

A crowdfunded story

By Desmond Fallout

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

Read at your own discretion.



Lynda's gaze remained on the disfigured arm as she stopped to sit beside the changed lalafell. Her own muscular limb fidgeted. Fingers hovering a way from her lap clearly fighting the desire to reach out and touch the gold palm.

A conflict Tatanu resolved for them when she drew back with a light scooting along the grassy floor.

"I was transformed into a sin eater by an Ascian called Emet-Selch," she explained in a struggle to keep her voice calm. "It's the opposite of those void sent we used to fight; when a being gets too much light aether forced into them. I mean, they're almost the same thing otherwise. All they care about is devouring aether and infecting others to be like them."

"Oh...oh damn." Lynda took a deep breath, struggling to find a right set of words. "But you managed to come back from that hell, obviously."

"Heh. Eventually." The golden hand rose up, clicking it's claws together in an almost teasing dance towards Lynda. A meek attempt at trying to draw humor out of the deformity. A lot of good people worked hard to get me back to my usual adorable self, but you could say I'm stuck with a permanent glamour as a consolation prize."

"I think it's pretty stylish." The remark had Tatanu's gaze whipping up at the much bigger woman. Lynda responded by giving their golden horn a gentle nudge, enough to tilt their head to one side. "The horns are a great touch. Makes you look fearsome if people can ignore the boobs."

"No one can ignore my best parts." They shared a giggle. All the tension Tatanu had built up for her reveal evaporated, leaving her gaze falling upon their camp fire. Silence dropped between the pair as she became overrun once more with the strongest feeling since returning from that ordeal.

She was tired.

Lynda let the tranquil moment pass for a while, broken only by the cackle of embers.

"Are you okay?" she finally brought herself to ask.

"I will be. Eventually." Tatanu surprised herself with a quick, decisive answer. She wiped her eyes, not having realized they'd gotten damp in her pensive reminiscing. "It gets a lot better with each day further away from dreadful...phase of mine."

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The big girl gave a long huff in acknowledgement. Thankfully they didn't want to press further into details. This had already been more than Tatanu cared to admit getting out in one go. Maybe in a few weeks she'd have the fortitude to recount her whole tale. There were plenty of happy moments worth remembering that went with that hellish finale. A gentle nudge against her knee reminded the lalafell of her ever faithful carbuncle summon. She responded to its nuzzles with a little scratch behind the ear.

"Anyway, don't worry too much about me!" she forced a smile at Lynda, which didn't feel convincing, but got them grinning back. "Maybe we can release some of my stress on chocobo poachers tomorrow."

"Hah. Yeah right." Lynda rolled back onto her feet, swatting loose dirt off her panty-clad butt. "It's not like once of those dumb birds is going to..."

An explosion of movement from beyond the firelight made both girls jump. Something large and angry crashed through dense bushes, breaking sticks under the weight of its stamped. Without having to think about it, both adventurers sprang to the ready; Tatanu bringing her spell book to the ready from her backpack while Lynda scrambled for her rapier and focus.

Seeing two half-naked Eorzeans with weapons ready for a fight was more than enough to get the yellow bird creature to stop before their smoldering fire. It shifted from one large foot to the other, slamming its strong three toes into the soft dirt in a threatening dance. Wings flapped wildly in an attempt to make itself appear bigger, even though it towered over even Lynda.

Tatanu was more worried about the bloody would staining its left wing with blood. At least the poor chocobo didn't take off running immediately. Such an aggressive display wouldn't deter her from formulating plans on how they could try helping it.

"What were you going to say?" she shot Lynda a look, trying not to laugh at the pale woman's blush.

"Shut up!"

"Were you going to say 'it's not like a chocobo is going to waltz right up into our camp?'"

"I'm not nearly that superstitious. Besides, the poor thing doesn't look like it meant to come here."

"I noticed that too. You don't think...?"

