

“Artemis!” Yelled her girlfriend, storming down the metal hallway of the building. As the red dragon walked with haste down to the computer room, she stayed to one side avoiding the ball of light running past her at high speed. Down the stairs, around corners, and through small doors she stayed to the right, at times hearing the zooming sound travel throughout the entire building.

“Let's see, just have to recalibrate the generators... maybe that'll increase the speed of the treadmill without consuming too much electricity... no that won't work, what about if I get him to-”

“Hun!” Shouted the dragon, leaning against the wall in the middle of the revolving door. The deer at the computer jumped and flattened her ears turning around.

“H-hi sweetie... w-what brings you down here?” She asked.

“Artemis... why is your little assistant running amok throughout the entire base more than usual?”

“Hi Ira!” Said the tiny white light, stopping in the door to properly greet her for just a moment. Before the light could dim clear enough to reveal the being within, it moved around the lab collecting papers and baskets then zoomed out again. His speed created a draft, pushing the red dragon's hair on her head, around her neck, and tail, in the direction of the wind.

“Hey Sol,” she said halfheartedly, knowing the corgi in the white light didn't hear as he raced outside for another delivery.

The green eyed red dragon turned her head to her beloved girlfriend, who smiled nervously.

“As I was saying,” Ira said, walking towards Artemis while trying to keep a calm tone. “I want to know why... for the past two weeks... your little assistant has been running around like a mad man, with papers, books, folders, equipment, whatever, almost nonstop.”

The deer next to the keyboard blushed. “W-well,” she said hesitantly, getting weak kneed. “I-I've been receiving a lot of requests from the v-village recently... S-since Sol became my assistant, he's been so much help a-and he's so fast. I-I mean did you see him move? His speed must be reaching Mach 7 at best... Maybe if I had a second generator that was self powering and attached to the treadmill along with another one I could save up more emergency-”

“Artemis! Focus!” She said, breaking through Artemis' out loud train of thought.

“Y-yes dear,” she said, gulping and blushing more as Ira approached closer.

“Listen,” Ira said, touching the white lab coat on Artemis, smiling subtly as she looked passed the glasses, leading into her lover's red eyes. “You, and your assistant, need to take it slow.”

“Y-yes dear,” said the deer.

“When was the last time that you two at least sat down to drink that green leaf juice?”

“Y-you mean tea?”

“I dont know, whatever those goody goody's drink to calm their nerves and such.” Artemis fixed her glasses still red in the face from the closeness of her lover. “I want you,” continued Ira. “Not your assistant, to get out of the lab, go get tea, and have a seat somewhere and relax with him. You've been in this lab a full week and I've had to drag you out because you stink and needed a shower.”

Artemis flattened her ears and whined embarrassed, wiggling her little black nose trying to sniff a bit of herself. Ira's Eskimo kiss stopped her from doing so. “Understand?” The dragon said, making Artemis go cross-eyed, giving a nervous nod with a bashful smile. “Good,” Ira said with a smile, turning to leave.

Artemis fell to her knees with her legs out, completely disoriented from the whole ordeal with her glasses fogged from her excessive breathing. As the red dragon left to open the door, she stopped, seeing the ball of light run back and forth out the door repeatedly. She waited, putting her hands on her hips as her eyes followed the light as best she could.

“I wonder...” she said, raising her hand up. “This always worked on Zenny....” she concentrated and after getting the rhythm of Sol's running pattern, she plucked him up quickly by the back of his shirt, lifting the ball of light off the ground. The light dimmed, revealing Sol with his legs blurred together from the speed he was moving. Sol flicked his ears, realizing he wasn't getting anywhere after a delayed ten second reaction and dangled there looking around.

Ira brought him up to eye level, making the corgi whimper in fear with large yellow beading eyes. Ira froze for a moment, her frown turning into a tsk, unable to say what she really wanted.

“Just... slow... down,” she said, gently releasing the corgi. She huffed, exhaling smoke from her nose, and put her hands in her pockets, leaving the office to return to the peaceful silence of her room. Sol watched her leave, his tail between his legs as he gulped and move slower.

An hour later, Artemis paid the cashier for a basket, some tea, and cookies.

