

He never thought that being this alone would cause him so much sadness. It almost felt silly to him to feel this way. Chaos, after all, was a generally reclusive CCCat who didn't enjoy a whole lot of social interaction, or so he thought. He's always told himself that he hated people and that the only solace that he had often felt was when he was completely alone in nature. He had known of the social gatherings in the main city, but chose to never go to them. Not because he was afraid, but because he knew that it wouldn't be any fun for him. He'd much rather be on his own and in the comfort of his home while he read books, listened to his music, and wrote his studies within a large Grimoire that he had begun to compile towards the beginning of last winter. Already, he had hundreds of logs carefully written down and categorized just how he liked them. As he sat outside with yet another novel, he noticed that there had been something interesting about today. It wasn't at all quiet and he could hear someone talking to what sounded like someone else. He could only assume the other Skirean was talking to someone, but as the stranger approached, he could see that they weren't with anyone at all and babbling about being lost.

Chaos cocked his head to one side and slowly closed his book, getting ready to stand up to leave, almost immediately uncomfortable with the other CCCat. But as he stood, it immediately brought attention to himself and he sunk back down onto the blanket. "Oh, thank heavens..." Exclaimed the black and green creature. "Hi, I'm a tad lost... Could you please point me in the correct direction? I'm trying to get back to the main city 'round these parts." The CCCat had a gentle and yet southern accent, which really caught Chaos off guard, since his was more or less a typical accent, just with a deeper, softer tone of voice. "Uhh... Well," He moved to sit back up and thought about the question for a moment. As he looked up, he could see leaves, branches, and other natural debris poking out of the smaller CCCat's fur. "Maybe I can just walk with you..? I need a few things from the stores there anyways. I haven't had anything planned today besides reading." Chaos finally stood, being an easy foot or so taller than the other. Deathtrap had to adjust his line of sight and looked up before offering a paw, "Name's Deathtrap. Most people just call me Death..." Chaos couldn't help but to crack a sincere smile, "That's quite an interesting and approachable name for you to have. My name's Chaos." He took his hand and gently shook it, "Yours is clearly no better." He threw back with a chuckle, and Chaos could feel his face flush out of embarrassment.

Traveling with Death wasn't as bad as he had assumed, thinking that the CCCat would drive him absolutely insane with chatter, but it had actually become quite pleasant and he found himself enjoying the other's company. He really didn't want to stop talking to him, and so he did something rather selfish and horrible. He extended their walk towards the town by taking them on 'short-cuts' or detours some would call them... He knew that later he would feel terrible for it, but the more he would hang out with Death, the more he just wanted to get to know him. It turned out that Death, too, had a rocky upbringing in the ways of being a wormling. He began to tell Chaos this story about how he had simply slipped off of a boulder splitting through the river. He said that it would be covered in a slimy film of algae and because of the fact that he didn't have hands or anything to grip, he simply fell into the cold depths of the rushing water. He said that he nearly drowned if it weren't for the fact that a bear pawed him out of the water, thinking that he was probably some kind of a radioactive fish with how brightly colored he was. Despite

the life and death situation that he had experienced, the last part had Chaos laughing softly. "Well it seems to me that you owe your very life to that bear..." Deathtrap laughed nervously, "Heh... Yeah, about that. I needed a host..." Chaos put a hand up to stop him, "Say no more."

As they approached the treeline, Death looked over at Chaos, who seemed to be rather bummed about their arrival. He wanted to keep chatting with him. "Hey, would you like to be friends? I don't know anyone here... Unless you wanna count the hivemind." He joked, and Chaos' ears perked up. "Sure, I don't have any friends either. At least up until now." He admitted shyly. The two then walked into the town together and continued to hang out with one another. "What are some of the things that you like so far about Skire?" Death asked him, and Chaos seemed perplexed on the question. "That's a rather tough question for me to answer. I guess I enjoy nature, books, and coffee..." He said, moving to scratch his chin in thought. "I see. It sounds to me like you enjoy staying at home a lot huh? I can understand that for sure. I'm more or less on the same wavelength as you, though I do enjoy learning about different crystals and weather patterns." Death said, looking ahead and noticing how the other Skireans were interacting with one another or doing things. "How long have you been on Skire as a CCCat?" He asked, glancing back over at Chaos again. Yet another difficult question for him to answer. "I can't really remember. I do believe it's been about twenty-seven years since I've moved into this host." He said calmly as he thought the answer over in his head. "I-I'm not sure..." He mumbled and Death simply nodded in understanding. "I can understand how you feel. I don't really remember either, but it had to have been super recent... I mean, I don't even know where I am half the time." Death admitted with a chuckle. He noticed the concern in Chaos' expression, as if the thought dwelled on his consciousness, which it did. How long has it been..? How long has he been alone on Skire? Sure, he's interacted with others and has done other things, he wasn't entirely a hermit... But how long has it been since he's done this? Had friends to talk with and enjoy their company?

