

=Addy, it's been a few days since the guards showed up and that scout kid? He's just super elusive, and, by elusive, I mean, he's always so worn out that he's asleep before you have a chance to corner him. =

Addy: (This is the worst state for someone to be. You can't talk to them and it lasts HOURS. She goes to bed late and wakes up early, and it doesn't seem to slow her down too much, but she really has no choice but to let this tired guard recuperate from whatever this thing is that soldiers do. At least, for those days.)

=Finally, one day, while you are checking up on the oven in the kitchen to make sure it's working as well as it possibly can (there's always room for improvement, right?) an unfamiliar person walks in. He's not very tall, is wearing some weird version of the army's uniform that looks like it's got to be fifty years old at least, and is dragging his feet. He's got pointy ears, black hair, and a fluffy black tail that is dragging on the floor at the moment.=

Addy: (She's currently removing some gunk from deep beneath one of the burners when the person walks in, and so she turns to him with two soot-covered industrial gloves.) "Oh! Hello! You're Hanish, right? What brought you here outside of meal time?"

Hanish: *his ears flick forward, huh* Yeah, I mean- Getting food, I guess??

Addy: "Well, you've got everything but the kitchen stove for that! Sera's not around right now, but if you're feeling better after... whatever Oliver had you do, I suppose, you should be able to grab something yourself!"

Hanish: Yeah... So- You do mechanical stuff, right? *he's pulled a thing of salami down from a shelf and takes a knife to cut some slices off of it*

Addy: "That's exactly what I do! I keep the less human elements of the base in good working order, so the more human elements of the base can sit back and relax! Or get work done, I suppose."

Hanish:how'd you learn how to do that?

Addy: "Through an apprenticeship, of course! It was quite a few years ago, back when I lived near the capital."

Hanish:and, they let you do that? Just... learn how to fix things?'

Addy: (She cleans out the last of it and puts the gloves in an otherwise-empty bag, dusting off her hands.) "Well, it's not like it was some kind of truly academic university course. And it was pretty expensive!"

Addy: "But yes, they did!"

Hanish: Where did you grow up?? *he starts nibbling on the meat*

Addy: (She sits down at the table.) "Well, that's a bit of a long story! I'm sure I'll tell you sometime, though. You, though! I actually don't know anything about you yet, Hanish."

Hanish: Yeah, and, I hardly know anything about you. B< *he squints at her a bit, so, I mean??*

Addy: "Well, since I told you about my apprenticeship, you should tell me about how you ended up as a guard at this base!"

Hanish: Ruthie pulled some strings and got me in... Got me the uniform, too.

Addy: "Ooh, string-pulling. Always nice when it works out like that! Who's Ruthie?"

Hanish: My big sister.

Addy: "Oh, that's really nice! And that's why you've had so much training. Well, I'm glad you made it here!"

Addy: "Since you weren't here for our team-building exercise a few days ago, I can and will tell you that I've handled twenty pounds of gold, I've travelled across half of the continent, and I've spent six hours talking to the same person in the same place."

Addy: "But here's another bonus: I haven't blown up a furnace, which I actually told them during the team-building exercise, but I have set a stove on fire before!"

Addy: "That was very early in my career, though! I'm sure I'm not the only apprentice who's managed something like that!"

Hanish: *he considers all of this* Alright, but, where did you grow up??

Addy: "Well, if you mean early on in life, then the answer to that one would be Tamse!"

Hanish: Hmm... so, you're from outside of the city...

Addy: "I sure am, at least in theory! How about you?"

Hanish:*he considers how much he should say*Just, you know, Navroya...

Addy: "Ahh. Yeah, it can be pretty rough getting by there, which is something else that I learned living near our capital. But I'd say things are pretty nice here, if you discount all the ice here!"

Hanish: It's alright out here... It's quieter.

Addy: "Oh, I don't know about that. I do my best to make sure that it's not too quiet. And electricity makes noise on its own, too!"

Hanish: Yeah, no, it's quieter than where I'm from. B<

Addy: "Well, it would be louder in the capital! It's hard to beat it for that."

Hanish: Mm... *he nods* I haven't gotten a good chance to look around the base...

Addy: "It's quite nice! It's very compact. We've all got to stick together, here, that's for sure!"
(She smiles.)

Hanish:People seem ok from what I've seen.'

Addy: "I agree! Ana is my roommate. She's been very good -- at first I was nervous, but it turned out that you don't need to be around here!"

Hanish: ...haven't met many people around here yet. Good to know that they're alright.

Addy: "Just Oliver and Cinnabar, right? What do you think of them?"

Hanish:Oliver is really intense and a little scary. 'B<but, he's good at what he does.
...Cinnabar's ok. ...Like- he can be really dumb and weird, but, he's nice, and, I mean, he knows what he's doing usually.

Addy: "Come on, now. I don't think he's that dumb and weird. He seems pretty insightful and above-board to me!"

Hanish:no, he's pretty dumb and weird. You're just saying that 'cause you haven't slept with him.

Addy: "Oh, so you have? So noted! Although... do you mean in the same bunk, a different bunk, or... no bunk at all?"

Hanish:*squints at her, uh, I don't know what she means*Yeah, sure.

Addy: (I'm not going to elaborate.) "Well, regardless, I can accept that you are the expert on Clnnabar here! At the same time, I feel better having him around. And you and Oliver, too!"

Hanish: Well, yeah, I mean-*he nods his head and sticks the rest of the slice of meat into his mouth*

Addy: "So your sister, Ruthie, does she live in Navroya? What's she like?"

Hanish: She's really tough and smart. B< *nods!!* She's the person everyone comes to for help, 'cause she's good at solving problems. And, yeah, she does.

