

Lost, the Forest Spirit I

Yeah, Luna was pretty sick. She had us scared for a moment there.

Listen, I don't want to brag, but it was my idea about how to make sure she kept all of her humanity.

You ever read that old timer comic strip Cashews? The one where Luci sets up an iced tea stand that's a thin veneer for psychotherapeutic malpractice?

I'm a big fan. Much better than what she does with her friend Charles and the ol' pigskin if I do say so myself.

Well I got thinking, what if we do a stand like that, but for people to donate blood? And in return, I'll give them some guidance. I've always been something of a spiritual leader to those who live in Kamiko, after all.

They say, "he is the forest spirit from the heart of the Wild Wood, come to live among us."

I reply, "you say that I am" with a reverent affect and, for some reason, they seem to take that as confirmation, so I just haven't bothered to correct them on that one particular issue.

Fun fact: I've actually met the real forest spirit. Her name is Harietta. She's really nice, but frankly she's also kinda shy and I don't think she'd appreciate these schmucks rummaging around her forest trying to find her so that they can ask her if it's okay to wear mixed fabrics or eat pork.

It's easy enough for me to handle: 'yes, of course' to the former, 'absolutely not' to the latter, done and done. Everything turns out fine all the same.



So anyways, folks from all over the village take turns hoofing it to the top of Crescent Hill so that they can give some blood for Luna to stay her wonderful self. That's what I love about Kamiko: we look out for one another here. Not like the rest of the Grasslands.

In return for these donations, I allow members of the village to ask me one question on their path to spiritual enlightenment. I do not respond directly, but I close my eyes in an expression of deep contemplation and they always seem to walk away with the answer they were looking for. Odd, right?

Anyways, today Madeline tasked me with preparing a new space for Luna in the Red Oak Fort, a lovely little cottage built in the boughs of an old tree that sits near the border wall of Kamiko. Any nighttime threats come to the village by way of its borders since it is the lowest incline of the valley, and ever since the incident Luna has not been very sociable with Madeline or Kitsune for what I think are obvious and understandable reasons.

We're going to show her the new space tonight. I'm so excited! Madeline always throws spectacular warming parties. Luna and her friends are in for a long night of delicious food and drinks, hamming it up to some beautiful folk music, mead, and of course a healthy dose of magic.

I even figured out how to incorporate blood into my cooking repertoire so that Luna can eat with us. Turns out that eating food with enough blood in it is less 'spill my guts' and more 'mild gluten allergy' for Vampires. Who knew? Anyways, I digress.

Anyone up for some red velvet cake? It's fresh out of the oven.