

Luba prowled through the open streets, weaving between people shopping and going about their days in town. It was like crossing through and around trees, but ones with voices she didn't recognize and all with a place to be. Slowly this trawling through felt more like a well practiced game then like danger.

She was an outsider, a predator prowling the streets on two legs instead of four, big pointy teeth and bushy tail. They didn't notice though, she was just a woman from farther out east that was passing by. Probably with a husband somewhere they didn't notice, they just pay no mind.

It made her feel cunning as a fox.

She had her own goals though, she wouldn't be ripped out of her natural territory without a reason. It was more accurately *reasons*, but even still if it were only one she would still be in the steppe instead of some town in the Polish-Lithuanian Union. She was going to go through her routine of searching, asking, and then taking off to the next town that's further out west.

Though her little wolf ears caught quite the interesting sound, through the alleys and away from bustling crowds, and her little wolf feet made the choice on a dime to make a deviation and see what that was all about.

Out of the way, where people weren't looking, in a little alley, she found what she was looking for in no time. They we-

"Fuck! [Placeholder]!"

-ren't expecting her. She giggled a bit at the immediate brashness. She barked, "Hello."

The dogs awkwardly eyed her, mouths agape and done wrestling over whatever they had just a moment ago. Some tried to slip away, while others just shook in place. The gutsiest spoke up, "What do you want?"

"Not even a hello back?"

Her rumble broke down that tough facade. Despite being just some girl to the humans, being a queen of dogs was always a gift.

"Hello..." he tried again, a little softer this time, "What do you want, [Placeholder]?"

"I was just passing by and you guys caught my ear, I wanted to see what all the commotion was about."

They moved amongst themselves, trying to come up with something good to tell her. Every time she looked one of them straight on they lowered a little. After an awkward few moments passed,

before a different one spoke up, "We were just having a territory dispute. Don't mind us, [placeholder]."

"Oh I don't mind at all, you can get back to it if you want."

"No! I mean," all eyes went to the speaker who immediately curled up in response, "I mean.. We're fine, this helped diffuse the conflict. Right?"

The other dogs hesitantly agreed. With the point proven, the dog started again, "Is there anything we can do for you?"

She could tell they were all ready for her to leave, less out of annoyance and more so anxiety. It wasn't fun, but she was fine asking her questions and then getting back on track. She rode her high already. "Since I'm here I might as well ask, did any of you or your relatives see a [Placeholder] [Time] ago?"

They whispered amongst themselves, "We'll have to ask around... If that's ok with you of course."

"Take as much time as you need."

They scampered off almost immediately. It was admittedly pretty funny, but it was nice knowing that this presence was the same reason they were going to remember pretty clearly who she was looking for.