

Having gotten changed out of her costume and neatly folding it up before putting it away until it will most likely be brought back out next year. Depending if she decides to dress as a vampire again or try something new. She hoped though that she could maybe convince Vladimir to join her on trick or treating next year. It will have to be seen how things will develop in the coming months til then but so far things were going really well, more than expected, given everything.

Running her fingers through her mane of hair, she headed out of her room and back downstairs. Grabbing her pail of candy off of the stand, she opened and closed the front door behind her and locked it back up. She weaved her way through the bustling streets of the city as it was filled with trick or treaters. The sky now darkened as the last rays of light from the sun began to dip out of view to light up the other side of the planet.

After a few minutes, she was able to exit her way out of the city and began her long walk back to the castle. She knew Vladimir would still be up around this hour, having quickly come to learn of it being his preferred time of day. Oftentimes finding him roaming around the castle or occupying one of the many rooms during the times she wasn't able to fall asleep.

She let her thoughts wander to keep herself entertained but not enough to not pay attention to her surroundings. Needing to be careful under the cover of darkness for any danger. However, only the sounds of chirping crickets, cicadas and the occasional hooting owl filled the air in a symphony. Fireflies lighting up the environment in specks of yellow before fading and then repeating the process.

After a few hours of walking, she saw the all too familiar dark shape of the castle in the distance. A large, dark and foreboding shape against the surrounding darkness. Specks of warm orange and yellow from candles lit up from a few of the windows in an haunting, eerie glow. A sign that it is inhabited.

Continuing along the path she has taken many times before to reach the castle, she eventually found herself at the looming twin doors. Slowly pushing them open and stepping inside, they slowly closed on their own behind her with a resounding clang that echoed through the entrance room hall. She proceeded down the hall, flames crackling from mounted torches on stone wall beams and her feet lightly thumping on the red carpet underfoot with each step.

She stopped when she neared the foot of the stairs that led up to a set of smaller double doors. The staircase leading up to it branching into left and right up to balconies overlooking the entrance chamber with their own doors that led to other parts and rooms of the castle. Standing at the top of the first staircase leading to the double doors that led deeper into the castle, was Vladimir.

He looked down at Eleanor with his usual blank expression but the corner of his mouth upturned in a small smile, his expression slightly softening as a result. His wings were wrapped around him like a cape.

"You've returned." he stated.

"That I have and I come bearing spoils." she replied with a chuckle before walking up the stairs.

"Oh, do you now?" he played along, eyes following her as she reached his side and the both of them headed through the double doors as he opened them.

"Yes, quite the now." she quipped.

Vladimir let out a chuckle, his mandibles individually moving slightly afterwards. The two of them traveled through the halls of the castle until they reached the kitchen. He took a seat opposite from her and she set the pail down before dumping its contents out onto the table. He looked at the candy as his mandibles once more individually moved slightly.

"Well? The candy isn't going to pick itself. I didn't get them just for me." she said with a chuckle.

He blinked from this as he looked between her and the candy. After a few seconds, he decided on some of the reese cups and gummies, not wanting to help himself to too much.

"Ooooh come on you can have more than that." she said, laughing.

Vladimir looked at her for a few seconds before speaking, "Keep egging me and I'll have more than just candy." he said but it was in jest.

"Careful, I'll give you brain freeze." she played along, grinning.

He scoffed before smirking, "Oh, I'm sure I can handle it." he replied.

The two of them laughed afterwards before Vladimir picked out a few other candies.