

## Project Foki: Angels and Demons

### Prologue

Darkness. It's the first thing that came to mind. BOOM

The sound of thunder could be heard from across the house. Fed tossed and turned in his bed. Though he normally wouldn't be trying to fall asleep this early, tonight was different. After having stuffed his face with 7/11 food, something he would never do despite buying so much of it; his stomach ached, and his face grew numb. Though he had planned to stream that night, his loyal subscribers already knew him too well. Not only was Fed's ability to avoid streaming not surprising in the least, but in fact it was expected. As the night grew darker, the contetholics prayed, and the plebs mourned. As time passed, the chances of Fed streaming slowly dissipated into nothingness.

Fed moaned as the sound of raindrops hitting the windowsill echoed through his room. Not only did he let down the 90k army, but he also failed to fall asleep. It was only when the rain began to settle, that Fed slowly managed to slip into deep sleep until-

The sound of 10000 bits being donated came from a distance.

Poki:

"Fed~?", she called. The sound of her soft voice penetrated his eardrums like the brightness of a twinkling star illuminating the night sky.

She slowly opened the door to his room, only to be greeted by an old friend.

Darkness.

Fed:

"Imane...", he said groggily from the corner of his room.

Poki carefully approached him. Without turning on the lights, she paced cautiously in his direction.

Poki:

“Sorry, were you sleeping?”, she said almost in whispers. Her complexion changed when realizing Fed was legitimately attempting to sleep. The clock read 9:30 PM.

Fed:

“Ye..., I... was trying to sleep early tonight”.

Poki:

“...What for?”, she questioned.

He turned so that their eyes could meet. Poki, who was shrouded by the darkness of his room, with only the hallway’s light to guide her, got close to his bed.

Fed:

“I’m just not feeling well”, he said while clenching his stomach.

Poki, who could make out Fed’s facial expression even in dim light, gently brushed the top of his head. He gave her a weak smile.

Poki:

“It’s your stomach, right?”

Fed gave a slight nod. Though she didn’t expect him to be full of energy when trying to sleep, she felt that something was off.

“What’s wrong?”, she said with worry in her eyes. He shook his head.

Fed:

“Nothing...”, was all he could manage. She knelt beside his bed and wrapped her arms around his torso. After giving him a quick hug, she got up and moved towards the door. Clearly, it wasn’t the time to ask questions.

Poki:

“Goodnight Fed. Just try to sleep, I’m sure you’ll feel better in the morning...”.

Fed:

“Goodnight”, he said while staring straight at the ceiling.

It wasn’t long before Poki was gone and his subconscious was once again back in the pilot seat. Though it was still two hours before midnight, he drifted off into a place where no one could reach him. As new subs joined, the flashes of his phone illuminated the room. But it all went unnoticed as Fed let himself go.

## **Part 1: Paranoia**

As if he were an ADC caught off guard by a nocturne, darkness filled the map. Fed, who couldn’t see even the smallest spec of light, spun around in panic.

Fed:

“Hello?”, his voice echoed through the void.

But there was no answer.

He tried one more time, but before the words could escape his mouth....

“Just keeping walking”, said a tiny voice. Fed jumped up two feet in the air.

Startled by the proximity of the voice, he looked downward. A small flame appeared and could be seen coming from near his waist. The flame, which seemed to be about the size of an apple, suddenly moved back.

“We need to keep walking, or the wolf will catch us!”, the voice exclaimed.

The flame then approached what looked like a small...

Fed:

“Are you fucking Annie!?” , he freaked.

The flame, which was now glowing gently in front of the face of a very young-looking girl who stood about three feet tall, began to expand. Soon enough, a small ring of fire could be seen surrounding the girl’s body, giving away her entire appearance in the fog of war.

Annie:

“Annie? Ya that’s me.” , she said while pointing to herself. A wide grin spread across the girl’s face.

“Fed! I can’t believe you recognize me!” , she said with a tone that seemed too mature for a girl her age.

She carefully nudged Fed forward. Fed, who panicked he’d catch fire from the girl’s flame ring, jumped back frantically.

Fed:

“You’re on fire are you crazy!?” , he looked down at his hands and feet, but to his surprise, he was perfectly fine.

“Where am I? What the actual... what the fuck is this!?” , he said in complete confusion.

