

The evening had just begun as Kino laid on his bed reading his favorite manga. He had peculiar tastes in manga and liked just about any series that featured some sort of animal anthropomorphized as a cute girl. The current title he was reading, 'Tails from the After School Fox Club' had him truly captivated. That captivation; however, would suddenly be broken by the shrill cries of his mother.

"Kino! I need you to go to the store for tonight's dinner for me!"

Kino let out a heavy sigh; however, he knew that he couldn't just abandon the wishes of his mother. She had been in a car accident last week and while it was nothing major, she still had a banged-up leg that made it difficult for her stand. While it healed, he needed to run the errands while his father was out of town on business.

"Hai, hai," shouted Kino.

He bookmarked his page and swung his legs over the side of his bed. When he stood, it appeared as if Kino stood around 5'7" tall. He let out a yawn as he ran his fingers through his light brown hair to the back of his head where he scratched an itch. His amber-colored eyes watered just a smidge from the yawn he let out. Kino slipped his black sneakers on and grabbed his black autumn jacket, putting it on over his khaki-colored t-shirt. He opted not to zip it and just let it hang slightly over the top of his dark blue jeans which rounded out his attire. Kino grabbed his wallet to make sure he had everything he needed and exited his room.

One quick trip down a flight of stairs and he met his mother in the living room below. She was sitting on a black leather sofa with her leg propped up on an elongated coffee table with a glass inlay, her leg wrapped in a cast.

"Here's the list. Make sure to get everything on it. You can get something extra for yourself as thanks for running the errand for me."

"Mmm," replied Kino as though he were disinterested.

All he wanted to do was hurry and get this over with so he could get back to reading his new favorite manga. Fox Girls were going to ogle themselves, after all.

Kino grabbed the list and excused himself. He stepped out into the cool, brisk autumn air and headed down the street. The mart wasn't that far away from the house. They lived in a pretty small rural town with just enough stores to cover the low population that lived there. While it may seem like a tight community where everyone knew each other, that feeling of being under a microscope by everyone in town bothered Kino. It forced you to be respectful because any negative reputation would spread quickly and in a town such as this, that was something one person would rather try to avoid.

Kino made it to the store and stepped inside. Evidence that everyone knew each other was quickly presented as the store's owner called out to him.

"Kino! How is your mother doing?"

"She's fine, Mr. Sakamura. I'm here to pick up a few things for dinner for her."

"It's nice that you're helping your mother out in this time of need. Hijime-san has been a member of our community since she moved here when she was five. We all feel terrible about what happened to her!"

"Thanks for worrying about her," replied Kino.

Kino gathered everything on the list and decided to grab himself some apple-flavored Ramune, taking advantage of his mother's suggestion. After he checked out, Mr. Sakamura wished Kino a safe trip home even though he lived just right up the street. Kino thanked him and exited the convenience store.

There was a small park across the street from the store so Kino decided that he was going to sit there on the bench and drink his Ramune before heading back. After all, they didn't eat dinner until about 7 PM and with it just starting to get dark, it would place the time at around 6 PM-ish or so. Kino knew that it wouldn't take more than five minutes to get back so he decided a little detour wouldn't be a problem.

As Kino crossed the street, his body became bathed in light. He looked down the road and saw a delivery truck heading towards him at top speed. Kino quickly darted backward and just missed getting run over by mere inches!

"Where the hell did that guy come from!? I swear there was nobody coming when I looked!"

Kino shook it off and made sure there wasn't any traffic coming. He crossed the road and was about to enter the park when he felt the cold sting of metal being pressed up against his throat. Kino instantly froze up and began to tremble; however, he realized that he wasn't the only one that was scared as the voice behind him trembled as well.

"G-Give me all of your money or... or... I'm going to slit your throat!!"

"R-right! L-let me just put my groceries down so I can get my wallet," said Kino nervously.

Kino was careful when he bent over and laid the groceries on the ground. As soon as he let go of the bags, he grabbed the would-be thief by the arm and flipped him over onto his back! Kino quickly twisted the arm, sending pain from his wrist all the way up to his shoulder. This caused the thief to drop the knife. Once he realized that he had been disarmed and foiled, the thief begged to be let go and even apologized for trying to mug him. Kino kicked the knife away with his foot and released his hold on the thief. The thief simply sprung up to his feet and ran away holding his arm in pain.

