

First Meeting.

(Cherry Scone Cookie x Dark Cacao Cookie, Yumetober Day 1.)



After such a long and perilous journey, Cherry Scone Cookie couldn't take it anymore. He had just buried his late husband in the snow, the remnants of the molded dough of Spicy Cinnamon Cookie, and had been walking through the frosty environment for hours. He was low on jellies, he could feel his icing freeze. He wasn't used to such a harsh climate, and his clothes were barely able to handle it after the damage it had taken.

And yet, in the distance, he could see... A fortress! The purple flames upon each oreo tower caught his attention first, and the harsh snow barely made the silhouette of the black and lonely fortress. Finally, shelter! He hoped, at least. He had only been in the Dark Cacao Kingdom once before this, and he never got close to the fortress. Regardless, it was his only hope of survival. His legs could barely handle it, keeping himself up by the silver teaspoon he had taken from the harsh lands of Beast Yeast.

Cherry Scone Cookie pushed forward, making it across the bridge and towards the gate. He knocked a few times, his fists too weak to be heard at first. Then he slammed his tea spoon against the door, nearly breaking it in the process. He forgot how strong these silver utensils were. But regardless, it got the attention of the gatekeeper cookie.

“Who goes there!?” The gatekeeper cookie shouted, looking down from the tower. He peered over his armor to see the small pink cookie shaking against the doorway, leaning up against the spoon. He had a lot of things to question, the giant spoon, the small Hollyberrian

clearly unfit for the weather... But he decided to focus on the more important matter. "State your business!"

Cherry Scone Cookie felt like he couldn't breathe from the cold of the snow. His lungs felt like ice, his droopy eyes barely able to stay open from the exhaustion. "Please!" He shouted, trying to be heard over the harsh blizzards. "Please let me in! I need shelter! I need..!"

But he couldn't even finish his request. He felt his knees give out, his hands clasped firmly around the spoon to try and keep himself up. "No, not yet..!" Cherry Scone Cookie thought to himself, watching as his vision got dizzy. He could hear the gatekeeper cookie shouting, but he couldn't make out any of the words. "I'm... I'm so close. I just need to..."

Cherry Scone Cookie fell to the ground, the heavy teaspoon clanking down against the choco tiles loudly. The gate to the fortress slowly creaked open, as Cherry Scone Cookie's vision went black as soon as he saw the gatekeeper cookie.

Cherry Scone Cookie felt like he had the best sleep he had ever received in his life. He slowly opened his eyes, feeling a cold towel over his forehead. He felt groggy and a little stiff, slowly sitting up and groaning softly. After a quick evaluation of his surroundings, he realized he was likely in the medical ward of the fortress. He saw injured cookies being tended to by nurses in light purple and white, and he couldn't help but frown as soon as he saw every soldier. Their damaged forms reminded him too much of Spicy Cinnamon Cookie, especially that one cookie to the side with a fractured arm...

"Oh, you're awake." A soft spoken nurse called out to Cherry Scone Cookie, getting his attention almost immediately. She walked over with a small tray, tea and crackers. Just something small to regain his strength. "How are you feeling? You certainly are a long way from home."

Cherry Scone Cookie... Didn't know how to feel about that, if he was honest. It wasn't like he exactly had a home as of now. He quickly realized that was the consequences of traveling Earthbread with your partner with no idea of when to settle down. "Yeah, I guess I am..." He mumbled. He reached over and accepted the crackers and tea, eating them quickly.

"Careful!" The nurse cookie said quickly, gently placing her hand upon Cherry Scone Cookie's bruised shoulder. "You've been sleeping for a while. You shouldn't eat so fast, you'll hurt your stomach!"

Cherry Scone Cookie raised his eyebrow at that, reluctantly slowing down on his food. "...How long have I been asleep for? Three hours?" Cherry Scone Cookie asked awkwardly, trying to not smile from the nervousness of the answer.

"Try... Three days." The nurse cookie responded quietly, a worried expression etched on her face. Once Cherry Scone Cookie was done with his crackers, she carefully placed the cup of tea into his palms. It was nice and warm. "The gatekeeper said she found you screaming against the gate, and when she went to investigate you were just out cold. You were *not* in suitable clothes for the blizzard!"

Three days. It felt like nothing when it came to how long he usually stayed away for his journeys. But to sleep? He really needed it, and he didn't even realize. "Wow..." Cherry Scone Cookie murmured, looking down at the tea. "And... You've taken care of me this whole time?"

"Well, we couldn't just leave you to freeze out there." The nurse cookie replied, wetting a new towel to put over Cherry Scone Cookie's forehead. When he tried to refuse it, she just shoved it against his forehead despite the gasp of protest he let out. "What is a Hollyberrian like you doing out here anyways?"

"I... Used to travel a lot." Cherry Scone Cookie lied, not really sure how he could explain his year-long journey. It had been a rough few years after all.

"Okay... And the spoon? Are you studying magic?" The nurse asked quietly, smiling at the thought of being in the presence of a wizard.

