he was thinking of more reasonable explanations.

He was quick to be pulled from such thoughts when their vessel began to rock. Felix desperately clinging to one side of the boat and his tail flicking frantically in his panic. Catching the shadow for a second did he remain glued to where he was, even more afraid of the confirmation that *something* definitely was hidden in the water.

"L-Lumen! C-can you reach for the net please?!" Felix refusing to release his grip for the moment. Not wanting to even risk falling into the lake where some entity was waiting. Trying to rationalize it being something harmless yet his mind would not allow it with how the boat had rocked from it.

Lumen was so absorbed in their own little world, they were oblivious to the rocking of the boat. They grabbed the net and leaned over the edge of the boat, peering down at the water. A tentacle shot up and snatched the net, dragging it down into the depths.

"Wha-" Lumen's eyes went wide as the net was pulled under. They lost their balance and toppled backwards and landed on Felix.

The pride bun started to flush deep red at the position they were in. Their lips were just inches away from his, and their legs were tangled together.

"Ah, I'm sorry!" They squeaked, trying to push themselves up.

It was impossible not to flinch at the sudden tug that had nearly knocked the boat over.

Losing the net did not help in easing Felix of his current stress, nor seeing the tentacle that swiped it away from them. Though just for a split moment did all his current emotions vanish to be replaced with great embarrassment towards his position with Lumen. Frozen in place temporarily as he processed just how *close* they were.

"It's fine, it's fine!" He tried to assure the other bun whilst assisting them up. Only to bring them back into his arms tightly when the boat nearly tipped over. Trying to at least ease his hold

through his returning panic but wasn't willing to let them go just yet. "Sorry! Sorry!" Offering his own apologies while their vessel still rocked from the tug seconds before.

Lumen felt their face flush even darker. Felix was hugging them. He was holding them tight, and he was so warm, and his scent was nice, and his chest was soft and comfy, and he was really pretty up close...

Lumen tried to force their face away. They didn't want Felix to see their embarrassed expression. But their face was already pressed up against him, so their lips brushed up against his skin.

"Sorry!" They yelped. "I didn't mean to- I'm sorry! It was an accident!". The boat rocks once more, making the two tip over the side. Lumen clung tightly to Felix, the two fell into the water.

Feeling Lumen's lips against him earned a surprised sort of squeak from the greed bun. Unsure of how to properly respond to it other than stuttering and his face practically burning from the embarrassment. Before he could even accept the apology, the boat rocked again, causing Felix to secure his hold. Only able to get a yell out as they both met with the water.

He would cough and sputter away from Lumen once they resurfaced. Holding onto them as his eyes darted around trying to search for the creature. They had no net, some of their supplies were sinking towards the bottom of the lake, and they were at the mercy of whatever had tipped them over.

Lumen's mind was reeling, trying to process what just happened. One minute, they were in the boat. The next, they were pressed up against Felix's soft chest. And now they were in the lake, their arms and legs were wrapped around Felix's torso. Their lips were just inches apart, their noses were touching, and their breath was hot. Their faces were both red with embarrassment.

"Are you okay?" They whispered, their eyes staring deeply into Felix's eyes. The sound of a splash broke their concentration. Something rose from the water. A tentacle slowly plap them both on the head. It was a cheeky Thulus imp?!

"Oh no, a cryptid!" Lumen exclaimed, their eyes sparkling with delight. Lumen's mind was reeling, and they couldn't process anything besides the fact that Felix was holding them. They didn't pull away at all but their mind was mush over it.

Felix's attention was brought back to the succubun within his hold; the words caught in his throat when he attempted to speak. It had been quite a while since he had anyone so close to him, sharing their breath. Despite his intense embarrassment did he nod slowly to give Lumen some form of answer. The splash diverting his focus once more and looked on in horror towards the oncoming creature.

Only to briefly be confused he along with Lumen were simply playfully tapped. Narrowing his eyes to get a better look at the mass before them, coming to realize it was just a decently sized

Thulu. Beginning to laugh with much relief that it was not some threatening being stirring up the camp this entire time.

"Yes, we found our 'cryptid'." Felix's laughter started to fade and cleared his throat awkwardly due to their proximity. "Well- if it's not one of the camper's, you're free to see about catching it... once we get another net anyway."