"Whoever thought those judo lessons would have come in handy one day?" muttered Kino to himself. "First a truck and now this? Does this world want me dead that badly? Not even the main characters in manga have to put up with this much trouble in the first couple of pages in their story."

Kino shook it off and picked up his groceries. Although it would have been wise to just head home, Kino was stubborn and a bit shook up. Plus, his Ramune sounded really good right about now as drinking something refreshing in the crisp, autumn air would help him relieve some of the stress of nearly getting run over and possibly murdered.

Kino entered the park and spied a lone bench not far from the entrance. As he approached the bench, the natural light grew darker just enough for the street lights to flicker on. Still, even with the glow of the lights, it was a bit difficult to see. Right when Kino was about to approach the bench, he didn't see a tree root sticking up out of the ground. His right foot got caught under the root and Kino ended up losing his balance!

"WAHHH!"

THUNK

Kino's head hit the edge of the bench rather harshly, causing his neck to unnaturally bend as his head slipped past the edge of the bench and down to the concrete slab below that the bench was affixed to. Soon, a pool of blood began to form under Kino's head as his vision became dark and blurry.

"Am... Am I going to die?"

Those thoughts raced through Kino's head as he started to feel numb. Soon, his world faded into complete and total darkness; however, he could still sense the world around him. It was almost as if he were in some kind of deep sleep. Suddenly, the air didn't feel as cool anymore. In fact, it had kind of a warm spring feeling to it. He could feel a slightly warmer breeze blowing over his body. Suddenly, he was jolted awake by a voice that called out to him.

"Hmm? Hey... are you okay?"

Kino slowly opened his eyes. The light of the sun nearly blinded him which didn't do him any favors since his vision was still completely blurry. All he could do while his senses readjusted was to offer a reply.

"I think I hit my head..."

Kino's vision quickly returned once he heard his own voice. The shock of an unfamiliar vocal tone that leaked from his mouth caused him to snap out of it rather quickly. His vision focused and all he could see was a lush forest with a girl who couldn't be any older than 18 hunched over him with a look of concern on her face. At first, Kino's attention was drawn to her chest. She wasn't completely flat but she had enough curvature there to indicate that she was, indeed, female. Dissatisfied with the size of her chest, he looked up at her face and that's when he noticed something was off.

"W-Wolf ears!?"

The girl was around 5'6" tall. She had long brown hair and wolf ears with matching-colored fur. Her eyes were also brown but lighter in color compared to her hair and fur. She was almost completely covered in black silk with gold trim and red accents. She wore white socks with her toes divided by black sandals. Of course, sticking out of her backside was a floofy tail comprised of brown fur.

"W-Who are you?" muttered Kino who instantly covered his mouth when he heard his own voice.

“Hmm? The same could be asked of you. A lone wolf girl out here in the woods just laying around tells me that you failed in your mission.”

“My... mission?”

“Hmm... maybe you really did hit your head. You’re dressed in the garb of our clan. You’re one of our assassins. The fact that you’re out here face-down in the dirt means that you either failed your mission or you are extremely clumsy and can’t even complete it normally. Either way, let’s get you on your feet and back to the village so we can have the medics take a look at you.”

“Assassin? Mission? Village!? What the hell is going on here? Why do I sound so strange? Why is it that...”

As Kino stood, he felt that there were certain things that were off about his body. His chest felt heavy and there wasn’t a nagging repositioning of a certain appendage where he would normally feel it. Kino went to brush himself off and that’s when he looked down and noticed two soft, supple mounds protruding from his chest.

“B-BREASTS!!??”

Kino didn’t know what to make of the situation. He could hardly believe what he was seeing. The thought of having breasts, though, tantalized him just enough to where he got a bit excited. Missing that aforementioned appendage; however, the excitement showed itself in another manner. Suddenly, Kino felt a bit of vibration coming from the end of his tailbone. He turned to look back and saw a fully golden-brown tail wagging back and forth uncontrollably. Just then, the breeze howled through the trees which caused the fur on his equally golden-brown ears to sway. Kino quickly reached up and confirmed that he had furry ears akin to a wolf on top of his head.

“Hmm? Is everything okay?” asked the girl.

