

"...*I really hate this stupid thing...*"

Kagome smirked to herself. That curse always came in handy whenever the half-breed demon put his foot in his mouth. Which, given Inuyasha's short-wit, was quite often...

Still, even Kagome had to admit that things weren't especially great right now. They'd been traversing for a while now, and found no traces of the shard or any potential demons who could be after it in sight. And with how intensely Inuyasha's stomach continued growling away, it was all but certain that continuing onward was going to bring about more and more mingling from the young half-demon.

Not to mention the fact that it HAD been a good long while since the two of them ate. Even Kagome was feeling a little hungry...maybe *more* than a little hungry.

Sufficed to say, Kagome was in a real pickle here...

So, what were Kagome and Inuyasha to do with this shard lead feeling like such an absolute nonstarter?

After enough time without food in their tummies, a certain half-demon had simply had enough...

"RrrrrRRGHAAAAH!!! That does it! I can't take it anymore!!" Inuyasha snarled as he stomped up to his feet, catching Kagome by surprise. "We've been followin' this stupid lead for hours'n we ain't ANY closer t'findin' any stinkin' demons!"

As Inuyasha stormed off towards the woods, Kagome shouted back, "H-Hey, where are you going??"

"If we're gonna be lost, then I ain't gonna be lost on an empty stomach!" Inuyasha spat back, whipping out his blade as he decided to go hunting for anything in the woods that could settle his empty stomach.

Kagome frowned. They had a potential lead on a demon, and all Inuyasha could think about was filling his stomach with meat?! It was absurd, but to be fair, if his stamina was low, he wouldn't be able to get too far anyway.

And even if she wanted to keep going while the lead was potentially hot, Kagome also knew that she wasn't going to get any further without Inuyasha, especially if any demons DID turn up.

So, with a dejected sigh, she quickly followed suit.

...She certainly hoped that there weren't any poor little rabbits nearby...

Some more time had passed and Inuyasha's belly was only growing louder with how angrily it growled. Kagome was seriously beginning to wonder if his noisy gut was scaring off any nearby animals. Either way, both travelers remained without their catch. Kagome grimaced as her own stomach grumbled impatiently, which would've made her blush, were it not for the monstrous roar that erupted from Inuyasha's stomach in response.

"Rrrgh, this *sucks*..." whined Inuyasha, hugging his stomach with both arms as it continued noisily 'eating itself' the more he went without food.

"I thought your canine senses made you good at tracking. What gives?" Kagome remarked.

"Tch, it ain't that easy, y'know. The woods got a lotta scents, both old'n new. They kinda get overwhelmed in places like these unless..."

Inuyasha stopped and sniffed the air for a second.

"...Actually...I'm...kinda pickin' up on somethin'..."

"*What is it...??*" Kagome asked, perhaps a little too eagerly due to her own growing hunger pangs.

Inuyasha kept sniffing at the air, looking focused as he carefully stalked the scent. Kagome quietly yet quickly followed after the half-demon. His trail was getting warmer and warmer as the scent grew more pungent. For a brief moment, Kagome was wondering if the boy were just picking up on his own odor, given how long the two had been out on the road.

But eventually, the young white-haired demon teen made his way towards the source of the scent.

Sure enough, Inuyasha found himself a big, plump boar in the distant, snorting heavily. Inuyasha grinned ear to ear at the sight of his prey. "*Theeeere we go...*" he groaned eagerly, clawed fingers twitching with anticipation. "Lookit all that plump, juicy *meaaaaat*..." The teenage half-demon literally drooled at the thought of all that boar-meat getting wolfed viciously and eagerly down his gullet as he crouched low.

Kagome quietly knelt down besides him and whispered, "...So, what's the-"

"-***HYEEEEAAAAAAAAGH!!!!!!***" Inuyasha roared, startling Kagome as he leapt out from the bush they were hiding behind and charged after the boar, blade at the ready.

"...*plan*..." she muttered simply...

"...That *really* shouldn't have worked..." Kagome muttered in deadpanned disbelief.

"Says *you!* I had that thing in the bag!" Inuyasha boasted cockily.

His fang-filled grin widened as he stood before the boar carcass being roasted over a makeshift fire-spit the two assembled. He had disrobed, leaving himself shirtless and exposing his lean, muscular...and currently roughed up body. As one can imagine, just jumping out like a boneheaded idiot against a three hundred pound beast with a short temper was...well, not the SMARTEST play one could make. The end result of the scuffle left Inuyasha bruised and needing bandages around his right forearm where the boar's tusks really nipped him good.

Still, as Kagome watched Inuyasha prep their meal, she really had to admire his relentless tenacity, for he definitely didn't show any fear in the face of such abject stupidity.

Besides, he came out victorious and mostly no worse for the wear, which was ultimately all that mattered. That and filling their stomachs with roasted boar meat...