Annie:

“Sorry” , she said while giving Fed a more forceful push. Despite being half his size, her push almost knocked him over.

“We need to keep going, he’s almost here!” , she screamed.

Fed, who used every ounce of willpower he had left to stay calm, began sprinting in the direction that Annie was gesturing to. To his astonishment, Annie’s fire was now emitting a glow strong enough for them to see at least ten feet forward. As Fed’s sprinting brought him further into the darkness, and left Annie trailing behind in the back, she quickly decided to cup her hands together. A huge flare was generated.

Fed:

“You’re too slow!”, he yelled from almost thirty feet ahead, but before he could continue, his eyes widened as he saw what Annie was now holding in her hand.

“Oh my fucking God is that-“.

Annie, who’s flare of fire turned into the shape of a familiar looking teddy bear, gave Fed an evil grin as she proceeded to toss the bear into the void. A split second later, as if part of the darkness was coming to life, a large beast at least four times Fed’s size shrouded in red-blue flames gave a large roar.

Annie:

“TIBBERS! There you are!”, she screamed happily.

Fed, who continued to move forward while turning his head back every few seconds, saw the bear briskly walk up to Annie. Tibbers, who had a twisted expression on his face, swooped Annie up with his paw and placed her on his shoulder. With his long legs, he continued to walk towards Fed’s direction, where he quickly gained ground on him despite his bulky appearance.

Fed:

“HOLY SHIT HE’S SO FUCKING FAST!!! ANNIE HELP HE’S GONNA FUCKING KILL ME!”, he panicked as he sprinted for his life.

Annie, who was now less than ten feet away rested on Tibbers shoulder gave a chuckle.

Annie:

“Don’t be silly! Tibbers is helping us get away!”, she cheered as Tibbers finally caught up to Fed. Fed, who gave Tibbers a horrified expression, was scooped up by his menacing paws.

Fed:

“AHHH FUCK”, he shouted. But to his dismay, Tibbers continued his stroll through the void while carrying Fed bridal style. Annie looked down from his shoulder.

Annie:

“You’re really fast, Fed! I didn’t think I’d need Tibbers yet.... Oh... look!”, she said while pointing to the glowing orb above Fed’s head.

Fed, who was now in daze, looked upward to what seemed like... a mark of some sort?

“THE MASKS OF THE KINDRED SEEK YOU!”

Fed, who almost peed his pants upon hearing the voice, turned in Tibbers arms and embraced his fur.

Fed:

“KEEP FUCKING RUNNING, -OR, WALKING”, he said with fear in his eyes. Annie looked back.

Annie:

“I think we’re covering a lot of ground. ...We’re almost there!”, she said as Tibbers let out another roar.

Fed, who now had time to process his surroundings, could only see the stone floor below being illuminated by fire that refused to burn him. All around, no matter where he looked, all he saw was dark-

Fed:

“A light?”, he questioned. Though he couldn’t see it before, it looked like Tibbers was headed straight towards a flickering light coming from the distance.

Annie:

“A tunnel, actually.”, she corrected.

Fed:

“And why the fuck are we running through summoners rift to get to that tunnel again?”, he asked while motioning to the mark over his head.

Annie:

“What’s summoners rift?”, she said with a puzzled expression.

Fed:

“Uh... never mind. What about Kindred?”.

Annie shook her head.

Annie:

“Believe it or not, it’s not you he wants.” She began while biting her nails. “I mean, sure if he... if the wolf killed you they’d get stacks but... you’re just bait”.

Fed pressed against his temples.

Fed:

“Ok, can you tell me who exactly I should be afraid of? I mean if a giant flaming bear is willing to carry me who in their right mind would try to hunt me and-“, but Annie waved her hand dismissively.

Annie:

“You’re such a narcissist Fed”, she said in a condescending tone. Fed frowned. He still couldn’t acknowledge the fact that a little girl was talking like an offended vegan.

Annie:

“Do you really think all this is about you? If this was about you, then there’d probably be a twitch chat screen following us right now spamming Fed7”, she explained.

Fed pressed his palm against his forehead. His conscious mind couldn’t handle all this.

Fed:

“How do you even know what a Fed7 is!? If this has nothing to do with me then who’s this about... and why am I here?”