"Eh? No! Does it look like I could ever understand magic?" Cherry Scone Cookie said quickly, letting out a small huff. He wiped his forehead once the towel got warm, shaking his head and trying to dry himself. "Look, I just... I need a place to stay for a while. I can't go back to the Hollyberry Kingdom, I just... Need to be here."

The nurse went quiet as she heard that. Clearly, she was worried about Cherry Scone Cookie's health, but who wouldn't be? He was barely conscious for a few minutes, just barely able to eat food after days. But it wasn't like he could go back to the Hollyberry Kingdom like this, willing or not. He had no choice but to stay.

"...I'll have to see his majesty. King Dark Cacao Cookie could assign you a job here." The nurse said hesitantly, glancing over her shoulder towards the door. "I'll warn you, he's rather... Bitter. I'm not sure if a Hollyberrian like you can handle it."

Cherry Scone Cookie couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows in annoyance. Bitter was the least of his worries. Besides, this was the Dark Cacao Kingdom. Of course he expected the king of said kingdom to be bitter! "That's alright, I can handle it. I'm not soft." Cherry Scone Cookie said quickly, starting to get up from bed.

Obviously, this would panic the nurse. "W-Wait! You can't get up just yet, you need to..." The nurse cookie started to say quickly, getting up to try and stop him. But Cherry Scone Cookie was already up, grabbing his spoon and leaving the infirmary. Despite the damage to his dough from his frostbitten state, he knew he needed to see Dark Cacao Cookie.

He had no idea where he was going, if he was honest. He just followed the flow of traffic in the halls, seeing how every cookie seemed to be busy with some kind of work. Any time a soldier passed it made him feel uneasy, some of the armor reminding him of the life he had to quickly leave behind. The life of his loved one.

And then, he found it. The throne room. Cookies around a tall, black throne, sat upon by a lone cookie in a purple robe. And Cherry Scone Cookie felt frozen in the hallways, staring up at this magnificent cookie. With a scowl so piercing it could bring the greatest of warriors to their knees. A presence so commanding it could guide the winds. Even his voice made Cherry Scone Cookie's heart skip a beat...

"... Wait, what?! Why am I thinking like this?!" Cherry Scone thought immediately, embarrassed by the situation. His face flushed red at the realization of how far his thoughts had drifted. Was he starting to grow delusional from the loss of his husband? Was he truly that messed up from the long journey trying to save Spicy Cinnamon Cookie? He couldn't deny though, that cookie king *did* look rather handsome...

"You there." The voice from the throne suddenly boomed, and all attention was on Cherry Scone Cookie. He couldn't help but squeak and go stiff as he watched Dark Cacao Cookie rise from his throne, gesturing for him to approach.

"Oh. My. Gods. He's huge." Cherry Scone Cookie thought to himself, hesitantly approaching Dark Cacao Cookie. He stayed at the steps of the throne, unwilling to get any closer than that. He instinctively bowed his head at him, fairly sure that it was the correct thing to do.

"The cookie from the gate." Dark Cacao Cookie stated, glancing between Cherry Scone Cookie and his spoon. He recognised the spoon, he remembered that Pure Vanilla Cookie had mentioned it to him in his letters. That was from Beast Yeast, which meant this cookie had been through a lot. However, he couldn't be so trusting to some cookie out of the blue. Especially

some seemingly frail one with a dangerous weapon like this. "... Why are you here?" He asked suspiciously.

Cherry Scone Cookie felt like his nerves were on fire. He wished he couldn't blush in the face of such an intimidating figure, but he couldn't help it. At least the cold made it seem like just the regular body temperature of his dough rather than a blush of interest. "I have nowhere to go. I had to bury my husband nearby while seeking shelter, I just..."

Cherry Scone Cookie didn't realize how worn out he was until he started crying. He covered his eyes, despite it being considered rude, just to wipe them. "I just need a place to stay until I'm ready to leave. I can do any and all tasks necessary to make up for it. I just..."

"Hush." Dark Cacao Cookie interrupted him, his scowl softening a little bit. He may be hardened and suspicious, but he wasn't cruel. He could tell this situation was genuine, and Cherry Scone Cookie would mean no harm. "You may stay..."

As Cherry Scone Cookie was about to exclaim from joy, he got interrupted once again. "However. You will need to work. We always have jobs that need to be filled." Dark Cacao Cookie added, which... Was reasonable. It seemed like every cookie in the fortress was constantly moving.

"Deal!" Cherry Scone Cookie said quickly, grasping Dark Cacao Cookie's hand in a firm handshake. He immediately realized what he just did and blushed as brightly as his icing, pulling away immediately. "Ah! Sorry, I'm just..." he stuttered a bit, starting to shake from embarrassment. "Just... Thank you for this opportunity. I won't disappoint you."

Just because he was so embarrassed by the awkward action, Cherry Scone Cookie immediately left the room. At least now that he had Dark Cacao Cookie's permission to stay in the fortress, he could find someone within the halls to give him a job. He knew he could do pretty much anything, except for being a soldier for the wall. If he saw another soldier for too long, he felt like he might have a heart attack! And yet, even as he started off with work in the kitchen, his mind couldn't stop going back to Dark Cacao Cookie...

END.