

Ding-Dong! Daybreak

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Ding-Dong! Daybreak

by [thinlines](#)

Summary

“Hungry for knot?”

The alpha’s voice suited his image so well. The deep, borderline sensual octave made Louis shiver. It was laced with timbre and Louis couldn’t remember the last time someone had spoken with a voice like this to him. *But wait...* Did the alpha just ask him if he was “hungry for knot”?

"Excuse me?" The omega could feel a hot flush underneath his skin.

All it took was a flat bike tire, confusing usernames, pumpkin flavored biscuits, a chaotically supportive dog and food deliveries at daybreak for Omega Louis to fall hard.

Notes

There are so many people I need to thank for the creation of this fic. Let's start listing then.

First, big thanks to Hayley (maroonmoonlouis) who was the one that spotted this prompt

and shared it with me. Without your sharp eyes, Hay, I wouldn't know this prompt existed!? Thank you for giving it to me and letting me write it! Please go and show her fics for this fest loads of love ;)

Secondly, Ely (iminthisstanshit), you were the one who called it Fast and Furious. You inspired Bonus Story One and I hope that Bulut is everything you imagined. You are his godmother after all! Good luck with uni and I'm here in our chat if you ever need me :)

Thirdly, T (Marchessa), you know it, you have helped and given me so much advice during the writing process. Without you, I'd seriously not have as much fun in this fandom. You are always here for me and your messages calm me so much. Love you.

Fourthly, this fic is for June (orchidsbyjune) whose writing is so fresh and different. And it's your Birthday? Everyone go wish June Happy Birthday! Well Fed Lou is finally here... I hope this fic lives up to your expectations :)

Then, I would like to thank Lo, the main organizer of LHgivegifts! It always amazes me how people in this fandom can be so kind. Arranging these kinds of exchanges and activities make me feel so happy since I can make more friends who can accept me so easily! Thank you, Lo.

Lastly, I need to thank the Mods. This is the second time I'm writing for BLFF and it has been so wonderful. Thank you for your fast replies and for being so understanding about my requests... This fest is so big and the Mods are the one who made it happen... You guys are doing so much. Thanks again for everything!

Oh, you don't even need to ask, I made it ABO ;) Btw, the main story is only one chapter and the other two are BONUS chapters!

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

Main Story: Ding-Dong! Daybreak

Chapter Summary

The main story is told in Lou's POV!

Btw, DoorDash is basically the same concept as UberEats in case you don't have it in your country!

Chapter Notes

I hope you enjoy and please leave comments and feedback if you wish :) They mean a lot to me!

Find me on Tumblr @thinlinez

I'm also trying to be active on Twitter @thinliness

You can find my translated fics on Wattpad [HERE!!!](#) I also posted this fic on there too so if you prefer reading there then go ahead :)

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)



“Oi, Cliff... No! Down, boyo!” Louis pinched his tongue between his lips, trying to subtly nudge Clifford away from where the huge black labradoodle was trying to wedge his head onto the omega’s lap. Unfortunately, Louis was working on his character sketch that was due soon and it wasn’t the time to play around with his hyperactive dog.

“Cliff!” He groaned in defeat when the dog reared on his hindlegs and successfully squeezed his head in between Louis’ knees. He had to drop the Apple pencil that he had been sketching with in order to assuage his lapful of whiny dog.

He sighed, smiling fondly as he scratched behind Clifford's ears. The dog made appreciative grunts into his thighs. There was a loud rumbling that made the omega freeze mid-scratch. He strained his ears and *sure enough*, seconds later, the same rumbling sounded from the dog beneath him.

"You hungry, lad?" Louis laughed when Clifford rolled back onto the floor, belly up, begging for more scratches even as his stomach let out another rumble.

Louis peered at the digital clock on his computer screen and did a double take when he realized that the clock announced that it was already 4:30am. He'd been so buried in his work that he hadn't realized the passing of time.

"Last I fed you, it was midnight?" He got to his feet and rubbed at his sore bum. He stretched, groaning as he moved his head from side to side.

He trotted to the kitchen with Clifford trailing behind. He paused to squint out of the window at the dimly lit street void of any activity. Sighing, he cracked open the fridge, which *of course*, had nothing edible in it.

"Ahhhhhh, *fuck*." He sucked in a deep breath, letting out a whoosh of air from the corner of his mouth and blew a strand of ruffled long fringe out of his eye. The painful reality of being busy with catching a nearing deadline came in the form of neglecting a much-needed trip to the grocery store.

"I haven't even got fucking milk?" The omega tsked.

He peeked into the cabinet that held Clifford's sack of kibble and biscuits, which *of fucking course*, was also pathetically bare. He pulled out the deflated burlap sack of kibble and shook it, watching in dismay as a few flaky crumbs tumbled onto the floor. Clifford barked, glancing briefly down at the unappetizing crumbs before pawing at Louis' leg.

"Well... DoorDash it is." The omega shrugged, letting the cabinet door shut with a resolute bang. *At least* they wouldn't starve. All thanks to technology and the brilliance of food delivery.

He marched into the living room and swung himself sideways onto the couch, grabbing his phone and propping his ankles on the armrest. He flicked through the limited choices (since it was 4:30am after all) and settled on Burger King. He remembered that he had come across a recent advertisement about their pet friendly patties. This way, Clifford could definitely get his fill.

"You're in luck, Cliffy." Louis mused as his thumb stopped its scrolling and added two patties to the cart. Perusing the menu was making him steadily hungry as well so he selected a Crispy Chicken burger before succumbing to his gluttonous desire and ordered an extra side of Jalapeño Cheese Bites.

"Who the fuck decides it'll make *good* campaign to sell *Plant Based* Whoppers?" He muttered to no one in particular as he wrinkled his nose at the new burger on the 'Recommended' menu. He'd never order that kind of awful combination in a million years.

He clicked on 'Place Order' and watched as the order connected itself to the restaurant. The estimated wait time was twenty minutes. He wondered if anyone would be delivering at this godforsaken hour, but then again, he was sure that someone would be since the app wasn't rejecting his order.

Clifford jumped onto the couch beside him as if sensing that food was coming soon and promptly knocked the omega's phone out of his hand.

Louis giggled, planting a kiss on the dog's wet nose. "Such a needy boy."

† † † † †

Ever since he had gotten this job, the routine of meeting endless deadlines and the pressure from having to conjure up fresh designs every so often had turned him into a shameless insomniac. He developed a terrible habit of getting fistful of sleep during daytime and staying up almost every other night, drawing on his tablet and computer.

He was working his dream job with a decent salary yet he couldn't deny that being a Game Character Designer was also eating away at his liver. The best perk was that he could work from home and only needed to go into the London office for meetings. At the age of twenty-six, Louis was able to afford his own one story house just minutes from the beaches of Brighton.

He had always dreamed of residing by the sea and moved from Doncaster to live in Brighton, leaving behind everything he knew to pursue an entirely different life. Little did he know that he'd become overworked and fall into a semi-vampire routine due to his insomnia. Funny thing was, even though he had moved here for the waves, despite being within walking distance, he couldn't recall the last time he had gone to the beach.

It was no use wallowing in self-pity, he decided as he propped his head on the plushie cuddled to his chest and snickered at a silly scene that was playing on the telly.

"Piss off!" He protested when Clifford lunged at him, seizing the edge of the plushie's furry stomach in his sharp canines. After a vigorous minute of Tug-of-War, Louis managed to save his favorite plushie, Tonkatsu (a character that resembled a pork cutlet) of Sumikko Gurashi (a Japanese cartoon franchise that Louis had been obsessed with recently) from the dangers of Clifford's snapping teeth. He didn't know why, but out of his plushie collection, Clifford seemed to love biting this one the most. Maybe his dog had a love hate relationship with the fluffy pork cutlet since Louis lavished the most affections on it. Clifford can be extremely territorial on some occasions, especially when he deemed that Louis wasn't giving him the attention he craved.

His phone dinged with an incoming notification and Louis scrambled around, trying to find it. He finally spotted it wedged between the couch cushions and retrieved it while *still* trying to fight Clifford off of Tonkatsu.

He frowned at the screen as Clifford tackled the plushie, successfully ripping it from Louis' loosened hold. He was too busy to tend to Tonkatsu now because apparently his DoorDasher was in a dilemma.

Dorothy: I'm really sorry, but I'll be a few minutes late. My bike has a flat tire.

Louis stared down at the message. *A girl?* A girl delivering at this bleak hour? Not that he was a sexist, but the fact that it was a girl deliverer made him anxious. He guessed that she must be an alpha because the risk for an omega girl deliverer to be on the streets at this time was too high. He knew that he shouldn't be thinking like this, but the fact that his neighborhood wasn't exactly *uptown* on top of the possibility that she might run into an alpha knothed, was making the omega in him pace in panic. He was tempted to ask where she was and if she needed help with her bike. He bit his lips before tapping out a reply.

Where are you? Do you need help?

It was a blessing that a reply came seconds later or else he would've gotten more agitated.

Dorothy: I'm fine. Not far. Just a few more minutes. Your food won't get cold. Don't worry. I'll make sure it gets to you piping hot. Gonna protect it with my life.

A surprised giggle burst out of him as Louis read the words. He typed out a reply as Clifford started circling the room (with Tonkatsu held hostage in his mouth).

You shouldn't value my food over your life. It's *just* food.

Again, Louis' phone vibrated with a reply.

Dorothy: You're underestimating the power of food, love.

"She's flirting with me?" Louis gasped out loud, head snapping up from his phone to gawk incredulously at Clifford. His dog wagged his tail. Louis couldn't deny that the single word *love* made his heart skip a beat.

In truth, Louis hadn't dated anyone since his last alpha who had been an ex-coworker at the previous gaming company Louis had worked at. Their relationship lasted a year before the alpha called it quits. Louis couldn't blame him. It was around the time when Louis had procured his current position as one of the main Character Designers in a more renowned company. He had been so focused on his work and progress that he had neglected his ex-alpha. From then on, Louis grew keen on avoiding serious relationships because he didn't want to break hearts and dish out empty promises.

Suddenly, Clifford let out a bark, startling Louis from his revelry and padded towards the front door. At the same time, the doorbell chimed, making Louis shoot up from the couch. He glanced down at his attire, which consisted of a wrinkled Umbro long sleeves with joggers hanging low on his hips. Sloppy, but it'll have to do.

He twisted the doorknob and opened the door, preparing to greet the delivery girl with a charismatic smile. *Except* the person looming over his doorway wasn't a girl. Was *nowhere* close to being a Dorothy.

Artemisia, his omega recognized the unique scent, the earthy scent was coupled with an undertone of smoky ashes and florals. He didn't know if a breeze happened to whoosh by as he opened the door, but *damn*, the alpha musk was so strong that Louis had to blink to stop his eyes from watering. He stifled the whine building in his throat as he inhaled. The scent, coupled with the sharpness of crisp morning air was *a delight*.

Louis was so lost in scenting that he barely registered the alpha standing at the doorway. He was donned in a plain dark green shirt that was oversized and hung off of his broad shoulders. The front of the shirt, close to the guy's neck was soaked through with sweat judging from the patch of stain. His curly hair was gathered up into a lopsided tuff on the top of his head by a pink polka dotted scrunchy. He was sporting some unshaven scruff and his bright green eyes stood out against his tanned skin. Louis' eyes travelled down, taking in tight leggings and dirt-streaked white Vans.

"Hungry for knot?"

The alpha's voice suited his image so well. The deep, borderline *sensual* octave made Louis shiver. It was laced with timbre and Louis couldn't remember the last time someone had spoken with a voice like this to him. *But wait...* Did the alpha just ask him if he was "hungry for knot"?

"*Excuse me?*" The omega could feel a hot flush underneath his skin. *Surely*, he was *imagining* things as he continued to gape wordlessly at the stranger.

The alpha raised a brown paper bag emblazoned with the Burger King logo up to Louis' eye level. "Says here, I have a delivery for HungryForKnot?" *Green, green, green.* Startling mossy, earthy grass, iridescent summer green. The beautiful green seemed to be sparkling as they locked with baby blues.

"Are you not HungryForKnot?" The alpha's tone was definitely teasing now.

"I most certainly am not!" Louis spluttered. His cheeks were positively burning. He had to grip his doorframe to steady himself or else he might keel over in embarrassment.

"Oh." The alpha lowered the bag, plump lips forming a slight pout. "Then I guess I got the wrong house?" He tilted his head adorably.

Just then, Louis heard the telltale sound of pounding paws and the next second, the collusion from behind made him stumble. He wasn't prepared for the force in which Clifford had slammed into the back of his knees as he felt himself toppling forward. It was so cliché how he literally *fell* into the alpha deliverer's arms. So *so* cliché how the guy's toned forearms encircled his waist with ease and Louis' face plunged into the alpha's muscular chest. Yet another delicious wave of ash and flowers rushed into his nose. In his stupor, he actually nosed into the stranger's shirt.

"You alright?" The alpha asked as Louis came to his senses, shoving himself away in hasty panic. *No, he did not* just scent a stranger, *did not* just kind of burrowed into the space between a stranger's pecs.

"Fine! 'M fine!" He shouted as he quickly put *respectful* distance between them.

He couldn't fathom why his omega was responding like this. Usually, he'd count himself as sensible and grounded, not like this, *thirsting* over a complete stranger and worse of all, subtly scenting him! He was breathing a little too heavily as he curled his fists, trying to fight the primal urge of his omega.

"Woah! You're gorgeous!" Louis blinked, cheeks going up in flames again. But the alpha wasn't directing the comment at him, rather, he was crouching down and reaching out to tickle Clifford's cheek.

"I'm assuming the pet friendly patties on the order are for you, buddy? So technically I got the right house?" The alpha was saying, addressing Clifford as the dog nuzzled into his palm. Sometimes, Louis hated how Clifford can get so comfortable with strangers mere seconds into meeting. His dog was too friendly for his own good. He'd never do well as a guard dog, Louis thought spitefully as he let Clifford lumber out of the doorway to greet the alpha.

Helplessly, he watched as the alpha laughed when Clifford licked at his chin before sniffing at the bag he was holding. Dimples alighted on the alpha's face as he smiled widely. Their presence softened the alpha's face and Louis couldn't help but stare.

"You're Dorothy?" He blurted as the alpha played with Clifford. The alpha looked up, shaking a bit of escaped curl from his forehead before shooting Louis a dimpled grin.

"I am." The alpha's grin grew sheepish. "Sorry if the name's deceiving. A deliverer friend told me that I'd get tips easier if I use a feminine name."

Louis nodded. It was logical. The name had succeeded in capturing his attention and if it had been any old regular Johnny or Derek, he wouldn't have paid any mind.

"Does it work?"

The alpha chuckled. “Sometimes. Especially with ‘Leave At Door’ orders.” There was a pause before a smirk split the alpha’s features. “Are you gonna tell me the origin of your username as well? Mr. HungryForKnot?”

This made Louis let out an indignant squeak. The alpha cocked an amused brow.

“I dunno why my username is like that! I swear! I don’t remember changing—” His jaw snapped shut mid-sentence.

A scene flashed into his mind as he gasped. He could recall it now. The world’s biggest nuisance of an alpha aka. Louis’ rock and best friend, Niall, had come over to hang out last weekend and goaded Louis into ordering some Bánh mì since the alpha wanted to try Vietnamese cuisine.

The omega remembered that he had been too absorbed in drinking his beer and watching the latest crime documentary that he had entrusted his alpha friend with his phone. It must have been then that Niall had altered his username. Louis cursed the Irish alpha silently, vowing that he’d never let the guy near his phone *ever again*.

“Errr... My friend must have changed it. As a *joke*. He’s such a knothed.” Louis breathed, shaking his head.

The alpha shrugged as he rubbed his hand over Clifford’s back. Louis noticed that the alpha’s fingernails had flashy nail polish on them and each one was in a different shade. The alpha’s nails were stubby and short, yet the colors on them made the slenderness of his fingers stand out. He got distracted by the sight and almost missed the alpha’s next words.

“I’m sure the username gave the staff over at Burger King a right laugh. When I picked up your order, they were all in a pretty jovial mood despite it being 5am. Your friend’s joke can be considered a success?”

Louis snorted. “Well... *if you say so*. Minimum wage workers make up the backbone of society and if this silly name made them happy, then I guess I’ll tolerate the embarrassment.” He had no idea why he was rambling, but the alpha was staring at him so intently that Louis had to carry on.

“Is that your bike?” He asked, pointing at the road bike leaning against the fence of his garden.

The alpha teared his heated gaze away from the omega and nodded at the bike. “Would you mind if I stay here for a bit? I need to fix that flat tire.”

“Sure, you can stay! Um... Do you need tools? I know nothing about fixing bikes so... Not sure if I can help?”

The alpha honked out a laugh as he straightened up. “I’ve got the tools, no worries. You can help me with one thing though... Tell me your name?” The alpha flashed his dimples at the omega, fiddling with the straps of his delivery bag.

The omega felt the heat returning to his face. The alpha must have sensed his unease because he threw Louis a casual shrug.

“I’m not a stalker or anything. But I can’t keep calling you HungryForKnot inside of my head, can I?”

Louis stifled his giggle into his fist. “Fair enough.” He cleared his throat before adding shyly. “I’m Louis.”

“Nice to meet you, Louis. I’m Harry.”

The alpha, *Harry*, patted Clifford’s head. “And this ball of energy?”

“He’s Clifford.” Louis chuckled when his dog snapped his jaw impatiently as he pawed at the paper bag in Harry’s hand.

“Big boy’s hungry.” Harry smiled as he passed the bag to Louis.

“Where’re your manners, Cliffy? You’re making me look bad.” Louis scolded, reaching into the bag and drawing out two patties wrapped in oil-stained paper. Clifford bolted up straight, staring at the food while his tongue lolled out of his mouth.

