“You know, Zakath, I’m actually shocked that you’re going along willingly with all this.”

The Barabel was plucking a neatly hidden plastic egg from behind a mechanical device of mysterious origins inside one of the many workshops that crowded the Sinchi Ring of Estle City. Glancing at the beautiful green-skinned Miralian who was currently smirking at him, Zakath let out a quiet grunt as he tucked the egg into a bag that was slung across his torso.

“I mean, seriously. You, *you,* of all people are actually going along with this… game.”

“It amuzez the Shadow Lady, that’z all, Zacra.” Zakath said simply as he continued to browse the shelves, occasionally picking up a device to examine more closely.

“And that’s why you’re doing this, because it amuses her?” Zacra’s tone held a note of disbelief even as she continued to smirk at him, her hands toying with Zakath’s free hand.. “You, a man who can reduce even the most hardened field agent into blubbering tears, are going on a egg hunt to amuse the boss?”

“Yez.”

“You do realize what a ridiculous picture this paints, right?”

Zakath let out a hissing sigh as he put the device away and turned to face Zacra, his long muscular tail coiling around her hip as he reached up to brush away a long strand of black hair from her violet eyes.

“Yez, I am quite aware,” Zakath said before dropping a kiss on the Miralian’s head. “That’z precizely why no one would believe that thiz iz happening.”

“Ah, the ‘so ridiculous, no one would believe it’ gambit,” Zacra laughed as she reached down to stroke the tail curling around her. “But seriously. Why are you doing this?”

Zakath fell quiet for a moment as he shifted his gaze back to the crowded shelving, his eyes soon spotting another brightly colored egg poking out from behind what appeared to be an exotic device made in the shape of a prehistoric animal. Plucking it out, the Barabel let out a grunt of satisfaction as he examined the sapphire colored egg. Dropping it into his bag, he finally turned to the patiently waiting Zacra.

“Atyiru haz done a lot for me,” Zakath’s voice was quiet and thoughtful as he gazed down at his companion. “You know thiz. She brought me back from the brink of madnezz and gave me purpoze again. That iz a debt I can never truly repay. So if going on a hunt for eggz makez her happy, then it iz a small sacrifice.”

“Aww, that’s so sweet of you,” Zacra smiled softly before lifting up onto her tiptoes to kiss the Barabel’s snout. “It’s a shame not many people get to see this side of you.”

“That iz for the bezt,” Zakath snorted softly even as he gave her a toothy grin. “I do have a reputation to uphold.”

“Oh come on. Arcona’s full of the dark and scary ones,” Zacra protested teasingly as the two moved toward the shop’s exit, her hand enclosed in his much larger one in a gentle grip. “I rather think the reputation of a sweet and gentle Barabel who does things out of the kindness of his heart would be refreshing to hear.”

“No.”

“What a shame,” The Miralian mock-sighed as they stepped outside, breathing in the fresh air.

“Bezidez, I’m not entirely doing it out of the kindnezz of my heart,” Zakath chuckled softly as they moved onto the bustling street.

“Oh? What possible gain could you get out of this besides just making the boss happy?”

“For someone so blind, she’z actually a pretty good cook.”

“Zakath Agrona!” Zacra’s eyes opened wide as she stared up at the chuckling Barabel. “Are you trying to say you’re trying to get a free home-cooked meal out of it? That’s… that’s…”

“You’ll be invited too.”

“Oh, that’s okay then,”

“Good to know,” Zakath chuckled as he draped an arm over Zacra’s lithe form and drew her closer, dropping another kiss onto her head as she giggled. “Now keep your eyez open. We have to at leazt look like we’re doing thiz.”

“Yes sweetie.”

“Do you have to call me that in public?” Zakath sighed in slight annoyance.

“Yes,” Her voice held a sing-song tone. “It’s my duty in fact.”

“How’z that?”

“It’s required for every girlfriend to call their boyfriends sweetie. Read the manual sometime.”

Zakath sighed before chuckling as Zacra elbowed him lightly as the two continued their leisurely stroll.