

Sienna frowned as she began to climb Sweetheart Summit's rugged cliffside.

Her fun festival race with Lavender was nice, even if they didn't win, but that wouldn't let her get distracted from what her real goal this year was. She was always fascinated by the fauna of Safira, and today, she was going to find something new to study.

Her research into Pocos were interesting as it were, but those creatures were exceedingly predictable. This time, she needed to find something that had a little more that she could uncover, and she figured that a mass extinction (or at least, near-extinction) event, like those of the years gone by at Sweetheart Summit, were the perfect point of interest for some intriguing evolutionary processes.

Now the only hurdle she had to cross was actually getting up and into the summit. Despite having traveled before for her research, Sienna wasn't the most athletic of Aqualoxes - she could already feel her muscles strain as she tried to hike herself up a particularly haphazard rock.

Part of her wondered how others could even race up here, but she then remembered that there was the racing path - a well-trodden, easily ran up pathway up the Summit that had far too many Aqualoxes trying to scramble for first place. That would most definitely just scare all of the fauna away. Which meant that her way of doing things was the best for finding any animals.

She sighed. Why must life be so hard for her? Couldn't a creature just come over and—

...Wait. What was that?

She squinted. Something had landed on a tree by the cliffside just a few feet from where she was— she couldn't quite make out the shape, but she was sure it wasn't just the leaves blowing in the wind. Could that be something? She'd take nearly anything at this point, if it let her end her journey with a success so she could get back home.

Her paws scrambled and slipped on the rocks as she tried to get closer to it, nearly falling as she did. Needing to be both fast and quiet at the same time was making her feel almost dizzy with adrenaline— she had to get a good look at this thing, *now*.

She yelped as she slid downwards a little before regaining her balance. She was so close to the small cliff face the tree was perched on - if she could just get there, she would be on solid ground, and close enough to see it...!

With a large stretch, and a small leap, she was there— and luckily, it seemed as though the creature she was currently observing hadn't stirred.

She blinked up at it, trying to discern what it was. Definitely not a Poco— it was too large to be one of those. It seemed to be feathered, perhaps it flew here? That would be likely, considering the terrain. She'd better not make any noise, as that may cause it to fly away.

As she was thinking, it suddenly spread its wings out, stretching as it looked like it yawned— and as the sun hit its vibrant plumage, she could finally identify it. A Clifford Lovebird! A more common sight amongst the Summit, but a creature she could study, nonetheless. Scholars were still debating on how it grew to be so large solely from 'love' - could she research this?

She would have to tame it first, she remembered. Luckily, Clifford Lovebirds were widely known for being easy first pets to befriend. She began to rifle in her backpack for... aha! Her sandwich! She was planning on eating it later for lunch, but this was far more important.

She whistled gently, trying to get the bird's attention. "Here, birdie—" She said, softly. "Pretty bird? Pretty bird?"

The bird perked up a little, and turned its head, but it didn't look towards her quite yet. She took a step forward, making sure not to make much noise.

"I've got a treat for you...! I— hope you like spinach and cheese?"

She waved the sandwich a little forward, and before she knew it— *woosh!* A bright blur of color flew right on by her, and her sandwich was gone. Suddenly, the Lovebird was nibbling happily on it.

Hmm. Very fast. Curious. The Lovebird finished its treat, and tilted its head over at Sienna.

"C'mon..." She hummed, holding an arm out. "I've got more where that came from. Pretty birdie? More food?"

She whistled again for good measure. The Lovebird tilted its head to the other side, and then... gently glided down to land on her arm! *Yes!*

Sienna grinned. Now all she had to do was figure out how to get down from here... but for now, she was going to bask in this victory for a while longer.