

"Life with a lion isn't easy y'know?"

Chapter 1, A heartwarming welcome.

You slowly open your eyes to a woman's voice.

"Ladies and gentlemen, as we start our descent, please make sure your seat backs and tray tables are in their full upright position..."

You blink two or three times before snapping back to reality.

Well, that was a long nap.

It still took you a couple of seconds to remember everything; a few months ago you finally finished your studies and you were now an official programmer, you started looking for a job as soon as summer break ended and you somehow got a really decent job, no previous experience needed, you could work from home and the salary was more than acceptable. The company you now work for is Japanese, you have no idea what the company is about, but they did mention that an AI expert was needed, that's when you appeared, and they apparently got impressed by your talent. You don't consider yourself that talented "But hey, if they think I'm good enough that means I AM good enough right?", that's the only thought you had the moment they chose you.

You had already gained consciousness and were completely aware of your situation when the rest of passengers on the plane started heading to the exit. You stood up and as you stepped out of the plane the afternoon sun of middle August blinded you for a moment, while you recover your sight, you think to yourself "well, the job does sound promising but I don't get the point of sending me to Japan if I'm going to work at home anyway..." Those were your last thoughts before reality snapped again at you; you were in a foreign country. You did know Japanese (for some reason) and you had enough money to last a couple of weeks but you didn't really know much about the culture. Maybe all that anime you've been watching for years is going to help you now (?).

Although things are going smoothly you still haven't looked for a hotel, you were planning on searching for one once you arrived at your destination but maybe it's too late now and hotels don't greet customers anymore, the thought of having to sleep on the streets on your first night gave you chills down your spine. Even though things aren't looking exactly as planned you're still optimistic. A new job, a new life, new friends, new relations... things aren't that bad after all.

After a quick train ride, you arrive at your final destination. You're still thinking about the motel thing but your thoughts get cut off by the sound of your stomach. You haven't eaten anything in the last 9 hours apart from the awful coffee you got on the airplane. It was pretty late and the sun was almost completely down, the moon was pretty high and you could start seeing some stars if you looked carefully.

"Japan really is pretty huh."

You start to look for a place to have dinner, there are a ton of restaurants with different specialties, some sushi restaurants, pizzerias, ramen restaurants were completely crowded so you decide not to get in one, you go for something a bit more simple. You spot a restaurant on the corner of the street, there aren't a lot of people inside and its speciality appears to be Italian food. You decide to give it a try, a good lasagna is always welcomed.

As you step into the restaurant you notice a group of ladies apparently having dinner, 4 of them to be exact. There's also a couple having a romantic dinner and a group of 3 friends getting drunk on the other corner of the establishment. You finally decide to sit near the group of ladies but while you do something weird happens, the giggle of one of the ladies near you is oddly familiar but you don't really know why. You hadn't really focused on their faces when you entered but that soft laugh made you turn your head to them. They're still talking. And you suddenly skip a beat while you sit down.

Around a year ago, when you were still studying, you remember being a fan of an idol group called "Hololive". You liked them a lot but because of the studies you had to stop watching them. The memories of those times hit you pretty hard, you weren't prepared for something like this to happen. Those girls, those four ladies that were inoffensively having dinner in the same restaurant as you, were hololive members. You can tell who they were just by hearing them and looking at their faces.

"Hey now, you're starting to scream a bit too loud."

Pol... Polka? Was it?

"Shut up and drink with me! If you don't drink we won't have fun!"

That was Lamy.

"Yeah yeah, just remember to pay your part once we're done."

Umm... how was it... Botan? Yeah, you liked her a lot, she's the one that made the chuckles before.

"Ehhh c'mon I thought you were gonna pay for everything yourself."

And that's Nene.

Yup, those were definitely them. You'd be lying if you said that you weren't nervous, I mean, they are the hololive girls from the fifth generation! You loved them not that long ago, who wouldn't be nervous?

Well, it doesn't really matter. You don't want to disturb them. You may be optimistic but trying to be friends with famous idols is way past the line. You'll just act as if you didn't notice them.

Suddenly the waiter gets to your table. It's a girl, rather young, maybe even a highschooler. It is true that in Japan young people tend to get jobs so they can have a bit of money so nothing special here.

"May I take your order?"

She's polite.

"Um... yeah, I'd like a..."

While you are finishing the sentence something hits the back of your head. A glass? It did feel like it and you have a bit of liquid on your hair.

Before you can make any clear conclusions, Lamy, who was sitting behind you, suddenly puts her arms on your shoulders.

"Give this boy and me a new bottle please!"

