

Celeste I: Profit, People, and Pearls

[**WOOL-208**] - **WORD COUNT: 438**

+400 words - 4 shards
Prompt Entry - 4 shards
Monthly Prompt - 1 ethereal shard
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Total: 8 shards + 1 ethereal shard

Celeste packed up the remained of her booths wares. Her tail accidentally knocking into things here and there as she hurriedly removed the cloth and carefully packed things up.

"Swing by the inn, drop off the goods to the mermaid town, bring mermaid goods back into land locked town." she was tired and there were times she felt a bit sore from how much swimming she had been doing recently. Since her last adventure beneath the waves she had discovered the small town of Soullera. It was a small town, the southernmost one run by the merwools. She had approached the town with... less than honorable intentions but she had ended up having a good time and picked up some business acumen along the way.

It seemed for the majority of those naturally born as merwools had a healthy mix of fear and curiosity. More powerful merwools who felt like they had the ability to comfortably protect themselves often did so quite easily, but often missed their watery homes. The weaker merwools were fascinated by what rested just above their waterline but feared the different dangers going on land might bring. This made them particularly susceptible to purchasing "land-exclusive goods" like combs, trinkets, and charms for rather hefty prices. The same could be said for the land woolyne as well.

To those who weren't able to breathe underwater the kingdom of Lathul and, subsequently all its town and villages, were like treasured myths and stories told to kits to help them sleep at night. There was only a handful of recorded descriptions of the underwater kingdom so on the rare occasion goods from the merwool kingdom made it to shore their trinkets, charms, and daily goods also sold for absorbent prices.

"To be honest... maybe I should give up being a thief." Celeste thought to herself as the last charm slid into the bag. *"I mean sure it's steady and easy work but this... is much safe, legal, and profitable- for now at least. Maybe I should get into crafting or something."* she hefted the bag everything was stored over her shoulder with a quiet grunt.

As Celeste walked past another merchant's booth she noticed a crowd of woolyne gathering as they 'oohed and ahed. Normally she might have ignored it but it was hard to turn a blind eye to how many shards were being dropped and it appeared to be for gembond festival charms? *"Hmmm... I wonder if the merwools have anything they do special this season... and how much they might pay for something like these..."* she mused a small smile spreading across her face as she recalled several varieties of shellfish that would be soon waking up...