

It was yet another dinner night at Sturge's humble abode. The friends were laughing as they joyously scarfed down their meal made by yours truly and assisted by the ever so prideful Gelato. Though it happened often, he couldn't help but to smile and simply enjoy the moment. It had been an interesting journey to get here, but he'd do it all again.

Sturge had at least met all of them once during his time in the Bunnery. Though he was a social guy now, he actually hadn't been very keen on interacting with others. He preferred to play alone with his plushie friends and do his own thing while loudly narrating his grand adventures. He was a little bit of a handful, but he was still a cute baby.

Gelato laughs loudly and points to Solara before gesturing again. Their eyes were wide and expression bright as they continued telling their story, engulfing the others in the tale. Sturge examined them and smiled. They'd come such a long way from the bun they used to be. Gelato used to be very selfish, vain, pretentious, and whiny. Though they still held those traits to some degree, they'd been toned down over the years as they grew older and learned lessons the hard way.

They'd known each other since the Bunnery and Sturge couldn't forget their first interaction. He internally laughed to himself as he thought about it and continued to eat his food. Sturge was going on another "adventure" with his plushie friends and was monologuing at the top of a slide when Gelato pushed him down. He cried about it, but Gelato apologized after taking their own turn and going down the slide. They had to have felt a little bad for making him upset. He luckily wasn't hurt, so no harm was really done apart from the emotional damage and memorable first meeting!

Sturge was fond of the memory. It was fun to tease Gelato about it ever since they remembered what happened. It was silly and since no harm was done it was fun to joke about. Luckily for him, it was the most unique meeting he'd had with them.

He turned his attention to Solara who was giggling and reciprocating Gelato's enthusiasm by leaning into the conversation while stopping to laugh midway through her sentence. Solara had also grown quite a bit from before, too! She'd been someone with expensive, fancy tastes for quite some time. While that may never change, her attitude and appreciation for other things has only grown with time.

The two had met in adolescence during a time of pressure for Solara. She'd been very concerned with keeping up her appearances and raising to expectations which had resulted in her behaving in some not great ways. She'd hurt Gelato and while she felt bad, she was concerned with her status. Solara always wanted to apologize, but never got the time or Gelato

was avoiding her during those times. It was a little frustrating to deal with, but he knew she meant well.

Thinking back on it, he'd been introduced to her through Gelato. The two were close friends and they recommended Solara to invite him as a guest to some event. He'd done his best to fit in, but it definitely didn't fit in when he tripped and fell into Solara, having her spill her expensive wine all over him. It was a little embarrassing for both of them, but he simply laughed it off and went to change. Sturge was just glad not a drop got on her to ruin her special night! She would've been so pissed off.

Sturge turns his attention to the final member of the group - Sterling. He was watching the two talk while silently eating. Despite his usual stoic demeanor, he'd been lightening up more recently and expressing himself more. His eyebrows were angled upwards as he listened in on the story, a small smile showing that he was amused by their antics.

Since Sturge had known him, Sterling always struggled expressing himself. According to Solara, he'd been more expressive and charming when he was younger before something happened to make him more closed-off. She had her doubts here and there, but in the end she knew he was still the same old Sterling he was before. Their romance has been alive and well, maybe even more so than before!

Solara had introduced him as her bodyguard at a later event, but it was obvious there was something more to them. They'd known each other since childhood and were extremely close before him being put into his position. Sterling had confided in Sturge during that event explaining he didn't exactly want to be her bodyguard but felt as if it was the only way to please the people he needed to while still remaining close. It was complicated and Sturge was able to give some valuable advice. Or, he thought it was at least.

In the end, they were all close friends. Despite the bumps and rough patches, they were all close with the ability to bounce back from so much. Solara and Gelato were friends again, Sterling was opening up, and Sturge was, well, Sturge! He'd continue being the friend they needed. Giving advice, letting them stay the night, feeding them, running errands, and more! He enjoyed it all.

Sturge sat back in his chair as he finished his food and smiled as he watched them continue to talk. It was going to be a good night. Dinner was only the beginning before all the games and the movie he'd picked out for them! Of course, he had to get the finishing touches on their dessert he'd created and finish setting up the snacks for that!

Sturge chuckled as their conversation ended and stood from his chair. "Well, I guess I better start cleaning up and getting our dessert ready!"

Solara sighs dreamily and clasps her hands together. “Oh, Sturge, you’re such a darling. Your food was lovely already!”

“Yeah, now you’re just spoiling us! This is just a casual Friday night!” Gelato chuckles and shakes her head, amused with his dedication.

Sterling clears his throat. “I think a dessert would be lovely. Thank you, Sturge, for your hard work. We appreciate it.”

Sturge puffs his chest out and places his paws on his hips. “Thanks! Just doing the best I can to provide for the best friends I have!”

“You’ve always done a good job and should take a break sometimes!” exclaims Gelato.

“Though...I won’t complain about free food or dessert any time! You go finish it while we help clean up.”