A point once again emphasized by the sound of Inuyasha's lean, bare stomach emitting a beastly growl. Inuyasha frowned and put a hand over his belly, massaging it in slow circles as he muttered, "Yeah, yeah, give it a rest already, will ya?"

Kagome blushed at the sight of Inuyasha's exposed middle and the way Inuyasha massaged it. They gave each other grief all of the time, but Inuyasha was always drabbed in those oversized robes of his. It was rare that the young lady got to see Inuyasha's body in a more exposed manner.

She hated to admit it, but for such a massive dog-brain, Inuyasha was incredibly attractive, and in really good shape. Though, it was his stomach that caught her attention the most. It was lean with some toned definition to it, without being super muscular. His middle was the perfect shape and frame, lean with some hint of solid muscle, and a...very strangely appealing-looking bellybutton; deep yet shallow at the same time.

...Hunger must have been getting to her, since that had to be the only explanation she could think of for oggling her traveling companion in that moment.

That certainly wasn't made any less true by the sound of Kagome's stomach once again rumbling rather audibly. She winced and wrapped an arm around her tummy, blushing profusely as she hoped that Inuyasha's far noisier belly would drown out her own. Fortunately for both them, it wasn't long until the boar was ready to be devoured...

"FINALLY! Some freakin' MEAT...!" Inuyasha all but bellowed as he tore one of the thighs clean off of the roasting boar and CHOMPED into it voraciously.

Kagome carved herself some light meat and rather hungrily bit into it herself. She had to admit, despite her apprehension initially, it tasted pretty tender. Plus, she felt a great deal less guilty eating such a beastly creature over innocent little rabbits.

However fast Kagome was eating in that moment, it didn't come close to comparing to Inuyasha's absolute ravenousness. The white-haired boy was mercilessly ripping through that drumstick, using those animal-like fangs of his to tear through that meat like nothing. Inuyasha tore the meat clean from the bones, sloppily slurping it into his jaws and chewing voraciously for but a few seconds. His cheeks bulged out with the sound of snarfing and chomping while the juices dribbled down his chin.

Inuyasha had absolutely no decorum when it came to eating, ESPECIALLY around a lady. And yet, Kagome couldn't help but watch him greedily swallow that hefty mouthful of meat down all at once. Her eyes widened as a rather thick lump pressed down against Inuyasha's lean, slender throat with a thick, wet **glurrrk** accompanying it. That bulge in his neck slithered down his gullet with one slick squelch, before very wetly squeezing past his chest and plummeting into the abyss that was Inuyasha's stomach. He huffed heartily, wiping his chin clean with his forearm, then he dug in for more and more meat...

Within no time at all, Inuyasha had picked that drumstick of every last scrap of meat it had on it. He carelessly tossed the bone aside and tore out more boar meat with his bare hands, greedily scarfing it down with ravenous gusto.

Honestly, Kagome almost didn't even need TV at this point. After all, watching Inuyasha eat was like watching a lion ravage a gazelle...

Though, yet again, for some reason, the sight of the half-demon boy making an utter pig of himself brought more heat to Kagome's cheeks.

"Omph! Whasswrong with'cha?" Inuyasha called out with his mouth still sloppily full of chewed up boar meat.

"H-Huh? Wh-Wha...?!" Kagome sputtered out, startled by getting called out.

Inuyasha gulped heartily, once again sending a thick slab squeezing down his throat and making Kagome blush anew. But Inuyasha hadn't caught onto that. Instead, he smacked his lips after gulping his mouthful down and said, "You've been actin' all funny ever since we started eatin'. Hell, ya've barely touched your meat."

"Y-Yes I have! I'm just not a pig like you!" Kagome said defensively...and, perhaps ironically, took a bigger chomp of her meat than she intended.

Inuyasha snorted and said, "Whatever," before digging into a //much// larger amount of meat than Kagome.

Something had to be wrong with her. The sight of Inuyasha ravenously tearing through that boar meat shouldn't have had her cheeks getting nearly as rosy as they currently were. To distract herself, Kagome continued almost eagerly cramming more meat into her own jaws, as if that would help distract her from whatever in the world it was that she seemed to be feeling.

As more time went on, the two shard-seeking teens continued devouring more of that boar meat with rather ravenous gusto, much to Kagome's dismay. Fortunately, unlike Inuyasha, she knew her limit, and once she felt comfortably full, she sighed and stopped eating.

"Ahh, wow, I didn't realize how hungry I was until we had all that meat staring us in the face," Kagome remarked, placing a hand on her stomach and rubbing it contently.

