

August was now there, the awful heat the summer had brought was dying down, Aether who loved spending their time in the ocean in the summer was sad to see it go. Though he was happy to be able to go on walks again without feeling like their skin was going to melt off, this made it possible for him to pick up his little hobby again. Aether truly enjoyed long walks, dragging their long body was such a fun thing to him. They often greeted everyone along their walks, the wind gently brushing through their sparkly fur. Today was no other day. Aether walked along the flowers and grass, their hand grazing some of the flowers while they took in the sweet floral smell. The pavement was cool, making walking easier as the sun was longer making it scorching hot. The sky was cloudy, seeming ready to start raining. Aether looked up at it, wishing for it to rain as he loved the smell of fresh rain. They seemed to notice something in the corner of their eye, looking towards the right side he saw what seemed like a small piece of paper flying around due to the wind. As soon as he saw it coming towards him, they bent down and quickly snatched it. Once the paper was secured into their hands he turned it over, it seemed to be a flyer regarding a fun fair.

"You have been invited to join us at our Pop-Up summer fun fair. This event will only be one night so do not miss it." Aether read out loud. A fun fair? There has not been one since so long, Aether can barely even remember the time it last was available. He remembers it was a bit hard for him to get on rides due to his long body, would it even be any fun for him this time? They did not know whether they should attend it or not, on one hand they would love to try some fun new foods and rides, but on the other would he even be able to get on the rides due to his problematic body.

"It does sound like a lot of fun, perhaps I could possibly even make some new friends." Aether told himself. They were thinking a lot about it, so he decided to keep the flyer and go home. He had a week to decide if he would go or not, time was not ticking too fast so they could definitely think a lot about it. They laid there on their big bed, flyer in hand while his eye scanned the letters on it. Aether sighed, he decided to go to sleep and think about it tomorrow. They still had time so they did not need to stress themselves too much, he laid in bed until he finally fell asleep. His body immediately softened and melted into the soft bed. Aether was going to make a choice of whether he is gonna go to the fun fair or not.

Tuesday had arrived, 5 days until the fun fair and Aether still had no idea if he was gonna go or not.

"A new day and another day of no choice making. Maybe I could flip a coin to decide for me...Okay that is not very responsible, but hey I never am responsible so why the heck not." He picked up a coin, choosing heads as the choice to go and tail as not to go. Once they flipped the coin it landed quickly on heads.

"Well then it seems like I will be going!" Aether smiled like a goofball at the coin. They had 5 days left until the fun fair so he decided to spend his time like usual, taking nice long walks, socialising a lot with other people and asking them if they would be going, just doing anything to pass time. Aether was super ecstatic about the situation, he was looking forward to the fun it would bring him. "Hey Charon, will you be going to the fun fair?" Aether asked Charon.

"Not sure, not a big fan of big crowded places, too many people, too many noises, they bugger up my concentration." Charon replied to Aether who was sitting next to him on a field of flowers. Charon enjoyed having peaceful alone time in flower fields, of course sometimes other skires

join him which he does not mind much. He is friendly to good skiers after all, he only hunts the bad ones. Him and Aether have been good friends for a long while now. Aether has helped Charon during tough times and even has offered multiple times to take care of him and his house, but Charon has refused as he needs to be alone during those times. He has never lashed out on Aether though, he has always held himself back from lashing out on the ones close to him.

"Charon? Chaaaron?" Aether pulled Charok from his thoughts, noticing that he was a bit too deep into thinking.

"Sorry, what did you say?" Charon asked,

"I asked if you would feel more comfortable if I was around." Aether looked at him with their sweet smile,

"Hmmm, that could perhaps put me a bit more at ease. Since you really wanna go there, but not alone, I guess I could do you this favor and join you." Charon smiled at Aether, showing them a supportive look.

"GREAT! We will have so much fun, trust me!" Aether beamed at Charon's answer, his excitement now is even more evident. Aether was definitely way more excited than Charon, but Charon did not mind as he knew now he would not be alone at that place. His anxiety still crept upon him, making him uneasy about the whole situation, but making his friend happy was more important to him at the time. Aether was once again on his way home, beaming the whole time, he sat on his bed full of excitement. Only 4 more days were left for the fun fairs to start, 4 days until they were able to have the bestest fun they had in a very long time.