“Can I feed him?” The alpha piped up as Louis started to unwrap the food. “Sorry. Um, I just... I’ve always wanted a dog. And he’s beyond adorable.” The alpha was twisting his fingers bashfully.

What could the omega do except hand over the patties? “Have at it then.”

The omega watched, unable to fight the smile off of his face, as the alpha carefully shredded the patties into pieces and fed Clifford. He didn’t seem to mind that the dog was chewing on his fingers and drenching his palm in drool.

“Did you bike really far to deliver my order? It must’ve been a long ride since you got a puncture.” Louis pried curiously. He hoped that the alpha wouldn’t find him too nosy.

The alpha didn’t seem to think much of it because he answered easily, “Nah. I was in the neighborhood. I think it’s coz I took a shortcut instead of the road suggested by Google Maps. It ended up being rockier than I had anticipated. Thus, my greed for speed earned me a flat tire.”

This time, Louis was too late to cover his mouth as he laughed. The alpha’s face lit up even more as he watched the omega doubling over.

“Is it that funny?” The alpha asked as he finished feeding Clifford the last piece of patty.

“It’s... Amusing.” The omega choked out, tucking his long fringe behind his ear as he bit back his grin. Small talks had never been Louis’ forte, but the endearing alpha was proving himself to be an exception.

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He had been secretly watching Harry fix his flat tire from the living room window (skillfully hidden behind the shade of his curtains). He could see Clifford prancing around the alpha and Harry would pause to indulge the dog.

It was close to 6am and since it was mid-May, the sun was going to rise soon. Louis could see the colors of the skies changing as dark navy morphed into light sky blue, then colored into pale orange. Might as well act civilized, he reasoned as he grabbed a bottle of water and trudged outside.

“Here.” Louis approached the alpha kneeling in the grass and offered him the bottle. “Figured you might be thirsty.”

“Oh thanks!” The alpha uncapped the bottle eagerly and guzzled the water. Louis stared determinedly at the grass, making a point *not* to stare at the attractive bob of the alpha’s Adam’s

apple.

He didn't know what to do with himself, but lingered on as he watched Harry taking out a miniscule bike pump and started piping air into the tire. He yawned into his sweater paw as he shooed Clifford away from a patch of daisies. He had caught Clifford chewing on some marigolds' petals days before and it wasn't a pleasant discovery since it had taken Louis ages to plant them.

"Do you work the graveyard shift?" He startled when he heard Harry's voice breaking the silence.

"No, I don't..." Louis decided against revealing the fact that he was an insomniac and replied, "I'm a light sleeper."

The alpha's expression was nonplus as he frowned, "Light sleeper? You look dead on your feet. You must be exhausted."

Louis didn't like how deep the scrunch between Harry's eyebrows were. As if it didn't make matters worse, the alpha was letting off a wave of concerned and pungent pheromones. The smell made Louis' omega upset at the fact that he had made the alpha worry. But before Louis could come up with a good enough reply to get this stranger off his back, the alpha was getting to his feet and dusting off his leggings.

"Thanks for the water, Louis. And for letting me play with Cliff." Harry said as he shouldered his delivery bag. Clifford came over, wagging his tail as he barked several times at Harry.

"Um... Thanks for delivering my food?"

The alpha smiled, running a hand through his curls before jamming a helmet into his hair. Louis tried not to look too forlornly at the alpha as they exchanged little waves and Harry proceeded to pedal away.

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It was only two nights later when Louis, once again, tapped open the DoorDash app. He was too lazy to cook. It was such a hassle, he told himself. It *wasn't* because he was hoping to see a certain someone. Yep, *not that*. He was doing DoorDash a favor too, contributing to this app's profits!

He pondered over what to eat and decided on Chinese food. The order was accepted and he kept checking to see if the app would select a deliverer for him soon.

Clifford was napping on the carpet beside the couch, curled into his worn pale green blanket. Louis went into the kitchen to get a bowl of kibble in case he woke up demanding for something.

He took a chance to make a cuppa and nearly splashed himself with boiling water when he felt his phone vibrating, announcing that his deliverer was on the way. He hesitated before waking his phone and thrill shot up his spine when he noticed the familiar name. Dorothy was on her (*his*) way.

"Shit!" He cursed when the whistling of the kettle interrupted his fruitless attempts at zooming in on Harry's profile icon. It was a blurry pic of his hands and nails coated in polish. He blushed, feeling caught as he pocketed his phone.

Juggling his cup of Yorkshire and Clifford's bowl of kibble, he made his way to the living room. The doorbell sounded off the moment he raised his steaming cup of tea to his lips. The noise made him jump and it was no surprise that he burnt his tongue on the scalding tea. Today truly wasn't his day, he shook his head as he winced at the rawness of the burn on his tongue.

“Louis?” He could hear Harry’s voice echoing from behind the front door.

He gathered himself before opening it and immediately regretted not changing into something more presentable. It had been a humidly hot night so he was clad in a thin black tank top and light brown sleep shorts. He knew that the amount of skin he was displaying was a bit rude, but the thought quickly left his mind when Harry’s dimples popped.

“Hi!” He breathed, hand busy with flattening his fringe. This time, the alpha was wearing a tie-dye blue and white shirt with two pink unicorns adorned on the front. Louis couldn’t help but smile at the unique and quirky fashion choice.

“You didn’t change your username.” Harry noted as he gave the omega a plastic bag filled with takeout boxes.

Louis shrugged. “Others can laugh at my expense. Consider it my ultimate sacrifice.”

The sound of Harry’s laugh filled his house and it was astonishing how much Louis loved the sound.

“How’s Cliff?” The alpha asked and Louis had to tear his eyes away from the mussed-up curls hanging to Harry’s chin.

“Napping.” Louis pushed his front door wider opened so that Harry could see the dog snoring away on the floor.

“I actually brought some treats for him.” The alpha admitted, stuffing his hand into his delivery bag and pulling out a Ziploc crammed with bone biscuits. They were a pale orange and didn’t look like the ones Louis usually purchased.

“I hope he fancies pumpkin flavor?” Forest greens flicked uncertainly from the bag to Louis’ face. The omega realized he must be wearing an affronted expression. He tried to school his face into neutral aloofness.

“I mostly feed him salmon flavored biscuits. I don’t think he’s much of a vegan to be honest.” He scratched the back of his neck as the alpha’s expression fell. “But! He’s not exactly picky!” He’d never actually buy *this kind* of biscuit flavor for Clifford, but then again, Harry didn’t need to know.

Harry brightened and the omega stepped back from the doorway. “You can come in and give it to him if you wanna.”

“Really?” The alpha asked, barely fighting the delight from his voice as the omega nodded.

Inviting a strange alpha into his house wasn’t something Louis would catch himself doing, but then again, in the presence of this particular alpha, rationality seemed to take flight at first chance.

† † † † †

In the end, Clifford roused and stuck to Harry like glue, much like an enthusiastic child having found a new favorite toy. Louis shook his head in disbelief as he watched Clifford gnawing at the pumpkin biscuits.

“Can’t believe he likes them.” He muttered underneath his breath as Harry stroked the dog’s fur.

“You’re denying him of his greens. And yourself, if I might add.” The alpha chided, casting a

disapproving glance at the Chinese takeout displayed on the coffee table. Louis rolled his eyes, clasp ing a piece of orange sesame chicken between his chopsticks and shoving it into his mouth.

“I’m living life, Harold.” It was too late to stop himself from uttering the nickname. Harry’s lips curled upwards.

“In all seriousness, Lou, you’re gonna ruin your health if you keep this up. Having this kind of meal at this time of the day is practically suicide.” Louis busied himself with looking at the clock on the mantelpiece and willed himself not to blush pink at how Harry had muttered “Lou” in his molasse-like voice.

“It’s five thirty. An early brekkie, no big deal.” He tried to go for a shrug, but Harry’s face remained stony.

“What ‘bout you then?” Louis asked hurriedly. “You can’t lecture me when you work at this time of the day.”

The alpha made a protesting noise. “M not working. It’s my morning exercise routine.”

Louis’ jaw slackened and he could feel some noodle remnants tumble out of his mouth. He flicked some noodles off of his lap unceremoniously, too preoccupied with Harry’s comment.

“Being a DoorDasher is part of your exercise?” He echoed as he wiped away a bit of vegetable clinging to his chin.

“Yep.” The alpha said simply. “I bike around the neighborhood and at the same time, I take orders and deliver them. It’s a win win situation. I can earn some pounds while getting a workout done.”

“Does that mean you have a proper full-time job then?”

The alpha nodded. “I work at a private nursery in town’s center. I take care of pups and help plan interesting activities.”

“Is it your ideal job?” He asked in wonder. It wasn’t everyday that you hear an alpha works at a nursery. Even though they were living in modern times, the majority of nursery caretakers were omegas or betas.

Harry thought for a moment, lips caught between his teeth. “Well, yeah. I love children so... I think it can count as my dream job. Also, my mate is the owner of the nursery so it’s nice working for someone I know.”

Louis suddenly became very engrossed in picking at a box of assorted fried rice. He was *so tempted* to ask if Harry meant mate *mate* or just a best friend kind of mate.

“You must be really busy, huh.” He muttered instead.

Clifford chose this moment to hop into the alpha’s lap, almost upsetting the cup of tea Louis had brewed for Harry. Harry laughed as he tickled the dog’s underside.

“Not really. I get off work on time around 5pm. After work, I’d relax at home, go to the gym or have dinner with my coworkers. Pretty basic.”

“Well, that sounds much more productive than my boring life. I don’t even leave the house that much.” Louis regretted it the instant these words came out of his mouth. It made him sound like a whiny loner.

“What do you do?” The alpha asked, expression hard to read as Louis crumpled up a greasy takeout box.

“Uh. I’m a video game character designer. I draw sketches and pitch ideas on designs.”

“That doesn’t sound boring at all.” The alpha said sincerely. “I suck at video games so I don’t play them... But it’s cool to know you’re one of the people making those characters insanely life-like. No idea how you guys can make them look so real.”

“It’s tough work... Everyone’s got their own ideas. It’s hard to find someone like me in this kind of position since... It’s difficult to get everyone on the same page when it comes to design.”

“Someone like you?” The alpha’s scent was like a fluffy blanket and the longer they sat on the living room carpet, getting to know each other, the more Louis felt like he was going crazy with how much he wanted to shove Clifford off of Harry’s lap and climb into it instead.

“An omega.” He said after a short pause. He tried to breathe in through his mouth and not let the scent of ashes, herbs and flowers take over his senses.

“Ah.” Harry seemed to get the gist of it. “Are you the only omega in your department?”

Louis nodded jerkily. “All my coworkers and boss are alphas. As you can guess there’s an obvious hierarchy that I’m trying to tear down.” He joked drily.

“Do they give you trouble?” The alpha asked, tone dark.

“Well, not really. They like my designs...” *Well, at least, most of them do.* Louis didn’t mention the exception of his obnoxious and genderist boss.

“You’re really brave then. Facing all those alphas by yourself.” Harry said in a warm tone. Louis could feel the alpha’s knee nudging his underneath the coffee table.

“I wouldn’t call myself brave though. I mean... I don’t have to go into the office unless there’s a meeting. I usually hide here.”

“All the same.” The alpha reached out to thumb away spicy sour sauce from the corner of the omega’s parted lips. “You shouldn’t put yourself down like this, Lou.”

The point where he was touching the omega tingled pleasantly. Tension seemed to crackle in the air between them and for a second, Louis thought Harry was going to *do something*, but the alpha was moving away all too soon.

“Think it’s time for me to leave. The nursery opens at 8am. I need to go home and drop off my gear.”

Louis hadn’t realized that they’d been talking for over an hour. Reluctantly, he watched the alpha packing his delivery bag and tickling Clifford for the last time.

Can I have your number? Your curls are sexy. When will I see you again? I wanna sit on your knot. These thoughts raced through the omega’s mind only served to make him bite down harder on his tongue.

“Say, Lou?” The alpha came to a halt at the doorway.

“Hmm?”

“Are you gonna order again tomorrow?”

Louis contemplated the question before shrugging. “Not sure.” He didn’t want to say yes, because that would make him a downright creep. Ordering food as an excuse to see Harry was something he’d *never* confess to doing. He knew he might be overexaggerating, but he really didn’t want Harry to get the wrong idea.

The alpha’s face was oddly pinched and it seemed like he was struggling to say something. Louis waited with baited breath, but the alpha visibly deflated after a pause.

“Have a good day, Lou. Go sleep. *Please.*” Harry fixed him with a stern look and the low tone of his alpha timbre made the omega nod obediently.

“Bye, Harold.” Louis whispered as the alpha jogged down the house steps. The alpha got on his bike and with one last wave, he was gone.

“I’m so fucked, Cliffy.” Louis sighed as he closed the door and buried his face in Clifford’s fur.

† † † † †

Louis had to wrestle with his inner omega for a week before he finally succumbed to his demons and ordered from DoorDash. It didn’t help that he was feeling extra angsty due to being stuck with tweaking a part of his most recent design. Unfortunately, since it was 4:30am on a rainy and dreary Thursday, the only restaurant available on the app was McDonald’s.

He paced around the living room, trying not to tear at his hair while the app searched for a nearby deliverer. *Please let it be him. Please, dear Lord, please.* He would donate to charities, help elders cross roads, save a cat from a tree, *anything*.

“Yes!” He pumped his fist in the air when Dorothy’s name jumped out on his screen. It must be because of the rain since the delivery time was estimated to be double the regular time. *Oh well*, that meant he had more time to prepare.

He dashed into his bedroom, throwing open the closet and rifling for fresh clothes that didn’t smell like he had worn them for three days straight. He had forgotten to do his laundry so his choices were somewhat limited.

Clifford sidled into the room just as the omega was tugging on a meshed polo blouse that revealed his collarbones if he left it unbuttoned. He tried to tame his fringe which was sticking up in all directions since he had taken a nap on the couch.

“Is he here?” He shouted when he heard Clifford barking. He tugged helplessly at a particularly wild strand of bed hair.

“I’m not ready!” Louis cried as he hopped around, struggling into his tight black skinnies.

He could hear Harry knocking as he stumbled into the living room. He sucked in a deep breath before throwing open the door. The sight that greeted him startled a laugh out of the omega. Harry was standing in the drizzling rain with a neon green frog poncho draped over his body.

“I didn’t realize it’s Halloween!” The omega joked. He rocked onto his tip toes to pinch playfully at the bulging frog eyes perched on the poncho hood.

“Trick or treat?” The alpha laughed, stooping forward and letting the omega pull at the googly eyes. His dimples *didn’t* make Louis swoon. *They really didn’t.*

“I should be the one asking you since you have my burger.” The omega bantered, obvious fond laced into his voice.

He could feel Clifford wedging his head between his knees so he parted his legs to let the dog peer out at Harry.

“Hey, Cliffy, got you something better than biscuits this time.” Louis ushered the alpha out of the rain and into the living room. He left in search of a towel for Harry to dry his wet curls and came back to find the alpha presenting a carefully wrapped dish to Clifford. He hid his endeared grin when he saw Harry pulling the lid off of the dish with a flourish and winking at the dog whose tail was thumping madly against the carpet. Upon closer inspection, Louis could see grounded meat mixed with a variety of chopped veggies in the container.

“I searched up dog recipes online and cooked this.”

“Harold!” Louis gasped as his eyes roamed over the yummy looking dish. “You didn’t have to!”

The alpha looked up at the omega with shining eyes. “But I want to.”

The omega swallowed thickly. This was a friendly gesture, he told his purring omega. Harry *loves dogs* so it was all *a kind and charitable act*.

“You’re spoiling him.” Louis muttered as he watched Clifford burrowing into the dish, lapping noisily.

“Then I want to make sure he’s spoiled and *healthy*.” The alpha smiled softly, stroking Clifford’s head.

Louis noticed there were several other containers stacked on the coffee table next to his limp bag of McDonald’s.

“What’s this?” He popped open one of the containers and his mouth fell open. There were two crescent shaped pastries, baked to a beautiful golden brown and surrounded by tiny pieces of carrots and string beans.

“Empanadas.” The alpha crouched down on the carpet beside Louis and pointed to another box. “I wasn’t sure which flavor you preferred so I baked different ones. There’s chicken and shellfish. If you’re craving sweet, there’s also a pineapple flavored one.” The alpha suddenly slapped a hand on his forehead. “Ah, no! I should’ve checked to see if you were allergic to seafood!”

“Hold up, H... You *baked* these?”

“What if I did?” The alpha shot the omega a devilishly charming grin.

This can’t be right. “Why though?”

He could feel a small nudge against his shoulder as Harry leaned in. “Can’t let you live off of cheeseburgers forever, can we?”

Louis was still too shocked to speak. He couldn’t understand *why* Harry would go through the trouble of cooking for someone that he had met only recently. Maybe the alpha had a feeding fetish or *most likely*, the alpha was *completely* off his rockers.

“I— I dunno what to say...” The omega confessed as he watched Harry opening the other containers. A total of six empanadas looked innocently up at Louis from their boxes and he was at

a loss for words.

“Don’t have to say anything, Lou. Just eat before they get too cold.” The alpha’s earnest gaze made Louis flush as the omega reached out hesitantly, picking up a warm pastry.

The first bite made him temporarily forget all his worries, punching a moan from his lips.

“Good?” The alpha was giggling as the omega shoved another huge bite into his mouth.

“This is— How do you even make these!” Louis exclaimed as he wolfed down the rest of the empanada. He could detect crushed veggies and onions inside it and usually he would avoid greens with a vengeance, yet he discovered that they tasted heavenly, all mushed up in a single pastry.

“Contrary to what you think, cooking can be very pleasant.” The alpha said jokingly, putting out a hand to stop Clifford from lunging for an empanada. “Cliffy, those aren’t for you. Greedy boy...”

“You can be a Master Chef with this dish, Harold, I’m serious!” Louis said around a mouthful of food, holding the container of empanadas to his chest and away from Clifford’s twitching nose.