“Going on a romantic lunch?” Questioned the cashier, another deer with blue eyes.

“A d-date?” Artemis asked, fixing her glasses flustered. “N-no, what makes you say that?”

The cashier chuckled. “Well a basket, tea, cookies, good scenery around here... just a lucky guess.”

“N-no! I'm just thanking a friend for all his help,” she said, pulling her ear down to nom the tip out of habit.

“Okay, okay,” said the cashier with his arms up. “I didn't mean to pry, what you're doing is nice.”

Artemis' glasses fogged and she quickly snatched her things, fast walked out of the store, and leaned against its, breathing heavily as she slid to the ground on her butt. “Ohh... why is this so hard...?”

Her thoughts went back to Ira and how close she was to her. That sweet but demanding voice inches away from her lips and-

“Gah!” Artemis shook her head, coming out of her daze. “Let's get this done, let's get this done.” She shot up and went back to her lab with focused determination in her eyes. A small light and a strong gust of wind broke that however, Sol running down the small hill and into the store she just came out of. “How... how fast does he even think he's going?” She said, her glasses crooked and hair a spiral mess from the updraft.

She fixed her hair and glasses, walked back to the shop, seeing the door fly open. “Um.. wait, Sol, I-”

The ball of light zoomed passed her, up the hill and back inside the lab. “I... missed you...” Artemis said then turned to walk up to her lab.

Just as quick the ball of light came back down. “Sol I really need to tal-” It zoomed passed her again, going into another store. Artemis went red and bit her ear again, naving on it. She turned to follow the corgi, only to have him run passed her again as soon as she did. When she turned to look up the hill, he was coming back down. “Alright that's it!”

She held her hand out to signal him to stop, it failed. She tried standing in his way, he went around her. She put her hands out wide and spread her legs, the light went right under her. “How did... he just.. get.. ugh!” She said, stomping her hooves as she dropped her basket. “This has gone far eno-”

The corgi passed her again, however, his green scarf got caught in her hand when she spread them apart frustratedly. Artemis cringed her fist on impulse before flying with Sol, the basket and everything left behind.

She screamed, flying like a kite attached to Sol's scarf for a moment before the Corgi yelped from getting choked, stopping dead in his tracks. Artemis flew forward, taking the scarf with her, and span the corgi around as it came loose.

"This is so unfair!" She screamed, flying through the air till she landed in a tree.

Sol stopped spinning but the world around him didn't. "A-Arteis?" He said shaking his head to clear the birds circling him. "A-Artemis?" he looked around and patted his neck, whimpering. He heard branches rattle and saw his scarf in a tree, along with an upside down light green deer with crooked glasses.

"Help..." Artemis whined, thrashing around a bit.

Sol rushed to the tree and thought for a moment. Reaching to his side he pulled out his black whip and grabbed a branch, using it to walk up the tree's trunk to get to the first branch. "Don't worry, I'm coming," he told his partner.

"Oh do take your time... the view's great..." she said managing to grab a branch and pull herself free. She looked down, eeped, and clung to the branch. "Okay, okay, please hurry and get me down from here!"

When Artemis and Sol were safely on the ground, Artemis fixed her glasses, sighed, and put a hand to her chest to breath calmly.

"What were you doing in a tree?" Sol asked, fixing his green scarf.

"I wasn't trying to be. It just... happened..." she said blushing.

"Artemis? You okay?"

"I'm fine, I just... I..." she swallowed and nawked at her ear. "I just wanted to say... t-thank you."

"Thank me?" Sol asked, smiling but still confused.

"Y-yes... You've been such a great assistant and you've really done a lot for me, Ira, and everyone in the village... I just wanted to say thanks, and sorry for working you so hard recently." She held her head down embarrassed before she jumped as the corgi hugged her hard.

"I love working with you, partner! And I'm glad I can help," said the corgi, wagging his tail.

Artemis sighed with relief and hugged the corgi back. "We should probably go find my basket before someone takes the tea and cookies."

Sol's eyes and ears lit up. "Cookies?!" With that one word, Sol grabbed Artemis and ran back into the city in search for the treats, Artemis screaming again as she flung around in the air like a kite.