

A Small Reminder

By C. Jade Wyton

After a few days of Maggie not returning home, Edmund goes out looking for her at a friend's place and gently reminds her that they live together.

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Maggie hadn't come home in three days, but Edmund wasn't too worried about her.

She'd been spotted around the city by several of their mutual friends who were able to confirm she was safe (and happy) as she had poked around looking for work.

They'd said she'd been completely fine, if not a little more forgetful than usual. And Edmund had thought, upon hearing that she had been couch surfing again, that it seemed she'd just... forgotten that she had an apartment to come home to.

So he had figured he better go find her and remind her that they lived together (and had for almost four months, now).

He'd tried two of her usual stops —her good friend Gayle, and her almost-adoptive-father Eulogy— but hadn't found her. So now he was on his way to see one of her *other* close friends; a satyr named Cirrus.

The bell above the door... *didn't* jingle as Edmund entered, and the man glanced up to see it was, for some reason or another, missing—

Edmund tripped on the bell, stumbling forward a step as it *clang-clunked!* under his feet.

'Ah! Edmund!' Cirrus' voice called from behind the counter; though he didn't stand up from where he was bent over double. 'Welcome!'

'Hey... how'd you know it was me?' Edmund greeted with a nervous chuckle.

'Eulogy would have sworn,' Cirrus said, finally rising up and putting a heavy-looking box on the counter. 'And my other patrons wouldn't have stayed upright.... How can I help you?'

'I'm looking for Maggie.'

'Maggie?' Cirrus scratched at his beard, sending a shower of what looked like ash onto his counter. 'Have you tried Edmund's place? He's her roommate, you know.'

'I am Edmund,' said Edmund.

'Oh, so you are!'

'Yes,' Edmund gave a nod of confirmation and then went quiet, waiting patiently for Cirrus to say something else.

But the man didn't, and simply opened the box he had picked up and took out several strange-looking plants. He stuffed them into his hookah and took several short, casual puffs as he turned and looked around his own store.... Then he spied Edmund again and grinned wide. 'Oh, Edmund! Welcome! I didn't see you come in— Or did I? Hm. Sorry. I feel like I'm in three places at one, haha. What can I help you with?'

'I'm looking for Maggie,' Edmund answered. Then, he quickly added, 'She hasn't been home in a few days, but I know she's not out for work. I was wondering if she was staying with you?'

'Uh...' Cirrus took another couple of puffs before putting his hookah down and scratching his head; this time sending a shower of... *blue...*? Onto the counter. 'I don't know. She might be in? I don't really recall. You're welcome to check the den if you want to.'

'Thanks,' Edmund gave Cirrus a friendly pat on the shoulder. 'I'll go look, now.'

'Look where?' Cirrus asked.

'I'm checking the den for Maggie,' Edmund said, simply. 'Because she hasn't been home in a few days.'

'Aah!' Cirrus' friendly grin grew wider. 'Good luck! I hope you find her.'

'Thanks,' Edmund returned the smile before turning and making his way for the back rooms.

He paused by the curtain covering the den and took a deep breath; readying himself.

He *really* hoped Maggie was in there....

Edmund let out the breath and pushed his way inside. 'Maggie?'

'Edmund?'

Edmund's heart leapt as he heard Maggie's voice, and he felt his smile return as he saw her lying in the pile of cushions on Cirrus' floor. 'Hey, Maggie! Where've you been? I've been looking for you!'

'Oh, um, I've been...' Maggie looked deep in thought, as she looked to the roof and scrunched up her nose; a look that was only enhanced by her flicking tail and twitching ears. 'Uh.... Somewhere?'

'Somewhere good, I hope,' Edmund said, joining the tabaxi in the pile of pillows.

She immediately rolled into him, her purrs vibrating lovingly into his side. 'I think so; I don't feel sad. So I don't think I've been anywhere bad!'

'That's good,' Edmund offered her a warm smile, and wrapped an arm around her. 'You hadn't been home for a while, so I thought I'd come and find you.'

'Home?' Maggie's ear twitched.

'Our home,' Edmund told her.

Her eyes dilated with excitement. '*Our* home? I live with you?!'

'You do,' Edmund answered. 'We sleep in the same bed.'

'We share a *bed?!*' she blushed deeply, covering her mouth as her wings stiffened and her tail flicked with energy. 'Do we sleep back to back, like when we were kids?'

Edmund smiled at the fond memory of sneaking down to the basement and climbing in bed with Maggie to help her keep warm. 'We cuddle.'

Maggie purred loudly, and nuzzled into him. 'I like it when we cuddle,' she said.

'So do I,' Edmund told her. 'I've missed you, these past few nights.'

'You have?'

'I have,' Edmund confirmed, his head turning as Cirrus entered the room with some cups and a teapot. 'I'd be really nice if you'd spend tonight at home with

me.'

'Whoa, I appreciate the offer,' Cirrus sniffed as he sat beside Edmund and started pouring the tea. 'But I don't know how Maggie would feel about us sharing a bed, Edmund.'

'Oh, no, that's not—'

'I wouldn't mind,' Maggie commented.

'No, Maggie, I meant *you*—'

'You wouldn't mind what?' Cirrus asked, cocking his head.

Maggie opened her mouth, then hesitated. Her ears slowly folded back and her brow slowly furrowed, and she looked confused as Cirrus gave her a cup of tea. 'I don't remember.'

'Oh. Neither do I.'

Edmund had to bite back his humour as he took Maggie's hand and squeezed it. 'I was asking if you —Maggie— wanted to come home with me and sleep in our bed.'

'*Our* bed?' Maggie lit up. 'That's right! We share a bed! Cirrus! I get to share a bed with Edmund!'

'Aw, that's great!' Cirrus said, genuinely.

'It is!' Maggie beamed. 'I can't believe I forgot!'

'It happens,' Edmund reassured, accepting his own tea from Cirrus and sipping it lightly. 'I'm glad you remember, now.'

Maggie giggled, her whiskers twitching in that adorable way they did, before putting down her tea so she could lean in close to Edmund and speak very quietly. '*You should sleep in your underwear.*'

'*I sleep naked,*' he replied.

Maggie covered her mouth again, giving a half-squeal that broke into a loud purr, and her entire body fluffed out in an excited shiver.

'I sleep naked, too,' Cirrus commented.

'I know,' Edmund chuckled. 'You're always naked.'

'Yeah,' Cirrus' grin grew, as his gaze moved past Edmund, and he stared into what could only be assumed to be the void. '*Yeah.*'

Maggie giggled again, her wings twitching as she nuzzled into Edmund's cheek and squeezed his leg like a cat kneading its bedding. 'We should go home now,' she commented.

'You want to go home?'

Maggie nodded. 'And be naked together.'

'You're welcome to be naked here,' Cirrus said; his eyes still not focusing. 'I don't mind.'

'That's appreciated,' Edmund said, clapping a friendly hand on Cirrus' shoulder. 'But I only like being naked at home.'

Cirrus gave a happy sniff and sipped his tea, watching as the couple rose to their feet. 'Each to their own. See you both later.'

'See you later, buddy.'

'Bye, Cirrus!'

—END—

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