Annie directed her hands towards the light that Tibbers was now moments away from approaching.

Annie:

“To make a long story short, everyone around here is after the same person. Well, except maybe a few Demacians, Orianna, Syndra and yours truly”, she smirked.

“But her protective barrier keeps her safe anyways, so we basically just have to cross into her light”.

Fed winced.

Fed:

“Who?”, he asked but the answer became obvious as Tibbers prepared to throw him into the light.

Annie:

“Remember Fed, even when things seem hopeless, you just gotta keep walking through the darkness.”

She closed her eyes as Tibbers gripped tightly on Fed’s body. And with one final swing of his arm...

“So that you could reach the light!”, she yelled.

Fed:

“NO WAIT! DON’T THROW ME!”, he screamed, but it was already too late.

The mark above his head vanished as he was thrown into what seemed like a tunnel of vibrant light. Though Tibbers had flung him in there as if he were a football, Fed found himself tumbling downward into some sort of chasm or abyss.

After what felt like several minutes, tears started to form in Fed’s petrified eyes as he approached what looked like the end of the tunnel. Since he was headed for face plant, he hoped that the white-ish looking floor was some sort of cushion or marshmallow.



“Please God, I’m sorry for everything I’ve done! I’m sorry for all those times I didn’t stream, or called Temmie a rat, or-”, but before he could finish everything went white as he landed face first and was sent to oblivion.

## **Part 2: Final Spark**

Fed’s eyes shot open. Though he had landed face first, he was somehow lying flat on his back on solid ground. He patted down his face and body as if trying to find some sort of damage, but to his shock he felt nothing. In fact, he was perfectly fine. He slowly got up from where he laid and took a deep breath.

Fed:

“It’s... cold”, he shivered. He placed his hand on the nearest wall. Based on its texture....

“Is this place made out of ice?”, he asked himself.

He was now standing in what seemed like an ice crystal hallway.

Though he was near a dead end, the floor, ceiling and walls all seemed to be made up of some kind of snowy-ice crystal structure. Streams of light could be seen running up and down within the moderately transparent walls, causing the hallway to glow white. He didn’t understand how any of this was possible, but somehow, he was in a 6 by 6-foot ice chamber, with only one way to go.

He left his starting point and started to walk down the ice path in the hopes of finding something. He folded his arms in an attempt to keep warm, but the temperature was ridiculously low. He wouldn’t last more than an hour at most in this place, he thought to himself.

As the hallway began to curve, he continued to walk, with only the sounds of his footsteps to accompany him.

Suddenly, as he approached to end of the curve, he began to hear-

Fed pressed his ear against the side of the ice wall. Whimpers?

Fed:

“Hello!? Is anyone there!?” he yelled. Silence filled the hallway. He cautiously continued down the ice path.

“Fed~”, a light voice called.

Fed, who felt like that voice sounded vaguely familiar, started to run down the path. When he reached a perfectly linear portion of the hallway, he looked to where the path led.

A girl!? His thoughts screamed. Was it an Annie doppelgänger? He ran through the last portion of the hall, where he could see the back of a small looking person sitting down.

“Fed!”, cried the voice. He could now hear the sounds of a girl, who was drenched in her own pool of tears. He approached her from the back. Her small looking stature alongside her golden blonde hair made Fed’s heart sink. Why does she seem so-

But by the Fed went around to look at her face, he almost walked straight into the wall upon being distracted by the unbearably cute face he knew so well.

Fed:

“Imane!?” he said in relief.

The girl looked up to Fed, who was standing above her with a creepy looking smile.

Lux:

“Imane? Who’s Imane?”, she frowned. “Fed, have you been cheating on me!?” she exclaimed.

He gave her a blank stare.

Fed:

“Wait- What. Wait.... Hold on.... You’re Poki aren’t you!?”

Lux:

“First Imane? Now Poki? WHO ARE THESE GIRLS”, said the mage in anger. Tears continued to drip from her eyes.

“First you leave me here alone, and then you mock me...”, she sniffled. “Am I not good enough for you?”

Fed:

“What? No! Of course not, you’re amazing!”, he said without hesitation.

Lux:

She shook her head. “Is that why you cheated on me?”, she said while looking straight into his eyes.

