

Sienna, of course, wasn't the type to be roped into going to a carnival - at least, not without Lavender tugging at her arm to get her to go.

Lavender wasn't able to go, however, due to being sick. She'd asked Sienna to go to the carnival for her, so she could experience all of the rides, treats, and joys vicariously through what Sienna would recount to her when she was done with the day.

Sienna was trying her absolute hardest to have fun in the way Lavender would for this exact reason, but... it was hard.

Lavender would, of course, run to all of the rides and try them all until she got sick. Sienna wasn't fond of making herself ill - she promptly skipped all of the roller coasters, just wondering how they were built safely to run even during the rain.

She ran past the bumper cars as well. These were built so that slipping and sliding around was all part of the fun - young Aqualoxes all giggled and yelled in joy as they slid around the course, bumping into each other and causing large chain reactions of spinning and flying around. Just the thought made Sienna feel nauseous.

The teacups sounded like they would be a nice, calming event, but Sienna only realized far too late that they weren't - she had already begun to spin out of control right as the ride began - and despite her shouting, the ride operator just shook his head solemnly and pointed towards the sign - the ride doesn't stop for anyone. She had to sit through the entire ordeal.

She tried her best to regain her bearings as she stepped off of the ride, too dizzy to tell her right from her left. Perhaps that was enough excitement on the rides for one day... Lavender would disagree, but she would have to just cope with

Sienna's lower stamina for now. She wobbled her way over to a bench, sat down, and closed her eyes for a moment as she tried to regain her balance.

As she was keeping her eyes closed and relaxing out in the rain, she smelled something faintly on the breeze - that's strange. Usually, rain would wash any kind of scent away. It smelled delicious, though. Salty...

She slowly opened her eyes and stretched as she got up, trying to find the source of that tasty smell - she didn't have to search far before seeing the pretzel stand.

This spot was far quieter than the rides. This made Sienna glad - she probably would have just slunk away if she saw that the stand had any kind of noisy crowd around it. Instead, just a few Aqualoxes were in a calm, orderly line, and the shopkeep smiled whenever they handed a pretzel over.

She quickly slipped over to the back of the line, waiting patiently for her own turn.

"Welcome!" The stand owner cheered as she approached. "The menu is over there—let me know if you have any questions!"

"Oh— no, thanks, I'd just like a cheese pretzel," Sienna said, smiling shyly as she placed the correct amount of opals on the counter. "I— already took a look while I was waiting in line."

The owner just beamed as they got the pretzel. Gentle wafts of steam came up from it as they brought it out of the small oven, and into the rainy outdoors. "No worries! It's good to know what you like and want. Enjoy!"

Sienna gave a muffled 'thank you' - she had already taken a bite out of the soft pretzel. It was a bit too hot, which made her eyes water, but she did her best to

quickly chew and swallow. The cheese was all melted inside of the pretzel, some of it now slowly pouring out of the small space she'd taken a bite out of.

She wiped her face with her other paw, as she waited a second for it to cool down. It didn't take long - the rain kept things quite cold. Perhaps that was why the pretzels were made so hot - they're meant to be enjoyed warm.

It was definitely a far more enjoyable snack when she wasn't burning the roof of her mouth out of politeness. Before she knew it, the whole thing was gone, and she almost regretted not buying a second.

But then, she smiled - that just meant that next year, when Lavender was feeling better, she could go and show Lavender the stand! Yes, that was a great idea - perhaps she really did find a proper fair experience to share with her friend, after all.