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"Lady Elizabeth, shall I prepare your dinner for you?" Raizo asked as he helped Elizabeth back into her dorm room.

"Oh, I c-couldn't possibly make you do that," Elizabeth answered, blushing, "especially after all you've done for me today...if anything, I-I should make *you* a nice, warm meal. So, how about it? I'm sure my dear sister w-won't mind," she stammered nervously.

"If you're sure you can," Raizo answered with a smile, "I'd be honored."

"Great! I'll get cooking then!" Elizabeth declared excitedly. "Koharu will be home soon too, so in the meantime make yourself at home!"

Raizo slowly sat down on the couch, his fingers skimming over the neatly organized tapestry on the table in front of him. *This place just FEELS refined*, he thought, *though I'm pretty sure it was always like this...Hikari never did have a habit of being so proper, unlike her sister...*

His eyes scanning the room, Raizo found himself drawn to the faint scent of vanilla. It filled the room, and though it was delicate it also overpowered every other present scent to the point where he found it challenging to focus. *Damn animal instincts*, he thought to himself.

"Oh, Raizo, dear," Elizabeth called, "what would you like to have this evening? Perhaps pork chops with wine sauce? Or maybe some creamy mustard chicken? And how about side dishes? Maybe roast oyster? Or would you prefer a fruit, like strawberries or cherries? I have a delectable chocolate dip for the former..."

"Uhhh...hmm...good question," Raizo replied. "Do you have any particular preferences?"

"Anything's fine for me, dear," Elizabeth answered cheerfully.

"Then I think the pork chops sound wonderful," Raizo decided. "As for side dishes...huh." He paused. "I dunno about that one. I've never been good at pairing dishes, so I think I'll go with whatever you suggestion, milady."

"Then how about a nice plate of strawberries with chocolate?" Elizabeth inquired. "I still have some oysters, so I do want to roast them either way, but does that all sound alright to you?"

"Certainly," Raizo said. *After all*, he added to himself, *with the garbage that Hikari feeds me, I'm pretty much okay with ANYTHING Lady Elizabeth makes right about now...*

"Give me a little bit to cook," Elizabeth called from the kitchen, "and I'll come for you when everything is ready."

"Mistress, I'm home," Koharu said, entering the dorm room. "Miss Hikari was bothering me about her puppet's whereabouts, and Satomi finally managed to get her off my—oh."

"Uhh...yeah, sorry about that," Raizo laughed, waving to her. "I'll give Satomi a call and have her calm the young miss down. I apologize for not preparing for this earlier," he said.

"N-n-n-no! T-t'twas no p-p-problem at all!" Koharu declared, virtually throwing her shoes off and running over to him. "S-so what b-b-brings you here? S-staying for dinner, I hope?" she nervously inquired.

"Yeah," Raizo smiled. "Hope I'm not intruding."

"N-not at all!" Koharu cried excitedly. *Quite the opposite, as far as I'm concerned, she thought to herself. Raizo's been spending so much time with those other girls recently...how could I not be jealous or anything?*

"Good timing, Koharu," Elizabeth called from the kitchen. "I'm just about done cooking in here, so come help me set the table. I also need to talk with you about something really quickly."

"Coming!" Koharu replied, marching off towards the kitchen and giving Raizo a little wave.

"Well," Raizo sighed as he pulled out his phone, "I better get Hikari off Satomi's ass..."

"HE'S DOING WHAT?" Hikari shouted, clenching a fist.

"I already told you, mistress," Satomi sighed, "that Raizo is with your sister at the present moment, and she's invited him to have dinner with her." She pinched the bridge of her nose as Hikari continued to complain. *Lucky bastard, she thought, somebody get me the fuck outta here...*

"We're going over this instant!" Hikari suddenly declared. "There's no way I'm letting my sister take *my* puppet!"

"S-say what?" Satomi cried. *Shit! This is NOT what I meant when I thought about getting outta here!* she thought.

"Dinner is served!" Elizabeth declared, placing three plates onto the dining table. Each was adorned with carefully cut carrots in the shape of hearts and a variety of other vegetables making up a little forest on the plate. Beside it lay a large piece of baked chicken breast and three chicken wings. A small pile of freshly cooked rice completed the package, along with a glass of fruit punch.

"Oh? Tis' unusually fancy, mistress," Koharu said. "Could it be that you mean to appeal to our guest?"

"Oh, quiet," Elizabeth ordered. "You know full well that I'm just being a good host, my dear Koharu." Turning to Raizo, she smiled. "Please, dig in! I'd love to hear your thoughts!"

Raizo nodded. "Then I shall gladly oblige," he said, picking up his knife and fork. "Thanks for the meal!" he smiled, taking a bite of the chicken. "Holy—this is amazing! As expected of Lady Elizabeth."

"O-oh, this is just one of Koharu's little r-recipes," Elizabeth said, waving her hand casually while trying to hide her blush.

"N-no, tis' certainly because mistress is such a w-wonderful cook," Koharu giggled.

"You're both too modest," Raizo laughed. "Come on, let's eat! To a wonderful night!" he cried, raising his glass.

W-wonderful night? Elizabeth thought. *D-does he intend to...to finally take me and then—*

There's no way he means to...indulge in ME afterwards, Koharu thought, blushing. *I-is there?*

"W-wait, that was bad wording," Raizo mumbled to himself, embarrassed. "Lemme reword that. To prosperity, health and happiness!"

"Y-yeah!" Koharu agreed. *Damn, I guess he really doesn't intent to monopolize me,* she thought in disappointment.

"Indeed!" Elizabeth said. *Oh, how sad,* she thought. *And here I was hoping for some...attention...*

The three clinked their glasses together and took a sip of their drinks. "Now, let us enjoy our meal together," Elizabeth suggested. "Thanks for the food—"

Before she could continue, she heard a knock at her door. "Damnit, Elizabeth!" Hikari's voice shouted. "Let me the hell in there! What the hell do you even think you're doing?"

"I-I'm sorry about this!" Satomi's voice cried. "I tried to stop her! I really did!"

"Damnit," Raizo mumbled. "Of course she chooses *this* time to show up..."