

The first day of Fall arrived with a chilly breeze, heralding the changing of the seasons. Cerys, an early riser, woke up to the morning sun softly streaming through the curtains, bursting with excitement as this was her favorite season and was already planning out everything to do for the day, which included testing out different recipes of Fall-themed baked goods for her bakery.

Cerys looked over at her partner on the other side of the bed, cocooned in 3 different blankets. "Snail, love, are you awake?" she whispered gently, leaning closer and nudging her softly.

"Mghrrghhgh..." Snail, still half-asleep, responded groggily, eyes squeezed shut from the sun shining directly on her face.

Cerys chuckled a bit at her partner's response. "I'm just letting you know that I'm going to the store. I need to go get some extra baking supplies. I have lots of ideas for what to sell at the bakery!" Cerys explained excitedly. "I'll be back soon."

Snail rolled over to face her, blinking her eyes open. "Mmh... okay." She kissed her on the cheek and gave her a tired smile.

Cerys climbed out of bed with her mind racing with a checklist of ingredients and ideas, to start writing down a list of things she needed and headed out the door, leaving Snail to her cozy cocoon of blankets.

The chill in the air and the leaves on the trees changing color outside were invigorating, and Cerys couldn't help but feel her excitement grow as she walked to the store. She had her list in hand, filled with the ingredients required for her baking experiments. The grocery store was bustling with shoppers, all preparing for the season's festivities. Cerys picked out the freshest ingredients, each one selected with care to bring out the flavors of autumn. She couldn't help but also get a little treat for Snail, her favorite "GASTROPOD ESSENTIALS" brand cucumber-raspberry flavored sparkling water, a small gesture to make her day a little brighter.

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She returned a bit later, laden with bags full of ingredients. As she walked to the kitchen, she stopped by the living room saw Snail, still cocooned up in blankets on the couch.

"Welcome back, Cer. I would help you out with the bags but I'm a little stuck." Snail said, peeking out from all of the layers.

"Don't worry about it." Cerys giggled at the sight, "You look like a stupid, cozy little worm."

"Oh, shut up!" Snail laughed, and with Cerys' help, emerged from the blanket cocoon. Snail's groggy morning demeanor has changed into a much more lively one. Something that Cerys cherished, and it showed in the rare, but wonderful sound of Snail's laughter. Otherwise a closed off and somewhat quiet person, this is a side of her that she only shows to Cerys.

Cerys placed the bags of supplies on the kitchen counter and turned to Snail, her eyes sparkling with warmth and affection. "How about we make this day even more special, Snail? I'll whip up some delicious treats in the kitchen, and you can be my lovely assistant." Cerys asked.

Snail smiled, she can't help but feel infected with her partner's enthusiasm and excitement, it warms her heart. "That sounds wonderful, what have you cooked up in your mind?" She asked, leaning onto the counter, "You already know I'm no good at this baking stuff, but I'd love to be of help."

Cerys started listing off the ideas she had in mind, and as they began to prepare, their shared excitement grew. Their cozy kitchen would soon be filled with the aromas of pumpkin, cinnamon, and spices.

As Snail was helping unpack the bags, she noticed something, picking the bottle up with eyes widening in surprise. "Oh woah, this hasn't been in the store for a while.. is this for me? I know *for sure* you don't drink this."

"Of course! I've been checking each time if it's back in stock.." Cerys grinned.

"Thank you. I truly do appreciate it.". Although Cerys has done this plenty of times before, she couldn't help but smile at this, a small but thoughtful gesture from Cerys. She had always shown Snail affection this way.

They both got to work, as the gentle, afternoon sun streamed through the window into the kitchen, a reminder that the days were growing shorter than usual.

Snail's focus the entire time was unbroken, doing everything carefully. Cerys, on the other hand, was more casual when baking, she moved swiftly, as if it all came naturally to her. It almost looked careless.

"Hey, what do I do with this next?"

"Sprinkle in the cinnamon and nutmeg. Just a pinch of each to make the flavors pop!"

Snail nodded, delicately measuring the spices and adding them to the batter. They were almost done with everything else.

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As they take out the final batch out of the oven, they admire their creations.

"They look amazing, Cers. You're the magic behind all of this." Snail said, wiping away the flour from her forehead.

"Aw, come on, It's not just me who did all this!" Cerys chuckled, smearing leftover batter on Snail's face mischievously.

"Oh, now you're on!" Snail exclaimed, attacking her with flour in return.

After cleaning up themselves and their battleground, they cuddled up together on the couch, now both cocooned up with their hot drinks and taste-testing their freshly baked goods.

“You should help around in the bakery, Snail.. You’re not as bad as you think.” Cerys teased affectionately.

“I’ll think about it.” Snail smiled gently.