Death snapped him out of it though by gently patting his shoulder. "Maybe we should go get some coffee? Since you've stated that's something you enjoy?" He offered, "I'll even pay." Death had Chaos at the first mention of coffee. He was fully focused on the now again. "You know what? That sounds like a good idea." He began to lead Death towards what seemed to be a hole in the wall restaurant. It was a tiny little cafe on the edge of the town. A rather cute one, Death thought. "This place is adorable! Oh my gosh... Can we sit outside?" He asked, smiling up at him, his two little fangs poking out of his mouth like they normally did. Chaos nodded, "Yeah, but first we need the coffee and some donuts. I'll pay for those if you get the coffee?" Death nodded, "Sure, but I'm more of a muffin kinda guy. I'll just take one blueberry muffin, if that's okay with you?" Chaos smiled, "Of course it is. I might just get the same thing. That sounds like it'd be delicious with hot joe." He admitted as they both walked inside. Death looked around in amusement, easily amazed by just the simplest of things. "This place is awesome!!" He exclaimed, startling one of the humans sitting down and trying to enjoy his breakfast and

coffee. Death immediately shied and said, "Sorry..." Once he was looked at by almost all of the people inside sitting down at the diner. Though he obviously couldn't contain his excitement. This was so cool, and he loved how CCCats could just do this without drawing any kind of attention or anything. Part of him then realized at that thought, that he was much older than he had previously guessed. He actually remembered when humans weren't always okay with CCCats, but he shook the negativity off and began to order two large black coffees for the two of them, with plenty of cream and sugar on the side. Chaos was next, and ordered two blueberry muffins to be placed in a bag since they wanted to go outside and hang out.

As they sat outside with their fresh orders, Chaos handed him his muffin first and then traded the coffee. "Man... I love it here already. This town is super nice!" Death said, clearly just happy to be there and with a friend no doubt. "Yeah, I like it here too, but sometimes the busting of the city can be overbearing... Ya'know? Loud." Chaos admitted as he took a few sugar cubes and put them into his cup. He gently stirred the coffee with a spoon and looked up to see Death simply stuffing his face with the giant blueberry muffin that had just been sitting there prior. "You must've been hungry. You sure one's enough to hold you over?" Chaos asked with a soft smile. Death looked up and smiled with crumbs and little specks of blueberry on his fangs and teeth. "Yesh, I do believe sho." He said with a mouth full of food. Chaos flinched as a crumb smacked him on the face and he wiped it away, chuckling, "Only if you're sure. I don't mind buying you another one. It looks to me like maybe you haven't eaten anything that good in awhile." Death then thought briefly before nodding vigorously. "Chorrect." He mumbled.

As the two continued to chat and enjoy their coffee and food, Chaos remembered that he needed to go and get some alchemy supplies from the local apothecary. "I have to go and get some extra bottles for my experiments back at my home..." He said as he thought about how many he would need. Death then remembered that he didn't exactly have a place to stay, now that he thought about it. "Hey, Chaos?" He asked shyly. "I just remembered that I don't exactly have a place to stay. Would it be possible if I could stay with you for a little while until then? I'd be happy to do some work to help out." Chaos nodded, "Sure. You don't have to do anything though. I don't mind helping out a friend." Death looked visibly relieved whenever Chaos said yes. "Thank you. I'd rather not sleep in a cold cave again. The last time I did, I got bat poo all over my fur." Death chuckled and Chaos did so too. It would be nice to not be alone at home, he thought. Maybe things were starting to look up. Having gotten up from their chairs, they began to head towards the apothecary where Chaos said that he needed to be in order to get those bottles and supplies that he needed. Turns out that they were discounted too. What a good day this was. The two gathered what they needed and headed back to Chaos' place, where they would continue to chat and become best friends, the start of a never ending journey together as Skireans. Over time, Deathtrap would be the first to realize a spark of love interest in the other, and while Chaos was slow to catch on, he would too. Their bond would make them inseparable. It would make it difficult for either to be alone for long periods of time without the other. This sparked true love.