The alpha barked out a laugh. “My cooking is nowhere near that level.”

Louis licked his thumb clean before jabbing a finger at Harry. “And *you’re* the one who says I should stop putting meself down.”

The alpha dimpled, leaning in and watching eagerly as Louis took another huge bite.

† † † † †

“Hey Lou?” The rain had cleared up and early morning dew was dripping from the tips of the tall grass out in the garden. Louis stood, shivering in the chilly dawn breeze as Harry swung a gangly leg over his bike.

“Yeah?” He was feeling very sleepy all thanks to the four empanadas residing in his belly. He fought to keep his eyelids from shutting as he smiled dopily at the alpha.

“You should give me your number. Next time when you crave a snack, you can message me.”

Louis felt the drowsiness draining out of him as he stared up at Harry. The alpha’s cheeks looked slightly pink as he fiddled with the peeling rubber of his bike handle. Once the words, *give me your number*, finished bouncing around in Louis’ mind, he snapped to attentive focus. Any desire for sleep vanished only to be replaced by utter *glee*.

“I’d love to!” He blurted, too enthusiastically and resisted jumping in joy. “But wait!” He frowned. “You have to tell me how much I should pay you! For the empanadas and everything...”

He turned on his heels. “Let me fetch me wallet!”

Strong calloused fingers circled around his wrist, tugging him gently back from his attempt to dart up the house stairs.

“Lou! You don’t have to pay for anything.”

The omega spun around, frown firmly in place. “Harold, you can’t honestly think I’m gonna let you bring food over and not give you money for your troubles.”

The alpha’s expression was torn as the grip on Louis’ wrist tightened. “I don’t want your money.

How about... You pay me back in favors?"

The omega's heartbeat accelerated. Harry must have realized how ambiguously *obscene* his comment sounded as the omega turned a shade of bright rosy pink.

"I mean!" The alpha cleared his throat pointedly. "Like... Letting me play with Cliff or... Ummm... Coming to the nursery and help me take care of the pups when you have free time. *Normal* favors like these."

The omega bit his lips. "For a sec there, I thought you were gonna ask me to rub your back."

It was the alpha's turn to flush. "Ah, well, I'm not opposed to that in the least bit. But it must be consensual, of course."

Louis laughed. This alpha was so silly. "For your information, I give killer massages."

Harry's grin could match the brightness of the sun. "I don't doubt you do."

Louis had to watch the alpha bike away in the end. He was feeling less distressed since he had the alpha's number securely locked away in his phone.

† † † † †

Louis found himself slowly changing his routine. He'd catch himself turning off the lights at midnight and settling into bed before daybreak. He made a point to wake up at around eleven the next day, texting Harry in between his sketches and laughing at the alpha's random pictures of cute pups making a mess of themselves.

Louis had yet to visit the nursery due to his impending deadline, but he really wanted to meet the yapping pups. The drastic change in his daily routine was making it easier for Louis to sleep at regular hours and the exhaustion from insomnia have lessened significantly.

Harry would bring over a homecooked dinner at around 6pm or sometimes, he'd end up utilizing Louis' abandoned and dusty kitchen. Watching the alpha dice ingredients at an incredible speed never failed to entertain the omega.

"You can use a knife like that?" He declared in awe when Harry produced a slice of tomato with trimmed edges. If Louis had been the one cutting, the tomato would've been beefy on one side and too thin on the other.

"Witness the power of my blade, baby." The alpha gave Louis a smug wink as the omega rolled his eyes at the (not so) subtle innuendo.

Oh yeah, *flirting* was definitely *a thing* between them now. The alpha had started giving Louis various pet names ever since they began hanging out. At first, Louis had thought he was hallucinating and wouldn't respond when Harry directed names like *sweetheart* or *honey* at him. Upon being ignored, the alpha would always make a point of squeezing the omega's arm or holding his wrist to capture his attention and as time wore on, Louis found himself getting used to the pet names and *relishing* them.

He reasoned that this was a part of Harry's habit since the alpha also had a bunch of endearments for Clifford. He shouldn't feel so special whenever Harry called him *baby*, yet, his inner omega couldn't stop wishing the alpha would say the word after each sentence.

† † † † †

Louis was currently finishing up his design and he'd have to take the train into London to hand in his final work. He had woken up to a message from his boss, demanding that he showed his face this afternoon instead of sending over the design via email. His boss would never call him into the office unless it was to give him a lecture. He wondered what the mean alpha had in store for him. Just thinking about it was making him shiver with dread. His phone pinged with an incoming text. He smiled as he swiped it open.

H: I'm thinking of making chicken and chili tonight.

Louis glanced at the clock. He was going to take the train at noon and by the time he gets to the office, it would be past two and *god knows* how long his boss was going to hold him hostage for?

I don't think I'm gonna make it... Dunno how long the meeting will be. You don't have to come over tonight.

He could see dots appearing and disappearing for a few seconds and he chewed on his knuckle, waiting for a reply.

H: I can always heat it up for you. Since you'll be late, I'll also bring over desserts. I've been itching to try out a cream puff recipe.

Louis knew there was no point in fighting the alpha.

Fine. You win, Master Chef. See you tonight :)

Louis resolutely put his phone down. He should get to work instead of distracting himself.

† † † † †

Riding the train never failed to evoke his anxiety. He didn't know if it was the crowdedness of the coach or the negligence of the common decency to spray neutralizers on in public. Or maybe it was due to the heat that was making everyone sweat buckets. All the scents seemed to swirl into one and the intensity of it made Louis feel like he couldn't breathe. For the entire ride, he had to press his bunched-up windbreaker in front of his nose in order to block strangers' intruding scents.

When he finally staggered out of the train and onto the streets of bustling London, he felt himself getting dizzy as he watched the traffic rush before him. His senses felt heightened and the world was suddenly becoming too overwhelming. He chided himself for not getting out of the house more often.

He was a few minutes late when he managed to race into the office, fumbling with his heavy laptop case.

"You're late, Tomlinson." Came the immediate snarky bark. He could see his boss leaning against the doorway to the meeting room and tried not to flush underneath the alpha's sneer.

"Get your arse in here. The team is waiting on you, your Highness." The rude alpha slammed the meeting door close. Louis had to take a minute to steady his breath and wipe away his sweat.

"Hey," Louis felt a warm hand on his shoulder. He turned and nearly started weeping in relief when he realized it was Zayn. Zayn was one of the few alphas in the office who he had befriended and they were close despite not being able to see each other that often. The sight of that familiar smirky grin and earnest dark brown eyes was enough to calm the omega's jittery nerves.

“Z!” He wanted to fling himself forward into Zayn’s arms, but restrained himself since he knew it wouldn’t be proper to display such intimate affections in the workplace.

“Let’s not get teary now, babes. We have a meeting to endure.”

He felt Zayn patting his back and guiding him into the meeting room. His alpha friend was right. Now *wasn’t* the time to show his vulnerability.

† † † † †

“I’ve made the dragon’s armor an oval shape so that its scales can protrude, thus, it would serve as easy access if a weapon needs to be drawn by the player.”

Louis used the laser pointer in his hand to trace the outer edge of the armor design so that the room could see. He was pleased to spot some heads nodding along approvingly.

He ploughed on, voice growing more confident as he presented each of his designs. By the time he finished and took a shaking sip of water, he felt like he had conquered a great feat.

“Are there any questions?” He addressed the room and he could see Zayn smiling in the glow of the projection screen.

“How long have you been working on these again?” Louis stiffened when he saw his boss standing up. He subtly squared his shoulders, not wanting to seem like he was cowering.

“A month’s time, sir. Ever since you designated the case to me.”

“I didn’t know it’d take *so long* to produce such... *unflattering* designs.”

The air in the room came to standstill and Louis felt the adrenaline in his veins spiking to an all time’s high.

“I— Sir?” He choked out, voice weak even in his own ears.

“You want me to be honest, Tomlinson?” The boss spread his arms, shrugging. “It’s *shit*. Absolute *rubbish* if you ask me.”

Louis could feel his knees growing wobbly and he had to clutch the podium for support.

He could hear the creak of Zayn’s chair as the alpha raised his hand. “Mr. Lightening, I’ll have to argue with you on this one. I think Designer Tomlinson’s ideas are innovative compared to the ones presented by others.”

“You don’t have to stand up for him, Malik. Any proper alpha has to own up to his mistakes and redeem them. Ah...” A terrible leer split the alpha’s features. “*My bad*, I guess you have an excuse not to do so since you’re an *omega*.”

Rage ignited within Louis at the words. It wasn’t the first time his boss had publicly discriminated against him. Not that Louis wasn’t numb to it, but having a room full of people to witness the degrading scene wasn’t doing much good to his omega.

“Sir, if you want me to fix the designs, you can point out the places that need altering and I will try my best to edit them.” Louis was glad that his voice didn’t waver and by the surprised raise of his boss’s brows, he knew that the alpha hadn’t expected him to react so calmly.

“What if I say you’ll need to redo *the whole thing*?” The alpha asked, almost calculatingly as the

omega met his indifferent gaze.

“Then I will redo it. Until you and this entire department are satisfied.”

Louis chanced a glance around the room and saw that most of his coworkers were wearing awestruck expression. That’ll show them, he thought. That’ll show them how he won’t bend under cruel insults.

“A week’s time, Tomlinson. I’ll tell my assistant to send an email to you regarding the editing and you better have the designs on my desk by the end of this week.”

Just like that, the alpha swaggered out of the room, leaving behind him nothing saved for the pungent scent of stale tobacco and soured grapes.

“Lou? You okay?” He blinked a few times when he noticed that Zayn had rushed to his side and was rubbing soothing circles into his trembling shoulders.

“I—” He had to swallow several times before finally finding his voice. “I’m fine, really.”

“Can’t believe that bastard bashed you like that in front of everyone! He just doesn’t want to admit your designs are brilliant. Don’t listen to a word he says, Lou. You don’t deserve this kind of treatment. We should seriously file a complaint to headquarters about his behavior!”

Louis sighed. “Unfortunately, I’m an *omega*.” He drew quotation marks in the air before giving Zayn a quivering smile. “Thanks for being on my side, Z, I appreciate it.”

His alpha friend looked like he was about to say more, but the omega put up a hand to stop him.

“I’m okay. I have a train to catch. Clifford’s waiting for me.”

He could see an obvious tick in Zayn’s sharp jaw, but alas, the alpha nodded in defeat.

“Come over for a beer some time?” Zayn offered as they walked towards the lifts.

“Of course, mate, I’d never miss out on our gaming sessions.”

The alpha winked at the omega before herding Louis into the lift. “See you around, Lou. Text me, yeah?”

It was only in the safety of the lift that Louis let himself sag against the mirrored wall. He gasped for breath, hugging his laptop case to his chest and willed himself not to burst out in sobs. His omega was begging for comfort yet he could offer none as he tried to stop himself from dropping onto the floor and curling into a ball. No one will see his tears, not here, not in this place crawling with alphas. He swallowed thickly, fighting back his primal instincts as the dominant tone of his boss’s alpha voice seemed to echo in his ears.

He fled from the office building as fast as his feet could carry him. It was a miracle he somehow found his way back home and got out of the Uber on quaking feet.

“You need help?” The Uber driver was rolling down the window and shouting at him in concern when Louis tripped against the pavement.

Louis waved him off, fingers scrabbling for his house keys and flung himself into the darkness of his home. He collapsed onto the doormat, quivering as he heard Clifford running towards him from the living room.

He had no energy to greet his dog and felt Clifford peppering licks onto his cheek. He simply lay there, letting the exhaustion seep into his bones. Clifford was whining sadly into his neck when the omega failed to respond to his headbutts.

Lightheadedness was returning in full force as Louis continued to lie on the wooden floor. His throat was parched, but he had no strength to reach for his water bottle in his backpack.

His doorbell sounded off minutes later, the chime stirring the air and cutting through the eerily quiet house. The omega winced at the noise and he reached up weakly to shield his sensitive ears.

“Lou?” There was tentative knocking on the door and Clifford bolted up, claws scratching against the wood as he started to howl.

“Lou! Anyone there?” Harry must have heard Clifford’s miserable noises and Louis cracked open an eye to see his front door’s doorknob jiggling.

He mustered every bit of strength left in him to sit up and called out in a thin voice, “Haz... I’m here...”

The furious pounding on the door ceased. “Baby?”

“Sorry, I...” He took a deep breath, squeezing his eyes close as he felt hot tears welling up. “I think you should go home. I don’t wanna see you.” Rather, *I don’t want you to see how pathetic I am right now*, but he didn’t say this.

There was a pause before Harry’s voice trickled from the other side of the door. “Let me in, Lou.” His voice was dangerously low.

Louis took a shaky breath. “No! Go home!” He cried. His head felt too big for his body and his whole weight was dragging him down.

“Don’t shut me out. Wanna see you and make sure you’re okay.”

These words were doing fuck all at stopping the tears in the omega’s eyes. He choked out a sob and didn’t even try to hide it due to his exhaustion, knowing full well that Harry could hear him on the other side.

“*Please*, sweet baby. Let me in... Let alpha take care of you.”

Louis turned to burrow his face into Clifford’s soft curly fur. The dog was still howling during all this time and the omega’s heart was breaking at how much he was making his dog worry.

He steadied himself against the wall and staggered to his feet. A wave of nausea hit the back of his throat, but he managed to fight back the urge to empty his guts. His fingers shook as he fumbled with the lock. He managed to unlock the door on the second try and watched it swing open.

“Fuck, honey.” Louis didn’t get a chance to see the distraught expression the alpha was wearing because Harry had stepped forward, crashing their bodies together.

The omega felt himself relaxing as the alpha embraced him. Harry emanated so much warmth and comfort that Louis’ hands flew up to curl into the back of the alpha’s jacket.

“What did they do to you?” The alpha was growling into his hair as he started to ease the omega backwards into the living room.

Louis couldn't find it within him to respond and he surprised himself when he let out a broken whimper. He buried his face into the alpha's neck, taking in shaky lungful of fresh flowers and ashy ambers.

He felt Harry lowering him onto the couch. "Hey, look at me." Big warm hands were cupping his cheeks. "You're safe. You can sleep now, love. You need it."

Louis felt tears running down the corners of his eyes as he closed them. He was safe, he told his omega. The last thing he felt was Harry arranging his legs and the alpha fitting himself against his side.

† † † † †

He blinked awake groggily, mouth dry as sandpaper and head thudding with a migraine. He groaned as he sat up. A lump in the blanket shifted and he saw Clifford's head poking out. He smiled weakly at his dog, letting Clifford nose into his palm.

"Water?" He looked up, rubbing at his eyes blearily when he saw the alpha bending over him and holding out a mug.

He accepted the mug and drained the warm liquid. It made him feel immensely better. "How long was I out for?" He croaked at Harry whose eyes were raking over his body like he was assessing Louis of injuries.

"Few hours. It's almost two in the morning. You should go back to sleep."

Louis frowned as he attempted to stand up. He tried to push Harry away when the alpha reached out to steady him. "I'm fine, Harold." He snapped impatiently when he sensed Harry letting off a wave of sickeningly concerned pheromones.

"What's wrong, Lou?"

"Nothing's wrong." *Everything was wrong.* He had *dropped*. Had the alpha not come knocking, he would've passed out and dropped on the doormat at his house's entrance. The realization brought fear as he straightened up, swaying as he took a step.

He could see Harry reaching out for him again in his peripherals. He swatted the alpha's hand away. He didn't need an alpha near him, affecting his omega. He should be *hating* all alphas since they were the main cause of his distress. His mind flashed to his alpha boss's detested expression during the meeting. All alphas were entitled jerks, he thought bitterly.

He felt the ground shifting underneath him, but powered through it as he strode into his bedroom.

"Lou. What're you doing?" Harry's irritated tone only made him angrier as he swung himself into his computer chair and rolled towards his work desk.

"I have a deadline to meet." He answered curtly, pulling up the email from his boss's assistant.

Harry's hand covered his on the mouse and the pressure of it prevented the omega from clicking.

"Your health is more important than any deadline, love." The sincerity in Harry's tone made tears spring into the omega's eyes.

"You don't have the right to decide what's good for me. It's my body not yours!"

He regretted his harsh words when he saw a flash of hurt in the alpha's mossy greens. Harry's hand was still pressed against his and Louis jerked his hand away, not meeting the alpha's searching gaze.

"You're right. I don't have any right. But I *care*. I care a lot for you and it's killing me seeing you like this."

Louis huffed. "Well, this is me! This is what I'm like!" *Okay*, he was definitely crying as he wiped angrily at his tear-stained cheeks. "If you don't like what you see, then you can leave! If you don't want me, then you should stay the fuck away!"

He expected a painful slap to the cheek or an insult uttered in alpha timbre. Nothing could have prepared him for what came next.

He made a startled noise when he felt plump lips enclosing his own. Harry's lips were soft, lingering and tasted sweeter than any tropical fruit. The alpha worked his mouth tenderly against the omega's, setting a languid unhurried pace as his tongue smoothed over Louis' parted lips.

Louis felt himself letting out a needy whimper when the alpha's tongue slid into his mouth, flicking along his teeth and rubbing against his own tongue. His hands jerked to life, circling the alpha's neck and pulling him further down so that Harry was bent over his chair.

"I can't make myself stay away. Not when I want you so much." The alpha whispered into his lips as he tilted Louis' head and sucked a gentle love bite into the omega's jaw.

"You want me?" Louis asked dazedly as they pulled apart to breathe against each other's lips. His eyes shuttered close when he felt the alpha's teeth sinking hotly into his neck.

"Been wanting you the moment I set my eyes on you. Little sleep deprived omega ordering rotten junk food at five in the morning. Wanna take care of you, make you eat your greens and make you mine."

The omega shook his head in disbelief at the confession.

"I don't believe you." He whined even as their lips met in another heated kiss.

"Why are you letting yourself be kissed then?" The alpha asked in a teasing tone as he licked at the omega's cheek.

