

Clap, clap, clap!

It's a sinful lil birthday, for our very favorite bun! We hope you'll play the day away and indulge in lots of fun~

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Kise was wandering down the Burrowgatory streets with a carefully wrapped package held in their hooves. Smooch had given them explicit instructions not to drop it as it held the perfect present for the succubun they were on their way to visit.

*"Coffee milk layer cake!" He'd whispered conspiratorially, as if he were afraid that its recipient would somehow overhear. "New recipe that Smooch worked on all night by himself! Kise was asleep and Smooch didn't want to wake you. But Smooch made sure to sample **every ingredient** to make sure it was perfect quality."*

*He'd beamed as he carefully deposited the box into Kise's hands. "Protect it with your life ok! Smooch worked **so hard** on this and Smooch **really** wants to see the look on Shibani's face when he tries it!!!"*

And now Smooch was a bun on a mission, the two of them following the path's twists and turns towards Dan's Dango, where they knew the birthday celebrant was likely to be napping in his favorite pillow pile. The gluttony succubun had been humming and singing and clapping his hooves all morning in the most cheerful of moods. Considering that he didn't remember when his own birthday was (and neither did Kise), the fact that he remembered and got to celebrate someone else's was certainly a big deal for him.

But it wasn't enough for Smooch to simply bring a cake and consider it a present; it was in his nature to share what he had, and what he had in abundance was liquor in his bar. He'd spent nights working on a rich, creamy plant-based liqueur that would not be too overpowering for someone with a low alcohol tolerance, and yet not *too* mild that it wouldn't still give you a good buzz if you mixed it with a little bit of milk or coffee for flavor.

It had taken him a good amount of dedication not to quaff the lot of it for himself, though the bottle was small enough to suggest that he'd sampled a fair bit in the process of refining. The creme liqueur was tucked safely and securely inside a messenger bag that Smooch was wearing, cradled by a generous amount of bubble wrap to serve as wrapping paper; with the stones and dirt underfoot in these tunnels, one never knew when they might stumble on their hooves or catch them in a crack in the path, or step on someone's tail... Smooch was being more than hypervigilant against any unfortunate accidents that they could happen upon along the way.

Seeing how careful he was being was making Kise take the same precautions. The cake, in its hand folded and marker-decorated box, was clutched carefully to their chest, each step lifted

high like they were marching in a parade. It wouldn't do to trip on something and ruin all of Smooch's hard work! Especially when he seemed so excited to share his creations with Burrowgatory's favorite resident.

The winding streets led them past buildings and business, along streets lined with enticing shopfronts and tasty smells. And suddenly, when Kise was beginning to feel like their legs would fall off from so much careful marching, they were standing there in front of the very store they'd been hoping to find.

Both succubuns poked their heads through the open doorway, peering around the shopfront at the rows of fresh dango and mochi on display.

"Irrashai!"

The gruff voice made both of them jump suddenly, as Dan seemingly materialized from behind the cash register, arms crossed and looking in a worse mood than normal. He caught sight of the cake box in Kise's arms and heaved a frustrated sigh.

"You're not a customer either, eh?" He grumbled. "You're here to see Shibani? He's in the back." He jerked a thumb over his shoulder to the pillow pile at the back of the room, where the bun in question was stretching with a yawn. His usually modest pile of pillows was framed by stacks of boxes and platters of cake; gifts from what had seemed to be many visitors, and none who had bought anything from the dango shop on their way in or out.

Smooch let out a whoop and scuttled through the store, ignoring Dan's grumpy 'no running!' to throw his arms around the other succubun's neck with a happy cry and plant a friendly kiss on each cheek.

"Shibani, Shibani! It's your birthday Shibani, happy birthday!" He began to clap his hooves and sing the same little nonsense tune he'd repeated the whole walk over, rewarded for his shenanigans by a sleepy giggle and grin by their birthday celebrant.

The two of them chatted away about how his morning had gone, how so many buns had come in with cards and presents and well-wishes and cake, before Smooch pulled the bubble wrapped liquor from his satchel and presented it with a little flourish.

Kise had gone to follow their partner when something at the counter caught their eye. A plate of succulent peaches next to a little decorated stand containing skewers of fresh peach dango. Dan followed their gaze.

"I was hoping more people would treat him to them, honestly." he sighed, a little flush coming to his cheeks as he looked away. "It's a.. tradition." he explained. "You eat peaches on your birthday because they represent longevity. He's a lazy piece of eye candy but... he deserves a long life too." The blush deepened as Kise continued to stare at him. "Alright, you got me. I

couldn't work up the nerve to give them to him myself with everyone coming in and out and talking his ear off and... watching." He cleared his throat again and rubbed the back of his neck awkwardly. "You gonna join your friend or do I need to embarrass myself further to get you to leave?"

In response, Kise carefully set the cake box down on the counter, fishing into the pockets of their sheer robe. Pulling out a handful of carats, they placed them on the counter. "One peach dango please."

Smooch appeared at their side as they took the morsel from Dan's paws, sliding the cake box off the counter and taking Kise's hand to drag them over. Introductions were made, the two sloth buns sharing a mutual sleepy yawn before Smooch held the box out to Shibani and opened the lid.

"It's a Coffee Milk Layer Cake!" He exclaimed excitedly as Shibani's eyes went wide at the sight. For someone with only a very basic understanding of baking, Smooch had really gone all out on the spongy, sweet scented cake with its whipped cream frosting and chocolate coated coffee bean decorations. The whole cake had been dusted in chocolate shavings which made it very aromatic indeed.

"Smooch soaked the sponge in coffee liqueur and the cream was whipped fresh today!" He added cheerfully. "Only the best for Burrowgatory's favorite resident, yes? Did Smooch do a good job?"

Shibani laughed at the sight and patted the eager gluttony bun on the head. "You did great!" he said cheerfully. "Thank you Smooch. I can't wait to share this with Dan later."

Both buns looked up as Kise sleepily offered Shibani the dango, stifling a yawn as they repeated what Dan had told them. "Peach dango for your birthday... because peaches give you a loooong life." they said sagely. "Dan made these special for you but he's too shy to give them to you himself."

Now it was Shibani's turn to blush. "Did he really say that? How sweet..."

Smiling at his two visitors, he hopped to his feet and gently set Smooch's gifts down on a nearby bench, peering over their heads at the gruff succubun out of earshot. Dan was glowering at the newest duo of buns who had wandered into his shop with more gifts, grumbling and pointing in their direction.

"Smooch, Kise, I'm really happy you came to visit! Thank you for the cake and the presents." Shibani's beaming smile was enough to make anybun's heart flutter and these two were no exception! He dropped a little bunny kiss on each of their foreheads as the succubuns in the shopfront opted to leave their presents on the checkout counter and scamper beneath Dan's angry gaze. "I think I'll take a break from visitors for an hour or two... there's somebunny with a

package who's waiting for me to be alone." He giggled and waved them off. "Thank you for coming! I'm sure we'll enjoy your cake and liquor!"

Smooch was extremely pleased as they wandered back to the front of the shop, Kise suppressing a yawn at his side. Dan clicked his hooves at them as they passed the counter once more.

"Hey you, did you want your change?" He held a carat out towards Kise who only shook their head as Smooch tugged them out the door.

"You keep it..." They said with as much enthusiasm as a sloth bun could muster.

"Something tells me you'll lose it in the pillow pile shortly after we're gone~"

~fin