“And after all that nasty shit you made me do last night too!”.

Fed blushed. Despite the fact that he had no idea what she was referring to, he felt guilty.

Fed:

“I- No- I didn’t cheat on you! Why would I cheat you!? Uh-...You’re beautiful!”, he explained while trying to calm her down.

Lux:

“Is that what you say to Imane? And Poki? Do you tell them they’re beautiful too?”, she said while angrily slamming her fists on the floor.

Fed, who now left scratching the back of his head in confusion, smiled uncontrollably.

Fed:

“Well, to be fair you all look the same”, he teased.

The girl, who felt like she was having her heart ripped out of her chest, moved her hand so that her palm was facing the left side of the room. A sudden burst of light came rushing out of her hand, and soon enough an object emerging from one of the ice walls she was crying near flew straight into her hand.

The staff, which was several feet long, and covered in white light, was now being aimed straight at Fed.

Fed, who was starting to get accustomed to the laws of this strange world, covered his mouth in realization. His eyes glared nervously at the girl's staff. He slowly uncovered his mouth.

Fed:

"OH! LUX!", he yelled in happiness. The girl, who looked like she was about to become an exploding lightbulb, grimaced.

Lux:

"YOU FUCKER! NOW YOU'RE PRETENDING YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!?! AHHHHH", a spark of light shot straight out of her staff and hit Fed's chest head on.

Fed, who remembered that not even Annie's fire could hurt him, didn't bother embracing for impact.

To his surprise, the light hurt far more than anything he'd ever experienced.

Fed:

"JESUS! OUCH! HOLY FUCK WHY DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!", he screamed in agony. But seconds after the pain passed, he found himself stuck in what seemed like some sort of cage. Fed, who was now angrier than Lux, clenched his fists.

Lux, who felt better after letting out some of her frustration, looked innocently at Fed, who was rooted by her light binding.

Lux:

"Don't look at me like that! You deserved it!", she said while returning to the floor.

She sat back down in her pool of tears but faced Fed as her tears began crystallizing from the cold.

Fed:

"When I get out of here I'm gonna fucking-", but he paused. Lux raised an eyebrow.

Lux:

“What are you gonna do?!” she asked with a slightly panicked expression. She raised her arm to cover her face defensively.

...

Her warm chocolate brown eyes met with his, and soon his anger subsided. Refusing to look straight at her, he bowed his head and looked straight down at the floor.

Fed:

“Never mind....”, he said in a small voice. “I could never hurt you...”.

Lux:

“Awww Fed”, she said with a small smile.

Though Fed’s arms and legs were frozen, his heart began to melt from the warmth of her gaze.

“I’m sorry”, she whimpered, “I’m just... I’m tired of staying here... I’m lost...”, she started.

Fed:

“Iman- I mean- Lux”, he said softly. But she shook her head in despair.

Lux:

“I’m tired of feeling this way”, she cried almost inaudibly. “I’m lonely..., I’m stressed....”, she hissed.

Fed tried to break free from the light. He wanted to comfort her, but he couldn’t budge.

Fed:

“Why? I’m here! You’re never alone and-“, but tears continued to fall.

Lux:

“I’m so grateful for you... Fed. Everything you do for me... for the house.... You’ve been so-“.

Fed:

“The house?”, Fed questioned, but before he could ponder any longer, the entire ice cave started to shake.

As if the most powerful earthquake ever was about to take place, Fed tensed up. Suddenly, the light cage disappeared, and Lux ran into his arms. Her armor and staff suddenly disappeared and was instantly replaced by pokimerch. Her golden hair transformed into a more natural looking wavy brown.

“Imane...”, Fed whispered while embracing her tightly. As the darkness of the void began to spread, she cried silently in his arms.

Poki:

“Help me....”, she sobbed.

Fed gently patted the back of her head. It was as if the entire world around them had dissipated into infinity. They were left there, together, suspended in nothingness. Only the light emanating from their bodies, along with the darkness of the void surrounding them was left.

Fed, who could see pain in the eyes of his most precious friend, tried his best to empathize with her. If only there was another way to see what she saw... to understand her... to help her.

The void that surrounded them suddenly started to generate random scenes of Poki’s life. Fed, who was exposed to all her thoughts, feelings, and experiences all at the same time, was taken aback by the sudden change of scenery.