"Why would you want me? I'm..." He couldn't find the exact suitable word to describe himself. *Fucked up? Selfish? Weak?*

"You're everything." Harry's words interrupted his chaotic thoughts and Louis moaned when he felt Harry's lips latching around his exposed shoulder, canines digging into his delicate skin. He returned the sentiment by licking at the alpha's collarbones. Lust was clouding his mind and worse of all, he was letting it.

"We should move to the bed." He whispered when he heard Harry's back cracking in his uncomfortable position.

"You're gonna let me bed you?" The alpha smirked, leaning back.

Louis rolled his eyes before tackling the alpha in a hug and hooked his legs around Harry's hips. They stumbled, too busy in giggling and kissing to pay any mind to the furniture they were knocking over and fell onto Louis' messy unmade bed.

“How do you want me?” The omega asked into Harry’s mouth as they rolled around, never once breaking their kiss. He could feel slick soaking his boxers as he struggled to unbutton the alpha’s long sleeve blouse.

“Wrong question, sweetheart. It’s about what *you* want.”

Louis turned his face to hide bashfully. He could feel Harry’s palms snaking underneath his shirt hem and tried not to mewl when he felt the alpha caressing his waist.

“Your knot.” He whispered, knowing that his ears were scarlet red. He gasped when he felt the rough pad of thumbs swiping over his nipples. Peeking up at the alpha hovering above him, he could see Harry’s dimples were impossibly deep as the alpha leaned down to lick at his neck affectionately.

“Hungry for knot?”

Louis should’ve seen this one coming. “Harold!” He shrieked in annoyance, slapping at the alpha’s chest.

“Can’t help but tease you, baby.” The alpha mused as he bit at the omega’s nose playfully.

“You’re never gonna let me hear the end of that joke, hm.” Louis grumbled.

The omega could feel the buds of his nipples growing perky and hard as Harry’s nails scratched over them. Suddenly, the alpha was pulling away, rocking back on his knees and the omega let out a sad whine.

“Let me go close the door. Or else Cliff is gonna come in.” Harry reasoned, eyes sparkling as the omega made grabby hands at him.

Louis let his head hit the pillow as he threw an arm over his eyes. He should really control his needy omega.

“Yeah... Good idea.”

He felt the bed shifting and chuckled when he saw Harry tiptoeing across the room to lock the bedroom door.

The half-naked alpha paused by the doorway, lips caught between his teeth as he contemplated the empty hallway. “Should I grab some kibble for Cliff? In case, he gets hungry while we’re...” He turned to wink at the omega. “Busy.”

The omega groaned against the pillow before making a show of sitting up and folding his arms across his chest. But then again, knowing how much Harry cared about his dog made him gush a wave of wanton slick.

“A minute. If you don’t get back here and let me kiss you *in sixty seconds*, don’t even think about popping a knot in me.”

He had never seen the alpha so coordinated as Harry sprinted from the room. He laughed when he heard banging of cupboards and loud cursing from the kitchen. A light bulb lit up in his brain and the omega jumped up to execute his brilliant idea. He stripped, ridding himself of his clothes. He blushed when he hooked his thumbs into his boxers and pulled them down, feeling slick dripping down his thighs.

He sat back down on the bed and pulled Tonkatsu into his lap, conveniently hiding his pink half hard cock. He hoped that the position was enticing enough as he heard Harry's thundering footfalls nearing the bedroom door.

"Took me more than a minute coz I was getting Cliff's water bowl—" The alpha's voice died as soon as he caught sight of the omega from the doorway. Louis bit back a triumphant smile when he saw Harry's mouth dropping open and dark green orbs becoming owlshly round.

"I was timing you." He lied as he flicked his fringe from his eyes.

"Baby." The alpha gasped. Louis giggled, making a beckoning gesture at the stunned alpha.

"Your lateness will be punished, Harold."

The alpha closed the distance between them and Louis yelped in surprise when he felt hot palms sinking into the flesh of his thighs.

"Who gave you the idea I'd ever hate punishments? Least of all, from you?"

He tightened his grip on his large brown furred plushie when Harry made an attempt to tug it away. "Wait, Haz."

"Mmhm?" The alpha's eyes were so dark that the omega couldn't see any light green.

"Umm..." He didn't know why his insecurity chose this time to spring up in him. He prided himself on being confident in bed, yet, in front of the alpha he really wanted to impress, his usual prowess was diminishing into sheer doubt.

"I haven't done it with anyone in a long time." He admitted quietly, fists curling into his plushie.

The alpha's expression softened as his hand fell away. "Oh, Lou. You don't have to force yourself into anything. I'm so sorry for rushing you."

Louis shook his head frantically. "No! I really... Wanna be with you! But I just... Um... I have this scar on my rib. It's kinda ugly and I dunno— It might be a turn off for you so I thought I'd warn you beforehand. Just in case you're grossed out by it." By the end of his sentence, his voice could barely be heard.

"Honey." He felt Harry grasping his chin lightly so that he had to meet the alpha's eyes. "Scars only make you more surreal. Anyone who gets grossed out by scars doesn't deserve your attention. All opinions on your body are irrelevant save for your own."

"You haven't even seen it yet, Haz." The omega murmured, tipping his head so that Harry could grace his lips with a fleeting kiss.

"I know I'll love it." The alpha said in return. "Can I see you now? Please? Can't take it when you are naked and not letting me see the goods."

Giggling, the omega shyly removed the plushie from his lap and placed it carefully against the headboard. He deliberately busied himself with smoothing out the wrinkles on the plushie so that he could put his cock and supple thighs drenched in slick on display.

Instead of reaching for his twitching cock like he had expected Harry would, his breath hitched when he felt curious fingers dancing over the long scar running down the side of his left rib. It was healed and faded, but Louis had always been self-conscious of its rough edges and obvious

pinkness.

“You’re so beautiful, angel.” The alpha muttered, lowering the omega back down onto the bed and trailing his lips over the scar. Louis squirmed when he felt the alpha’s tongue flattening over his scar and he pulsed out more slick as Harry’s tongue dug into his skin, leaving behind a burning wet trail.

“Tell me the story?” The alpha asked, curls falling over his forehead when he finished worshipping the omega’s scar with kisses and looked up.

“Got it when I was thirteen. Had a skateboarding accident in the streets.” Louis explained, stifling a moan when he felt Harry’s lips brushing lower, across his abdomen. “It’s a reminder that I shouldn’t act tough and skate down a steep hill when I’m only an amateur.”

“People really shouldn’t underestimate how tough you are.” The alpha said in wonder as he dropped soft kisses over the omega’s pelvis and jutting hip bones.

“I was actually trying to impress my alpha neighbor. Had a secret crush on him and all. Would’ve broken me neck to do a skate trick just so I can get a compliment.” The omega ruminated.

His thoughts were interrupted by the guttery growl between his thighs and he moaned when he felt Harry’s lips closing around his cock. His breath hitched when the alpha started to suck mercilessly away, milking his cock as it blurted a stream of precome. He gripped the covers around him as he sobbed out a cry. He could feel canines scraping against the side of his cock as Harry tongued at his base.

“Haz!” He gasped when he felt the alpha coaxing more come from his tip. At this rate, he was going to come pathetically fast.

He wasn’t at all prepared to get head and it was making him delirious. Fingers were digging into his hips and travelling over the slopes of his arse cheeks as Harry squeezed while he sucked away.

All too soon, the omega was hitting his orgasm and spilling into the alpha’s mouth. Louis’ back arched off of the bed as he came. He didn’t fail to notice that Harry hadn’t gagged as he thrust his hips forward.

“Bet that alpha can’t make you feel like this.” Harry’s voice was shot from giving a blowjob and his voice made Louis’ omega purr.

A bit of come was clinging to the alpha’s chin as he pulled back to growl. He peppered the omega’s spent length with more teasing kisses before mouthing up to the omega’s nipples. Louis whimpered as Harry’s mouth clamped around one nipple, swiping his tongue repeatedly over the throbbing bud.

“Want your knot... Haz!” He screeched as he felt his softened cock spasming at the way the alpha was biting his chest.

“Condom?” The alpha pulled back to ask as he licked at the come stain on the corner of his lips. Louis chuckled when the alpha failed to get rid of the stain and he reached up to swipe that bit of come away with his thumb. Just because he could, he popped his come coated thumb into his mouth, hallowing his cheeks. Harry’s response to his lewd action was a growl accompanied by a nipping bite on his neck.

“Nightstand... Bottom right drawer.” His tongue felt too heavy in his mouth. His hard orgasm was making speech difficult.

The alpha leaned forward, fumbling for the drawer. Louis took the opportunity to reciprocate the favor by darting out his tongue to lick at Harry's dark nipple swimming in front of his vision.

"Baby honey..." The alpha growled lowly as he became distracted when the omega started to suckle at his nipple. The alpha's skin tasted like how he smelled, smoky with a tinge of honeysuckle. Louis twisted the other nipple in between his fingers as the alpha cursed under his breath.

There was a bang and he unlatched his lips from the alpha's chest just in time to see Harry sending the reading lamp on his nightstand crashing to the carpet. It was pure luck that the lamp didn't break, merely rolling away.

Louis felt a laugh bubbling in his throat as he saw the upfronted expression Harry was wearing. "Bambi." He teased, giving the alpha a well-deserved nip twist.

"You were the one distracting me!" The alpha reprimanded as he finally succeeded in fishing a box of knotting condoms out of the drawers.

"They aren't expired, are they?" The omega asked worriedly when the alpha made to toss away the cardboard box. The alpha cocked a brow before scrutinizing the date on the box with an impatient huff.

"These expire in July. Lucky us." The alpha grinned victoriously as he tapped the box, planting a fat kiss on where the expiration date was marked.

"Lucky *you*." The omega corrected him, suppressing a fond smile when the alpha pumped his fist in the air after discarding the box.

"I'm *so* gonna make you scream for it. Gonna make you feel so good, baby." The alpha retorted, tearing open a condom wrapper with his canines. Louis' cock was back to semi-hardness just at the suggestive action. He pawed at the front of Harry's tented shorts.

"Excuse me, but why are you still dressed? Shouldn't you be knotting my brains out right now?"

With a playful growl, the alpha shoved his shorts down his hips and Louis' eyes widened when they caught the sight of the thick hard cock. He made a desperate noise when he spotted the red base of the knot. It looked so promising, all flushed and pulsating. He wanted it in his mouth. Wanted it inside of him. Wanted to sit on it and never get up.

"Put it on me, pumpkin." The alpha urged lowly and the omega hastened to obey, taking the strip of condom in his trembling fingers and shoving it clumsily down the alpha's hard cock. His fingers slipped against the wetness of the precome sliding down from the alpha's tip and before he could stop himself, he leaned down to kitten lick at the escaped drops.

He could hear Harry groaning above him as he finally pulled away, securing the condom in place and blinking up through his lashes.

"All done." He really couldn't resist his curious fingers as he gave Harry's slit an excited rub.

In a blink of an eye, Harry was pressing him back down onto the bed and fingers were swiping greedily against his hole. He dug his hands into the alpha's back, mewling appreciatively when Harry twisted and played with the puckered skin around his rim.

"Need you!" He gasped into the alpha's mouth and felt the first finger wriggling inside of him. Once the alpha had teased his way deeper inside, Louis clenched around the lone finger, making

the alpha growl and bite at his neck.

“Fucking god, Lou. You’re so hot.” The alpha groaned as he prodded a second and third finger into the omega’s walls.

Louis squeezed his eyes shut, biting down on his lips to adjust to the feeling as he squirmed. He let out a startled moan when he felt Harry twisting his fingers.

After adjusting to the penetration, Louis started to fuck his arse down onto Harry’s fingers. By the alpha’s agitated growl, he knew he must look a debauched sight, shifting his hips and rocking down on fingers alone.

He felt his eyes rolling slightly when Harry curled his fingers and the tips of them brushed against his sweet spot. He lost his momentum when the alpha drove his fingers hard into his prostate and could only yell out in pleasure.

“Love it when you scream for me.” The alpha was saying, screwing his fingers deeper.

“Knot me, alpha, please.” He sobbed, not knowing when he had started crying and with a flourish, Harry removed his fingers, pinching at the omega’s swollen rim.

“Do you trust me?” The alpha had the *audacity* to ask even as he lined himself up, eager cock catching on Louis’ contracting rim muscles.

“Are you really asking me that? Just give me your knot already!” The omega protested as he fisted the alpha’s lovely curls in frustration.

“Need you to know that I care about you, Lou. Don’t wanna hurt you.” The alpha’s tone had lost its teasing edge and he was tucking Louis’ long fringe behind the omega’s ear with shaking fingers. It was clear that the alpha was barely suppressing his own urges.

“Won’t hurt me, knothed. I want this as badly, if not, *more*.” The omega reassured, kissing the alpha’s throat.

The alpha’s shy and pleased smile might be enough to send the omega over the edge as he began to push in. At first, pain shot through Louis at the sudden intrusion. Compared to Harry’s slim fingers, his cock felt so much bigger and Louis had to bite down on his tongue, trying not to gasp in protest.

He clutched the alpha closer to him and felt Harry scenting him. He let the wonderful scent of ashes and florals distract him from the dulling pain of the cock jabbing into his walls. The pain morphed into euphoric pleasure when he grew accustomed to it and Harry’s hips started moving.

“Oh!” He gasped as the alpha shoved the tip of his cock into his prostate before sliding away and slamming back with more force. “Ah!”

He couldn’t stop the noises he was making and Harry was just as noisy with his grunts, growls and nonsense praises.

“You’re so tight, love. *Fuck*... Gonna fuck you until you’re loose and dripping.”

The omega cried out as Harry continued to drive his cock into him. He felt the alpha’s hands lifting his hips and the sensation of the new angle made him lose his wits as he choked out another sob.

“Been saving yourself for me, huh, beautiful omega... Can’t get enough of you.” The omega felt

slick oozing out of him as the alpha's teeth skimmed over his bond mark spot.

With an animalistic growl, the alpha sank his cock into the omega one last time as his knot swelled, locked inside the delicious heat.

"Ooof!" The omega felt the air leaving his lungs when the alpha collapsed on top of him. They both laughed as the alpha rolled off of the omega and tugged the smaller boy into his chest.

"Stop crushing me when I'm being impaled by your knot!"

Harry's honking laugh filled the air as the omega bit at the alpha's heaving chest. "Gonna keep you *impaled* forever if I could."

Louis shook his head in exasperation as he felt Harry's hand stroking his back. Now that they have quieted down, the low whine from the other side of the bedroom door could be heard.

"Uh-oh. Boyo is awake." Harry mused as they heard Clifford digging his claws into the wooden door.

"Can't tend to him when you're still in me." The omega complained half-heartedly as he nuzzled into the alpha's shoulder. He scented the alpha and sighed happily when their mixed pheromones filtered through his nose.

"I'll make sure to cook him something yummy later. Let's sleep for now, baby. I've tired you out."

The omega squeezed purposefully so that his rim closed around the alpha's twitching length and felt Harry groaning when he milked out a stream of weak come.

"If you keep that up, my knot isn't gonna deflate any time soon." The alpha warned as the omega giggled.

They fell asleep to the first rays of dawn through the window.

† † † † †

Even though he had slept in the arms of the alpha he adored, Louis still suffered from a horrible nightmare which involved criticisms from his boss.

He woke up, coated in cold sweat and clutching Tonkatsu to his chest. He could feel a wall of heat in front of him and blinked, taking in the sight of the snoring alpha.

Harry's arm was draped over his waist in a possessive manner and even though they had a plushie separating their chests, their legs were tangled and Louis could feel Harry's morning wood pressed hotly into his hip. The alpha's brows were slightly pinched like he was also enduring a nightmare so the omega decided to shake the alpha awake.

"Haz?" He smoothed a palm over the alpha's neck and shoulder. He (selfishly) scent marked the alpha. He would never have the courage to do this while Harry was conscious and alert, it was too much of a mate-like action.

The omega's heart almost skidded to a halt at the thought of the word *mate*. Harry's own words, "*My mate is the owner of the nursery*", came hurtling into his mind. *Had he just slept with someone who was mated?*

Baby blues flew in panic to the alpha's bare shoulder which was void of any bond mark. But then

again, people could be mates without bonding.

“Oh fuck.” Louis cursed as he felt himself spiraling. His scent must have spiked with distress because Harry’s nose twitched and the alpha’s forest greens were blinking open.

“Morning, baby.” The alpha whispered, voice shot and hoarse, laced with its natural alpha timbre. Louis swallowed before rasping back, “Harold. You don’t have a mate, do you?”

The alpha’s long lashes cast shadows over his mossy greens in the dim morning light as the alpha blinked rapidly, as if trying to digest the question being thrown at him.

“No?”

Louis chewed his lips. “Is that a statement or question?”

“No! I don’t have a mate, Lou. I’m not courting anyone but you. What the hell? Why would you ask that?”

The omega released the breath he was holding before blushing. “Before, you said your *mate* owned the nursery you are working at...”

The alpha let out a surprised chuckle. “Mate as in *friend*. Liam has been my best friend since preschool. He’s got the heart of gold, but I’d never want him like how I want you. He’s my best friend, nothing more.”

Louis flushed, fidgeting with Harry’s necklace for the lack of something to do. “Wait!” His mind circled back to the words uttered by the alpha. “*Courting*? You’re... *Courting* me?” He squeaked, accidentally jerking the chain around Harry’s neck too hard in his shock.

The alpha giggled, hand flying up to grasp the omega’s hand and placing a sweet kiss against Louis’ inner wrist.

“I thought all the meals I have cooked you were enough to convey my feelings? Wasn’t I being *blatantly* obvious?”

“I thought you were just obsessed with my dog?” The omega stammered as Harry threw his head back to laugh.

“You’re half right. I am infatuated with Cliff, but also you. I wanted to get your attention and feeding your dog was the bonus to the whole package.”

