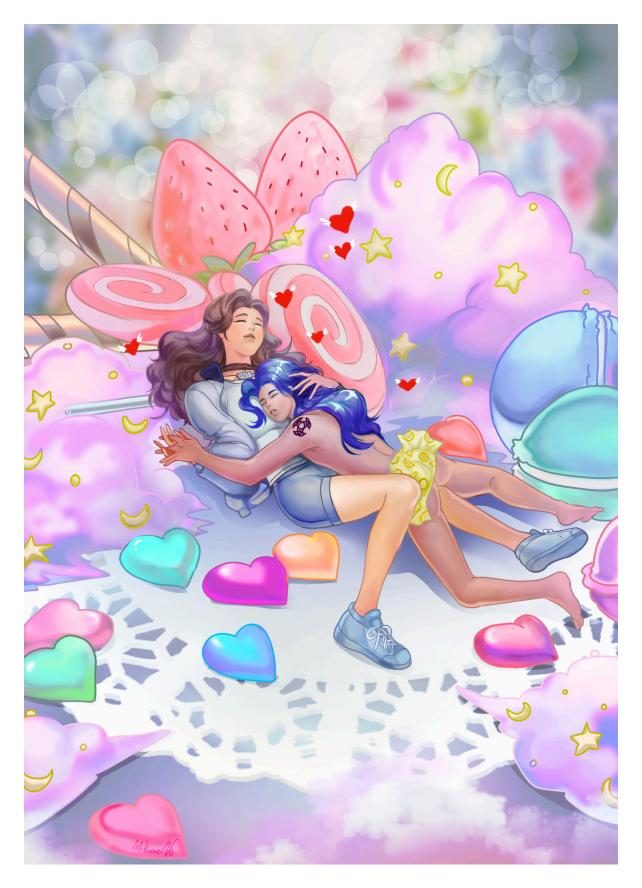
SWEET ESCAPE ARETHE - STORY 013



ARETHE

Nice Night

It felt like she was a kid again, in a strange way. Sneaking out of the house when everyone, even the mystical Fae, were fast asleep. She'd been planning this particular trip for almost an entire month. Sneaking into rooms, gathering equipment, figuring out the routes of vehicles that could best get her around at night. Things that were fairly regular – like the buses that ran, the people going to and from work, anything she could do to get things planned properly.

And tonight, was the night where everything would come together. A test run, of sorts.

Em didn't know what would happen if the Fae found out, or if the giants who owned the home were made aware of this transgression of sorts. She's stolen from essentially everyone at this point, or used them to help in some way. They may just kill

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her outright, after all, to some of the household she was just a special toy...

She watched as the door opened, a shoe slid through the exit to the shop, and she slipped in quickly. Just as the bakery owner closed up his business for the night. Em still wore her normal outfit, cleaned regularly through magic by a trinket the Fae allowed her to use from time to time. They were sometimes quite nice to her, but they were still their captors, and could end her in a moment.

"Okay~" Em said, walking into the center of the bakery's main floor. Most of the lights were off, aside from a display in the back corner of the room. The bakery itself was near a little coffee shop called 'Sweet Beans'. "Almost there, gov'na."

It was a quick jog over to the counter, around the back, to a long cable that was wound up on the ground. Dusty, yeah, but easy enough. She hopped up on the cord, accidentally hitting the glass jar on her hip for a moment. Instinctively she grabbed

of the confectionery display. Then, she started to climb in a different way. She used the space to her advantage, scooting up the wall beyond where the cable would allow her until she was able to climb over the top.

She then affixed a small string, and started to slide down inside with all the other confectioneries.

It was bright, as a contrast to the surrounding environment. She sat down with her legs crossed, pulled the vial off her hip, and uncorked it. Inside was a tightly bound, very well used, Fae sock. She pulled that out gently, her fingers wrapping around a blue-haired little bug-boy.

"And now we're here, lil' dude."

Mathew couldn't really respond before she set him down, and pulled another magic trinket from her pocket. A flash of light, and Mathew was the same size as her. With a gentle smile, she looked him in the eye and chuckled.

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"It can't grow us more than this, but it's something. I can shrink you, zap you back, and... Ya know."

"It's beautiful," Mat said, "I... I saw most of the trip, but where are we?"

"Safe, and alone. Not exactly outside the reach of their magic, not yet." Em said, shifting her collar so the little metallic tag that said 'Mat' on it was visible again. She noticed how absolutely red his face was. Just as he opened up his mouth to speak, she took a fist-full of macaron and shoved it into his mouth!

"Wh~" He said, chewing it up a little.

"You're such a little pushover." She giggled, standing up and pulling him to his feet before rattling her collar, "I don't care what they say though. I don't belong to them."

With a tiny giggle, the pair enjoyed their evening together among the candies.

The next morning.

"They should be coming in soon," Em said, standing next to Mat. They both were somewhat covered in frosting still, with bits in their hair.

"Thanks," Mat said shyly, "I... We, really needed a nice night out."

Just then, the door opened. The shop owner stepped through, and Em led herself and Mathew out of the open doorway by the hand. As soon as they stepped out and the door shut behind them, they heard another person squeak. Staring down at them was a pink-furred wolfess with her mouth covered. She looked up to the doorway, then back to the two tinies on the floor.

"Yeah, the door was locked," Another wolf said as he approached from behind, noticing how she stopped in place, "Are you okay?"

"Humans~"

"Oh," He replied, looking down to the pair on the ground, "Don't worry, I've got em."

He lifted up his paw to give them a quick stamp, before feeling her gently push at his chest. Em had grabbed Mathew and started to run off toward the wall as he stepped back down in their path, blocking their escape.

"Something the matter?" Evan asked, watching as Alyce crouched down to pluck the two up from the floor. She stuffed both Mat and Em in her pocket, gently patting it and smiling to her husband.

"Not at all~" She said, "I'm just gonna... Keep these for us, for later..."

"Mmm..." Evan said, petting the top of his wife's head, "Alright. Let's go, Enzi probably opened up shop already."

The pair walked off, their shoes patting on the ground as they passed by the confectionery shop on their way to work, with two new tinies in tow. It was Valentines Day now, and tonight would be... Special...

Art By: Mikurei

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ORIGINAL STORY

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