

Summertime was here and it seemed every bud in existence was buzzing with excitement; some were fairing in bathing suits and going to lakes or beaches for a cool dip, others getting into the hot girl summer vibes with tans if it was even possible, yet where was Razeriphel? Within her study, face deep in books and ignoring the tapping against her door. She wasn't a summer child and with her body unable to handle the sun, she just had no interest in joining other buds in their little activities which she knows is sad, but didn't care.

"Raz please!" Razeriphel's face feathers flattened in annoyance as she heard the minyata outside her room begging her at this point to leave her room. "Just 1 hour, it's really nice outside!" She stifled a soft grunt of annoyance as she marked her page and placed her book down, the eyes hovering around her casting rueful glances at the book as she moved from her desk towards the well worn door and cracked it open just a peek. A small sweet smelling Minyata was sitting there with a pout; it's silly dumb face peering at her with a small fanged grin, it's body was covered in slightly curly ribbons, soft flowers and hard crystals growing from it's body which to Razer, she thought it was weird. But she couldn't question much when the tiny thing grabbed onto her hand and started tugging, soft happy squeaks coming from it as it was clearly happy and wanting to go outside with her but Razeriphel cringed at the idea. 'Why must you forsake me.' She thought with a mixture of annoyance and affection for her little friend.

She was only outside for a few seconds and the sun was already proving to be difficult, the rays beaming down on her and somehow burning her skin through her fur? It was not it and she was not going to be sitting out in the heat just for the fun of it. Razer turned back and was ready to retire back to her room but a sad squeaking caught her attention, her floating eyes looking back to see her minyata friend staring at her sadly, it's eyes losing their shine as the minyata curled up on the ground with soft sniffles. "Oh...stop that," Razeriphel brayed softly, her feathers drooping as she tried to ignore the puppy eyes being casted her way, only to give in with a sigh. Her halo spinning rapidly as she thought of a way to keep out of the sun before it clicked, she can just summon a cloud, just blot the sun out fully. And with a flick of her wrist she did just that, a gold cloud swirled above her and casted a shadow that allowed her body to cool down before she sulked over to the minyata who had a cheeky grin, it irked her nerve but she didn't mind it as she trailed after the minyata silently, listening to it squeak and chirp in communication.

Razeriphel couldn't deny how nice it was to leave home, the cool breeze carrying the salty scent of the ocean was a welcoming change from the permanent smell of dusty books and pearl candles that stayed in her room. But she felt very out of place, dressed down in a swim top and some swim trunks. It felt weird being near water as she hated her hooves being wet but maybe it was her just malding over the concept of swimming.

"Fancy seein you around others~" A squeal of surprise came from the poor bud as she stumbled back and fell promptly on her butt, looking up with her floating eyes to see that annoying grin, a scowl painted her face as she saw him grinning from ear to ear, of course Cotton would be at the beach but where did he come from? It's not like he's quiet. "Hello to you too...Cotton." Razeriphel's voice was a bit strained as she tried to be polite but it fell flat as he started tampering with the cloud above her, gently, she smacked his hand away. And he reached it right

back over with wide curious eyes? She cleared her throat and stood up, only to look around in dismay as the minyata was already gone, leaving her alone with him. She gave an exasperated stare as he was still tampering with the cloud above her head which made her grumble and turn to leave. "H-Hey, wait up! You aren't goin home already are ya?" She glanced up at Cotton as he stood in front of her, his gaze of confusion made her shake her head and mutter how she isn't a social person, she didn't want to come out in the first place. Cottonwood seemed thoughtful as he crossed his arms and tilted his head, while he loved to poke and annoy, it was slightly clear that she wasn't the biggest outsider, an idea popped into his head as he had a small grin. "Ok well...how about we just go for a walk? Y'know, find some seashells to decorate your room? Whatever people do when they go to the beach.."

Cotton was trying to be nice in some sense, and Razer was more inclined to say no but he seemed awfully genuine in his words of just a walk, so it wouldn't hurt to join him right? "Fine but...no tricks, i'm not a bubbly person." The eyes hovering around her rolled as Cotton gave her cheesy finger guns and gestured for her to lead the way, the sun was still high in the sky so they had plenty of time to maybe build a friendship. A few minutes into the walk and it was already awkward, Razer didn't know how to start a conversation and barely knew anything about Cottonwood. Maybe she could just keep the silence? She was internally begging for him not to say anything. "So, who's the minyata that you walked with?" Razer's eyes looked over to Cotton who was eyeing the sea with a content grin, his mismatched eyes looked over to her and her eyes quickly looked away as she gathered her thoughts.

