

### By Desmond Fallout

The following contains: Humanoids into feral chocobo TFs, weight gain, minor macro

Read at your own discretion.



Tatanu couldn't help scoffing up at them. Her free hand reached around trying to scratch at an itch at the small of her back, just under the hem of her pants. "Are kweh implying my magic is somehow rusty?"

"No. But that chirping is really starting to creep me out."

"I'm not chirping!" Tatanu stamped her tiny boot against the dirt, oblivious to her grunt from the effort coming out as a soft, "Wark!"

"Whoah!" Lynda rushed both hands up trying to shush their conversation. "I wasn't trying to annoy you. It's just..."

"Let's just worry about this after we beat the crap out of some poachers. It'll surely be therapeutic to me wark now." The lalafell tossed back her silvery long hair that'd gotten shambled in her tantrum. A motion she immediately regretted when Lynda caught sight of something red and fluffy under there.

"What the primal happened to you now!?" Lynda rushed forward, grabbing at the smaller woman's hair

"Hey! Get off!" Tatanu tried pushing away, though her shorter arms were no match for Lynda's imposing size. Her locks were thrown aside just long enough for even the thickest of muscle brains to not miss the red fluff along her neck.

"Are those feathers!?"

"It's nothing." The irate lalafell attempted again to rub at her lower back. The annoying itching wouldn't alleviate itself no matter how hard she scratched. If anything, it felt like a little lump was developing just above her butt. Bug bites were the last thing this situation needed. "Damn it, Lynda."

"Nothing! You don't just grow red out of nothing. Are you turning into one those, uh, sin eater things again?"

"What? No!" Tatanu shuddered, anger being quashed over the recollection of that dreadful event. "I'd be...a lot worse if that wark the case. Besides, those were white feathers."

"So, growing red feathers and squawking is supposed to be okay?!" Lynda barely caught herself from shouting the last couple of words. Although, Tatanu didn't like the smirk that developed on her angular face any better. "Primals, Tatanu. Are you turning into a bird?"

"W-what!?" Tatanu hated herself for almost shouting the question herself in a blindsided surprise. The shrill crack in her tone was still enough to almost even sound like a chirp. Something she shook off as a byproduct of the ridiculous notion her partner just delivered.

It didn't help that her discomfort was getting worse by the second. The waistband of her casting pants had somehow punched the nerves of her spine, adding a dull ache to the itching trailing across her rump. "Are you seriously trying to wark with kweh? We're kweh the middle of a job!"

"All the more reason we should get you back to a city and have an apothecary look at you." The big great ax made a soft clink as Lynda slid it onto the clips across her armor's back. When Tatanu started to object, she simply shook her head with a raised hand. Hearing their very un-lalafell noises get more prominent when angry only seemed to solidify a decision. "There's too much danger in picking a fight when you could end up progressing whatever's going on. I doubt you'd be able to cast spells with wings and a beak. Although, that might be very cute at your size."

"I honestly kweh tell if wark is taking this seriously or still mocking kweh. Hydaelyn damn it all!" All consideration for stealth and their position went out the window when Tatanu's rising frustration reached a breaking point. The ache in her backside was rising into a fire. The fabric of her pants wedged an annoyingly painful part of her spine against her seat, tickling the tender skin underneath with several soft, yet bristly, things with it.

Forgetting all about the taller, very alarmed, company she was in, Tatanu yanked down the back of her trousers. Almost immediately she was hit with a wave of relief that drew the goofiest smile on her face. Tongue flopped out of her mouth with a big exhale, followed by a soft avian cooing noise. Not only was the annoying part of her spine being pinched allowed to pop free of the denim prison, but it also withdrew several longer, softer, things out from her behind in the process. Their brushing motion actually tickled enough that her knees quivered.

"Oh, thank the heavens. I don't have to wark about that annoyance at least." She hoisted the waistband back up enough to mostly cover all but the top where the offended bump rested. It was going to be distracting having a breeze right there, though the pain was a far worse alternative. "Can we stop wasting time debating about my safety and...Lynda? Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Tatanu..." The big Roegadyn swallowed a hard lump in her throat, eyes wide with shock looking down at what Tatanu realized was the little show they'd just put on. "You, um, have something stuck to your butt."

Tatanu tried laughing it off and failed to believe her own dismissive attitude. She reached back a hand again feeling for that annoying bump. "I just sat on kweh rock, or wark a bug bite when we camped, is all."

She drew in a hissing breath through clenched teeth when she'd found the spot. That was not a bug bite her fingers were grasping. Such things didn't normally register with the nerves all the way up her spine. Nor did they wiggle and have many giant fluffy things attached.

"W-wark the hell!?" Twisting around, Tatanu let her spell book tumble out of her other hand at seeing a lump of muscle pointed stiffly outward above her exposed butt crack. Growing out of it were several rich red feathers several inches long. Fingers brushed over the alien decorations, tickling her nerves in a way that sent the lalafell shuddering. Even more were sprouting out the open areas of skin on her mutated growth, getting longer by the second. "I...I have a tail!?"

"You have a tail," Lynda said, apparently so shocked by this revelation she could only give deadpan affirmation.

"Oh geez! Kweh! Wark!" Tatanu grasped at the budding bird tail feathers, hopping her weight from one foot to the other in rising panic. "I'm going to kill that damn wark miqo'te merchant!"

"That's the important thing right now?"

"Ah wark! Y-you're right." Tatanu paced in circles, fighting a rising need to hyperventilate. Rapid breaths only seemed to be making her new plumes grow faster. Some were already getting long enough their tips brushed the forest ground as she walked. Granted, she only had legs slightly over a foot long, at best already. "We need to wark some kweh of...person. Maybe the white mage guild can wark us out. Let's hurry before I...wark?"

Lynda picked up on Tatanu's sudden alertness and didn't need to ask. They'd both been adventuring enough to notice the forest had grown still. There was almost no noise from wildlife, and probably hadn't been any for a long time. More importantly, neither of them could hear sounds of activity or conversation from the illegal camp a short distance away.

Both of them turned in that direction a split second before the sounds of several flintlock guns cocking broke the silence. A complete lineup of half a dozen humanoids had formed between the adventurers and the camp, all training firearms on them.

"I'm sorry. Are we interrupting something?" a sultry female voice spoke out from behind the trees. Amusement oozed off her every word.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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## Afterward

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