

There was only one thing to do during the summer in Uligo's mind. Ever since the pool down at New Paths had been completed, the Leading Ladies were allowed to come and go as they pleased. Not that they needed permission before, but now it felt a little more normal to go to work, finish the tasks, and take a dip in the pool.

Uligo's job at New Paths wasn't nearly as involved as Parti's and Cardamon's. She went only on a volunteer basis, and only when she wasn't actively working on a research project. Ever since she had delivered the ichor beast sample to CIB, who was taking over some of the fracture related research endeavors while Keystone University rebuilt, she found her schedule quite open.

And during those times, she would teach biology classes to the residents of New Paths. The topics usually revolved around the elements of biology that needed special attention when assuming different forms, especially human forms, as human bodies worked in a particular way and had many unusual organs, and processes that needed to occur. She was more than happy to share her knowledge as well, since it wasn't that much outside of her scope to also entertain more broad biology topics.

And, if she played her cards right, she would be able to convince a few crooks to enter into the biological science fields, which were in desperate need of more researchers. Every attempt she'd ever made with Mule to get formal training in the sciences ended in rejection. He just was not interested in helming any projects of his own, choosing to be an assistant that moved equipment and specimens.

After today's lesson, Uligo packed up her diagrams and locked them in a storage cabinet for next time. Most of the materials were Cheese Melt's, but he was busy with rebuilding his house, and had begged her to use his charts. And while he wasn't a scientist, his charts and graphs were competent and his curriculums were dense. Not surprising to Uligo in the slightest.

And, funnily enough, her attempts to coax Cheese Melt into pursuing a different career path also ended in failure, but only because Cheese Melt vastly preferred the more historical and anthropological sides of gravents, and took special interest in humans as a side project.

Uligo shrugged it off, uninsulted.

Once everything was packed up, she went to Idris, requested permission to swim a few laps in the pool, and once granted, trekked out to the poolside to see it mostly unoccupied. After the lessons were completed, younglings had to

do their chores before going out to play and relax, which often included complaining and dragging feet.

Uligo appreciated a pool teeming with joy, but she rarely got to swim uninterrupted, and slid easily into the water, her buoyant yellow body soaking in the refreshing water. She took a deep breath (as to not get waterlogged) and sank into the water, thrashing her thick tail around to reach the bottom.

She was much smaller than the average crook, and this pool had been designed primarily for Idris to swim as deep as she liked. So deep was the pool, that it darkened at the bottom, and Uligo drifted through the tiny sea to peer down at the windows in the bottom of the pool.

On the other side was an empty storage room, and a series of pipes, wires, and scaffolding. Many other windows lined the bottom of the pool, and each one looked into an equally empty maintenance room, with valves and sensors lining the walls.

Her curiosity satiated, Uligo swam a few more laps around the pool, soaking in the sun, reupping on the stale air in her lungs, and generally enjoying what many aquatically oriented Skireans enjoyed about a swim.

The ease of her body moving through the liquid, the feeling of being moved by the current of other people swimming through as well, the bobbing waves of a cannonball.

As more bodies threatened to land on her, Uligo took the time to climb out of the pool, shake off the excess water, towel off, and then go home to share her leisurely experience with the rest of the Leading Ladies. Not that she hadn't already been beaming the feeling of her time to them, but it felt more intimate to lay in a pile with her hivemates and recount the day together.

And then once all that was finished, they could maybe watch one of their shows on a laptop. The internet was working in a majority of Key again, and they all needed a little something to take their minds off the ever looming emptiness of the streets around them.

Uligo decided to make a trip to the only convenience store around the New Paths house before heading home, to bring a few snacks to her hivemates.