

Zacian hesitated as he looked at the odd storefront ahead of himself, unsure if he really wanted to enter. In the dark alleyway, the store almost seemed to blend in with everything else nearby, and the canine had almost missed it as he was walking past, his eyes merely glancing over it as if it were a normal wall. He was sure he'd have missed it if he weren't explicitly looking for it right here – a shop focused entirely on curses... and anti-curses. He needed the latter right now, as much as he didn't want to admit it.

Taking care to ensure his glamour was still active, he glanced in one of the dark windows, seeing a reflection staring back at him that wasn't his own – one of a lycanroc. He didn't exactly want to be seen visiting shady businesses like this one... and he could stand to be careful about appearing in public at all at the moment, after what had happened on the last full moon. Regardless, this certainly seemed to be his destination, the canine hesitantly pushing through the door to step inside.

The cramped shop was filled with shelves covered in jars and knick-knacks, stuffed so full of things that it was a wonder nothing toppled over from the light breeze coming through the open door. Zacian carefully navigated the twisting pathways of the store, taking care not to knock anything over. He wouldn't want to get in trouble with the store's owner... or cause himself any more trouble with some random object in this store saddling him with another curse to deal with. He was already struggling with just the one.

As he finally found the counter, he glanced around, not seeing anyone currently stationed there. He waited just a moment before carefully reaching out to ring the bell, finding himself startled by the prompt appearance of a wisp of shadow that rapidly formed into the shape of a pokemon – a banette. The ghostly pokemon looked up at Zacian with a grin of its zipper mouth, giving a tilt of its head and a squint before it seemed to realize something, moving to give a slow, almost sarcastic bow to the canine.

“Welcome to my humble storefront... I'm glad to see you decided to take me up on my offer...” The shopkeeper spoke slowly, with a bit of a whisper to its voice, its words having an ethereal quality to them that was only intensified by the fact that it didn't open its mouth to speak. Zacian almost felt unsettled, but he quickly shook off the feeling, having seen plenty of ghost types in his time. Before he could respond the banette continued, floating back out from behind the counter and towards the curtain that it had entered through. “Perhaps we should... discuss matters privately?” The canine nodded, following behind the banette through the curtain. The shop already seemed fairly private, without any other customers that he could see... but he'd rather keep things secretive, if possible.

Walking into a back office, the banette sat down on a chair and motioned for Zacian to rest on the sofa nearby, which he did, climbing onto it and laying across it. “Might you drop your disguise? It would... help with accurately diagnosing any issues,” the banette inquired, and after a pause to ensure nobody was around or able to see, Zacian let the glamour fall away, revealing his legendary form underneath. The shop's owner seemed unfazed by this revelation, and given that it could apparently tell that it was present in the first place, that wasn't all too surprising. Though he was at least impressed that it seemed

to be unbothered in the presence of a legendary pokemon, most normal pokemon he interacted with seemed to always react with a combination of fear and reverence, which was always slightly annoying to him.

“So...” the banette continued, reclining a bit with a smile. “Could you tell me some more details about this malady of yours?” Zacian sighed and looked to the side, not particularly wanting to share any of the difficult details, though he didn’t have much of a choice if he wanted to get any help.

“It began two months ago. I’m not sure where the curse came from, I fight too many battles to have remembered by the time it first took effect, on the full moon. I didn’t know what exactly it was at that time, only knowing the next morning that I’d blacked out, and that many of my belongings were in disarray. I tried to put it out of my mind, but... a pattern emerged by the next full moon, and this time, it wasn’t as easy to ignore.” Zacian felt himself cringe at the memory as he forced himself to think about it once more, having tried his best to avoid the memory whenever he could.

“I can... somewhat remember that night, but a large portion of it was told to me by Zamazenta... and by mew, as they’ve been busy working to remove any public memory of it. Apparently, during the night of the full moon, I find myself in... an altered state of mind. One much closer to the actions of a pup than an adult wolf. Zamazenta says when he found me, I was not capable of any coherent speech, only babyish babble, and according to Mew, I had run around the town near my home, playing with anyone I could find like a pup. And...” he took a breath, not particularly wanting to mention this part... but he’d rather the ghost assisting him be thorough and not miss this particular detail. “And apparently, I’d managed to lose my continence during that time, too.”