Aether woke up early in the morning, cooking themselves a nice breakfast of scrambled eggs and toast. He sat down on the couch in his living room, eating his breakfast in peace while browsing some books Charon had given him. They took a few bites of their breakfast, reading a book about the adventures of a goldfish. He found the book funny and enjoyed reading it every morning even though they usually hate reading. Today Aether decided to go shopping as he needed more food and other groceries. Once he finished breakfast they made their way to the shops that were not too far away from his home. They firstly went to get some eggs and vegetables before turning to get some meat from the local butcher there. Aether got a bunch of groceries and even some supplies to clean their house again. As soon as they got home they cleaned everything and cooked, taking the fun fair flyer into his hands to examine it once again. "I wonder how many rides there will be. Ouuu and which ones are the scariest! Gosh I am so excited, I bet Charon will love them too!" He told himself. While they finished eating dinner, they kept thinking about endless possibilities of different rides, games and foods that could be available. He was smiling like a goofball while walking over to his bed to lay down, there were only a few more days left. His excitement did become a problem though as they were not able to sleep at all that night. They tossed and turned but nothing worked, so they decided to sketch out their ideas of the fun fair games. They drew some fun roller coaster rides, a few carousels, some cool food stands and a few normal game stands, such as shooting the eyeballs to get some fun prizes or collecting some sea shells with a thin capturing prop to gather them from some water. At some point he actually fell asleep with his head buried in his sketchbook. Aether somehow managed to sleep a whole day so he woke up 1 day before the fun fair would be

opening. They were so confused when they went out to tell Charon his fun fair ideas, only for Charon to tell them that he was asleep for a whole day.

“Oh....so I was asleep for that long...again?” Aether looked at Charon,

“Yes, Aether, Yes you were. We really need to help you with your sleeping problems.” Charon shook his head in disbelief. After all that, they both sat in Charon’s home, looking at Aether’s sketches. Charon did not seem too fazed about the ideas, he does not care much about rollercoasters as they do not give him that adrenaline spike that it gives others. But since he wanted Aether to be happy he smiled and nodded at every idea the whole time.

The day had passed quickly, Aether and Chron were making their way to the fun fair with their flyers in hand, talking with each other during the walk or more like Aether was the one talking the whole time and Charon was listening. Aether’s excitement did not seem to fade away at all, instead it seemed to become more and more the closer they got. Something was odd though, there was not any music playing or any lights that were shining. The familiar smell of popcorn was not evident as it should have been, Charon looked at Aether.

“Hey Aether? Why does it seem like the fun fair is not working?” He asked him,

“What do you mean? Is it not?” Aether’s excitement seemed to vanish quickly, now worry was placed on his face,

“It does not seem like it. Perhaps we are too early?” Charon tried to stay optimistic, but he knew something was up. They both saw other Skires waiting at the front of the fun fair, seeming to be talking to each other and some even leaving. They both approached them slowly, Aether was the first to talk,

“Excuse me, is the fun fair not open?”.

“It seems like some rides have not been fully finished yet, which caused the fun fair to not be able to open up today.” A random Skire citizen answered him. Aether was so sad to hear this, he had waited this whole week just to have some fun. Charon saw the disappointment in Aether’s eye and body language, he knew he had to do something now.

“Hey Aether, what if we helped the people who are building the rides? You have a good knowledge about building stuff, you could tell me where to bring stuff as I am strong enough.” Charon asked Aether kindly,

“That...actually does not sound like a bad idea at all, that could perhaps help a lot! Yes we should do it!” Aether was once again very happy. He was looking forward to helping and even being able to talk to the people there that were building this awesome fun fair. Charon smiled at seeing Aether happy, this felt like a great memory that will stay with him for a long time. Aether and Charon walked around the closed fun fair, trying to find someone who they could talk to about wanting to help. It took them at least an hour before finding someone, which Charon took as a chance to immediately start asking questions. They were both then told they would be informed by mail when they could come to help and even had Aether show the person their sketchbook full of ideas. The person kindly asked if they could borrow it and show it to their boss who was the maker of the fun fair. Aether happily gave it to them and told them that he would pick it up once coming back to help out.