Louis felt like his heart might explode. This was all too much. He had never been confessed to like this, had never met an alpha who was so blunt with his feelings, had never wanted someone so badly.

“You’re too much.” He said, hiding his face into the alpha’s chest.

He felt fingers twirling the baby hairs on his neck. “Now that we’ve established that I’m courting the shit out of you, may I interest you in a homecooked breakfast? Are you in the mood for buttered croissants or raspberry crepes?”

Louis frowned as he pinched at Harry’s love handles. “There’s no way those ingredients just happen to be sitting in me fridge, Harold.”

“That’s why our first official date will be at the grocery store, sweetheart.”

Louis groaned in protest when he felt Harry flinging the covers off of them. “Come on, get your lazy arse up, baby. I suspect Clifford is gonna give us the silent treatment since we’ve ignored him for so long.”

The omega eyed the alpha’s straining morning wood with interest. He splayed his palm on the alpha’s chest and batted his lashes seductively.

“How about I help you get rid of this first? Want you to use my mouth.”

He knew that no alpha would ever have enough self-restraint to reject an offer like this and to his delight, Harry was no exception. “But you’ve gotta give me something in return too, greedy little omega. Let me lick you clean.”

The alpha’s sultry tone made the omega leak a stream of slick. He glanced down, taking in the sight of the dried slick and come stains on his thighs. Needless to say, they fell back into bed and didn’t manage to leave the bedroom until late morning.

† † † † †

“Ugh. Don’t think I’m decent to go out in public.” Louis looked up to find Harry frowning down at bits of come stains all over his shorts. “And woah, honey, didn’t know you were such an animal.” The alpha smirked as he held up his long-sleeved blouse that had several buttons missing. Louis might or might not have ripped some out in his impatience to get at Harry’s bare skin.

The omega made a face at the alpha before rifling in his closet. He pulled out an oversized band Tee and some thin joggers which were the longest ones he had.

He shoved the clothes at the alpha who pulled him in for a quick kiss. “Thanks, baby.”

The clothes turned out to fit the alpha well, if not, to the tee. Louis spent a good minute laughing at how the joggers rode up Harry’s ankles and at the way the shirt hem barely covered the alpha’s stomach.

“Should crop this shirt for you.” Louis giggled when he saw Harry’s belly button exposing when the alpha raised his arms.

The alpha didn’t look at all put out by his teasing comments, on the other hand, he looked rather pleased as he did a little twirl.

“Now I smell more like you.”

This made Louis’ laugh die in his throat and he could only sport the pinkest of all blushes.

After they have finally finished indulging a scowling Clifford who had refused to let them pet him until Louis pretended to cry, they walked hand in hand to the local grocery store. Clifford was well-trained and Louis didn’t have to keep him on a leash as the dog keenly followed the couple.

“I don’t usually go out at this time of the day.” Louis mused, squinting up at the sun underneath the brim of his cap. He felt Harry swinging his hand up so that the alpha could place a kiss upon his knuckle.

“M gonna buy extra garlic so I can exorcise the vampire out of you.”

The omega giggled as they stopped in front of the glass doors of the supermarket. It was noon on a Saturday so the store was crammed with late risers seeking food. They found a suitable and shaded

place near the entrance where they could tie Clifford's leash.

"Sorry, darling, you can't come shopping with us but I swear we'll be quick." Louis said, ruffling his dog's fur. Clifford licked at his palm in reply.

"Such a good boy." Harry praised as the alpha left a biscuit treat beside the dog.

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They got caught up in a heated debate between which flavor of kibble to buy for Clifford. Harry ended up winning the debate, so as revenge, Louis kept trying to sneak in bags of crisps or a box of Pop-Tarts into their cart. The alpha was having none of his shenanigans, though, and the omega found himself being pinned against one of the refrigerated display fridges. He whined when he felt Harry licking roughly into his mouth.

"Gonna rim you until you learn to behave." The alpha bit at his earlobe as the omega squirmed. He could feel pressure on the nape of his neck and his entire being grew lax as the alpha cupped his neck, gently squeezing.

Harry had smartly chosen an empty aisle so they wouldn't draw disapproving glares. Louis sort of wished other people could see, though, see how he already belonged to someone.

His omega purred sadly when Harry stepped away, but then the alpha laced their fingers together.

"Come on, Cliffy is waiting for us. Don't wanna make him mad again."

Louis nodded dazedly as his alpha kissed his forehead.

† † † † †

He had expected Clifford to be napping or chomping on some weeds protruding from the sidewalk, but the sight that met them made Louis snort out a delightful laugh.

His dog was butting noses with a much smaller dog which had snow white and black fur. From this distance, Louis guessed the dog's breed must be a Shiba Inu. The dogs were sniffing at each other and making noises akin to exchanging pleasantries (not that Louis was familiar in the art of dog tongue, but he was sure of it). He cooed when he saw Clifford nudging his head into the smaller shiba's neck playfully.

"Aw, look at them!" Harry exclaimed, rushing to pull out his phone out of his (Louis') joggers' pocket. Louis hooked his chin over the alpha's shoulder, standing on his tiptoes as he watched the alpha recording the adorable interaction.

An old lady with a dark chocolate complexion and hair greying at the ears stepped into the alpha's camera frame. The couple looked up to see her bending down and stroking Clifford's back.

They approached the woman and from up close, Louis could sense that she was an alpha by her scent of wild magnolias and cedar.

"Is this your dog?" The alpha woman asked, fishing around in her purse before producing a treat for Clifford.

"Yeah!" Louis said as he squatted down, fingers reaching for the small shiba. The shiba cowered and rounded behind its owner's knees.

“She’s a very shy girl.” The alpha woman explained at Louis’ disappointed expression. However, when Harry knelt down to coo at the shiba, it poked its head out and sniffed curiously at the alpha’s fingers.

“Favoritism at its best.” The omega mumbled unhappily as the alpha woman’s brows shot up in surprise.

“It must be because your alpha smells more like your dog. She’s accustomed to your dog’s scent.”

Louis would have to admit Clifford was more attached to Harry nowadays than to him. He wouldn’t blame his dog though. Harry was too lovely and charming to resist. As if feeling his hateful and somewhat lusty stare, the alpha turned to dimple at him. Curse his curls and dimples, the omega thought bitterly.

“What’s her name?” Harry asked as the shiba let him rub at her ears.

“Yozora. It means *night sky* in Japanese.” The alpha woman said. The tiny wrinkles on her face didn’t hide the radiance of her smile as her eyes glazed over. “My mate left her behind to accompany me when she went to heaven last year.”

“I’m sorry for your loss...” Louis and Harry muttered as one.

The alpha lady shook her head. “She’s in a better place now. Better not to be hooked to a machine and suffering.”

As if sensing her owner’s lamenting tone, Yozora let out a protective bark. Clifford howled in response as Louis reached out to unfasten his dog’s leash from where he had tethered it to a pole.

“What surprised me is that Yozora never goes near any other dogs. She’s really standoffish when it comes to socializing with others and what a surprise when I found her like this! Greeting your...” The old alpha raised a brow at Louis.

“Clifford.” He filled in as his dog jumped up at the mention of his name. He watched as both Clifford and Yozora crowded towards Harry. The alpha looked like he was on cloud nine what with all the attention. He kept throwing smirks at the omega who crossed his arms.

“I was beginning to worry she’d never make any friends... I’m so glad we came upon Clifford! It’s a blessing that I ran out of milk this morning or else I would’ve never come here at this time of the day.”

Louis couldn’t help but shake his head too. It was truly a fated coincidence. If it hadn’t been for meeting Harry, he wouldn’t have come here either.

The alpha woman, Ms. Tomoyan, explained that she was waiting for her nephew to pick her up and while they waited, they watched their dogs play and chatted. Yozora finally let Louis pet her after some time, even to the point of shaking his hand. She was so cute and while Louis interacted with her, he could sense Clifford’s needy whines beside him.

“Come off of it, Cliffy, I’m just getting to know your pal.” The omega rolled his eyes as Harry laughed.

“Everyone wants a piece of you, Lou.”

The omega glared at the alpha, but before he could say something, a large Jeep was rolling to a stop beside them.

“Ah, my nephew is here.” Ms. Tomoyan said as she straightened up. Harry helped her carry the heavy groceries towards the car while Louis trailed behind, restraining Clifford from bounding after Yozora.

“Cliffy, you can see Yozo again, stop trying to follow her home!” The omega scolded as Clifford tried to hop into the backseat of the Jeep. Ms. Tomoyan was laughing as she patted Louis’ arm.

“I’d love it if they can play again. I go to the dog park beside Brighton Beach every Wednesday night. Beats going to Bingo night and losing.” Her ironic humor might just make her Louis’ new best friend.

“Sure thing.” The omega laughed as he helped the old alpha into the car.

He could hear conversation from the rear of the Jeep as he rounded the car and found *his* alpha dimpling at a strange omega. He bristled when he saw the omega giving *his* alpha a thorough onceover. What the fuck?

“Hey Lou, come and meet Ms. Tomoyan’s nephew. It’s such a small world! You’re mates with Liam, right?”

The omega with bleached highlights running through his spiky fringe tossed Louis a judgmental look before grinning sunnily at Harry.

“Yeah, I think we’ve met during that night at the bowling alley? Liam’s birthday right?” Louis could see the omega was attempting to draw *his* alpha’s gaze by subtly tilting his neck.

No way Louis was going to stand there and watch this guy flirt with Harry. Not on his watch. He could hear Clifford barking indignantly and egged on by his dog, he swung his arms around his alpha’s waist.

“We should get going. We haven’t even had brekkie yet.” He said into Harry’s ear as he tightened his hold.

His alpha turned in his arms to peer in concern at the omega. “I almost forgot! You must be so hungry, love.”

Louis nodded pointedly as he heard the other omega closing the trunk of the Jeep with an unnecessary loud cough.

“Um, well, see you around then.” The omega said, shooting Louis a dirty look before walking away. The Jeep pulled away and the pair waved when they saw Yozora’s head popping up from the backseat window.

Louis turned wordlessly, tugging on Clifford’s leash as he proceeded down the street. He could hear Harry shouting his name and the rustling of bags as the alpha tried to balance their groceries.

His conscience made him stop to wait for the clumsy alpha as Harry jogged towards him. He took a bag of groceries the alpha was holding out to him begrudgingly.

“Don’t wanna make you carry anything, but hey, it’s the only way if I want to hold your hand.” The alpha said breezily as he laced his fingers into Louis’.

“You can’t act all cute when you’ve been flirting with some omega.” Louis instantly retorted.

Harry’s expression turned wolfish as he cleared his throat, “I was being polite, ‘s all.”

Louis snorted as he felt Harry's finger brushing over his pulse point. "Tell me the truth, H. Do you know his name or not?"

The alpha shook his head earnestly. "We've never been formally introduced. I only know he's Liam's friend. We bumped into him when we went to celebrate Liam's birthday that day."

Louis narrowed his eyes. He glanced down at Clifford who was nosing at the groceries. "Is Harold lying?"

His dog barked, cocking his head to the side before running off to chase a butterfly.

"Even if I do know his name, *which I don't*, it wouldn't mean anything to me." The alpha said shrugging. "Yours is the only one that matters."

Louis made a show of rolling his eyes. "Don't think I'm gonna buy every pretty word you say, Curly."

"You're grumpy coz I've neglected feeding you." The alpha snapped his fingers. The omega rolled his eyes fondly, pushing Harry away as the alpha leaned in to give him a chaste peck.

† † † † †

"Damn, baby... I should keep making you jealous coz you suck dick like a champion." Harry's hand jerked at a tuff of Louis' fringe as the omega slurped at the cock in front of him.

Harry had outdone himself and whipped up the most delicious brunch which consisted of raspberry crepes and croissants stuffed with turkey meat wrapped with cheese. What could the omega possibly do as a thank you that can actually rival the alpha's skilled cooking? Nothing except demonstrating how mind-blowing his blowjob is, *of course*.

He smirked as he watched Harry gripped the edge of the kitchen counter so that his legs wouldn't give out. He was kneeling on the hard kitchen floor, but he didn't mind it at all as he brought Harry's cock to full hardness with his mouth. He gagged when the alpha thrust forward and mewled around his mouthful of cock.

"Fuck, Lou... Fuck!" The alpha's thighs were trembling as Louis licked at his tip.

"Who said I was jealous?" The omega popped off to rant before taking the alpha's length back down his throat. He gurgled when a stream of come shot into his mouth.

"You were so fucking jealous, love. Don't think I didn't sense it. Wanted to establish that I'm yours, didn't you?"

Louis only kneaded the alpha's thighs in response. He could feel the base of Harry's cock swelling near his face. He didn't want the knot to go to waste.

"Take me?" The omega asked, popping off and wiggled out of his jean shorts. The alpha stared at him, slack jawed as the omega rid himself of his shirt and climbed onto the kitchen counter.

"Want you to knot my mouth, but you're too big and I don't wanna waste your knot." The omega babbled as he splayed his thighs. He was still loose from their morning sex where Harry had fucked his tongue into his hole so he reasoned he wouldn't need opening up.

The alpha was teetering on his shaky legs as he stared, trance fixed at the omega's exposed pink hole.

“But you need to go get a condom if you wanna fuck me.” The omega said, pushing the alpha away when Harry attempted to grab him.

“Fucking tease!” The alpha groaned as he started his mad dash from the kitchen. Louis was smart enough to foresee the impending sex, so he had let Clifford stay in the garden. He knew the dog must be stomping on most of his flowers, but he didn’t care all that much as he traced his own oozing rim. He pushed a finger inside of himself just to check if he was opened enough.

His eyes fluttered open when he felt Harry jerking his wrist away from his hole. “You’re gonna kill me, you know that? Fingering yourself when you know I’m right here.”

Louis gave the alpha a lazy grin. “Are you jealous of my fingers?” He wiggled his hand in front of Harry’s face. The alpha opened his mouth and latched his lips around the finger that had slick running down its side. Louis moaned at the sight as the alpha sucked.

He hooked his legs around the alpha and let Harry ease himself into his hole. It didn’t burn like the first time and Louis was glad that his omega was adjusting to being filled.

“I really like you, Lou.” The alpha panted as he kissed the omega’s neck.

“I like you a lot too, Haz.” The omega choked out the sentiment as he felt the knot engorging within him.

“Can I take you out on a proper date?”

He moaned as the alpha hiked him further up on his cock.

“Didn’t we just come back from a date?”

“I change my mind. Going grocery shopping doesn’t count. I want our date to be romantic, under the stars. Where I can kiss you on the beach, by the sea. You do know you have ocean eyes, right, baby?”

It was surprising how Harry could still spew this much nonsense while he was driving his cock deep into Louis. The omega’s eyes slipped shut as he whimpered at a particularly hard and powerful thrust.

“So?” The alpha pulled back to nudge the omega’s nose with his own.

“Hmmm... *Yeah...* Take me to see the stars...” The omega mumbled drunkenly, too high on knot as he grew lax in Harry’s arms. “I would love to be knotted on the beach.” He added, giggling at the thought.

He could feel Harry coming into the condom and he fell forward, spent and limp in the alpha’s hold.

“Gonna knot you anywhere you like. Make sure you’re always knot fed.” The alpha was saying as the omega’s head shot up. He pinched Harry’s kiss swollen lips between his fingers.

“Shut up!”

† † † † †

True to Harry’s words, they went stargazing a few nights later. Louis lay on the beach beside Harry as he stared up at the vast pitch-black night. An occasional streak of light would make him gasp

and point up in excitement.

“Did you make a wish?” He asked the alpha, turning to realize that Harry hadn’t even been watching the skies, rather blinking slowly at him.

“Don’t need to. I’ve got all I want right here.” The alpha said sappily as he threaded their fingers. The omega pouted.

“Well, I did.” The omega countered as the alpha dimpled.

“Yeah? What did you wish for then?”

“For you to be...” Louis paused for effect, biting his lips. “My alpha.”

He could see forest greens widening and outshining any of the stars above their heads. “Thought we’ve *been* dating, silly omega. Ever since I kissed you, I’ve considered myself your *boyfriend*.”

He rolled his eyes at Harry’s cheekiness. “Still. Just want us to be on the same page.”

“I’m way ahead of you, baby.”

He had to flip over and pull the smug alpha into a headlock. They were too busy grinning stupidly at each other to notice Clifford running up the beach.

“Cliff!” Louis screamed as the dog started shaking his body, spraying them with salty sea water.

Harry’s laugh mingled with his as the alpha took the chance to press a sweet salty kiss to the omega’s lips.

END OF MAIN STORY

Chapter End Notes

Hope you liked the main story!

Don't miss the TWO bonus stories waiting for you!

If you need visual aid, check [HERE](#) if you wanna see what inspired me!

You can REBLOG and LIKE the Fic Post [HERE!!!](#)

Bonus Story One: Ding-Dong! Bring Your Pet To School Day

Chapter Summary

You know it, I can't live without writing bonus chapters and here is the first one! The time is some months after the main story :) Who doesn't love H being an exhibitionist? I'm certainly not complaining! This one is told in H's POV ;)

Chapter Notes

Please leave comments and feedback if you wish since they mean so much to me :)
Find me on Tumblr @thinlinez

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

A FEW MONTHS LATER

“We can’t be late, Lou. It’s bring your pet to school day tomorrow.” Harry mumbled as he selected the date and time of the alarm on his phone, then reached out for Louis’ so that he could set one on there too.

Louis pulled his oversized night shirt over his head, tossing it carelessly into the hamper. Harry tried not to get distracted, but his eyes still found their way as they roamed over his omega’s bare chest. He grinned bashfully when he saw the love bites adorning the skin on the omega’s shoulders. Louis, who was rubbing at his eyes and yawning into his arm only nodded sleepily as he flopped onto the bed.

“Quit your nagging, Harold.” The omega snuggled into the covers as Harry sank down into the bed beside the smaller boy. “You’ve been reminding me every single day this week.”