Addy: "And what does she do, for work? It sounds like she must be someone everyone comes to, from what you told me earlier!"

Hanish: Uhh... she's a seamstress.... she did a lot of local work...

Addy: "It sounds like it's a shame I never met her when I was in Navroya, then! But I guess I've asked enough about you. Do you want to know anything about me?"

Hanish: Yeah. Why'd you want to come up here?

Addy: "Well! It's steady work, you get benefits out of it, and you're in close proximity with a bunch of other people you have to get to know. Aren't those reasons enough?"

Hanish: *squints at her* I guess, if that's what you like.

Addy: "Well, what do YOU like, Hanish?"

Hanish: *he shrugs* I sorta take what I can get. Don't have a real preference. Just, I can get by with almost anything.

Addy: "That sounds about right. Like I said, though, this hardly seems like the worst place to end up!"

Hanish: It's better than where I'm from, so, I mean, you know, that's pretty ok.

Hanish:your home was alright? It was a good place to come from?

Addy: "I suppose that depends on what home you mean! I was travelling a lot when I was younger, and I don't remember much of it, but it can't have been much better than coming up here and making some wonderful friends!"

Hanish: So, I mean, you mostly traveled around and learned and explored when you were young?

Addy: "I wouldn't say 'learned' or 'explored'. There was a lot of following my parents around!"

Hanish: Did you learn stuff while you were doing that? B<

Addy: "Nothing useful, if you ask me! Is it common to learn useful things in your childhood? What about you?"

Hanish: Uhhhhh, I mean, my numbers and letters??

Hanish:how to sweep??

Addy: "I learned only two of those three things! You've got a leg up on me, Hanish."

Hanish: *he gives her a look as if to say, hey. Don't patronize me.* Yeah. Ok.

Addy: (She gives an unwaveringly earnest smile. She really wasn't patronizing Hanish, here!)

Hanish: *Oh, he utterly believes she is.*

Addy: (This has never happened before. Actually it probably has.) "No, the most useful things I learned were all during my time in Navroya, once I was away from my parents and all of that

travelling stuff! I might want to travel again one day, but that would be for something completely different."

Addy: "And it's hard to imagine doing that with things as stable as they are for me now!"

Hanish: I guess.Things can change pretty easily, though.

Addy: "Yep. And that's why I'm here!"

Hanish:you're pretty weird.

Addy: (She folds her fingers in front of her on the table.) "I can't say that I get told that a lot!" (But people might be thinking it.) "What makes you say that?"

Hanish: You're telling me you didn't learn a lot from traveling around, but, how could you not??
B< You're also really nosy.

Addy: "Ah!" (She puts a curled-up hand to her chest.) "Me, nosy? That's... well, that's certainly a statement! But you asked about me, too, so in the end, isn't everyone a little nosy sometimes?"

Hanish: Well, yeah, I need to ask questions, or I'll end up getting caught unaware.

Addy: "Byyyy what?"

Hanish: Anything, really. I'm not big into surprises.

Addy: "Ooh, good thing you weren't here for orientation, then..."

Hanish:That's a really scary thing to say.

Addy: "Well, we had to participate in... semi-mandatory team building activities."

Hanish: Well- I mean- I can /do/ that, I just don't find it fun.

Addy: "Well, what's unfun about it?"

Hanish: It just isn't fun for me. Everyone here seems pretty different from me. B<

Addy: "I don't think that's a bad thing! If we were all very similar, well... I guess that'd depend on who we were similar to. But the point is that we're not, and that's something that can be fun! ...As long as it's more about who we are, and not how much fur we have, at any rate."

Hanish: Mmm.... *he shrugs and gives her a nod, not too convinced by this.* I'm not so bothered by fur or whatever, it's just--

Addy: "Sure, but some people are, right?"

Hanish: ..Some people, yeah.

Addy: "Well, no one here seems to mind that so far! Which I'm very, very grateful for. And once that difference is out of the way, our other differences shouldn't be a bother, right? If you were a mechanic just like me, and not a guard, we'd be that much less safe!" [And I wouldn't be able to probe you for war stories or cool experiences later...]

Hanish:Yeah. *he looks to the side* But, I mean, even if I was a mechanic, that wouldn't be too bad, right?

Addy: "The base would definitely be larger if that were the case! I can't say I think that would be too bad... as long as we had more people to make up for it!"

Hanish:ok, this has been a conversation, but, I need to go now to do stuff, goodbye.
GETS TO HIS FEET, STILL HOLDING THE SALAMI.

Addy: (She stands up, too.) "Hey, wait! Were you implying that you are a mechanic? Or that you know a thing or two about mechanics? Because I might be able to use your help--"

Hanish: *he sighs and turns around, scowling* Listen. I can do a few things. It was kinda part of my job before I came up here.

Addy: "Oh, okay! That's really neat! I'll keep that in mind, since there miiiight be a time where I need an extra pair of hands, and that'd make yours the most qualified!" (She looks like she's going to let him escape now.)

Hanish: It's mostly just machine stuff, though. I: < ' *he hesitates there for a moment, looking a bit torn between two thoughts*

Addy: "There are machines around the base!"

Hanish: Yeah, but, not like the ones I've worked on.Ok, that was dumb to say, I'm gunna go.
ugh, he rubs at his nose, turns on his heel, and tries making that escape.

Addy: (She twitches, just slightly, just for a moment, as part of her demands to inquire about that one, too. But for once, she decides against it. After all, he can't go far.) "Alrighty! See you around!" (She heads back into the kitchen to finish fixing the stove!)

Hanish: *he escapes, okok, yup, that was embarrassing, time to not show up to meals for the next three days in order to hide*