

Elyse was just reaching peak relaxation. The weasel's long, sinuous body was stretched out across her entire couch, getting settled in with a movie and a bag of chips, when she was interrupted by a voice near her head.

"Elyse!"

The annoyed tone of someone who had already called out a few times without being heard made Elyse jump. She tilted her head back, getting an upside-down view of a short, curvy rabbit standing by the side of the couch. She held out a small rectangle of plastic and glass, which buzzed like an angry hornet.

"Your phone is ringing. You left it on your bed."

Elyse gave her a sheepish grin. "Thanks, Sarah."

Sarah smiled back. "Don't worry about it. I imagine you're going to have other things to worry about soon, anyway." Then she turned and ambled back toward her bedroom.

Elyse frowned and looked at the still-ringing phone. The grinning profile picture of a fennec fox greeted her, and she felt her ears droop. Sure, her friend *could* be calling her for no reason other than to say hi, but something in her heart-of-hearts told her that was not the case. She took a deep breath and answered the phone.

"Hey, Frankie. What's up?"

The voice on the other end of the line was bubbly as ever. "Hi, Elyse! What are you up to right now?"

Elyse's eyes narrowed. "Just sitting down to watch a movie. Why?"

"Well, I, uh... I need to ask a favor. Could you come pick me up?"

Of course. "You overdid it again, didn't you?"

"No!"

Elyse just raised an eyebrow, even though Frankie couldn't see it.

"... Okay, yes."

Elyse let out an exasperated sigh. "I swear, Frankie, what is this, the third time in the last two months!? What even was it, this time?"

"A cow."

That brought Elyse up short. "Wait, seriously?"

"Yeah!" Elyse would have sworn she could *hear* Frankie's tail wagging. "Big cow-taur lady. You should have seen the tits on her, Elyse! I couldn't help myself!"

Elyse brought one hand up to her forehead as she considered the implications. Last time it had been a pair of rabbits. Before that, a fox. But a *cow*? And one with a "taur" body, at that? "She had to have been, what, twice your size?"

"I'd say closer to three times," Frankie admitted. "Took me like an hour to get her down, especially the last bits. I'm feeling pretty stuffed."

"Yeah, I *bet*! You're lucky you didn't burst! Where even are you?"

"An alley near the supermarket," Frankie said. "It must be a shortcut she takes to get home after shopping. I couldn't believe my luck when I saw her walk into it alone."

"She probably thought she was big enough that she didn't have to worry about trouble."

Frankie bubbled over into a fit of giggles on the other end of the line.

Elyse pinched the bridge of her nose. "Frankie, you've *got* to stop doing this! I might not always be around to bail you out, you know!"

"But you are right *now*, right? *Please*?" Frankie's voice took on that sickly-sweet tone it always did when she was asking for a favor.

"Alright, alright. How wide is the alley?"

"Huh? Pretty wide. Why?"

"Because I can only imagine you're *huge*, and there's no way you're gonna fit in my car! So I'm gonna call my dad and see if he's available with that utility trailer of his. Between the two of us, I bet we can get you loaded up and bring you to my place."

"Thanks, Frankie, you're a lifesaver!" Frankie sounded genuinely grateful, just like she always did. "You don't have to host me, though, you can just drop me off at my apartment."

"Frankie, isn't your apartment on the third floor? Are you mobile enough to get up the stairs right now? Will you even fit in the elevator?" Elyse felt her voice softening, in spite of herself.

"Besides, you live alone. And it's gonna take *at least* a week to digest a meal that size. I'm not gonna just... leave you in that state by yourself. You can sleep in the den."

"Is Sarah gonna be okay with that?" Frankie asked.

"She'll be fine. She's studying for exams, so she's barely using the den, anyway."

"Okay, if you're sure." There was a momentary pause, like Frankie was thinking something over. "You know, if you ever needed someone *e/se* to split the rent with, I could always..."

Elyse's brow furrowed. Frankie knew that the small house she shared with Sarah was only just big enough for two people. Was she *seriously* considering what it sounded like she was considering? Even in her current state?

"Frankie, I swear, if I do this favor for you and you eat my roommate, I am never helping you again. Got it?"

"Okay, okay, got it. See you soon?"

"Yeah, I'll keep you posted."

Elyse ended the call, then flopped back against the couch for a moment, letting out a frustrated sigh. Then she sat up, turned off the TV, and swiped to the contact on her phone labeled "Daddy."

So much for a relaxing weekend.