“NO! It’s not! I have ears and a tail and breasts! What’s going on here!?”

“Hmm? You really did hit your head, didn’t you? You must have amnesia. Do you even remember your own name?”

“My name is... uh... Fenris? Yeah... that sounds familiar! My name is Fenris!”

“Well, at least you remembered your name. All the more reason to get you checked out. I’m sure the medic back at the village can help you regain whatever memories you’ve lost. She’s one of the best throughout the land.”

Kino really couldn’t remember his name. When he tried to think about it, Fenris was the only named that filled his head. Still, despite not knowing what his true name was, he could still remember being male and that he was not from this world. It bothered him deeply as he couldn’t quite figure out why he could remember some things and not others. For now, though, he decided to just play along and head back to the village with the girl that was leading him there.

As the two of them walked through the woods, Kino looked around and took in the sights. There wasn’t much to see, though. It was just a single dirt path cutting through a lush forest filled with

everything that you would expect to find in an area such as this. The trees and grass were dense and various bushes were scattered around the area. Natural foods such as wild berries and mushrooms grew all over the place and while Kino was a big hungry, he wasn't about to stop and figure out which ones were edible or not.

As Kino walked along the dirt path, he tried to make sense of everything that had happened. He remembered buying the food for dinner, almost getting hit by a truck, and the attempted mugging but it all became hazy after that. His head began to hurt as he tried to recall his final memories before waking up in this forest. Each time he tried, the pain would get more and more severe in his head. He even let out a low grunt which caught the attention of the girl walking in front of him. She glanced back but saw that 'she' was just fine and continued to lead 'her' back to the village.

It only took a few minutes to get back. It dawned on Kino that they weren't very far from their village which was small and quaint. There were only a handful of grass huts strewn about with a few larger ones positioned in the back. The village couldn't have held more than 10 people judging by the looks of things. The small size of the village triggered the memory of the town that he came from. A small, tight-knit place where everybody knew each other. That made him strain even more to try and remember those missing memories but the more he did, the more painful it became and he collapsed at the entrance to the village, falling to a single knee. The wolf girl that led him there turned around and helped Kino back to his feet.

"It's okay. We're here. Just a few steps more," she said in a bit of a monotone voice.

Kino nodded and stood back up. The girl led him to the bigger of the two larger buildings in the back of the village. It was the one positioned on the right behind a row of other small straw huts that he perceived to be homes. The girl tapped her hand on the side of the building next to an opening that was only covered by thin, elongated grass. A few moments later, a well-endowed woman with white hair and fur and a bushy white and black tail appeared from behind the grass covering.

"Haru? You're back so soon? I knew you were fast with your missions, but damn!"

"Her name is Haru, eh? Well, that's a start. She could have told me that when she found me, though... sheesh."

"Hmm? Yes. I was wandering through the woods when I found Fenris face-down in the dirt. She said that she hit her head and it seems as if her memories are a bit fuzzy."

"I see. Fenris. Do you remember my name?"

"N-no..."

"I see. I can't help but feel insulted that you don't remember the name of the number one doctor in all of the land but I guess since your noggin had a bit of a floggin', I can let it slide this time! My name is Tsume. Come on in and I'll take a look at you."

Kino was led inside by both Tsume and Haru. Inside the hut, there was just one makeshift bed and nothing else to indicate that this would be some sort of doctor's office.

“Have a seat over there and we’ll get started. Don’t worry... I’ll be gentle... this time!” said Tsume with a bit of a wink.

Kino walked over to the only piece of furniture and had a seat. Tsume began her examination as she looked into each of Kino’s eyes. She asked him to follow her finger and even went so far as to test her reflexes. Everything seemed to be in normal, working order.

“Everything looks fine. I’m guessing she tripped and had a good fall! Reflexes are good, pupil response is good. Just that her memories got a bit jumbled. I’d say she’ll be fine in a day or so. Even if she’s not, I can just electrocute her and jolt her memories back!”

“WHAT THE HELL KIND OF DOCTOR IS SHE!?”

“I’m going to assign her to you, Haru. Watch her, make sure she doesn’t hit her head again, all that good stuff. If it gets worse... just drag her back here kicking and screaming and I’ll fire up the ol’ generator.”

“Hmm? Understood...”