Fed:

“Whoa...”.

But after what felt like hours of flashbacks, he finally accepted what he saw and squeezed her tighter.

Fed:

“I’ll always be here to help”, he said while giving her a gentle peck on the forehead.

They loosened their grip.

Poki:

“How? At the end of the day, no matter how much you think you could help, you’ve still got your own stuff to do...” She sniffled.

“We still live together... and work together... and there’s no way we could just separate ourselves from that.”, she paused, and once again looked into his eyes.

“No matter what I feel, no matter how much I love what I do and all those who support me, I just can’t get away from these *feelings*”, she sighed.

Stress. Anxiety. Sadness. Depression. As If Fed was having an epiphany from what he learned in his Bro Talks with Zirene, as much as she refused to accept it, Fed truly understood what she was going through.

Fed, who had now completely let go, slowly drifted away from her. Suddenly, as if the void was responding to his every thought, long black wings sprouted from his back. Though his shirt was torn up in the process, his wings, which spanned about fourteen feet in length and gave him a devilish look, brushed against Poki’s sides. Her bewilderment soon left her behind in awe.

But without giving her enough time to respond the void, also allowed Poki to grow wings. Only, much to Fed’s dismay, her wings were totally white. With a twelve-foot wingspan, Fed was able to approach her, and close his wings over hers, so that she was now protected from the void by his presence. A golden halo formed over her head. Fed chuckled.

Fed:

“I guess you really are, angelic”, he smiled.

She rolled her eyes but couldn’t hide the redness in her cheeks. Fed looked upwards.

Fed:

“You know what they say”, he laughed.

Poki:

“See you at the top?”, she replied while looking up at portal, which had spawned from the surrounding darkness.

Fed:

“Fed7”, he nodded. “Follow me, Imane”.

And with that the portal reached over to where Foki was and they were transported to a lower realm of consciousness filled with cute cats. It was there that Fed finally realized this bizarre series of events was in fact due to lucid dreaming.

### **Part 3: Intervention**

Fed:

“AHHHHHHHHH!”, he screeched.

His body shot upward from the depths of his sheets.

Moments later, the sound of large footsteps and his door swinging open could be heard.

Scarra:

“Fed!? What the hell happened!?” , said the fastest man alive. Dad approached Fed, who now panting.

Fed:

“Sorry! Shit so sorry about that! I just had the most fucked up dream ever!” , he explained.

Scarra:

“You screamed louder than Poki because of a dream? Are you sure you don’t mean nightmare? I thought you were dying!” , he said while sighing in relief.



The sound of doors opening could be heard. Fed had managed to wake up everyone but Lily.

Fed:

“Ah uh it could’ve been a nightmare. I mean... I remember something about nocturne and-“

Scarra:

“You’re not even a real jungler. You’re barely a real person; you’re an editor yet you’re having league nightmares?”, he questioned.

Poki:

“What nightmares? Fed are you ok!?”, she asked while running to his side.

Scarra:

“False alarm guys, everyone out!”, he said just as Toast and Chris were approaching. It was five thirty in the morning and Fed had successfully managed to ruin almost everyone’s sleep schedule.

Fed:

“I’m good, I just had a... weird dream”, he said in a hushed tone. Poki gave him a puzzled look.

Poki:

“What did you dream about? I’ve never heard you scream that loud... like ever”, she said with concern.

Fed:

“It was... sort of long... I think It was a lucid dream. Like, I had control near the end. Anyways I’ll tell you later”, he insisted.

Poki:

“Are you sure? I don’t mind talking now”, she said while trying to contain her curiosity.

Fed:

“Ye I’m sure, I got a lot of... stuff to do later... I’ll tell you after your stream. You do stream today right?”.

Poki nodded. Without saying anything, she drowsily walked away, clearly still tired and in need of sleep.

Fed sighed. He didn’t even know where to start. What was with that dream? Why were there league champions? Why was Poki crying? Why was it so gloomy? But most importantly, did it have any meaning?

Fed:

“Since when does a dream... feel so real?”, he asked himself. But soon his prying came to end. As exhaustion overtook him, Fed finally fell back asleep without having any crazy adventures.