"That's Koi, he's a friend I found and just kinda took in." Razer spoke softly as she thought back on the day she actually found the little minyata, it fell on her head and she didn't have the heart to leave it out in the rain, so she adopted it as some sort of companion and she's lived with it since. For the first time in forever, she actually started making idle conversation, bringing up small and mundane topics and even exchanging a few horrible jokes before falling silent, her eyes hovering a bit closer to Cotton as if actually taking in his looks. "So...what's in the box?" Cotton had a slight brain empty expression as he looked at Razer before realizing she may be talking about the box he gave her in turn for getting his missing spore, but she didn't open it?

"Well, why don't you open it? It's nothing alive I promise."

"Hm...don't wanna, i like it closed."

Cotton gave her a 'really?' stare and her eyes looked at him, returning his stare as they walked along the hot sands, Razer didn't want to open it because it was actually the first gift she was ever given throughout her life, why would she open it? She was about to speak but stiffened as she felt something hard under her hoof, she took a step back and felt around with her hands before grabbing onto a chain? After a bit of tugging, she felt something smooth with a bit of ridges. "Oh nice!! That's a...hm, actually i don't know what that is." Cotton's voice only added to her confusion as she felt the item in her hand, her eyes locking onto it and it looked weird. It was a weird castle thing made purely out of some metal that looked like it was melted horribly, with flecks of sand stuck inside divots of the metal. Whoever made it did a really poor job in Razer's

standards but it wasn't her item, so she shoved it back into the sand and brushed her hands clean and even accepted Cotton's hand up to her feet. The silence returned and Razer was in her own little world, but the cloud above her head started wisping away, the feeling of the sun burning her back made her stiffen as she noticed her magic despite being there, was not as strong as she assumed. Cotton's gaze on her just made it worse as it was slightly embarrassing to be watched, especially when her skin was burning and her fur was going flat, making her look similar to an owl that got splashed with water. She flinched as she felt Cotton's hand grab onto her's and drag her to some nearby food shop where the sudden smell of spices and sweets blasted her face, the light and cheery music was blasting as her eyes started to freak out. Too many things overloading her senses at once, Cotton was just dragging her through the crowd before he managed to bring her to a semi quiet booth, it was shaded so it was perfect for Razer.

"Well i didn't expect you to burn up so quickly, thought you were gonna roast before i could even bring you here." Razer grumbled as she let her head rest on the cold table, listening to Cotton's words but not really hearing them as she felt the parasite on her head digging into her skull just a bit, yeah she was never going out into the sun again. Her eyes looked around before landing on the bright blue drinks that were placed on the table by some server who left almost as quick as they arrived, and it seems Cotton was gone too, somehow on the other side of the food shop chatting it up with his probable friends. Razer gave a small somber sigh as she grabbed the drink and enjoyed it by herself, it's really not like they were friends but his company though not eagerly missed, was enjoyable in some way. But the sadness didn't last long and the drink was gone in a few gulps, well Cotton was distracted so maybe she could take this chance to just...leave. She stood up and slunk out of the back doors after leaving the pay and tip on the table, the sun was covered by clouds so she was able to sulk on the beach without burning alive.

She thought she'd miss the silence but it just felt hollow, the sounds of buds swimming and crying out happily made her feel even more alone, even minyatas were dancing around in the sand and chittering happily. Should she have left? Probably not but it was too late to go back now, but just like that, a hand touched her shoulder and she once again cried out in shock and this time grabbed the monitor of whoever grabbed her only to feel the frumpy hair of Cotton. "Would you please stop that!! How many times do I have to warn you!?" Razer hissed her words not with hate but genuine concern and annoyance, she's not exactly capable of hurting someone but she didn't want to hurt him. "D'aw im sorry, i just wanted to find where you went and to..give you this." Razer's head tilted as she felt an item against her hand, it was smooth and slightly warm...her eyes hovered around it and oh, it was lovely. A glass seashell on a necklace, and Cotton had a matching charm looped into his hair.

"Just wanted to say thanks for dealing with my antics, I don't usually joke with others besides my pals but you're...cool." Cotton had a small smile, not the big ones when he was being annoying but a small genuine smile, one that oddly tugged at Razer's heart. Maybe this summer wasn't so bad with him, and she had a small almost imperceptible smile as she nodded. "Yeah, your cool too...but approach me without a word again and i'm going to throttle you."