

Sapphire never really thought they would be one for... pets. They don't like messes, they don't like attention taken away from them, they don't like the idea of having something relying on them.

They're the one that deserves to be taken care of.

That's what they thought before they got Grim. He was just... gorgeous. Perfectly matched to Sapphire's own looks! And if there's one thing Sapphire takes pride in, it's their looks.

But they know next to nothing about imp care. They've never tried, never thought to.

So of course they go to the one person they know they can count on for help. Hutch, the caretaker of imps of all varieties.

"Wow, that's a lovely ryudra you've got there," Hutch says before Sapphire can even get a word out. Grim looks up from where he's coiled around their shoulders, and Sapphire can practically feel him preening. The bun can't help but preen a little as well.

"He is, isn't he?" They hum, stroking a gentle finger along the ryudra's chin before turning to the business at hand. "I need supplies for him."

Hutch hesitates a moment, glancing at the supplies around the Imporium, as if Sapphire has somehow missed something. "Do you want some help finding anything?" He asks after a pause.

That earns him a smile. "I need to get *everything*," Sapphire emphasizes, and Hutch nods quickly.

Suddenly, he seems much more sure and in his element. "I can do that!"

Idle chatter has never really been Sapphire's thing, so it's a relief when Hutch kicks into gear after that. He talks as he leads the way through the store, about the best imp foods, the best toys, the best bedding. It's a lot more information than Sapphire was prepared for, honestly.

They know taking care of an imp is a lot of work, especially one as lovely as their ryudra. They just didn't know it would require so much *supplies*.

And that's before they get to the optional items, like scale polish. Hutch shows Sapphire how it brightens the ryudra's coat with just a little applied from a finger, and they can't *not* get it!

Grim deserves the best. Only the best.

It's when they get close to the bedding that something Hutch isn't talking about drags Sapphire's attention away. They lean in close to a glass enclosure, spotting two small imps huddled up together.

“Gorgeous, aren’t they?” Hutch asks suddenly, and Sapphire *almost* jumps from their surprise.

“They match,” Sapphire says, and they’re sure they sound as silly as they feel.

Hutch just chuckles. “They do. They’re called Rabebe. It’s not often we see them here, they’re really popular but also really scarce. We’re not really sure why-”

“I want them too,” Sapphire cuts in, and Hutch blinks, eyes widening.

“Are you sure? They’re... well, we would need more-” He breaks off as Sapphire nods.

“I’m sure,” they murmur, unable to take their eyes off the little blue and red pair. “They’re coming home with me.”

Hutch is practically beaming when Sapphire does manage to look away. “Sure thing. You know, I also teach some care classes, if you’re interested in training them,” he offers as he works on unlocking the door to the enclosure and coaxing them out.

Sapphire holds out both hands to take them, one on each arm, and the way they cuddle into their chest, trusting them from the first moment, it...

Well... clearly there’s something to this whole *pet* thing.

“Come on, I’ll show you the beds,” Hutch says once the door is locked again. He takes over pushing the cart with its growing mountain of supplies. Sapphire knows this is gonna cost them a mountain of carats too, but they can’t really be bothered by that right now.

“I’m going to name you Luna,” they hum, looking at the blue rabebe and then the red one, “and you, Vest.”

It’s worth it.