Later that morning, Poki, who was the first to wake up, had an appointment with her therapist. Though for the most part she was mentally stable (monkaS), lately she had chosen to pay very close attention to her mental health.

Due to all the effort she put into streaming and creating content for her fan base, her mind was now being taxed. But from her consistent stubbornness and straight out refusal of her own limits, her anxiety and stress gradually became worse until she finally approached a breaking point.

Though Fed had done his fair share to help keep her intact, it was time for her to take her own steps at managing all the pressures she had from work.

Upon arriving at her therapy session, she vented her frustrations from struggling to stream consistently, to the things that annoyed her like people misperceiving her as something she wasn’t, or all the excessive Foki content that was being released.

Though she had plenty to be grateful for, it was still a lot to juggle. In fact, it was far more than most twenty-one-year-old girls had on their plate.

Poki:

“And so, I’m thinking “but I’m not like that!” I didn’t ask to be in their video thumbnails and they just use me anyways! Then some people are like, oh “she’s a thot”, or oh “she’s only popular because she’s a girl” or “because those virgin twelve-year old’s find her attractive” ...”, she continued.

The therapist nodded while jotting down some notes. Though there was some terminology that Poki had to explain, the therapist did her best to help sort out all her disordered thoughts.

Eventually her session came to an end. Poki, who was already feeling better having talked to someone outside the house, returned home so that she could prepare for her stream.

Meanwhile, Fed, who had a few videos to edit that morning, spent his time as efficiently as possible. Though to be honest, he eventually couldn't stop himself from digressing for just a few moments. He reminisced on how his dream was entirely related to Poki, and all that she's been through during these past weeks.

However, even if his dream was completely based on Poki, which indeed it was, what more could he be doing to help her? Was there something he was missing? Something that was revealed only within his deepest thoughts?

Fed thought back to how Kindred had marked him. Out of all the champions that could've been chasing him, it was specifically Kindred. Not only was he marked, but Annie's words echoed through his mind.

She spoke of the wolf. If Kindred was the name of both the lamb and the wolf, why would Annie keep saying the wolf, and not just Kindred?

Fed, who couldn't bring himself to comprehend any of the symbolism presented by his dream, googled Kindred's lore. To his surprise, the first line made him tremble.

"Kindred is the white embrace of nothingness and the gnashing of teeth in the dark".

The reference made him cringe, as he remembered all the various moments of darkness and white light in his dream. After reading through some of the lore, Fed came to a startling discovery. Wolf enjoys chasing prey.

...So by deduction..., he thought to himself as he read the lore;

Those who attempted to flee the arrows of the lamb, were automatically subjected to being chased by the wolf. He pondered on why he never got shot at by the lamb, and instead was thrown into a situation where he was being chased alongside Annie by the wolf.

Minutes had gone by, and Fed had understood something. Again, from what Annie was saying, *they* were initially after Lux, NOT him.... So if the wolf was chasing him....

Fed:

"Imane-, I mean... Lux, must have been targeted by the lamb first.", he frowned.

But even so, after having understood this much about his dream so far, it didn't seem like he learned anything important.

So, If Poki a.k.a. Lux was the original prey, and Fed was what the wolf was chasing after when she was safe in her ice-light cave thingy... what could they have accomplished by catching Fed?

The word "bait" instantly came to mind. He remembered what Annie had said about using him as bait, which means Kindred knew, and come to think of it, even Annie herself, *knew* who Fed was. His thoughts roamed to what Lux was saying about him possibly cheating on her....

In the context of his dream, it seemed he had been dating Lux. Except, not only was he dating her, but he was also being hunted because she was being hunted. And if he was hunted, then they'd be able to bait her into coming to his rescue, maybe? Then again, all this begs the question. Why were they after her, and why was Kindred doing the work?

The first line of the lore repeated itself in his head over and over: Kindred is the white embrace of nothingness and the gnashing of teeth in the dark. He remembered that Lux was crying too, and that she was... suffering from... stress?

Fed opened a word document and began to type up his conclusions. If Lux was basically Poki, and she was suffering from some kind of stress, and when I got to Lux, she eventually turned into Poki, and then she was like... saved from the hunt by a portal then....

He finally came to a reasonable conclusion. Though trying to interpret a dream seemed stupid and pointless, this dream seemed to directly derive very realistic implications.