The shocked expression on Kino’s face said it all. Still, Haru grabbed her by the wrist and began to lead her away from the hut as Tsume waved goodbye to her.

“S-say... Haru... she’s not really going to electrocute me, is she?”

“Hmm? Can’t say. She’s done it plenty of times before. Just don’t get worse and you’ll be okay.”

“That’s not exactly comforting, you know...”

“So, what are we going to do now?”

“We could let you rest or we could find out the status of your mission. If the status isn’t completed, you will either have to carry out the mission or abandon it, thus costing you some rank.”

“Rank?”

“Hmm? You’ve even forgotten that? Guess it can’t be helped...” said Haru with a sigh. “When you take missions in our village, they increase your rank. It’s almost as if you’re gaining experience. The higher the rank you are, the more renown you earn. Get your renown high enough and then the big jobs start coming in. Completing them earns you lots of Zel... plus you typically get more requests which means even more Zel. With enough Zel, you can move out of this village and live amongst the aristocrats in the big city. You might even be put in service with the Queen and carry out only the highest-tier missions. It’s something that we are all working towards but, of course, there’s competition.”

“Yeah, I can imagine living a better life would make everyone in the village fight for themselves.”

“Hmm? Ourselves? No. I mean other villages. There are different tribes scattered throughout the land... each one has the same goal that we have. None of us are happy leaving in these conditions. We barely have any clean water or nourishing food. We simply fight to survive each

and every day. Earning Zel and spending it in the market just to live is the never-ending cycle of our daily lives. We only strive to have a better life... nothing more."

"I see. So, what are these missions that you keep speaking of?"

"Hmm!? How hard did you hit your head to even forget what the missions are!? Oof.."

"Sorry, but I did hit it kind of hard. My head still really hurts, you know."

"Fine. If it'll help you remember... the missions depend on the type of clan you're from. We're assassins so we, you know, assassinate people."

"And my mission was to..."

"...it was to assassinate a local predator. He comes around and steals what little we have. He's been terrorizing us for weeks. The village put him up on the mission board and you took it because he stole a pair of your underwear. You were quite miffed about it."

"He sounds like just the kind of guy I'd get along with back home!!!"

"Right... someone like that should be prais... er... punished for sure. I'm pretty sure that the mission hasn't been completed as of yet, so, would you mind coming with me to help track him down? This way, I can complete it and preserve my rank?"

"Hmm? They are supposed to be carried out alone but in this case, I can make an exception. After all, it'll just put you further in debt with me. Saving you, bringing you back, and now helping you with your mission. You're going to owe me a lot once this is all said and done."

Kino made sure to thank Haru for her assistance. Right when they were about to leave, Haru reminded him to do an equipment check to see if he had everything that he needed. That's when Kino was finally able to get a good look at himself. Aside from his newly-acquired bouncy breasts, he was dressed in a black, sleeveless tunic with a black belt wrapped around his thin waist. The belt was accented with gold and held up a maroon-colored miniskirt which stopped right at the top of his thighs, leaving them exposed. He wore black leather boots with red accents but couldn't locate where his weapon was.

"Hmm?" muttered Haru, sensing that something was a bit off.

"What am I supposed to kill my target with?"

"You didn't have your weapon with you when I found you. Perhaps you left it back in your hut and were just going out on a scouting mission first before attempting your assassination. It's not uncommon to scout ahead before carrying out the mission. Typically, an assassin will leave their weapon at home. Sounds foolish but a true assassin would never be detected on a scouting mission. If they are, it means they failed in their role and deserve to die. That's why assassins scout unarmed."

"Being an assassin sounds scary!!!"

"Eto... which hut is mine again?"

“Hmm? I would act surprised but I guess that’s to be expected at this point. Your hut is the front one on the left as soon as you enter the village. Mine is right next door to yours.”

Kino made his way over to his hut and peered inside. Sure enough, there was a katana resting on a table near his bed. The blade was black in the center but traditional silver steel along its edge. Kino grinned at the sight of the sword as thoughts raced through his mind.

“I guess this isn’t so bad! I’m a furry wolf girl AND I get to play with a sword and kill people!? Plus, whenever I get some time to myself, I can thoroughly explore this body! Heck, this Haru girl isn’t that bad-looking either! I’m sure that all I have to do is drag her along, eliminate this target, and then I’ll have all the time in the world to... he he he...”