She's screaming. Not that you mind but your ears hurt a little bit now.

"Now, now, behave a little will ya? Sorry about that bud, she may be a little drunk."

No shit.

While Polka and Lamy argue about whether or not you should drink alcohol with strangers, Botan stands up silently and approaches you.

"Hey, sorry about that... something good happened today at work and she's a bit too excited about it."

And now they're actually talking to you! Well that's more than you could've ever dreamed.

"It's no problem."

You decide to take the simple route. As Botan politely apologizes, the waiter stands still near your table, not really knowing what to do, she seemed rather tranquil given the situation.

Once Botan gets back to her seat and the other two stop arguing having gotten to the conclusion that inviting strangers to have a drink is not a good idea, you finally order something. The lasagna idea was pretty good but now you just want to get out of there as quickly as possible so you don't bother them anymore so you just order some pasta. Once the plate arrives you get surprised by the low amount of food in it, it wasn't expensive or anything it's just that after finishing you were still hungry.

Once you're done eating you stand up and proceed to pay for your food. They haven't done anything special in the meantime, you heard them talk a little bit, they were having normal conversations. It's still weird to think that they're actually really famous idols.

As you get your wallet to pay for the food, you see Botan approaching you once again.

She's... slightly blushing?

"Hey... sorry once again. She can do that sometimes when alcohol kicks hard."

"It really is no problem, she didn't mean no harm anyway."

"Well, she ended up messing your hair a little bit at the end didn't she?"

While struggling with Polka she had indeed messed up your hair, it wasn't a big deal though.

"Well, yeah but it's not like I was extremely combed or anything."

"Well, she still felt a little bad after having such bad manners with a foreigner."

Apparently they had noticed you're not from here, your accent was probably selling you away.

"Foreigner or not, it was just a simple incident. You're making it sound worse than what it really is."

"Well they educate us to be polite so apologizing is the least thing we can do."

Don't they educate everyone to be like that?

"Apologies greatly accepted."

She chuckled softly. You thought that was cute.

It was cute indeed.

"So you're new here after all, huh?"

"Just arrived today, so far I'm really liking the place."

It was beautiful, both the views, the country in general and the people. Especially the people.

"Well, the place is kinda nice. The only complaint I'd ever have are the hotel prices."

"Are they really that bad?"

You already knew the answer, they were really that bad. Not like you had another option though, you either paid the equivalent of 120\$ or you slept on the streets.

"They are. Do you not have one to stay at?"

"Well... I did have some problems but surely there has to be at least one opened even if it's late."

Sun was completely down, the night sky was as beautiful as always.

"..."

She's quiet. Maybe thinking? Either way you didn't want to bother her too much so you got ready to abandon that moment that felt like a dream to pay for your food. Talking with her was really nice, you'd be lying if you said you didn't enjoy it but she was a famous person after all, you had no chances with her.

"Um..."

"?"

She does apparently want to say something.

"If you want... um...."

She's oddly blushing.

What is happening right now.

After a 3 second break, she finally speaks up, now with more confidence.

"You can stay at my place tonight if you want, I have a guest's room and, although it's not in perfect conditions, it should be better than sleeping on the streets."

"!!!"

What?!

Did she just say I could stay at her home?!?

How the heck did we get here, again?

Ok, ok, calm down Anon, things are going way too fast right now but you have to maintain calm

"Um... You don't need to be so polite. I mean, we just met and now that I think about it you don't even know my name..."

She's quite clearly embarrassed.

"But I..."

Before she could finish her sentence a certain elf jumped from behind her, clearly still drunk.

"Hey uh... Polka wants me to apologize to you because of the incident early so um... sorry."

It didn't feel like a sincere apology but she's drunk so it's understandable.

"Yes, yes, good job Lamy now just sit down until we leave."

Polka took Lamy by her hand and led her to their seats leaving Botan and you alone once again.

"..."

"..."

Yeah, the situation is kinda awkward now

"... My name's Botan and, well, I think you should stay at my house tonight because of all the trouble we caused you and before you decline I'd suggest you evaluate your situation a little better."

It's not that I don't want to stay at your home, at this point I'm more concerned about how easy it is to actually enter someone's property here.

"I'm Anon, and I gladly accept your proposal."

Well, I'm doing it now. Just one night, no more no less. Yup, I can do it if it's only one night, surely I won't have any problem.

Yet your palms are sweating and your voice sounds weird, all signs of deadly nervousness.

"It's almost a relief that I can actually sleep somewhere acceptable tonight, I just hope I don't cause any trouble."