The thulus imp gave a playful chirp and splashed the pair with its tentacles, earning a squeal from Lumen.

"Hey, no fair! Come here, you little rascal!" Lumen shouted, letting go of Felix and splashing after the imp.

They chased the thulus imp around the lake. They swam after the imp, trying to grab it, but the imp was too fast. After a few laps around the lake, Lumen stopped to catch their breath.

"Wow, you're a quick one aren't you?" Lumen said, panting heavily. "Well, you got the drop on me this time. But I'll be back. You can count on that, Mr. Cryptid." The imp gave a playful chirp and vanished beneath the waves.

"That wasn't much of a siren nor monster though... it was merely an imp, it was pretty cute though." Lumen admitted

With Lumen leaving him floating in the water did the counselor hold onto his life jacket for comfort. Thankfully the display of watching the pride bun swimming after the imp did ease him. Laughing softly with how close they seemed to get at times for the thulu to easily slip from their grasp.

During one of the laps, Felix turned to the boat; flipping it back over and retrieving the oars that had floated a little away. Keeping calm throughout his paddling as swimming was still in some ways difficult for him. Eventually hauling himself back onto the vessel before Lumen made their return.

"Sorry it wasn't anything more exciting." He chuckled while offering assistance back onto the boat. "But you seemed to enjoy yourself, yeah?" Lumen's excitement was consistent throughout the set up so it was a safe assumption that they had some sort of fun. Even with them accidentally getting within another's space- quickly trying to put it out of his mind so that he didn't blush again.

Lumen accepted Felix's help and climbed back into the boat. Their hair and clothes were soaked. They shivered a bit as a breeze blew across the lake.

"I did have fun. Thanks for going out with me, Felix. Though the imp was most likely a cover for the actual cryptid, I'm sure of it."

They smiled brightly. "Maybe next time, the actual cryptid will show itself!"

The occultist grabbed the other's hand suddenly and squeezed it. "I hope you'll come with me next time, I have a lot of fun when I'm with you."

"Of course, I'm only sorry that I freaked out over essentially nothing." Felix feeling a tad ridiculous now knowing he was frightened over a mere imp. But hearing that Lumen had a good time anyway did cheer him up; quickly smiling back while his tail began to sway happily behind him. Having another small chuckle at the idea of the thulu just being a cover for the actual cryptid but kept silent as to not spoil the idea for him.

"If it's not near water again- sure." The greed bun tried to laugh it off jokingly. Quick to quiet at the squeeze to his hand, his smile growing as he returned the gesture. Releasing Lumen so he could get a hold of the oars. "But for now, why don't we get back to dry off?"

"Yeah, let's do that." Lumen watched Felix as he rowed them back to the dock. He seemed much calmer than before. Maybe their little adventure did him some good. The pride bun felt their face flush slightly and looked away, turning their gaze towards the lake.

Lumen shakes their head trying to get the kiss out of their mind. It was an accident, after all, and Felix probably didn't want to talk about it. The occultist couldn't help but think about the sensation of his lips. Once they arrived back at the dock, Lumen was the first to jump off the boat.

"Thank you for helping me search the lake, Felix." The occultist grabbed the other's hand.

"And I'm sorry, for, uh, falling on top of you, and kissing you, and, um..." The pride bun's face was bright red. They looked away, unable to maintain eye contact.

"I- I'm sorry!" Lumen ran off immediately, leaving Felix standing on the dock alone.

Felix had caught the slight blush though refused to bring any attention to it lest he have his face heat up too. Quick to hop off the boat soon after the other bun, immensely thankful to be on land again. His smile returning once his hand was in Lumen's, giving it a gentle squeeze along with a small nod.

"No problem, I had fun too. It'll be a nice memory to look back on." Perhaps still a little embarrassing while it was still fresh in his mind, eventually it would prompt a chuckle here and there. The following apology had his face grow warm however he didn't seem upset that the kiss had happened. "Lumen it's ok-" Not able to get the rest of the words out when the pride bun had scampered off. Figuring they could talk about it later; maybe when they could both stop blushing just recalling it.