

Today was one of the biggest days of the year for Solara. Tonight the Gossamer Gala was being held by none other than Angora so making connections and socializing would be the highest priority for a bun such as herself. Solara was no stranger to high society as she'd been a part of it for nearly her entire life and highly accustomed to it. She'd be wearing an extravagant outfit to match the theme of the gala, but not too much so as to not outshine anyone else. While upstaging others was typically her forte, she couldn't risk any potential relationships with those who would not take kindly to her stealing their spotlight.

It was little things like this. Don't take up the most room in a conversation, keep smiling, and most of all be polite, even if you thought the person you were speaking to was the worst. Making enemies was not something you wanted to do as it would damage your chances to attend special events such as these and continue to uphold your status, even climb it!

Sterling, however, was not as keen to the nuances and unspoken rules. He'd be waiting there at the gala there near the entrance and Solara knew she'd better hurry to meet him. Knowing her partner, he'd simply be waiting for her arrival. He wasn't the most interested in these types of events since he didn't feel like he fit in. He'd worked for many of these people as a caterer, gardener, chef, and more so he felt it was a little awkward for him to show up.

Solara wouldn't make him suffer, though. She was already waiting in the line with her invitation hidden snugly within her outfit's custom matching handbag. She knew not to take a risk with it out of her sight since some buns were waiting in line or wandering nearby eager to snatch one if the opportunity arose. Knowing better, she'd instructed Sterling to do the same by keeping it hidden and very close at all times so he could gain entrance, too

Soon. Solara had reached the bouncer and slipped out her invitation, proudly presenting it to them. She was let in with no issues, but the struggle would be finding her dear star now. The crowd was dense and through the glitz, glamor, and gold, it was difficult to find Sterling! Had he been swept away in the crowd? Or perhaps he was getting a drink? No matter what it was, it was obvious he was not by the entrance!

As Solara scanned the crowds for her partner, she spotted someone strange. They stuck out like a sore thumb with their usual, casual clothing with an unmistakable hat to immediately identify them. It was Sturge and he was making his way directly towards the entrance!

Solara approached him and tapped on him to catch his attention. Turning around, his eyes immediately lit up. Before he could get a word in, Solara questioned, "How in the world did you get in here, Sturgey?"

Sturge chuckled and shrugged. "Didn't I tell you? I always get an invitation for being Angora's best friend in the whole wide Burrowgatory!"

Solara rolls her eyes and smacks him lightly on the arm. “Oh, Sturgey, please be serious! I don’t want you getting in trouble.”

“What if I just snuck in? Or stole someone’s invitation?”

“Please tell me you didn’t do that...”

Sturge laughs and pats Solara’s shoulder before shaking his head. He gazed out at the event before returning his attention to her with a wide smile. “Angora actually asked me for help! I helped with the food preparation and finishing setup for the floor. Pretty cool, right?”

Solara sighs with relief, “I should’ve figured...So, are you planning on staying tonight? I’m sure Sterling would like to have a friend around.”

Sturge shakes his head and gestures to the doorway. “Nah, I was actually just about to leave. It’s not really my type of thing to be at and I’m not really dressed for it anyways! Plus, you two deserve a little bit of a date night without interruptions.”

“You do have a point with that. But before you leave, can you help me find Sterling? He was supposed to wait at the front but he wasn’t there.”

“Sure thing! Anything for my pals!”

Side by side, Solara and Sturge began to search for Sterling. The people were dressed to impress with some outfits having additions or accessories that quite literally covered the heads of others. Luckily for them, they didn’t need to search high and low for the guy. Sterling was simply leaning against the bar inattentively listening to a few people chatting around him. He was nodding absentmindedly with his eyes closed and a glass of champagne in his hand.

Sturge nudged Solara encouragingly and joked, “Well, time to go rescue him! He needs a knight in shining armor right now.”

Solara chuckled and patted his back before gesturing for him to leave. “I will, I will. Thank you, Sturgey. Now go get some well deserved rest.”

Sturge quickly began to make his exit while Solara began to approach Sterling. She’d be sure to swoop him off his feet so they could skip off into the sunset. Or, well, it would be into a different part of the Gossamer Gala but the concept is still pretty much the same.