Haru poked her head in and saw Kino just standing there grinning while looking at the katana. She cleared her throat which startled Kino. He nervously took around as if he expected her to know what he was thinking. Without having much of a clue as to what was going on, Haru simply asked if Kino was ready to go. Kino nodded and joined Haru outside of her hut. Once everything was in order, they set off into the woods, heading back in the direction where Haru had found him passed out.

Haru wasn’t much of a talker unless you engaged in conversation with her. That made the entire journey rather silent. As they walked through the woods, Kino, once again, tried to remember just how he arrived here in this world. Somehow, the pain wasn’t as intense as it was before but his thoughts were still jumbled. He began to wonder how long he had been gone so far and if his mother was able to handle everything on her own. Suddenly, an urge to find a way back home washed over him. Despite that feeling of homesickness, he still wasn’t quite sure if any of this was real or simply just a dream. All Kino knew was that there was nothing he could do about any of this so, for now, he would continue on to see where this would lead him. Perhaps, he could find a way back home sooner or later.

The two continued to walk along the path until they came to a certain spot. Haru stopped and then pointed into the forest.

“Hmm?” muttered Kino.

“Are you mocking me?”

Kino didn’t expect her to pick up on that. He quickly put his hands up as if to signal that he surrendered all while shaking his head ‘no’ as frantically as possible. Haru let out a sigh and explained the reason for stopping.

“The thief was last seen in the clearing up ahead. We are going to take a detour through the woods themselves in order to gain the element of surprise. However, we’re not going to be walking through the grass. Let’s just hope you haven’t forgotten how to use your legs.”

Kino tilted his head in confusion as to what Haru meant by that. Suddenly, she leaped into the air and perched herself up on a nearby tree branch. She motioned for Kino to follow her and it was at that moment, he wasn’t quite sure just what this new body was capable of. He simply shrugged and decided to give it a go.

Kino hunched down and then pushed up with his legs. Kino almost shocked himself at the height he got with his jump. He landed on the tree branch with perfect precision and balance. He began to question if he was actually a wolf girl and not some kind of cat. Haru looked a bit relieved that Kino was able to leap onto the branch without much effort. It showed that there were still parts of her that could perform her role as an assassin. After seeing that, Haru took off, leaping to the next tree branch. Her grace and beauty really captivated Kino as she barely made any noise whenever she landed. In fact, not even the leaves on the trees rattled from the lightness of her footfalls. It truly made Kino marvel at her skill and that's when he came to realize that she truly was a highly-skilled assassin!

Kino tried it himself and leaped to the next tree. It was almost as if his body took over for him because when he landed, he too, did not make a single sound. He had achieved the perfect silent landing. Filled with confidence, he continued to follow Haru through the treetops until the encircled the area that led to the clearing where the thief was suspected to be. The thief was nowhere to be seen in the clearing; however, evidence of a freshly snuffed out campfire was there in plain view. There were still a few glowing embers at its base as smoke rose up from the center.

Haru closed her eyes as her wolf ears twitched. It was as if they were honing in on something. Suddenly, Haru turned and shoved Kino backward. Kino leaped onto the tree behind him as did Haru in the opposite direction. Soon after leaping, a kunai dagger buried itself in the tree right where the two of them had been perched. They both turned their gaze to the direction the dagger just in time to see a man in tattered khaki and brown-colored garb disappear into some nearby shrubs.

Kino and Haru nodded at each other and decided to give chase as that was, undoubtedly, the thief that had been terrorizing their village. The thing about thieves was that they weren't exactly stealthy or silent. Figuring that they wouldn't give chase, the thief ran through bush after bush as well as through the tall grass that lined the forest's floor. Of course, it made tremendous noise that gave away his location rather easily.

Haru and Kino caught up to him in no time. Figuring that he could be an easy catch, they kept their distance and waited for the most opportune time to strike. Up ahead in the direction the thief had been running, there was a rather wide and deep ravine. They decided that they would corner the thief there and carry out the assassination.

