



Sticky Buns

By Jasper Arlow, 9933

Competition entry for May the 4th Be With You!: Legendary Encounter

Freckled fingers gently smoothed the colorful bedspread and flittered over pillows to fluff them. Jasper Arlow gave her bedroom a final approving glance and spun around, a cascade of copper hair swaying behind her. The young girl smiled widely at her guest and opened her arms proudly.

“Ta-da! It ain’t much, but it sure beats sleepin’ in that smoky ship! Figured ya want to let her air out a touch before y’all bunk there again. Besides, Papa and Mister Chewie and Mister Han will prolly be workin’ on fixin’ that fuel line all night long.” Jasper pushed her bangs to the side, hopping on one foot while she simultaneously tugged up her striped knee-high sock. “Oh! Before I go forgettin’ things, lemme grab you somethin’ ta sleep in.”

The girl bounded over to a small dresser. “Say, Miss Leia, how do ya feel about droids?” From the bottom drawer, Jasper produced a nightgown covered with a tiny astromech-print. “This one’s my favorite, but ya can borrow it til we get your clothes washed up.”

The older woman moved across the room, and took the nightgown from her host as she nodded with approval. “Oh, I like droids just as well as the next person,” she chuckled. “And this will do nicely, thank you.”

For a moment Jasper’s attention was lost as she marveled at Leia’s mahogany hair. It was wound up into twin spirals on either side of her head like two perfect sticky buns.

Sticky buns. Sticky buns? Snacks!

The girl snapped back to reality and gave her biggest, gap-toothed grin. “Yer welcome, welcome, welcome! And you go ahead an’ change and I’ll go grab us- I mean... you a snack, mkay?” Before Leia could reply, the girl had danced across the small bedroom and out the door.

Not long after, the copper-haired girl returned, green eyes sparkling and arms full of various chip bags and drink cartons. She found the other woman changed and waiting, perched on the edge of the bed. Jasper shuffled over, careful not to drop anything, and set the goodies on the nearby desk before turning back to her guest.

“Alrighty! Yer all set now, I think. Just give one of us a holler if ya need anything, kay?”

“Actually,” Leia smiled at the girl and scooted back on the bed. “Come on, sit down! I promise I don’t bite.” She patted the spot beside her. “I could use the company for a bit. I’ve been stuck in a flying rust bucket for two weeks with Fuzzy and Flyboy out there.”

Jasper giggled and, without so much as a second thought, hopped onto the mattress, “Oh goodie! And, while I was getting’ snackies, I decided I have a question.”

Leia raised a slender brow, tilting her head curiously.

The girl leaned in close and whispered, “can ya give me two swirly hair-buns like the ones you got?”

Perfect lips pulled into a smile as Leia shifted to a more comfortable position. “Absolutely. I’ll make you look as pretty as a Princess!”