Another explosion of movement brought three more figures racing out of the forest seemingly from nowhere. All of them were almost as short as Tatanu in stature, flicking whiskers on the tips of long, pointed muzzles. Pink pawed feet moved like feathers across the dirt, dragging ropy fur-less tails behind them.

Upon their arrival the chocobo spun to give an angry squawk in all their scrunchy faces, stopping the beast men trio in their tracks. Not that it's threatening act did much to deter them any more than the adventurers. This might have been because of the large rifles they carried.

"There's the stupid bird!"

"I thought it'd never stop. My paws are killing me."

"That's your own damn fault for messing up the snare traps. Just be thankfully it couldn't fly off."

"Are the big birds supposed to fly?"

"I thought they only good runners."

"They do kick really good. My cousin nearly lost his head to their big feet."

"You told me it was a dragon bite!"

"They're about the same lethality risk."

While the rodent like men fell into bickering about the differences between a dragon and a bird, Tatanu couldn't help slowly lowering her spell book. A confused look at Lynda got the same shot back.

"I wasn't expecting our poachers to show up either, I swear." The big woman snapped.

Tatanu could only shrug. Them being Qiqirn is also a surprise. I never took rats for big game hunters."

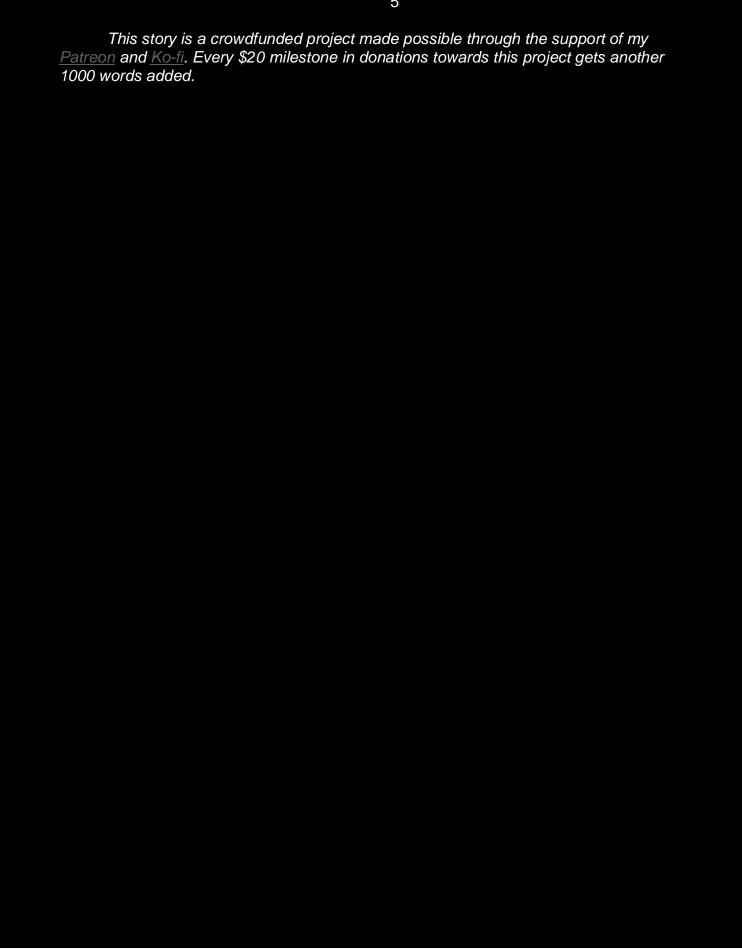
Though they tried to keep the exchange to a whisper, all three of the rodent's pointed ears perked straight up. Their eyes glowed red as coals in the dim light of their fire's smoldering embers.

"Oy! There are people here too!?"

"Wow. Sharp eyes on you, dumb ass." One rat creature bapped another upside their flat head. It wouldn't have nearly started a whole new fight if the third Qiqirn didn't levered its rifle on Tatanu, prompting her and Lynda to raise their weapons again.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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Afterward

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