The thief continued to run in the direction of the ravine. As they got closer, Haru signaled to Kino to close in on him from behind. She was going to go up ahead and cut him off, creating a pincer attack. Haru did just that with tremendous speed. Before Kino could even blink, Haru was out of sight. Kino continued to keep his eye on the thief as he advanced through the woods. Once he got close to the ravine, he saw Haru drop down in front of him, cutting off his escape path. That's when Kino poured on the speed and dropped down behind the thief; however, there was something that they didn't account for... a rookie mistake, indeed.

Kino felt the cold steel of a kunai dagger press into his neck. A rather large individual stood behind him ready to slit his throat on command.

"FENRIS!" yelled Haru.

“Did you honestly think that living in a land occupied by assassins that I wouldn’t have been prepared? The problem was that you thought of me as nothing more than a lowly thief. I ran through the woods making as much noise as possible on purpose because I knew you’d follow. The fact that I was almost able to hit the two of you with a single kunai with you barely even noticing should have been your clue that I was highly skilled. The fact that you fell for my little ploy tells me that your ranks as assassins aren’t exactly all that high.”

“What are you? Journeymen? Apprentice? Are you even that high? Your lack of awareness and critical thinking is almost laughable. Boromir here is going to slit your precious friend’s throat. You’re going to get the honor of watching her blood spray into the air into a beautiful red mist! And I’m going to enjoy watching the look of horror on your face as you witness your friend die before your very eyes. Once he’s done with her, Boromir will extend the same courtesy to you. I hope that you’re prepared.”

“However, we are well aware of what assassins are capable of. That is why I want you to lay down your daggers. If you do as we say, we might reconsider killing the two of you. I may even let your friend go.”

Haru was reluctant to do so but she couldn’t just let a member of her own village get slaughtered in cold blood. Still, she was a trained assassin. If worse came to worse, she could kill with her bare hands. For now, she decided to follow the thief’s instructions and unfastened her belt. She slowly slid it off and dropped the daggers on the ground at her feet.

“There’s a good girl. Now, it’s your turn. Drop your sword and I’ll decide whether or not I want you two to live.”

Kino grabbed the sheath of his sword and pulled out of its holder. Suddenly, a memory flashed in his head and he knew exactly what to do. He slowly knelt down and gently placed the sword on the ground. That’s when a devilish smirk came over his face. He grabbed Boromir’s arm and slung him over with a judo flip! He then twisted his arm as he listened to him cry out in pain. The thief was stunned at what he saw that he momentarily had forgotten about Haru behind him.

Haru lunged in and made quick work of the distracted thief, snapping his neck in an instant. Kino, on the other hand, wanted to show off just a bit. With his arms occupied, he slid his foot under his sword and kicked it up into the air. As it fell, he grabbed the handle with his teeth and with one quick snap of the head, pulled the sword out from its sheath. Kino then bent down and used his mouth to drive the sword right into Boromir’s neck, instantly killing him.

Haru’s face went from surprised to unimpressed as she knew that Kino was clearly showing off. Still, she couldn’t help but feel what he did was quite cool-looking. With both of the thieves dispatched, they began to rummage through their bodies to see if there were any valuables on them. Kino didn’t really have a conscience when it came to stuff like this so he didn’t mind robbing dead. His philosophy was that they didn’t need their physical possessions with where they were going!

All they found on them was a little bit of Zel and one other thing. Haru reached inside the pocket of the thief and pull out a piece of women’s underwear. She gave it a sniff and tossed it over to Kino.

“These are yours, they have your scent on them.”

Kino quickly snatched the underwear out of mid-air and curiously gave them a sniff. Kino's eyes widened as if the boy inside of him was elated to smell the scent of a woman in such a way. He became so excited that he began to feverishly wag his tail.

"Hmm? You're that happy to get them back?"

"Yeah! They were my favorite pair!"

As Kino used that line to cover up his own pervertedness, Haru noticed that there was a small trickle of blood running down Kino's neck. She walked over and examined him for a moment. Kino was a bit puzzled as to why she was doing this as the cut wasn't so deep to where he actually felt any pain. Suddenly, without warning, Haru used her tongue and began to lap at his wound, licking the blood clean off her neck. Kino was half mortified and half aroused by this gesture. On the one hand, he had a really cute wolf girl licking his wound which was gross in his eyes. On the other hand, he had a really cute girl licking his neck and it actually felt really good!

