

My second tail

“Trixie swears that if she is given a second tail, she will use her powers of light, fire, and illusion to fight the darkness and evil within the world. Manifested to fight the evil that she reflects, Trixie will spread her word to cleanse the fear. This is her goal. This is where she gains her fire from. And so, Trixie swears.”

The elder kitsune glanced over at his fellow leader, Ground Flame, who was currently grinding his teeth as he almost popped a blood vessel. Elder swallowed hard and leaned forward. “That was very good Trixie. Please proceed into the training grounds to show off your mastery of your magic, and prove that you have the power to dispel the darkness of this land.”

Trixie’s small nose twitched as she tried her best to not smile at him. “Trixie thanks you for this chance.”

Ground ran his hoof through his white mane as Trixie disappeared into the sinkhole they were next to. The desert’s hot sun wasn’t why though, not when he was already dead. Instead, it was because of his thorough disgust at what was about to happen. “So, are we really doing this again?”

Elder glanced back, scratching his orange fur. “I’m not quite sure if I understand.”

Ground’s eye twitched as he got ready to follow Trixie so as to watch her fight. “This is the third time she has tried to be a ranger for us. Her being one year older isn’t going to change anything.”

“Now, now, I think you should first at least look. Does she seem like she is having a problem?”

Both of them looked further down in the cave. It had been lit up with fifteen balls of light, set by both Elder and Ground earlier that day. A small black wave moved across the stalactites, trying to grab the orbs and Trixie. She stuck her tongue out at it as it grabbed a laughing illusion of hers. “See, she is doing just fine.”

Ground glared at Elder. “A kit could deal with it at this level. Give her five minutes, and I can bet you she’ll be in trouble, just like always.”

Elder watched as Trixie floated around the writhing creature, forcing it onto just one stalactite. “Come on, I know you can—”

[i]Boom![/i]

Trixie's small light had switched in a matter of seconds into a focused beam that cut through mass and stone. She spent a few moments panting before looking back to the two leaders of their small culture. "See? Trixie was more than ready."

Elder smiled a little bit, but then shook his head. She looked back down and widened her eyes as the mass came writhing back up, having been mainly missed by the beam. She paled further as three orbs were swallowed in only a few moments. "Don't worry, I can do this!"

Ground shook his head as the first few blasts got it to only shrink back for a few moments. "I should just tell her that she has already lost. She doesn't have a chance."

Elder's white tail frayed as his horn and nine tails glowed, his magic grabbing his five tailed subordinate and pulling him back. "You will not disrespect her effort like that. Now sit right there."

Ground glared back. "Sir, any moment now and it will end."

"Too bad. We let her start this, we will let her end this."

Looking back though, he knew better. Trixie was floating towards the entrance, the last two orbs right behind her. Her one tail was flicking violently behind her while her horn glowed a bright white. Ground rose an eyebrow. "Do you think she will?"

Elder only shook his head as Trixie released the last of her magic in one large rocket. It let out a blinding light with smaller flares of yellow and purple while she smiled and started to float downwards. She only looked back up a few moments before the wave of darkness came down towards her.

Ground shot forward. His own personal, blue, fox fire coated him, turning him into a rocket of roaring inferno. He smashed into the front of the wave, his flames spreading through the mass from the inside. Elder came up next to Trixie, his own body glowing white. The mass shot forward in a last attempt to get rid of the annoying lights. A white, fire orb surrounded the two kitsune just before it spread outwards. All but the very depths of the cave were cleansed of the evil, with the last sealed away for the next time they would need it for the test.

Trixie looked up, a single tear starting to swim at the edge of her eye. Ground floated back over, scowling deeply. Just as he was going to open his mouth though, the elder put two of his tails into it. "Trixie, could you please move to the edge of the cave so I can discuss your results with my colleague?"

She nodded, and the two watched as she slowly drifted to the ground. Ground scowled while spitting out the hair he had almost eaten. "She failed. I don't see why we're waiting to tell her that. She even knows that!"

Elder frowned slightly. "You know what I would like?"

"If you say a foal to kiss, I will punch you."

He looked at Ground for a moment before shutting his eyes. "Actually, that is it. I want that as an option, instead of us having none. There are maybe another twenty kitsune back at the edge of the forest waiting for us, and only two of them are younger than her."

Ground grit his teeth. "That is all the more of a reason as to why we shouldn't send her to her doom."

"I don't want to do that. I simply want her to spread her magic over the lands so more ponies may reincarnate into kitsune when they pass."

"She wouldn't make it to Saddle Arabia, nonetheless further on!"

"I don't want her to go East!"

Both of them were silent for a few moments, Ground's muscles tensed as he warred with himself. There had to be a reason, any reason for him to keep his little Trixie there. He was wrong though, and he knew it. "She... she would be safe there, wouldn't she?"

"And those ponies are normally of light hearts, so the chance of their spirits being reincarnated for me or you to bring back would be even higher than in Saddle Arabia. The principle of going only where we are needed kept us away, but..."

Ground shut his eyes as he felt his pride and heart shatter. "We need them."

Elder nodded. "So, would you like me to tell her, or you?"

"Don't make me light you on fire."

A small chuckle escaped the elder as he brought Trixie back over. She looked at him after dispelling a small, magical doll she had summoned. Her eyes were red from holding back tears, and she shook as she floated and bowed to the leader of all of the kitsune. "Yes sir?"

Elder's tails glowed and the magic focused into an orb in front of his face. "Are you ready?"

Her eyes widened as tears finally came down her face. "Ye-yes! Yes I am!"

He nodded and washed the white flame over her. She felt her power surge as her ethereal form shimmered and shook. Once it had calmed, a second tail swished behind her.

“Hold your head high with the knowledge that you now hold a small part of your elder within you. Your new tail shows your kind’s trust in your ability, and we expect you to not let us down.”

Trixie put a hoof to her forehead. “Don’t worry sir. Trixie will never fail you!”

He nodded. “Now go, I am certain you have much to prepare for.”

She nodded, and both watched as she floated out of the cave. Ground turned away from the elder, his eyes shut to keep his tears from showing. Elder shut his own eyes, praying that he was right about her being safe. Not just for her sake, but for all of theirs.