Harry huffed as Louis turned, wrapping his arms around the alpha. “Besides, Cliff’s also excited about it. Bet he’ll wake us up early with his ruckus.”

He pressed his face into the omega’s neck, inhaling deeply before licking at the golden skin. He could feel Louis wriggling in his embrace, trying to get into a more comfortable cuddling position.

“I can’t wait to show Cliff off to all the pups.” He admitted, pulling the covers snug around their bodies.

“You act too much like his personal hype man.” Louis snorted.

As if hearing his own name repeatedly in the conversation, Clifford’s head perked up from his doggie bed at the other end of the bedroom. The dog let out a small whine, begging for their attention. Harry raised his head and clucked his tongue at the dog.

“Be quiet, knothed. ‘M trying to sleep!” Came an even whiner voice from beside him.

Harry giggled before burying his face back into Louis’ neck.

† † † † †

After they had started officially dating, Louis had insisted that Harry move in with him.

“It saves you the trouble of biking around and you always sleep over anyways. I don’t see why not?” The omega had reasoned and Harry couldn’t find it within him to argue.

Moving in meant that, more often than not, Louis would tag along when Harry went to his day shift at the nursery. The omega’s design job made it a privilege for him to roam around freely and would only have to work when there was a case or project. Harry loved it when Louis offered to go to work with him since he could spend more time with his boyfriend and also, the pups absolutely *adored* the omega.

He could vividly recall the first time he had brought Louis to the nursery. The omega had driven them into town in his barely used yellow Jimny and the minute the truck like SUV pulled up to the curb, many pups had gathered at the window, rustling the curtains and peering out at the eye-catching car.

“You have got to be pulling me leg.” Louis was staring up at the sign nailed onto the low fence surrounding the institute. Harry laughed when he saw the omega mouthing the words *Growing Up Green Nursery*.

“Mind you, all the pups here have been taught to eat their greens so don’t even think about skipping the broccoli during lunch.” He said as the omega gave him an exasperated glare.

“You and your fucking greens.” The omega muttered underneath his breath, digging his nail into Harry’s palm punishingly before his face split into a delightful smile as some pups ran down the nursery’s stairs to greet them.

The pups immediately started pelting questions at Louis who patiently knelt down, shaking each pup’s hand and answering the bizarre questions thrown at him. By the end of the day, especially the six pups under Harry’s care, had grown inseparable to the beautiful omega who entertained their curiosity and catered to their ridiculous demands.

Even Liam, Harry’s best mate and head of *Growing Up Green*, took Harry aside to praise the alpha for bringing in such a helpful and charming friend.

“Liam asks if you want to work as a part timer.” Harry told Louis that night after they had gotten home.

“I don’t need the money, Haz. I like talking to the pups and it’s fun to watch them. Tell Payno to consider me as,” The omega shrugged. “A volunteer.”

At that moment, Harry had never been surer that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with this wonderful omega.

† † † † †

What had started it off was when one of the pups spotted Harry’s phone lock screen and demanded to know about the dog splayed in Louis’ lap.

“You and Lou have doggie, Hazza?” The pup asked, poking at Harry’s phone screen.

Harry nodded. “Yep, that’s Clifford. He’s probably...” He made a show of seizing the pup up and down before ruffling her hair. “Bigger than you, darling.”

“No way!” She screeched, laughing and running away, screaming “bigger than me” on the top of her lungs for the whole nursery to hear. Pretty soon, Harry was surrounded by pups all trying to reach for his phone to get a look.

“Please bring doggie to school! Please! Please! Please!”

All the shouting and begging must have induced an unwelcomed headache for Liam that particular afternoon and the next day, he had presented the idea of “Bring Your Pet To School Day” to the nursery staff.

“I supposed I should thank you, though, Styles.” Liam said, sighing as he ran a hand through his trimmed buzzcut. “I was kind of running out of ideas for special activities.”

“Won’t it be out of control? The pups are gonna lose their minds over the pets that day.”

Liam shook his head. “Thankfully, not many pups own pets so that’s a given. I think it’s a good chance for them to learn more about animals and how great the responsibility is when it comes to owning a pet.”

Harry nodded along. Liam did have a good point.

“Besides, we can rely on Tommo to handle the chaos. He’s coming right?”

Harry snorted into his fist. “You’re taking advantage of my omega, Li.”

Liam scowled at him. “You should be thanking me for giving you an excuse to bring him over. Besides,” The omega’s face softened. “I haven’t seen him for a while and I don’t know what’s wrong with me but... I kind of miss his ugly mop.”

It was very rare to see Liam getting attached, but then again, who wouldn’t be when the person was Louis Tomlinson?

“He’s busy with a project, but I think it’s almost finished.”

“Just make sure you two aren’t late.” Harry nodded as he gave Liam a thumbs up.

“Sure thing, boss man.”

† † † † †

They were running late since Louis couldn’t find Clifford’s favorite chew toy (it was under the bed and even though Louis was dead set on blaming Harry for the occurrence, the alpha could recall the omega kicking the toy impatiently underneath the bed when they were busy snogging nights before). Good thing the pups were busy *ooing and ahhing* over the other pets to notice their short absence.

“Brought you your fav hazelnut latte so quit your glowering, Payno.” Louis shoved the cup into Liam’s hand before the other omega could reprimand them for their lateness.

They entered the classroom filled with rowdy pups and the volume in the room multiplied when the children caught glimpse of the huge curly haired labradoodle.

It took a long time for the teachers (Liam, Harry and a part timer named Andy who was Liam’s beta friend from Uni) to calm the children down, rattling off rules and explaining to the hyper crowd of three years old that they shouldn’t be so loud or else they would scare the poor pets.

The total of six pups managed to remain seated as the adults let the pet owners introduced each pet. There was Pui Pui, a brown and white polka dotted hamster (who had fallen asleep in his cage despite all the noise and chatter), Lambo (short for Lamborghini), a tiny green and yellow spotted turtle which was smaller than an adult's palm (who was stuck still on a rock and hadn't emerged from her shell) and of course, the star of the show, Clifford, who stood obediently beside Louis all this time, thumping his tail.

"Now we'll learn about each animal and how to take care of them!" Harry announced, following Liam's agenda. He let Andy write down the notes on the whiteboard and had to suppress his grin when he saw Louis fake yawning into his hand while winking at the pups.

It was a surprise that the pups behaved themselves during the lesson, but by the time the clock struck ten, Harry could sense that most of the attention in the room weren't fixed on him. He sighed in defeat before clapping his hands.

"Now I know you guys are excited about getting to know the pets, but make sure you give them space too."

"Can we go touch now, Hazza?" A pup asked not even bothering to raise his hand as he sprang from his seat. Others followed and they all stared longingly in the pets' direction.

"Off you go then." Harry dimpled at the pups who screamed in glee as they rushed forward.

† † † † †

"One, two, three, four, five and... Oh wait, where's Bulut?" Harry frowned down at the gaggle of pups. "I remember seeing him during the lesson?"

"Maybe he went to the loo?" Louis asked, peering around in concern.

"I'll find him, you stay here and don't let anyone tip over Pui Pui's cage... *Again.*"

Louis giggled. "Roger that."

The omega went back to cooing over the shivering hamster in his palms, who had been the victim to a disastrous cage toppling by a clumsy pup.

Harry left in search of Bulut and finally found the boy curled on the living room couch.

Growing Up Green Nursery had originally been a three-story house, but was converted to a nursery by Liam. The omega was keen on making the space comfortable for all the pups and teachers, so it was more like a house rather than a school. Sometimes, when a pup's parents were too busy, they could stay overnight at the nursery, in one of the spare bedrooms upstairs supervised by Liam.

"Hey, bud, what're you doing here all alone? You're missing the fun." Harry crouched down beside the boy, putting out a hand to feel the pup's temperature. Bulut sniffed, adjusting his thick rimmed glasses.

"Are you sick, love?" Harry pried. Bulut was the quietest and shiest pup under his care and it was actually no surprise that he was hiding during an activity. This wasn't the first time Harry had found the sweet boy like this, alone and refusing to talk.

"You can tell me anything, Bu. You know that." Harry said patiently, settling himself on the carpeted floor next to the couch and leaning his head against the cushioned seat. He turned to smile at the boy who was still averting his gaze and silently picking at his nails.

It took a few more minutes for Bulut to break the silence.

“Don’t like dogs.” He whispered, sliding down onto the floor beside the alpha and reached out to pull Harry’s shoelace loose like he wanted to distract himself. “Dogs bite.”

Harry’s eyes widened before he let out a soft understanding noise. “Did a dog bite you before?” He asked, running a hand through Bulut’s tousled fringe. The tiny pup had reddish brown hair which formed messy curls around his ears.

The pup shrugged. “Almost... Bite me... Chase me in park.”

“Ah... That doggie was mean to you? Maybe the doggie just wants to have fun?”

Bulut shook his head furiously. “No! Doggie loud and so many teeth!” The small boy pointed at his teeth, making a menacing growl, somewhat poorly imitating a dog. “They scary!”

Harry couldn’t stop himself from snorting and he quickly turned his laughter into a cough when he noticed the crestfallen look on Bulut’s face.

“Not funny.” The three-year-old exclaimed, crossing his arms.

“Hey, hey,” Harry rubbed at the pup’s slumped shoulders. “I wasn’t laughing at you, love. Tell me...” He widened his mouth, displaying his own teeth. “Are my teeth scary too?”

Bulut pushed his glasses up his nose, squinting at Harry’s mouth in concentration before shaking his head. “Hazza teeth not scary, but doggie scary.” He concluded.

“I promise Cliff’s teeth aren’t scary. I can show them to you and if they are scary, you can run away.”

Bulut cowered at the mention of Clifford’s name. “Doggie eat me!” He claimed, hugging his knees tighter to his chest.

“Honey, doggies don’t eat children.” Harry had to hide his amused grin, clearing his throat. It was becoming harder not to burst out in amused laughter as he stared at the horrified look on Bulut’s face.

“Doggies eat... Dog food and... meat sometimes.”

“Kids meat?”

“No, no, no, love. Meat like chicken, beef, fish, not human, promise.”

“No human?”

“No human. No children, no adults, not me, not you. Pinky swear.”

The small boy continued to stare at Harry in wonder.

“If doggies eat children, why do you think I bring one here? I will not let anyone hurt you or the others.”

Bulut nodded hesitantly as if digesting the alpha’s words. “Lou love doggie?” He asked in a quiet voice, trying yet failing at tying Harry’s shoelace. Bulut might hide it well, but it was obvious how attached he was to the omega.

“Yes, Lou loves doggie very much.”

“Doggie no eat Lou?”

“Doggie will never do that.” Harry shook his head fervently. “You and I will protect Lou.” He added confidently, patting the smaller boy’s chest.

“What protect means?”

“We fight bad people who wanna hurt Lou. Even bad doggies.”

The small pup brightened at this. “Yeah?”

“Yes, love.” Harry leaned in, kissing the boy’s forehead sweetly. “And when we fight for him, Lou will kiss you just like this.”

“I wanna go see Lou and doggie!” The pup was jumping eagerly to his feet and Harry would never have guessed using Louis as bribe material could work this easily. He supposed since the world was in love with Louis anyways, he should’ve seen this one coming.

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By the time Harry ushered Bulut back into the classroom, most of the pups had already found their favorite pets and the atmosphere wasn’t in a state of uproar.

“I was about to go find you guys!” Louis immediately said, turning from a low stool and beckoning at the pair standing at the doorway.

Harry nudged Bulut forward, noticing that the small pup had his eyes trained wearily on Clifford who was lying on his side next to Louis’ feet, playing with two other pups. He could see Bulut wincing when Clifford chomped away at his saliva coated chew toy.

“Go on, Lou is waiting for you.” Harry urged and this was what made Bulut step forward, greeting Louis with a shy wave.

“Where did you go, Bu? I missed you, love.” Louis beamed at the blushing boy, holding his arms open.

It was a relief to see the tension leaving Bulut’s shoulders as he buried his head into Louis’ neck. Harry crouched down beside Clifford, yanking the chew toy from between the dog’s canines.

“Cliffy, Bulut wants to check your teeth. Cooperate with me for a bit, buddy.” Harry held the toy out of reach as Clifford let out a protesting bark.

“Why do you want to check Cliff’s teeth, Bu?” Louis asked the pup in his arms.

“Bulut wants to make sure Cliff’s teeth aren’t sharp enough to hurt anyone. He’s afraid of dogs.” Harry explained as he gave Louis a pointed look. The omega’s eyes shone before he nodded firmly.

“Oh yes, Bu, you are very right.” The omega turned to the pup, smoothing a hand down the boy’s slightly trembling back. “Let’s check Cliffy’s teeth. Did you know that I wanted to be dentist when I was your age?”

Harry rolled his eyes before chuckling. “Ready?” He asked, looking around at the other pups who have gathered around him. He grabbed Clifford’s jaw and gently pried it down, revealing the dog’s teeth and lolling tongue. Some pups shrieked and giggled when Clifford struggled in Harry’s grip.

“See? No vampire teeth! Cliffy is such a good dog, right?” Louis said, leaning forward as if he was truly examining the dog’s canines. Bulut mimicked the omega, peering into the dog’s mouth.

“Ugh! What in the world did you feed him, Haz? His breath stinks!” Louis pulled back, fanning a hand in front of his nose dramatically, making all the pups laugh.

Harry stuck his face closer to Clifford’s mouth. “Think he stole one of the tuna sandwiches this morning.” He pointed to a piece of tuna stuck between Clifford’s front teeth. “Food thief alert!”

All the pups started shouting in unison. Some were screaming for the police to take Clifford away.

Louis leaned forward, holding out his hands to clasp Clifford’s paws, putting them together. “You’re under arrest, mister. Any last words?”

Harry was delighted to hear Bulut’s laughter mingling with the other pups’. It was really rare for the boy to laugh this loudly. He supposed Clifford would have to go to dog prison in exchange for the boy’s delighted laughter.

“Cliffy scary?” The alpha asked the small pup and Bulut shook his head.

“Cliffy funny!” And this reply earned huge grins from both adults.

† † † † †

“Wanna give you...” Bulut handed a piece of paper to Louis and Harry shyly. The omega accepted the paper, smiling when Bulut flushed pink and hid his face into Clifford’s fur. The boy had ended up following the dog everywhere after they had official met and refused to part with the dog even though it was time for him to go home. Right now, they were dawdling at the entrance of the nursery while waiting for Bulut’s godmother to pick him up.

“Oh, Bu! This...” Louis was staring down at the paper, eyes wide. “So beautiful!”

Harry peered over the omega’s shoulder and saw that it was drawing. There were three stick figures, one with a head full of chocolate brown curls, the other with huge blue eyes and between them was a tinier figure with glasses. They were all holding hands and beside them was a ball of black curls on four legs. They seemed to be on a grassy green field since there were many pink clouds adorning the sky above them.

“Did you draw this, honey? During break time?” The pup nodded jerkily, grasping Louis’ hand and tugging.

“When you come back, Lou?” He asked, big brown eyes searching and gaze imploring.

“For you? I can come next week too, Bu.” The omega leaned down to graze the pup’s forehead with his lips. “As long as you’ll have me.”

Bulut’s expression made it seemed like Christmas had come early. He tugged at both adults’ wrists, jabbing a finger at the drawing. He seemed to be deep in thought for a moment before whispering, “Lou and Hazza like mommy and daddy.”

Harry’s heart gave a sharp tug as soon as the words left the pup’s mouth and he could see Louis doing a double take.

“Bulut? Your Aunty Ely is here!” Liam’s voice trickled from the doorway.

“Don’t make your Auntie wait now, bud.” Harry said quietly as Bulut nodded, patting Clifford’s head one last time before shooting Louis a smile.

“See you soon?”

Louis nodded, hugging the boy tightly before letting him go. They watched as the pup picked up his backpack before running towards the doorway and into his godmother’s arms.

“Baby... You’re crying...” Harry could see obvious tears brimming in Louis’ baby blues even as the omega startled, palms coming up to wipe at his eyes hastily.

“I—” Louis rasped, seemingly unable to form words as Harry pulled him close and licked away the tears. The alpha could feel his own eyes tearing up too.

“It’s okay. He’s okay... He has his godmother and relatives. Everything is fine.” The alpha whispered into his omega’s hair as he felt Louis scenting him for comfort.

The thing was... Bulut had lost his parents soon after he was born and was taken in by his godmother. The pup was too young to understand what was going on back then, but once he grew older and learned about everything, he had become more withdrawn and easily spooked. Liam had been the one to offer a place in the nursery since Bulut’s godmother was too busy with her job and ever since then, all the teachers have been trying to give the pup the life and childhood he deserved. Bulut never once cried and had always been quite a tough boy.

“We’ll talk more when we get home, ‘kay?” Harry pressed tender kisses against Louis’ puffy red lids, grooming his omega until Louis finally stopped crying.

Clifford pawed at his trouser leg and the alpha could tell that the dog had also sensed his owner’s sadness.

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“What’re you thinking about?” Harry asked as he watched Louis picking away at his plate of curry rice.

The omega sighed. “I just wish... Things were different, y’ know? For Bulut. It’s... I know how it feels to lose a parent, but to lose both? It’s so fucking unfair.”

“Hey,” Harry closed his fingers around the omega’s slim wrist. “Don’t feel upset over things that can’t be changed. Bulut is happy now and that’s all that matters.”

The omega stared down stubbornly at the remains of his dinner before sniffing. “Fuck, Haz... I know that... But what he said today...” Louis drifted off and Harry didn’t need him to finish to know what was going on in the omega’s head.

“I think your maternal instincts are kicking in, baby.” He joked and howled in pain when he felt a foot connecting with his shin.

“It’s *kicking* in all right.” The omega smirked, landing yet another playful kick to the alpha’s leg.