Fed:

"When I got to her, we grew fucking wings and went through a portal, so that portal must've been because of me. We escaped her stress when we were together. We escaped the nothingness, and we escaped the darkness, all because we were completely open with each other. That's why Kindred was doing the hunting, because he's the embodiment of the dream's atmosphere; he was the stress and anxiety that's haunting Poki. Even with me trying to help, she feels like she has to go through all this alone. Like she has to suffer in silence! That's why Zirene's Bro Talk was so real! Because he talked openly about topics where people felt like they were suffering alone!", he stated to himself confidently. Fed then turned to his door.

“WHAT THE FUCK!?” he exclaimed.

Toast, who had half his head peeking through Fed’s door, remained completely still with his eyes wide opened. For a moment, he was speechless.

Toast:

“Uh. Nice. I saw that... you were... talking to yourself”, he said almost robotically.

Fed:

“Dude, get out!”, he said playfully.

Toast shook his head.

Toast:

“Okay. Just, make sure you talk to her about all that...”.

Fed:

“GET OUT!”, he laughed.

Ultimately, Fed had managed to piece together a puzzle which led to something he knew all along; she needs to know she’s not alone. But more importantly, she has to be convinced of it.

#### **Part 4: Command Protect**

Fed stood quietly in her doorway. He made sure not to make any subtle movements as she ended her stream. Once he was sure the camera was off, he gave a light knock on the door and walked in.

Poki:

“Fed? How long were you standing there?”, she asked while stretching her arms.

Fed:

“Not long, I just really needed to talk to you...”.

Poki tilted her head.

Poki:

“Ok.... About what?”

Fed took a seat on the edge of her bed. He brought his hand together and took a deep breath.

Fed:

“Well, it’s about you and-“

Poki raised a hand.

Poki:

“If you’re actually planning to go where I think you’re going with this... I think you’ve picked a really bad time”, she explained.

Fed:

“Well, you remember how I had that dream and-“

Poki:

“Don’t you dare ask me out on a-“, but Fed’s hands shot up defensively.

Fed:

“Wait what!? You’re actually trolling”, he laughed.

Poki:

“Wha- How am I trolling?”, she murmured.

Fed:

“Did you think- Oh my God you thought I was going to ask you out on an actual date or something!? ...Wait... why would you think I’d come in to your room out of nowhere and...what the fuck”, he face palmed but couldn’t stop himself from smiling.

Poki:

“You came in here with the most serious face ever, and then you were all like “oh-I needa talk to you”, then you were acting all shy and shit”, she teased nervously.

Fed:

“No, it’s because... look... its about what we talked about a few nights ago.”, he inched closer to her.

Poki:

“Uh you gotta be a little more specific errr if you know what I’m saying... ‘cause I have no idea what you’re-“

Fed:

“Your therapy”, he interrupted.

Poki froze. She squinted her eyes and tried to read Fed’s expression, but for once in her life she couldn’t tell where he was going with this.

Poki:

“...It was good. I already told you that though. It’s been helping with all that’s been going on”.

Fed:

“Ok, and...”

She shook her head.

Poki:

“And what? What am I supposed to say? ... Fed, are you scheming?”

He clutched his head.

Fed:

“No! It’s about the dream!”

Poki:

“Oh right, right the dream I almost forget...”, she sighed.

Fed had a strong feeling she was acting like this for the luls.

“Speaking of that, didn’t you say you were gonna tell me about it?”, she giggled, knowing perfectly well that she had just been messing with him.

Fed:

“I am telling you about it...”

Poki:

“You literally just asked me about my therapy, what does that have to do with-“, but Fed got up and began pacing back and forth.

Fed:

“It has *everything* to do with you”, he frowned.

Poki, who couldn’t understand why Fed seemed so anxious, grabbed his arm and guided him back to her bed. She sat herself on the edge and motioned Fed to continue. Her eyes were filled with desire for what he had to say. Though she been distracted by all the work she had to get done, she suddenly recalled how he woke up screaming.

Fed looked at her, and when their eyes met, he couldn’t break eye contact. He started at the beginning, with Kindred and Annie, and explained how he had no control over what was happening. He then



mentioned the fact that though he was aware of all the strange things happening, but it took him an abnormal amount of time to realize he was dreaming.

