

Unorthodox Imp Taming

Well, now was a good time to do that New Year's resolution during this festive, exciting holiday of Mochi Moon. At least, that's what the universe seemed to be telling Rai. The resolution being going to the Imporium and getting Freight a new friend. Even if Freight was fine being an only pet, Rai didn't want the imp to be lonely even if it was just him overthinking. They trio had left after Shibani had some food in his system to fight the buzz and Rai had given Dan the cocktail strawberries in the meantime. Having earned the moon adoring succubun's thanks with a curt nod and quiet 'Thank you.' before continuing to work on his project.

Prepping for the walk to the imp store Shibani's brows furrowed, checking his own phone with confusion. "Mmm... I was right in that he didn't answer earlier, I even sent another message before eating my snack. I have a spare key but... Maybe we should bring something?" Shibani looked at the stacks of 'wrong' mochi. "I know Hutch doesn't like giving the imps mochi, but if it doesn't change them maybe we could use it for... Whatever is going on?" Rai nodded, using his phone to use the notepad app. 'Should we pack some for ourselves and Hutch?' Shibani nodded eagerly, "That's a good idea! I'll go grab some baggies..."

When he walked away deeper into the shop, Rai snuck some of the mochi to Freight, who happily snacked and looked the same after as it looked up with mochi on its muzzle. Rai smiled at the freign, then promptly cleaned its face and helped Shibani pack bags of 'defect' mochi. If Hutch hadn't answered it must've been for a reason, so the star covered bun and the albino bun both were in silent agreement that the extra not for them would be for imp use.

'Oh how devious...' Rai thought with a smile, knowing Freight was in for a treat and the other imps would be too. Putting the baggies in a lunchbox to keep them fresh.

The walk to the imporium was relatively uneventful with the two sloth buns taking in the atmosphere and fireworks, chatting here and there with Freight hopping over the sidewalk cracks and segments... Shibani had even begun to talk about Hutch. "Hutch can seem shy, at least to other buns. Or awkward, but really he's just very knowledgeable about imps and focuses on them a lot... So other topics throw him off I think. Which I guess is hyperfocus?" Shibani was paused by a long yawn, which spread to Rai... Then ended up ruining the peace as the freight stopped, almost tripping Rai who hoped no one but Shibani saw and that the laughing buns weren't laughing at him. "Maybe after this if we have time we can take a long nap before the casino." Shibani watched Rai get back up, dusting himself while still holding the leash. "I hear Angora has good quality matcha but Hops doesn't make her seem very giving.. Also, are you okay?" Admittedly, Rai wanted a nap as they had been at it for a while. But at the same time Rai was in a high helping Shibani and wanted to ride the high. So he nodded at the other with a thumbs up... Then they both realized why the imp had stopped.

Freight was staring at the doors of the imporium, which was dead silent all around it. Freight's ears were up, being a radar for sound and tail stuck up still excitedly. It was rare you could hear a pin drop in Burrowgatory, but here they were. Rai looked down at his pet, then backed up in surprise as a crash and a yelp was heard. Shibani's hesitation to enter earlier was gone as he unlocked the door to go check on his friend. Freight hid behind Rai who went in after Shibani. Not before shutting and locking the door behind him and turning around to see pandemonium, and not the theory.

Hutch, he guessed, was trying to give Shibani a leash, "Please I'm really sorry to ask but-Please!! I can give the sesame seeds after!" The other being so pitiful probably swayed Shibani's decision. "Well... You do seem overwhelmed..." The look Shibani gave Rai was of exasperation, no nap and this that would probably take forever? Ugh. Shibani relented and the white bun grabbed the leash and a net. Pink eyes met Rai's light blue

ones, and the plan for sesame seeds was put in action. Freight's shock was immediately dropped as Rai lifted a singly mochi from a bag and whistled. "Don't hate what we use, Hutch," Shibani told the other, preparing. Watching the lunells eyes up the mochi and making Rai sweat nervously. "I'm sure it'll be fine though." Net raised like a bat.

"W-wait what are yOU-ACK-" any argument was drowned as a group of spooked loafkis and a single phloof crashed into the imp tamer after being chased by lunells who hadn't noticed the mochi. Said lunells laughing at their take on slapstick comedy.

Some lunells had even helped inkaps get into the scraps trash can... This would definitely present any naps they planned after this as time was ticking. The lunells crept close as Rai backed up, opening a gate to an empty cage. They charged, and Rai threw the mochi in the cage as the lunells seemed to have tunnel vision and filed into the cage. Almost knocking it over. One lunell seemed to top, backing up as it dawned on it this was a trap, but Freight rammed into it. Rai shutting the cage and trapping them.

It took many tries, and screw ups, with some free lunells starting to open the cage gates twice before Shibani focused on catching them with the net after Rai trapped them again. The bun sorely hoped Dan realized how lucky he was to have (a very obvious partner) companion in Shibani. Especially with how determined they were to help Dan even when having fallen on his ass and hearing the snickers from a particularly mean lunell. In the background, Hutch took care of the other messes like the inkaps and phloofs. Not wanting to do it later and thinking their newest recruits had it handled with Shibani on jailbreak duty and Rai on trap duty with Freight.

In the end, all three buns could no longer keep doll form and had poofed back into buns. Taking a moment to rest on the floor before slowly getting up, Shibani passes the last mochi bags between the three of them and Hutch gives Freight some sesame seeds in thanks.

“I’ll uh... Go get the seeds.” They stated, giving Hutch head scratches. “Hey... Rai right? I heard Shibani call you. Come see me when you guys aren't busy, I want to see your freign. They’re very smart boy.” The imp puffed up, preening in pride and Rai nodded with a smile. Soon they could finish their resolution on good footing.

When he was gone, Shibani turned to Rai. “All that’s left is matcha, Hops said it was very good. It can’t be as hard as this right?”

Hutch had walked in at that point, “What can’t be hard...?”

Shibani was quick to answer. “Getting matcha from Angora, maybe she’ll be nice if she knows me and Hops are friends.” Hutch grimaced.

“That... May not go as well as you think.”

“Why not?” Shibani was now more uncertain.

“Angora always wants something in return...” Both Rai and Shibani groaned internally. Why couldn’t tonight have been easy?