

Username: Teese

Hatchling: bet-097 Jive

Adult: bak-029 (no name yet)

Prompt: Event - Gifts for Chumbus

Date: 7 December 2020

Word Count: 919

Summary

Jive and I along with our new Bakiri friend spend the day getting our gifts ready for Chumbus.

Afterward, we spend some quality time together while watching cartoons.

Preparing Gifts

I brought the last armful of hay to the area on the porch where we were setting up the gifts for Chumbus. The porch overlooked the forest that stretched out behind the house. It made for a pleasant place to sit during the summer but, aside from being decorated for the holidays, was unused in the winter since it was not enclosed. It made for a good location for our gifts for Chumbus; the hay would be relatively protected but Chumbus would still be able to get to it easily.

We had spent the first part of the day gathering the items to leave out and the rest of the day getting it set up. I had originally thought that we would be finished fairly quickly since all we had to do was lay it all out, but Jive insisted that everything look nice since it was a gift. He would not settle for any ordinary bowl for the berries, it had to be the pretty one he spotted on the top shelf. And even though we had only gotten a little hay, I had to bring it a little at a time so

Jive would have more time to carefully arrange every little strand the way he wanted. The hay was not heavy and he could carry several pieces at once, but there was a lot of it. That much work is hard for a tiny hatchling and he had to take quite a few breaks. Despite how drawn out the simple task had gotten no one complained about how long it was taking. After all, it was the season of giving and Jive was correct that the gifts should be displayed nicely. And the holiday music I had playing all day helped keep us in the spirit too, though the strongwilled Bakiri now sitting on the railing while watching Jive hustle about was clearly getting bored as he swung his feet back and forth.

Jive laid down yet another bundle of hay strands on his stack and made sure they were all sitting straight before grabbing more from the pile I had just brought. As he was heading back to where he was working he leaned back and let out a tired sigh. He glanced over at his new friend who was busy munching away at the berries that we had all gathered together for Chumbus, with feet still swinging away to the same rhythm he was chewing too. Jive let the hay he was holding drop to the ground as he rushed over to ask the beautiful bakiri if he could have some too. Jive squeaked happily as he collected the berry that was presented to him. He sat next to his friend and took tiny bites that completely filled his mouth. His one berry was big enough that it lasted him for several minutes and when he was finished with it he was no longer hungry.

I had never seen berries that big before. They looked good though. We had gotten several kinds of berries and I wasn't sure what all of the types were exactly, but the man who helped me pick them out at the store assured me that Chumbus likes them. My boys apparently do too. Even though they ate more than I wanted them to, they were still careful to leave plenty for Chumbus and I didn't have to tell them to stop eating them.

After finishing his berry, Jive sat there a moment to let himself rest. I could tell that sitting down for this break had made him realize just how tired and achy he was actually getting. He couldn't stop now though, he had a mission to finish and he was determined to do it. He lifted himself onto his feet again and once he had wiped his mouth on my napkin he went back to work. The hay stacking was the last thing we had to do to get Chumbus' gifts ready so all three of us went about arranging the strands into neat little stacks that looked a little like long rows of toothpicks. I was just happy that Jive didn't decide that all of the hay strands needed to be the same size too.

It had already been dark for a while when we finally finished up and went back inside the house. I made us some hot chocolate and we all cuddled down under our blankets on the couch to try to get rid of the chill that had crept into our bones while we were working outside. I put on holiday cartoons while we rested and the boys both watched intently until Jive couldn't keep his tiny eyes open any longer. My side grew cold again as the Bakiri that has been sitting next to me got up from the couch. I watched him as he carefully picked Jive up off the table and set him in his tank. He was an interesting character and had made our lives significantly more interesting since he moved in with us. He spent those first few days going back and forth between being kind to Jive and pretending he was going to eat him. I knew he was joking but Jive didn't see the humor in it. I got to see how sweetly he always handled Jive after he'd fallen asleep and I could tell that he adored his new little brother. Either that or he just had a major soft spot for Bettabo hatchlings.