“Oi!” Harry yelped, shooting up from his seat, attempting to grab Louis but the omega was already darting away. They led a chase through the kitchen with Clifford barking contentedly, watching the entire scene unfold in his corner with a bowl of braised patties.

Harry was hot on Louis’ heels as the omega tactfully switched courses, running into the living

room. The alpha succeeded in capturing the laughing omega and pinned the smaller boy into the couch.

“Why do you always resort to violence?” He asked, pretending to glare at the omega beneath him.

Louis hummed, tiny hands coming up to stroke Harry’s chest. “You deserved it.” The omega said simply, the pads of his fingers catching against Harry’s nipples through his shirt. The alpha hissed at the contact as the omega rubbed teasingly at his nipples.

“Admit it, alpha, you love it when I let you chase me.”

Harry’s eyes fluttered close when he felt nimble hands slipping under his shirt.

“You— Fuck!” His sentence was turned into a grunt when the omega’s clever fingers gave his buds a hard twist. The alpha could feel his cock fattening up and without much finesse, he grinded his hard bulge into the omega’s hip. He could see Louis’ pupils dilating as the smaller boy let out an appreciative groan.

“Violence is never the answer.” He grunted, capturing his omega’s lips in a heated kiss. Their tongues slid sweetly together before Harry pulled back to nip punishingly at Louis’ bottom lip.

“What you’re doing is convincing me otherwise.” The omega teased as the alpha growled, sucking a love bite into his prominent collarbones.

“Honestly, Lou, it’s hot when you show your omega instincts. You caring about pups is really sweet. You really don’t have to worry about Bulut. He’s a strong boy.” He muttered into delicious skin as the omega hugged him closer. “And you know what? Bulut’s right. You’ll make the best mommy... You’re so kind to pups.”

He pulled back to see that Louis’ eyes had a faraway look to them, glazed, as if he was imagining himself with his own pups. *Their* pups. This served to spur Harry on as he gripped the omega’s hips. He could smell how wet Louis was and the scent of bluebells and ripening tangerines was driving his alpha to the edge.

“Do you want that, baby? Want to keep my seeds in you? Want to be pumped with pups?” He whispered dirtily into Louis’ ear, eliciting a needy moan from the omega.

He could feel the omega’s legs tightening around his own waist. He wanted to rip off the omega’s clothes and take him right there. It was the padding of paws that made him come to his senses.

“Bedroom?” He asked Louis whose eyes were squeezed shut. Harry’s hands secured themselves underneath the omega’s bum as he lifted the smaller boy from the couch. He could feel wetness against his palms, soaking through the omega’s trousers and it made him growl lowly.

“Haz...” The omega was kissing his neck and scenting him. Harry felt his knot swelling as the omega’s tongue danced over his sweaty skin.

He stumbled, with Louis in his arms, towards the bedroom. It was a given that he had cleaned up the hallway that morning so that there were no stray chew toy deathtraps.

“Shh, calm down, boyo!” Clifford was circling Harry’s legs as the alpha pushed open the bedroom door. “Be a good boy for me, love.” Harry bent, stretching out a hand to pat Clifford’s head. He could feel Louis’ legs tightening around him.

“Don’t you fucking drop me, Harold.” The feisty omega hissed as the alpha gave the dog one last

pat.

“Mommy and daddy are gonna make babies now, Cliffy. Promise we’ll play with you later.” Harry reasoned to the dog before closing the bedroom door.

Louis giggled into the alpha’s neck as they tumbled into bed. “You did not just slam the door in Cliff’s face.”

Harry scrunched his nose. “He’ll get a sibling to play with soon enough.”

The omega laughed, pulling his shirt over his head and throwing it over his shoulder. Harry’s eyes tracked the way the omega rolled his hips seductively, getting onto his fours and pushing his arse at the alpha.

“Come put babies in me then, Harold. What’re you gawking at?”

The alpha didn’t need to be told twice and lunged forward, trapping the giggling omega.

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Harry didn’t know if it was because they had fucked without a condom for the first time or if it was the fact that Louis’ warm velvety walls encompassed his cock just so perfectly, but he felt like he didn’t want to pull his softened knot out of the omega when they woke up the next morning.

“Keep me warm?” He held the omega against his chest, feeling the omega snuggling into him. He shifted, making sure that his cock was still deep within the sleepy boy.

Louis’ eyes were half shut as he hummed. “How long do you plan on keeping your dick in me?”

Harry honked out a laugh. “Forever.” He said, nuzzling into the omega’s hair.

He waited for Louis’ retort, but none came since the omega had fallen back asleep, snoring adorably. Harry felt himself yawning at the sight and pretty soon, he drifted off again.

† † † † †

Some time later, Harry decided to wake up and be productive. Liam had planned an arts and crafts lesson the following week and demanded that all the teachers learn how to make gimp/lanyard bracelets. It was very hard for the alpha to fiddle with such tiny plastic strings and it was impossible to learn unless he followed Youtube tutorial videos religiously.

It took him a while to carefully maneuver Louis (who was still sleeping) and himself into the omega’s huge computer chair. Since the rolling chair had no armrests on either sides, it was comfortable enough for the omega’s legs as they dangled. The alpha pulled some blankets off of the bed, draping it across his lap and also covering the omega so that he wouldn’t be cold.

Harry hiked the omega upwards onto his lap, adjusting his cock which was still buried in Louis and reached for the flashy gaming keyboard. He pulled up the video that Liam had suggested and set to work.

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It was mere minutes later when the omega stirred in his lap. Harry dimpled down at the yawning boy. Bleary baby blues met his as the omega raised his head in confusion. The alpha couldn’t resist pressing a kiss against the omega’s lips.

“Hmmm?” The omega accepted the deep kiss, albeit still sleep dazed (and knot dazed).

“Good sleep?” Harry asked the omega, kissing the side of the omega’s jaw and then his cheeks.

“Uh-hm.” The omega sighed, hands coming up to rest on Harry’s shoulders as he tried to move his bum. The alpha immediately grasped the omega’s waist, preventing Louis from moving and getting off of his cock.

“Thought you said you’d keep me warm?” He said teasingly, jerking his hips up and letting the tip of his softened cock dig into the omega’s walls.

This action seemed to wake the omega up. Louis’ mouth fell opened as he let out a shocked and reluctant moan.

“Feels good?” He could feel Louis nosing into his neck.

When he didn’t get an answer, he pulled back, cupping the omega’s slightly warm face and let his eyes roamed over flushed cheeks.

“You okay, Lou? This okay, baby?”

Louis’ baby blues were hazy and pink was dusting his cheeks. He looked wonderfully fucked out and relaxed.

The omega nodded. The alpha chuckled when the omega started pawing at his chest, intent on scenting him again. He let Louis bury his face back into his neck and went back to his slow bracelet making.

Every now and then, he could feel Louis’ lips brushing against his skin, peppering kisses onto his neck and shoulders. Had he known that cockwarming would turn the omega this pliant and sweet he would’ve done it ages ago.

“Wanna make one too...” He heard the omega mumbling into his neck. He handed over some blue and green plastic strings to the omega whose eyes were barely even opened.

“You know how to make one?” He asked apprehensively as he watched the omega’s small fingers fumbling with the materials.

The omega nodded, sighing into the alpha’s neck. “Any idiot would know how.”

Harry smirked before shifting his hips forward. The omega gasped, almost dropping the strings.

“Harold! Mmmmm!”

The alpha could feel the omega’s cock sliding across his abdomen, catching against his coarse hairs and he reached down to stroke it lovingly before giving it a little pinch.

“That was for your sass.” The alpha explained as he settled back into the seat and watched in satisfaction as the omega panted softly. Louis’ glare was harmless though and after a few more condolence kisses, the smaller boy was back to mouthing at his neck and threading the strings.

† † † † †

It must have been the boring drawl of the narrator’s voice in the tutorial video that made Harry doze off. He jolted awake when he heard the doorbell ringing shrilly.

“Who the fuck?” He cursed, making sure not to jostle Louis.

He could hear muffled barking on the other side of the bedroom door. The doorbell ceased chiming after a few times and the alpha strained his ears to hear.

“Must be a salesman.” He muttered to Louis who was playing with the buttons on his blouse. The omega was too out of it to give him any response. Harry’s eyes flicked to the finished bracelet sitting around his left wrist.

“Woah, Lou! When did you finish this?” He held his wrist up to the light. His omega sure was talented. The pattern looked quite complicated and there wasn’t any bumpy mistake.

“Oi! Anyone home?” A shout came from somewhere in the hallway and the voice made Harry bolt upright in his seat. He caged Louis in his arms, shielding the omega. He could feel himself letting off territorial pheromones and as if in response to his distressed scent, the omega whimpered softly.

“Shhh... Someone’s in the house.” Harry calmed Louis as he kissed the omega reassuringly.

Footsteps were coming down the hall and he could hear the intruder talking. “Cliff, mate, have they been starving you? Why are you trying to eat me jacket? Alright, you’re right, there’s a protein bar in the pocket, but I don’t know if you can eat it. I’ll go get ya some kibble.”

Harry instantly relaxed when he registered the familiar accent. It was Niall, the Irish alpha who was Louis’ friend.

“Why does Niall have the keys?” He asked, suppressing an unhappy growl.

“Hmmm? Keys?” The omega muttered faintly. Baby blues swam as Louis tilted his head to kiss the side of Harry’s clenched jaw. “Don’t be mad, alpha.”

There was rapping on the door. “You guys awake? I’ve called more than ten times but Lewis didn’t pick up? Something happened?”

Harry’s eyes flicked over himself and Louis. He had struggled on a thin blouse earlier while the omega had a blanket wrapped around his shoulders. There was also a quilt draped across their laps so Louis’ softened dick wasn’t exposed. Most of their skin was hidden from view so Harry reasoned they looked decent enough. Selfishly, he wanted the other alpha to see them like this. His possessiveness overtook any logical thought.

“Come in, Nialler! The door isn’t locked.” He called, squeezing Louis’ neck when the omega made a protesting noise.

The door’s hinges creaked as Niall pushed it open. “Oh fuck!” The alpha immediately pinched his nose. “It reeks in here!”

Harry grinned in satisfaction, swiveling the computer chair around so that he could crane his neck to meet the alpha’s gaze.

He had meant to greet the alpha pleasantly, but what came out was, “Why do you have the keys to the house?” His tone was obviously soured and accusing.

Clifford slipped into the room, barking indignantly at Harry and Louis like he was accusing them for abandoning him and then disappeared behind Niall again.

“What’re you two doing?” The other alpha asked, eyes narrowing. Harry saw that Niall was

cradling a bowl of yesterday's leftover soy sauce griddle noodles in his hand. Every time Niall came over, it was probably to raid their fridge.

"Cuddling." Harry answered easily. The omega in his arms huffed, but remained silent.

Niall chewed thoughtfully, still looking suspiciously at the entangled pair before he shrugged.

"You wouldn't mind if I finish these noodles? They fucking bang."

Harry nodded and before he could say anything else, the alpha retreated from the doorway and slammed the door close.

"You didn't answer my question!" Harry yelled at the closed door.

The alpha grunted his displeasure underneath his breath and lifted the dazed omega from his lap. It took Louis some difficulty to steady himself against the computer desk. After a tentative step, the omega stumbled, wobbling on his feet before collapsing on the bed.

"I can't feel me feet..." The omega complained, turning his face and pressing his cheek into a pillow.

Harry's alpha urged him to comfort the flushed omega in front of him, but his annoyance held him in place.

"Why does Niall have the keys to the house, Lou?" He asked through gritted teeth as the omega sat up, wincing as he rubbed at his bum.

"Do you really think I'd give him the keys to my house and let him have free access?" The omega rolled his eyes as he reached out to pull Harry's discarded hoodie from the foot of the bed. The omega tugged it on, but not before Harry caught him murmuring, "Fucking knothed."

"Then how did he get into the house?" The alpha insisted, folding his arms and pouting like a child.

The omega sighed, thrusting out a hand and motioning for the alpha to pass him some baby wipes sitting on the desk.

"How should I know? Probably picked the locks? Or maybe he taught Clifford how to open the door?" Louis' mocking tone made the alpha's pout deepen. "Care to pass the wipes? My thighs are crusty and there's slick everywhere, all thanks to you."

He ignored the omega's request, instead, throwing himself forward onto the bed and rolling on top of the smaller boy who made a disgruntled noise into his chest.

He pinned Louis' small wrists against the covers and found his lips, licking into the omega's mouth. The omega dug his blunt nails into Harry's back, dragging them across the alpha's skin as their kisses grew feverish.

"Lemme clean you up, baby." The alpha whispered.

He shuffled down the bed, settling between the omega's parted thighs and started to lick at the bits of dried slick stains. With each lick, he shoved his face closer to where he wanted to be the most and could hear Louis panting and moaning above him.

His tongue twirled around the omega's pink cock, then down to lap over the crease of his scrotum.

The moment the tip of his tongue met the loose rim, the omega broke out in a whole-body shiver. “Hmm!” Louis moaned, voice shot and raspy.

Harry licked over the twitching rim, coaxing slick out of the pink hole and slurping up the liquid.

Since Louis was so loose from the cockwarming, it was *oh so easy* to shove his tongue right into the omega’s warmth and relish in the sweet whines spilling from his omega’s lips. He could feel slick trickling down his chin and more bubbled out of the omega’s hole as he continued to lick.

He didn’t neglect to fist the omega’s cock, caressing Louis’ length until it strained impossibly hard in his hand.

He sucked on Louis’ rim, biting on the swollen skin and leaving his mark as the omega came into his fist. The smaller boy sank down into the covers, barely moving as the alpha kissed away the last drops of slick.

He peppered a trail of kisses up the omega’s stomach and dimpled down at the putty boy. “I love you.” He could feel his own hard length pressed against the omega’s stomach, but he ignored it, too busy with admiring the beauty under him.

Louis was practically glowing as the omega’s lashes fluttered. “You only love me when I let you have your way.”

Harry’s grin widened as he bent down to nuzzle the omega’s nose. “Did I mention that I love you? Coz I really do, love you, that is.” He said dumbly as the omega pinched his cheek.

“Love you too, stupid Curly.” And yes, that was the answer he was longing to hear.

† † † † †

“You two sure do make lots of noises when you’re just *cuddling*.” Niall looked up from where he had been indulged in a mobile game. Clifford was on the couch next to the alpha and was gnawing at a rib bone.

Harry moved aside some cushions so that he and Louis could settle down on the couch. He balanced the two cuppas he had made on the coffee table. The omega tucked himself underneath the alpha’s arm, seemingly still very needy from their sex and welcomed Clifford into his lap.

The dog, having been feed and entertained, was more forgiving and didn’t give the omega the cold shoulder. Harry laughed when Clifford climbed into Louis’ lap, licking at the omega’s nose.

“You staying over for a late lunch?” Harry asked Niall who had gone back to tapping away on his phone.

“Ah, no, thanks, mate. Swung by to check up on you guys since *someone* ignored me calls. I’ll be out of your hairs in a jiffy. Just let me level up first.”

“How did you get in the house, Ni?” Louis asked in a haughty and deep tone as if he was mimicking Harry. The alpha rolled his eyes.

“The keys I dug up in the garden. Remember you told me you had a pair of keys behind the red petunias in case of emergencies?” Niall said nonchalantly like digging up keys from the dirt and breaking into someone’s house was the most normal thing in the world.

Louis shot Harry a look. “There you have it, knothhead.”

Harry shrugged, lacing their hands and pressing an apologetic kiss into Louis' knuckles. "Can't blame me for being worried."

"Also! Can I borrow your car, Lewis? Wanna drive down to Brussels for a Lewis Calpaldi concert."

"Ha!" The omega clapped his hands. "I knew you had an ulterior motive! You would never come over simply to *check up on me!*"

What ensued, of course, was a cushion pillow fight, a dog knocking over two cups of tea and a lot of cursing and laughing.

END OF BONUS ONE

Chapter End Notes

What? There's one more bonus story? Go go go!

Bonus Story Two: Ding-Dong! Double Date

Chapter Summary

This one is purely for the bants and also coz I want to fit in a *whispers* proposal. The time is set around a year and a half after they started dating.

Chapter Notes

Please leave comments and feedbacks if you wish since they mean so much to me.
Find me on Tumblr @thinlinez

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

A YEAR AND A HALF LATER

“M going on a date.”

Harry spat out the mouthful of guava juice he had packed along with his lunch. Juice dribbled down his chin and down onto his (Louis’) Burberry plaid button up. He had actually nicked it from their pile of unwashed laundry this morning. He couldn’t get over how good his omega looked in it last night during their date and sue him for wanting to smell like his boyfriend. Even if the shirt was a bit tight, it was still very comfortable.

“What did you say?” He spluttered, hastily wiping at the stain.

“M going on a date.” His omega friend repeated, tone calm as anything before gingerly raising his fork to his lips.

“With who?” Harry knew his tone was incredulous, but who can blame him?

“A guy I met online.”

Harry made a mistake of taking another sip of guava juice, thus, he ended up choking on the sweet liquid as he doubled over.

“Li,” He had to take a careful look at the calendar propped on the office desk. “It’s not April Fool’s Day, mate, you don’t have to make an effort.” He rasped, using a fist to thump his heaving chest. He knew he was being dramatic, but come on, it was once in a blue moon, *correction*, once in *a thousand blue moons* that Liam goes on a date.

Liam gave him a look, shrugging. “You can come see for yourself. You’re gonna be there as well. You and Tommo.”

“What?”

Liam sighed, putting down his fork. He laced his fingers and rested his chin on his hands. He addressed Harry like he was educating one of the pups. “It’s a double date. Since I’m meeting the

guy for the first time, I thought it would be safer if I brought you and Tommo along. He's coming all the way from London so I'm sure the guy means well."

Harry paused to consider this. It made sense that Liam was extra cautious.

"How did you guys meet?" He asked curiously.

"The guy runs an investment podcast on Spotify. I listen to him occasionally and make comments. He dm'd me one day to argue with me on a point I made and well, the rest is history."