The shirtless Inuyasha, meanwhile, was plowing through that meat like a hungry mutt alone in a meat house. He ravaged each slab of boar-meat he got his clawed fingers onto, tearing that meat into shreds with his fangs as he greedily munched and nommed away. The pile of bones accumulating by his feet were beginning to stack up, but Inuyasha couldn't care less. He had been denied food for far too long, and was committed to making up for lost time as he chomped away.

As Inuyasha continued stuffing his face, however, Kagome's eyes once again fell to his bare stomach. After eating so much boar meat at so rapid a pace, his usually lean midsection had flattened out with a noticeably rounded curve to it, as if his belly were starting to press out against his torso a bit.

Yet again, Kagome's cheeks were starting to grow deeply heated.

She was more than used to watching Inuyasha pig out, often times with that brat, Shippo. He was a half-canine demon, of course he was a ravenous animal around meat...or...foods in general, really. Inuyasha ate like this all the time, that was nothing new to Kagome. However, usually, when he ate so much, he was robed, and his heavy robes often served to mask any impact his excessive gorging had on his body.

Without the robes to mask it, Kagome could see, plain as day, how Inuyasha's stomach began to stretch out and expand to accommodate such an excessive quantity of food all at once.

What Kagome DIDN'T understand, however, was why the sight of Inuyasha's belly swelling out was causing her to feel so strange...

If she were still hungry, she'd probably eat more meat just to distract herself from her feelings. Though, if she did that, her own belly might start looking like Inuyasha's, and she wasn't interested in *that* happening anytime soon...

Though, because Kagome wasn't there to assist in Inuyasha with all that boar meat, that just meant there was more for him to demolish on his own. Meaning that belly of his was about to get a whoooooole lot bigger if he kept eating at this rate...

More time passed with Inuyasha plowing through more of that boar carcass at an utterly inhuman rate. Kagome kicked back, resting against a nearby tree as Inuyasha scarfed down more and more meat without seeming like he was getting any fuller, despite the increased bloat in his belly.

How even a half-demon his size could eat so much without feeling sick was anyone's guess...

Eventually, Inuyasha took a break from wolfing down all that juicy meat to actually catch his breath. Leaning back, Inuyasha let out a loud burp, then sighed contently. "Ahhh, man, this stuff's great!" Inuyasha exclaimed, patting his belly with satisfaction.

"...It's too bad your *manners* aren't," Kagome remarked.

Inuyasha just responded by thumping his chest firmly and burping loudly again. He smacked his lips and, with a cheeky, fang-filled grin, said, "*S'cuuuuuse me!* That better?"

Kagome rolled her eyes at her companion's obnoxious crudeness.

But even that wasn't enough to keep her eyes away from Inuyasha's swelled out middle. As the young demon sat back, rubbing his bulging belly with a satisfied hum, Kagome noted how large it was now beginning to look.

That subtle bloat from earlier had expanded to the point where Inuyasha's stomach looked as though it was pressing out by a little over a foot and some change. The boy seriously appeared as if he had somehow managed to swallow a watermelon whole. His bare belly pressed out; his skin looking deeply taut, while his bellybutton grew slightly more shallow without losing its appealing sense of depth to it.

The blushing young lady shifted uncomfortably the more she was beginning to realize why she was feeling the way she did. Fidgeting a little, she looked away and said, "...Y-You know, I never noticed how big an appetite you had...not really..."

Inuyasha grinned cockily and said, "That's 'cuz I got a *man's* appetite!" He slapped his belly heavily for emphasis.

"...You're half-*demon*..." Kagome corrected, failing to ignore how deliciously appealing that thumping sound emitting from Inuyasha's belly sounded. It just sounded so solid, like thumping his hand against a big pumpkin, with a thick yet low gurgle accompanying the impact.

"...Tch, same thing," Inuyasha grumbled before adding, "I love food, what can I say? Dunno if it's 'cuz I'm half-demon or if it's just 'cuz guys like me got the appetite for it. But I sure as hell ain't complainin'!"

"...I've noticed," Kagome remarked, silently noting that she, herself, certainly wasn't complaining about that factoid either.

Just then, however, Inuyasha paused for a moment and sniffed at the air. A quizzical look took hold of him as he sniffed some more then turned to Kagome, canine ears atop his long white hair twitching slightly. "Hey, why d'ya smell so funny all'uh the sudden...?"

Kagome's face grew redder as she nervously shifted and said, "...W-What...? What're you talking about, creep...?!"

"Nah, your scent's...like, I dunno, different than usual. Like, there's a lot more blood pumpin' all at once...you sick or somethin'...? Was the boar meat not cooked enough...?"

Kagome bit her lower lip and looked around anxiously. She was definitely in a bit of a hot spot. Because she knew exactly why her bodyheat was warming up and why her blood was rushing, but the thought of admitting why to Inuyasha made her want to smash her own face into the ground, bead-curse style...

What was a confused young lady to do...?