At that moment, Kino couldn't hold back anymore and let out a slight moan. When he did, he covered his mouth as he knew it was audible enough for Haru to take notice. Haru stopped licking the wound and looked up at Kino.

"Hmm? Were you enjoying that?"

Kino had no idea how to answer. Usually, in a situation like this back in his own world, saying yes to a girl as an answer to that very same question would get him punched in the head and called a pervert. His reputation for being a pervert would then spread throughout every single home in the village. He would be treated as an outcast but here... it was different. He wasn't a boy in this world. He, too, was a wolf girl and so maybe he felt as if he could get away with an answer like that.

"Y-yeah... It felt really good."

Haru blushed as she looked away with embarrassment. What Kino didn't know was that Haru had a crush on Fenris for the longest time. The only problem was that it was the Fenris that occupied the body before he did. To him, he was still Kino even though he couldn't remember his real name. All he could remember was the name Fenris. It was at that moment that he put two-and-two together. He realized that Haru knew Fenris all this time and had a crush on her. The only thing he didn't know was the details of their past together. Any events before he had awoken in this world were unknown to him.

Still, the boy inside of him giggled with glee. Not only was he a furry wolf girl but he realized that a really cute wolf girl had a crush on the person who used to be Fenris. Having never had a girlfriend back in his homeworld, he entertained the thought of going along with this to see just how far Haru was willing to go. Perhaps he was right in assuming that back home, he would be labeled a pervert.

"I-if you want to keep going, I won't stop you..." muttered Kino with a bit of hope in his voice.

"Hmm? But you stopped bleeding. You don't need any more first aid."

Kino reached up and felt his neck. Indeed, the bleeding had stopped which made Kino curse to himself. Now there was no excuse to get licked by Haru again. He thought about reopening the wound just to get Haru to lap at it with her tongue once again; however, he felt that he might be pushing his luck a little too much should he do that.

“So, what are we going to do with the bodies? We can’t just leave them here.”

“Hmm? There’s a ravine right there with several jagged rocks below. We’re going to hurl them over the edge and let the high tide do the clean-up for us. Before we do, though. Zel and your underwear aren’t enough to prove that we eliminated the target. We need to bring back some proof.”

“What should we bring back?”

“Their heads, of course.”

At that moment, the thought of carrying a severed head back to the village with him didn’t sit too well. Then again, he was living in the world of assassins now so there was no time for arguing. He picked up his katana and with two quick swings, chopped off the heads of the thieves. Kino and Haru then tossed their headless bodies over the edge of the ravine only to watch them get impaled on the jagged rocks below. Satisfied with their work, they each grabbed a head and began the trek back to their village.

A few minutes later, they arrived as Haru led Kino to the other big building to the left of Tsume’s. This was the main office where jobs were posted for the assassins to take. They walked over and noticed that the thief assassination job had been stamped by Fenris, indicating that the job was claimed. Haru nodded to Kino to grab the job off of the board. He did just that and walked over to a small desk where there was another small and rather cute wolf girl standing behind it.

“Hmm? Not going to welcome us back, Kegawa?”

“Of course! Welcome back Haru, Fenris! It’s just that... your heads are getting blood all over my floor! I just cleaned it not even thirty minutes ago!”

“They’re the proof we finished the thief assassination job. If you wouldn’t mind, we’d like our Zel.”

“Sure thing! Just... uh... toss the proof into the basket over there.”

Kino and Haru deposited the heads as Kegawa handed the Zel to Fenris. The reward was for 1,000 Zel so Kino counted out 500 of it and handed it to Haru who blushed.

“Hmm? What are you doing? That’s your reward money.”

“You helped me with the mission. Plus, you were nice enough to show me around and help me out after I hit my head. It’s the least I could do to thank you.”

Haru couldn’t hide her excitement as her tail began to wag vehemently! She graciously accepted the 500 Zel and thanked Kino for sharing the reward with her. Kegawa congratulated them on an accomplished mission and gave them their rank report.

“Now that you finished the mission, you have earned a rank up! You were an Apprentice Assassin but this mission earned you enough rank points to grant you the title of Journeyman Assassin! You would have earned more but since you revealed that Haru helped you, I took some of your rank points and assigned them to her. Sorry, Haru, but your share wasn’t enough to rank you up. Next time for sure, though!”