"Riveting." Harry snorted as Liam glared at him. "Are you sure the guy isn't meeting you just to convince you to invest in some bullshit stock?"

"You sound more like Tommo nowadays. Be careful, Styles."

Harry grinned. "Well, you know what they say, you are what you eat."

Liam's cheeks flushed as he cleared his throat. "That's *inappropriate*. You have landed yourself an extra hour of clean up duties after school today. Now go and wake the pups up from nap time. It's already one thirty."

Harry saluted his omega friend and hopped down the stairs to the classrooms. He couldn't wait to share the news with Louis.

† † † † †

"Cover me, Z! I gotta reload me fucking crossbow!"

"Make it quick, babes, the creatures are regenerating." Even though they were surrounded by enemies, Zayn sounded unperturbed through Louis' headset.

Louis darted into a clump of bushes. He clicked furiously on his crossbow, trying to make his character reload it faster.

"This crossbow is shit! You better have a word with Blackwell about it. Tell him to reprogram this damn thing!"

He could hear Zayn humming as he watched his alpha friend hacking through a swarm of enemies with his morning star.

"Reckon Michael's got a crush on you by the way. Why don't you tell him yourself?" Zayn's voice drifted into the omega's ears. Louis finally finished loading the arrow and he emerged from the bushes, aiming at the nearest creature.

"He does not." Louis mumbled, rolling his eyes as he shot down an enemy, watching it ooze purple blood.

They were testing out their company's newest game which had gone through its final stage of programming yesterday.

"He does, Lou. I'm telling you. He asks me how you're doing every other week. When you come in for meetings, he even asks me to switch seats with him so he can sit closer to you."

Louis squeaked when one of the creatures snuck up behind him and gave him a hearty blow on the back with a longsword.

“Well, tell him I’m taken.” He said impatiently, summoning his dragon and jumping onto its back before soaring into the skies.

“Oi! You coward! You’re leaving me here?” Zayn shouted and Louis could hear the loud clacking of the keyboard through his headset.

“I’m gathering my energy so I can pull my ultimate move.” He watched the battlefield beneath him. Zayn seemed to be doing perfectly fine on his own.

“Michael knows you’re taken, but he says it doesn’t matter *unless* you’re married.”

Louis snorted, stifling his giggle. If Harry heard this, he would probably go berserk. “How dare he. Kids these days have literally no shame.”

“Lou, he’s one year younger than us. He’s no kid and he’s got a good point. When’ll H propose anyways?”

This successfully shut Louis up as he watched Zayn also summoning his dragon after slaying all the creatures.

Zayn must have sensed his unease because the alpha nudged his dragon against Louis’ and swiftly changed the subject.

“Oh yeah, need a favor from you, babes, can I stay over this weekend? I’m headed down to Brighton.”

“Why? You miss me that much?” The omega teased as they made their dragons land beside a village.

“Don’t kiss your own arse, Lou.” His alpha friend laughed. “I’m... Meeting a friend.” Louis’ eyes narrowed at the long pause.

“A friend.” He repeated as Zayn cleared his throat. “Who is this so-called *friend*? Do I know them?” He didn’t know Zayn knew anyone who resided in Brighton other than himself.

“Just a friend I met on the Webs.”

Now Louis was growing more suspicious. “An omega friend?” He kept his tone light and casual.

“Uh-huh.” Trust Zayn *not* to elaborate.

Louis clicked on his character, switching the useless crossbow for a bejeweled dagger. “What’re you guys gonna do?”

“Eat at a restaurant with his friend and that friend’s omega.”

“Like a double date?”

“It’s *not* a date. It’s a *meeting*. Just a friendly meeting between friends.”

Louis grinned evilly. For once, Zayn almost sounded flustered. The alpha was making everything *so* obvious.

“How very cute. Zayn Javadd Malik, going on a date with his online crush. How did you guys meet? Don’t tell me it’s by Tinder.”

He supposed he deserved it when Zayn drove his morning star into Louis' character's armor.

"Piss off, Tommo. He listens to my podcast."

"Oh my god, I can't believe someone can actually tolerate hours of you complaining about the stocks. You guys are soulmates for sure." Louis' teasing was probably going to earn his character an early death, but the omega was having too much fun to care.

By the end of their gaming session, he had weaseled all the details of "this online friend" from Zayn and he considered it a success even though he had lost the game. Wait until Harry hears about this, he thought gleefully as he logged out of the game.

"Send over your potential date outfits, I wanna help you pick!" He shouted into the headset as Zayn let out a grunt.

† † † † †

"Baby honey! I bought some truffle for fettucine tonight!"

Louis had never sprinted this fast to the front door. He even beat Clifford and jumped into his alpha's arms.

"Oh woah," Harry staggered, back bumping into the wall behind him at Louis' sudden attack. "I never knew you're this crazy about truffle?"

"You won't believe what I'm about to tell you, Haz!" Louis exclaimed. Clifford was clawing at the alpha's legs, keen on joining in the excitement.

"And you, baby, you won't ever believe what I'm gonna tell you, either. I have some surprising news!" The alpha carried the omega into the living room.

"Bet it isn't as surprising as *mine*." Louis countered as the alpha set him down on the couch.

"No, no," Harry chuckled, gathering his curls into a ponytail. "I'm positive *mine* is much more mind-blowing."

"Okay then, smug Curly, tell me about it." Louis poked at his alpha's chest.

"Why don't we say it together? On the count of three." Harry smirked. He knew Louis loved games like these and his omega's eyes gleamed.

"Okay!"

"Three, two, one, spill!"

"Zayn's going on a date!"

"Liam's going on a date!"

Their excited shouts echoed around the living room before both fell silent, staring in confusion at each other. Even Clifford cocked his head to the side.

"Come again?" Harry asked his omega.

Louis frowned. "I said Zayn's going on a date. He's coming to stay here afterwards. The date is this weekend."

Harry nodded slowly.

“What was your news, Harold?” Louis was back to poking at his chest.

“My news is... Liam is going on a date this weekend too. The guy’s from London. He says it’s gonna be a double date so I’m bringing you—”

Both of them seemed to connect the dots at the exact same time.

“Oh my fucking god!” Louis clasped his palms over his mouth, the corners of his baby blues crinkling. Harry barked out a laugh, collapsing back into the couch.

“Wait, wait, wait,” His omega flapped a hand in the air before climbing into his lap. Harry was too happy to grimace when the omega elbowed him in the stomach. “Now the most important question is... Do we tell them?”

† † † † †

“I’m so nervous...” Harry said, feeling his hand beginning to sweat as they waited for the light to turn green.

“It’ll be fine, Harold. As long as you get your acting in order.” His omega reassured, grasping his hand and lacing their fingers.

As they neared *All Along Bistro*, Harry could feel his heart thudding in apprehension. He reflected on the events of last night and squared his shoulders.

“Zayn’s gonna kill me if he knows that I know who the omega is. I even helped him pick the outfit you said Liam would like!” Louis had exclaimed in horror as he paced the room. Their exaltation at their friends going on a date was beginning to dim as the alpha and omega reflected more on the possibly dreadful consequences they might (surely) end up facing.

“And Liam’s gonna kill me too if he knew I know Zayn.” Harry had nodded in agreement.

They finally agreed to pretend they didn’t know anything. Thus, last night, an acting session was insinuated and they spent some time on making sure their acting skills were convincing enough for the date on Saturday.

But now that they were standing right in front of the restaurant, Harry had a lurking feeling in his gut that their plan was going to fail.

“Oh, I see them!” Louis, who was the more confident out of the two about his acting skills, tugged at Harry’s dress shirt hem.

“Z’s really wearing a leather jacket we picked out. He looks like a proper prick.”

Harry could only chuckle weakly as a waiter welcomed them inside.

They approached the table near the glass windows and Harry could positively see Liam’s eyes twitching in annoyance in the distance. He knew that twitch all too well.

“You’re late.” Liam greeted, voice serene yet glare colder than ice.

“*Fashionably* late, Li, at least we didn’t bail.” Louis answered the omega smoothly before he let out a loud gasp.

“Z?!”

The alpha who had been facing Liam and away from the approaching couple turned in his seat, jaw dropping open at the sight of Louis and Harry.

“Heavens beyond!” Louis put a hand to his forehead. “I wasn’t expecting this!”

Harry had to give it to his omega. The boy was a natural. He felt a shoe driving into his own and Louis’ pinky brushing against his pinky. *Oh right*, time to put on a show.

“Ummmm...” His gaze flicked from Zayn’s confused expression to Liam’s skeptical one. “I, *ah*, wow! Zayn? I didn’t know Liam’s friend is you? What are the odds?” His voice sounded feeble and robotic in his own ears. He could see Liam’s expression growing from suspicious to downright stony.

“You knew.” Liam stated before tilting his chin and glaring at Louis. “And *you knew* as well.”

“No, we don’t!” Louis hastened to interject. “Like Harold said, *what are the odds?*” The omega batted his lashes innocently.

The alpha had no idea how his omega was standing his ground at this point. Liam’s glare was murderous and he was keen to get out of there ASAP.

Louis must have also become aware of this fact because the omega rambled on, “Well! It looks like you don’t need the cavalry after all huh? Don’t let us ruin your lovely meal!” Louis rocked on his heels before he chanced a glance at Harry. *Run*. The meaningful look in his omega’s eyes and the chills from the other side of the table made Harry bolt.

He could hear Louis wishing Zayn luck behind him as he practically raced out of the restaurant.

† † † † †

They were half way down the street before Louis hooked his arms around Harry’s waist from behind and dug his heels into the pavement.

“Lou?”

“We can’t leave them like that.”

Harry strained his neck to look back at his omega who was still plastered to his back. Louis’ hands dropped away before he was pulling at Harry’s hand, swiveling on his heels and heading back towards *All Along Bistro*.

Before Harry could comprehend and argue, the omega had dragged him behind the row of low rose hedges in front of the restaurant. The hiding spot offered a good view into the restaurant through the windows.

“What’re you doing?” Harry hissed as Louis forced him to crouch down behind the bushes.

“We’ll be their Cupids. We have to see this through, Haz. Imagine. Them,” Louis jabbed a finger at Zayn and Liam’s table. Harry squinted and was relieved to see them deep in conversation. Liam was wearing a small smile while Zayn sipped from a tall glass of bubbling wine, nodding fiercely at whatever the omega was saying. “Getting married and us, you and me, being the respective best men!”

Harry giggled. "Baby, they're only on their *first* date."

"You've got to see the bigger picture here." Louis shook his head, peeking over the tops of emerald green leaves to see within the restaurant. "Just you wait, at their wedding, when Liam tosses his bouquet, I'm gonna be the one who gets it."

The alpha could feel his knees growing shaky the longer he remained in this half-stooped position. He had to take a moment to think. "Why do you want to fight for the bouquet?"

His omega shuffled around to give him an outrageous look. "You honestly don't know why?"

Harry sat down on the bricked ledge of the sidewalk next to the rose bushes. Yep, he couldn't feel his legs now.

"Ummm, no?" He replied, confused as anything. Louis pursed his lips before shrugging and fixing his attention back onto the restaurant.

"M not gonna tell you then, you oblivious dimwit."

Harry couldn't, for the life of him, fathom Louis' mood swings. The alpha opened his mouth to protest, but the omega cut him off.

"You know what? I'm over this. I don't wanna keep watching them being lovey dovey anymore." Louis shot to his feet, dusting off his black jeans. The omega started to stomp down the street at lightning speed.

Harry winced as he stood up quickly, rubbing at his sore knees before jogging to catch up to Louis.

He reached out to snatch the omega's wrist, giving it a gentle squeeze. "What's wrong? Did I do something?"

Louis held up a hand to shield his eyes from the glare of the sun setting on the horizon beyond them. Baby blues tinged with fiery orange as they blinked up at Harry. Effortlessly beautiful.

He merely shook his head. "It's nothing, Haz. 'M tired, 's all."

Harry cupped the omega's face worriedly, thumbing over Louis' thin stubbles before nodding. "Let's get you home then." He kissed the omega's fringe.

† † † † †

The next few days consisted of Louis acting strange and Harry being unable to find the source of the omega's troubles. The omega was subdued, very unlike his usual loud and bright self. Only when Harry tentatively reminded him that tonight was Clifford's play date at Brighton Beach with Yozora and Ms. Tomoyan did the omega cheer up a bit.

† † † † †

"Do you have any idea why Lou is acting off?" Harry asked, playing with Clifford's leash in his hands. He had related the entire story to Ms. Tomoyan who was relaxing on the bench next to him.

"I think I do." Ms. Tomoyan said after some consideration. The alpha perked up, turning to alpha lady.

"Please tell me what it is!" He begged as the old alpha tapped thoughtfully on her chin.

They were sitting on the bench to the side of the grassy dog park beside the shores. Harry could see his beautiful omega basking in the attention from both dogs as he threw a rubber ball for the dogs to catch. Louis was wearing Harry's favorite grass green sweater that had the words, *Stay Away From Toxic People*, embroidered on the front paired with the alpha's newly bought leather pink bell bottoms.

This wasn't at all something Louis would wear, but since the omega was close to his heat, he kept asking Harry for clothes. Harry had selfishly picked this outfit. Mind you, it wasn't everyday Louis would wear pink and let Harry model him. His omega stood out against all the other dog owners and turned a few heads with his flashy outfit.

Yozora had warmed up considerably to Louis after many play dates and was one of the omega's biggest fans. She kept circling back to the omega, not paying much attention to the rubber ball being thrown. Clifford, on the other hand, bounded after each throw, eager to get the ball and would sometimes chase after other dogs surrounding them, making new friends.

"Have you popped the question yet?" Of all things, Harry hadn't expected the alpha lady to ask him this.

He fish mouthed at the older alpha, blushing so red that he was sure anyone could spot him from miles away.

"I— I, uhm..." He tugged nervously at his curls. "I actually bought the ring months ago, but... I can't find the right time to ask...? I mean... Is that what Lou wants? What if... He's happy with us being boyfriends and doesn't want... More?"

He searched Ms. Tomoyan's face frantically. Surely, she'd side with him on this one. What he hadn't expected was her exasperated sigh.

"Oh, Harry, child, you really are oblivious."

Harry's heart quickened. "So you think Lou wants... To marry me?" His tone was laced with hesitancy.

Ms. Tomoyan stared at the omega in question who was shrieking as Clifford jumped and tackled him onto the grass.

"If you doubt your love, then I don't think you'd ever be ready to marry him."

Harry flushed, looking back down at his twisted hands. The tiny box that he had grown used to carrying around with him burned a hole in his jacket pocket.

"It would never hurt to ask and if he loves you, as much as I know he does, then the answer would never be no." The alpha woman pushed down her glasses to give Harry a firm look. "So what better time than now?"

† † † † †

A shadow fell across Louis' face, blocking his attempt at pointing out a winking star to Clifford and Yozora.

"Move, Curly! We're trying to find Mars!" The omega laughed, using the tip of his Adidas to nudge at his alpha's shin. Harry leaned over the omega huddled in the grass with two dutiful dogs flanking his sides. The dog park was more crowded tonight than on other nights. Harry could feel a few drops of sweat slid down the back of his shirt.

Louis must have sensed his tension in his scent because the omega got to his feet, head cocked to the side and running a hand down Harry's arm. "You alright, H?"

Ms. Tomoyan was right. There was no point in waiting and doubting because Harry knew he had wanted to marry Louis ever since they started dating.

"I love you." He blurted, hands digging into his jacket pockets and one fist closing around that tiny box.

Louis' eyes shone with surprised mirth. "Um, okay? Did you come all the way over here to tell me that?"

Harry swallowed. "Actually I wanna ask—" His sentence was cut short by Clifford who suddenly reared onto his hindlegs, pawing at Harry's jacket desperately.

Harry had to loosen a hand from his jacket and grabbed at Clifford's paws, trying to stop the huge dog from tearing a hole into the material, thus, exposing what was inside the jacket pocket. Clifford barked at him indignantly.

"Why're you all worked up, boyo?" Louis laughed, tickling his dog's side and hugging him from behind to prevent him from toppling Harry.

"I think he knows." Harry said simply, he tugged the small box out of his pocket and held it behind his back.

"Know what?" Louis asked, pouting. "What secrets are you two hiding?"

"That I wanna marry you."

With that, the alpha dropped to one knee and the world around them seemed to fade away. There was only Louis, whose baby blues were impossibly round as his hands flew to his mouth.

"I love you, Louis Tomlinson. You are the love of my life. Please, baby, will you be mine?" The alpha cleared his throat, all kinds of emotions welling up in him. "Will you marry me, Lou?"

Tears were brimming in baby blues, making them stand out against the dark night. "You fucking knothed."

Harry had to dimple. "Is that a yes? I hope that's a yes?"

The next second, he was on the ground with a squirming boy on top of him. "Yes! Stupid Curly! Of course, it's a yes! I hate you for making me wait!"

The world and its sounds rushed back into Harry's ears as Louis captured his mouth in a teary passionate kiss. Clifford joined their midst, barking while Yozora yapped by their side. Other dogs were barking too and some people were cheering. Harry could even hear clapping as Louis' tongue slipped into his mouth and he tasted the sweetest of tangerines.

It was so cliché, but from how they met, Harry guessed they deserved the most cliché of endings.

TRULY THE END

This is truly the end :)

The Prompt I chose was Number 501: "Louis is an insomniac who lives alone and can't cook, and Harry is one of only a few Door Dash drivers who are delivering at 4am when he can't sleep. Bonus points if Harry learns his name/befriends him. He cooks all the time and, when Louis orders door dash, Harry brings him a homecooked meal as well/instead."

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End Notes

I'm sitting on a big fat new fic (my bike fic) and will be posting after the new year! This fic will be an attempt at something different ;) Please stick around for my future fics! You can check [HERE](#) for my new updates! Thank you for reading and see you soon xx

Please [drop by the archive and comment](#) to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!