

Hell might not have seemed like a place with seasons, but any demon worth their salt knew this was not the case. Hellfire would climb and fall with the turn of the seasons, even underground, and since Burrowgatory so close by it was no surprise that the succubun population dwelling there could feel the effects too.

Today was absolutely *sweltering*. A spicy day to end all spicy days! And Shaz was lying face down on a slightly less boiling stone than the ones around it, groaning dramatically in the all but burning air. This sucked! This was terrible!

"Have you seen what the weather is doing to my *hair*?" he complained to Kas who was lounging on the ground next to him, idly passing the time by balancing small fragments of crystal on top of one another. "Look at it!" He grabbed the other bun by the shoulder and gave him a little shake, jabbing a hoof at the little puff of fur on his brow which was looking very scruffy and limp. How far it had fallen from the usual elegant coif that fluffed appropriately in all the right places! It was sticky! It was sweaty! *Just like the rest of him in this infernal heat!!!*

Kas let himself be shaken, his impassive expression unchanging as he watched the little tower of crystals scatter across the ground. He placed his hoof over Shaz's to gently but firmly remove the other bun's grip from his body.

"I heard you alright." He sighed. "I heard you the last twenty times you complained about it too! Shaz beloved, pride is supposed to be *my* vice, but all morning you've been primping and complaining and faffing about with... with this -" he mussed the greedy bun's hair into even more of a bird's nest than it already was, "and I don't know what you want me to do about it!"

Shaz wailed, pushing him away before sitting back on his haunches to begin pawing and grooming at his hair. "Fix it!!!" he whined. "It's hot! Far too hot!"

"Well you didn't want to go to the beach again and I'm not going drinking by myself!" Kas shot back, his voice lifting in frustration. "You had a great time when we were there the other day, we can just go back-"

"Beaches are for relaxing and I don't want to get sandy AND sweaty!" Shaz replied, doing his best to fluff the volume back into his hair. He gave Kas a hurt look as though he'd been injured by the suggestion. "Maybe it's alright for you, your hair looks perfect regardless of the weather. It's perfect even now. If my horns could change from this alone they would be."

Kas rolled his eyes and raised an eyebrow, thinking about the short spikes of fur on his own noggin, unaffected by heat and humidity alike. "It's just a hot day, Shaz." he grumbled. "You'll live."

"I'm not living." Shaz sulked back. "I'm miserable because my hair's miserable and I want you to fix it." He flopped back on the stone with another dramatic noise, draping a paw over his forehead like some damsel in distress. "Kaaaaas. Fix the weather for me, I hate this."

Now it was Kas' turn to groan. All morning he'd put up with Shaz's complaints! If it wasn't about his hair it was about how it was too hot to *do* anything and it had finally hit the prideful bun's breaking point.

"Fine!" he threw up his paws in exasperation and hopped to his feet. "You wait right here Shaz, my belle, my beloved, and I'll fix *everything* for you. Just please, for the love of Murmur. Stop. Complaining."

"Complaining's all I've got against the weather." Shaz stuck a leg dramatically up in the air. "Please do something about it, Kas. Turn the heat off or something."

He heard a little 'ugh' as he covered his eyes with a paw, followed by the tiny stomping steps of the other succubun walking off. Maybe he *had* pushed it too much with his protesting? But he was only stating the truth! And really, he was too hot to care too much about souring Kas' mood.

Shaz rolled around on his warm rock, sticky and uncomfortable, constantly sitting up to paw and preen at his hair, as though anything would make a difference at this point.

*Think about something cold*, he told himself, flopping back upon the rock to stare up at the cavernous ceiling of the warren. *A lovely crisp breeze blowing through the stalagmites. A tall, frosty beverage with one of those fruity lil umbrellas. Maybe some fruit too? And ice! Lots of ice... all the ice! I deserve all the ice for this one, I think... But what about ice cream? Or a yuzu popsicle to go with it? Something sweet and cold...*

He sighed dreamily as he opened his eyes to find Kas leaning over him looking concerned.

"Oh Kas." He blinked. "I haven't fainted from heat exhaustion if that's what you were wondering. Did you get me something cold?"

"Cold?" Kas wrinkled his nose. "I... Yeah, sure. I've got something that will cool you right down, promise."

"Oh wonderful." Shaz replied blithely. "I was just thinking about popsicles, you've got perfect timing."

"Sure, sure." The other succubun cast a sideways glance towards something just out of sight. "Close your eyes Shaz, I've got an extra special treat for you."

He chuckled at Shaz's delighted gasp and made sure the greedy bun wasn't peeking as he pulled an object out from where it was innocently tucked behind his back. Raising it in his paw, he lifted his arm... and threw it as hard as he could directly at the other succubun's face.

One moment Shaz was waiting for what he was certain was a chilly, sugary, treat, the next he was being hit in the face with a bright green water balloon. The water was blissful on his fur, cold and shocking in a way that brought so much relief from the heat that he hadn't realized he *needed* until right that moment.

However, it spelled even more disaster for his hair. And the rest of him, really.

He spluttered, dripping wet, staring at Kas who was slapping his knee and laughing while the water trickled down his nose and soaked into his fancy cravat.

"Oh boy you should've seen your face!!" Kas wheezed. "I hope you like your 'solution!'"

Shaz wiped the water out of his eyes, already feeling cooler in the heat but doing his best not to show it. "My hair!" he squeaked pitifully.

"Oh lighten up." Kas pulled another balloon out from behind his back and dunked it on him, snickering gleefully as it popped on the greedy bun's horns and showered him in a fresh wave of water. "Your stupid hair's wet and you feel better. I can tell just looking at you. Your ears are perky." He snickered again as Shaz shook himself off like a dog, spraying droplets of water everywhere. "You should say 'thank you, Kas'. I spent ages filling those balloons up for you."

"Where are they?" Shaz growled, hopping off the rock and advancing on him. "I'll get you for this!"

Scooting a few hops back to stay out of reach, Kas shrugged. "Oh you know, here and there. Behind that rock maybe." He pointed to a spot nearby. "I'll let you take a free shot in the name of friendly sportsmanship... if you can get to them before I do!"

He bolted for the hiding spot with Shaz bouncing right at his heels.

"Friendly sportsmanship my foot!" The other succubun yelled after him. "You just wanted an excuse to ruin my hair!"

Kas laughed, scooping a couple of balloons up from an impressive stack he had arranged earlier. "Hair schmair, Shazzy! You wanted to cool down and I'm the best boyfriend for finding you this perfect solution!" He aimed another balloon and let fly, catching Shaz on the shoulder. "Say it! Tell me how cool I am!"

Filling his arms with balloons he scooted off once more as Shaz reached the pile to pick up a few of his own.

"Cool?!" The greedy bun yelled after him. "I'll show you cool!! I'm gonna make you so wet that not even the heat will dry you off once I'm done!!!"

The two spent the afternoon diminishing the pile of balloons, bantering back and forth with every pop and splash of water. By the time the warm evening heat currents had rolled around, both of them were once again lying on the warm rock, panting and exhausted, rewarded with the blissful chill of being soaked to the core from their balloon fight.

"You're buying me a popsicle when I've dried off." Shaz grinned, tugging playfully on Kas' tail.

"You're buying your own popsicle." Kas shot back with an equally wide smile. "I think I've done enough to cool us off for the day."