It was only when he encountered Lux that things began to come together and-

Poki:

“So... you dreamt I was Lux?”, she questioned.

Fed:

“Well, ye”, he chuckled.

Poki:

“I have an important question... what skin was I wearing?”, she laughed.

He grimaced but chose to ignore her.

Fed:

“Anyways... I saw a lot of shit...”, he said while looking away.

Poki:

“Ye like that?”, she smirked.

Fed’s complexion darkened. He tried to muster up as much courage he could, and with full determination in his eyes he spoke.

Fed:

“I saw... the whole world through your shoes. Like everything. From the moment I moved into the OfflineTV house to like yesterday, ... I saw it all from your perspective”.

Poki twirled her hair. She gave herself a few seconds to rationalize what Fed had just said. Though her face clearly indicated confusion, her heart rate told a different story.

Poki:

"I mean... that's not possible, but... If that's what you dreamed..." , she sighed.

Fed:

"Imane. It was real." , he insisted in a hushed tone.

Poki:

"...What did you see?" , she hesitated.

Fed placed a hand on her shoulder. His gaze sharpened as Poki squirmed in discomfort. As weird as his dream was, it's not like it had any realistic components to it. At least, that's what she told herself anyways.

Fed:

"You know, you could... open up to me about all that's been happening right?" , he started.

Poki nodded.

Poki:

"I already have" , she in a small voice.

Fed:

"And you know that, you're not alone right? Like, you don't have to go through any of this alone." , he smiled.

Poki:

"I mean... I appreciate you always being there for me but-"

Fed:

“Imane... you’re not alone”, he pressed.

Poki:

“I know, but this is something that-“

Fed:

“D-don’t!”, he raised a finger.

“Don’t isolate yourself. Imane... please.”, he took his index finger, and pointed straight to her heart.

“You, should talk more about how you feel. I know that it might be crossing the line but, don’t like... bottle up anything. Just tell me...”, he said firmly.

Poki held her breath. A part of her felt like it was poked by sticks, but at the same time, she knew Fed wouldn’t be saying all this if he didn’t mean it with all his heart. She knew that he cared deeply, but-

Poki:

“Ok”, she squeaked. “But... where is all this coming from?”, she said while on the verge of tears.

Somehow, Fed had managed to strike a chord. Though she didn’t know why, a surge of anxiety began to surface from deep within her heart. As if all her muddled feelings had finally found a way out, a single tear drop could be seen coming from the edge of her eye.

As if he was no longer able to hold a straight face....

Fed:

“Tear of the goddess”, he muttered under his breath.

Poki:

“What?”, she whispered.

Fed shook his head dismissively. He brought Poki closer and gave her a gentle hug. As if he had been through this before in an ice cave, Poki gripped him tightly.

Poki:

“Fed...I’m tired of feeling this way”, she admitted.

“I’m stressed... and-.”

Fed brought his lips close to her ear.

Fed:

“You’re not alone. I promise... I’ll always be here”, he mumbled.

Poki let out a soft cry. She tried to keep herself together, but Fed had already given her the green light to vent. Her tears slowly spilled down his shirt, but despite getting soaked, he refused to let her go.

Poki, who felt like she was finally being heard, started to tell Fed all about the things that made her upset, sad, or moody in any way. Though most of what she was said was redundant, she began to elaborate on small details that Fed had never heard of before.

As if he had managed to open a door that had been sealed shut for years, he comforted her as she carefully described all that had been running in the back of her mind. For weeks she suffered in silence..., but now all that was beginning to change.

Before Poki had the chance to keep going, Fed managed to silence her for a few short minutes. At the pinnacle of this blissful silence, he suddenly recalled the wise words of a dear friend from another plane of existence.

Fed:

“Remember Imane..., that... even when things seem hopeless, you just gotta keep walking through the darkness, so that eventually... you’ll reach the light!”, he exclaimed.

But she winced in confusion. He sure knew how to kill the mood.

Poki:

“Uh?”

Fed:

“Never mind.”, he blushed in embarrassment, knowing that he had just made things awkward.

“It was just something I heard from a friend”, he laughed while remembering Annie’s choice of words before Tibbers sent him flying.

**THE END**

**OR BETTER YET, TO BE CONTINUED?**