“OH! I almost forgot! With this new rank, you’ve gained renown! That means I will spread the word of your deeds throughout the land! While the mission was only D-Rank, people still have the right to know about your accomplishments! You’re one step closer to living with the aristocrats!”

The thought of Fenris being higher than her made Haru feel a bit jealous. Not in a spiteful way, though. She felt as if she had to put in more work in order to stay on the same level as her. In order to do that, she offered a suggestion.

“Is it okay if I accompany Fenris on all of her missions?”

“There’s no rule that says you can’t. It just means whoever signs for the mission will receive the reward. The reward recipient can do whatever they choose to with it once its received... just like she did just now when she split it with you. The only thing is that renown is split unevenly. The person who signs for the mission will receive the bulk of the renown while the one who assisted will get a smaller portion.”

“Hmm? I see. I’m going to sign for the next mission and take you with me. That way our status will even out.”

Kino wondered if he could have a say in the matter... although, there wasn’t much to say. The fact that he could spend more time with Haru made him happy for perverted reasons. Perhaps he could garner another opportunity to have his wounds licked by her again. Kino kind of drifted off into a daydream of all of the sexy possibilities when Haru stomped on his foot.

“Hmm? Did you hear me? Let’s go eat before we decide what mission to do next.”

“Oh... r-right.”

With that, the two of them thanked Kegawa and exited the hut. As they were walking through the village, Haru tugged on Kino’s arm.

“Hmm?” asked Kino.

“Are you mocking me again?”

“No!”

“Good. Do you want to eat at my place?”

“No. I don’t want to eat at a cute wolf girl’s house with the possibility of getting licked again!!”

“S-sure!”

Kino followed Haru back to her hut. Once inside, Haru prepared a rather simplistic dinner with whatever she had. It consisted of some low-grade meat in a weak, thin sauce and some basic local vegetables. The amount of food wasn't much either but they had to ration whatever they had until they could go back to the market and replenish their stock. Haru wasn't kidding when she said that stuff like food was scarce and they had to fight for whatever they had.

Seeing the food on the table made Kino realize that he was really late in getting back home to his mom with the ingredients for tonight's dinner. He wondered how she was doing and if he was even still in the other world. At this point, he realized that all of this was too real to be a dream. Since he awoke, it had been one thing after another. He didn't have much time to really process any of this. This was the first time that he had a chance to sit and think about things. Still, he became lost in thought so much that he wasn't even touching his food. He just kind of sat there staring at it which drew Haru's attention.

"Hmm? Is it not to your liking?"

Her words snapped Kino out of his thoughts. He loaded up his fork and replied.

"Sorry, I was just thinking about some things."

Kino inserted the fork into his mouth. The first thing he noticed was the tenderness of the meat. The sauce, while thin and weak, had a powerful flavor to it. He couldn't believe that something so basic could taste so good. He liked it so much, his tail began to wag and he began to blush. Haru took immediate notice of it and blushed as well.

"It's... really good!"

Kino continued to shove forkful after forkful into his mouth, barely giving any time to chew. Haru's eyes widened with shock as she watched Kino put her food away in such a manner. When Kino finished, he leaned back in his chair and let out a deep and guttural belch.

"So ladylike..." muttered Haru.

"Ah, sorry. It was just so delicious. You're such a great cook, Haru!"

That comment made Haru blush. She shook it off and asked Kino a question.

"What were you thinking about just now?"

"Oh. Just everything that happened today, that's all. I'm really thankful for everything that you've done for me! I don't know if I could have coped with things if it hadn't been for you! Will you promise to stay with me until I get my memories back?"

"I'd like to stay with you forever..." muttered Haru under her breath.

"Hmm?"

“STOP MOCKING ME!”

After that outburst, Kino and Haru just stared at each other, eventually bursting out into laughter. That laughter would carry off into the night sky as their first day had come to an end.

While their first day ended, another's was just beginning. Just outside of the village stood a man roughly 6'6" tall. He was well-built and sported a full-faced beard. He wore a tunic akin to the ones that the thieves were wearing. When he spied the village, he cracked a grin that glistened in the moonlight.

“Two may have fallen but an entire village shall suffer!”

With that, the man walked away, disappearing into the darkness of the night. Unbeknownst to Haru and Kino... their assassination job was far from over!