"Well, you surely won't cause more trouble than that drunk elf back there."

You both chuckled. This really feels like a wet dream coming true but you have to behave, or at least not embarrass yourself in front of her.

You then proceeded to pay for your food and after that, all the girls at the table stood up and paid as well. All of you walked down a couple of streets before finally separating from each other, you and Botan kept talking a little bit while walking.

"Say, why are you in Japan? Vacation? Studies? Or are you just a weeb that wants to travel here?"

Well, the last option would probably be the most reasonable one but your weeb days are long dead, although you still watch some anime. A couple of years ago you spent whole days watching anime, playing games and doing lots of useless stuff, but since you started studying seriously again everything changed, that includes your motivations; You just wanted to be happy. A simple task, yet it felt like it was gonna be harder than it looked.

"It's actually because of work, I'm a programmer and a Japanese company got interested in me a couple of months ago, I'm not exactly sure why I had to travel all the way here if I'm going to work at home anyway but I do like Japan quite a bit so it didn't bother me at all."

"Work huh..."

"If you have an apartment for yourself you probably work as well right? Mind if I ask about your job?"

You already knew what her work was, you just wanted to know how would she handle the situation. Cover is a big company, surely they had some kind of manual for these situations.

"Eh?! I um... I do work but..."

Does she really not know how to handle the situation?!? No shit a lot of drama happens in hololive if all the girls are like this.

"Yeah?"

"..."

She didn't talk for a couple of seconds.

"Can you promise me something?"

"Well, I consider promises a really important thing so it depends on what's the promise."

"My work is... It's a bit complicated. I'll tell you if you promise not to tell anyone and not to laugh."

"I promise I won't tell anyone but I can't promise I won't laugh."

She looked annoyed, in a cute way. You were enjoying yourself right now.

"... Fine."

Well that was easy.

"I'm a vtuber, my work consists in playing videogames on stream."

You were expecting a more complex answer or maybe a bit of decoration to make it sound better; "I am a content creator on YouTube with a large fanbase and a lot of support from my fans." or something like that.

"Oh so you like videogames."

"I do enjoy them a lot, that's why I think my job is perfect."

Lucky her. Who wouldn't want to live life by playing videogames.

You talked with her all the way to her apartment and once you arrived you stepped in without hesitation. It was a quite nice apartment, a large kitchen near the living room, a hallway with 4 doors leading to 2 bedrooms, a bathroom and a laundry room and she even had a Christmas tree near the TV for some reason!

Apparently she likes Christmas.

"Your room is this one, the bathroom is at the end of the hallway and the kitchen is at your full disposal."

You couldn't help but notice the rainbow lights coming from Botan's room.

"Give me a minute so I can tidy up the room and I'll let you have a peek."

Apparently she noticed it as well.

Your luggage was simple, a couple of clothes, hygiene products and some important stuff. Your PC would arrive once you tell your parents to send it to your actual house, once you get an actual house.

You simply took out the important stuff and then headed to Botan's room.

"All ready, come in."

The air inside was a bit charged but not enough to be unbreathable, the bed was pretty big, it occupied ⅔ of the room, the pc was in a corner near the window and a pretty big closet was covering the entirety of one of the walls. It was a nice room.

The led lights came from everywhere, if you were epileptic you'd probably be dead by now.

"How do you like it?"

"Certainly seems like the room of a streamer."

The whole streaming setup was on the table where the PC is, you could see a camera and a microphone as well as the turned on computer.

"You may feel the air is a bit heavy, sorry about that, the computer has been installing some games since early this morning."

So that explains it.

Overall the apartment was amazing, you could really live here.

While you are admiring the apartment once more, you notice the clock.

"Already 11 o'clock?"

"Yeah it's pretty late, you're probably tired from all the traveling so you should go to sleep, I'll be going soon as well."

"Sounds good to me, we'll talk about everything else tomorrow. Good night and thanks again for the hospitality."

She chuckled.

"G'night."

You head to your room and close the door behind you. It's silent. You're pretty tired from everything that has happened and you're still trying to assimilate what's happening and why you're here.

You lay on the bed, still thinking about stuff. You haven't stopped thinking since you got here and that is honestly draining your power. You still hate overthinking stuff, back in your old home you simply turned on the music or just played some games until you forgot about everything. Things aren't going to be as easy now.

But hey, you're in Botan's house and you seem to get along with her pretty well, that's nice isn't it?

Everything will be fine.

"Everything will probably be fine."

I hope everything will be fine.

...

You close your eyes while repeating those words. Tomorrow will be a new day, you better be prepared for it.