Zacian felt his face grow red as he kept his gaze away from the banette sitting across from him, though he didn’t hear any laughs or words of condescension from it, and as he looked back, it held the same curious expression as when he had started talking. “I can see how that would be troublesome for one of your... status...” It spoke with an understanding, as if it had dealt with similarly embarrassing curses on other clients before. He’d hoped as much would be true, but it was nice to not be laughed out of the room due to something that was out of his control. “Though if I might ask, is Mew not capable of dispelling such a curse? I’ve heard tale of their exploits with mental restructuring, and thought such a thing might be within their purview...”

Zacian sighed as he responded. “Sadly, no. They attempted to, but found no success. They wanted to keep this a secret and ask among the other legendary pokemon... though I decided it would be best to come to a professional for such a matter.” The banette nodded along as he spoke, seemingly thinking for a moment.

"I... suppose I could take a look inside of your mind and soul, to search for where the curse is rooted, should you allow me to possess you for a time. Would such a procedure be acceptable to you?" it asked politely, Zacian flinching a bit at the idea. He didn't particularly want someone inside of his body, poking at his mind and spirit, though if this was how the professional curse remover did its job, it wouldn't be very helpful to deny it.

With a nod of approval, the banette stood up and walked forward, though it stopped a short distance away as it conjured something for Zacian to see – what looked like a long pin. He felt a bit worried at the sight of it, and though the banette quickly explained, it didn't do much to assuage his fears. "This pin will let me transfer my spirit into your body... it won't hurt in the slightest, it's incorporeal to non-ghosts, but I can understand that it might inspire some fear... trust that if I genuinely attempted to harm you, you would overpower me in an instant."

Zacian still felt hesitant towards the idea of that pin entering his body... but if this was how it had to be done, then he'd endure it. He certainly could overpower this banette if he needed to, after all. At the shop owner's instruction, he turned around, tilting his head downwards. After a short moment, he felt a chilling sensation at the base of his neck, his eyes going wide as the feeling began to seep throughout his entire body. It felt strange, almost like his soul was being dipped in ice water, though it gradually warmed back up. After a few moments, he could hear the banette's voice once again, though this time inside of his own mind.

"I'll take a look around, quickly..." its voice sounded both muffled and echoed, a strange sensation that made Zacian feel disoriented, alongside the slight blurriness in his vision. He stayed as still as he could while the banette seemingly did its job, and eventually he received some affirmation of that... though not exactly what he was hoping for.

"Hmm... well, I've found it, and it seems to have rooted primarily in your mind, though this is... quite the complex curse. You must have made someone very powerful very upset..." Zacian sighed, though even the slight movement felt sluggish through the possession. He was hoping it would be easy for the banette to deal with... As if in response to that thought, the banette replied. "I do think it would be possible for me to handle even a job such as this one, though unfortunately, I can only strike at a curse such as this when it is active. You'll have to return here on the evening of the full moon, and I'll be ready to dispel it when it activates."

Zacian certainly wasn't happy with that idea. If this problem hadn't been solved by the next full moon, he'd planned to lock himself in a room with a key given to Zamazenta so he could be certain nothing went wrong like last time. Coming out to the middle of a town during that night was not exactly something he wanted to risk. "If you're willing to entertain the thought, I have plenty of magic at my disposal to ensure you don't run off while not of your own mind. But sadly, I believe that will be the only

way I can assist you in this endeavor.” With that, the same chilling sensation seemed to flow out of him in reverse, pulling back into the pin, before the pin was pulled away as well. A shiver ran down Zacian’s spine at the feeling of the banette retreating from his body, the sensation strange and uncomfortable to him.

The canine turned around to see the banette returning to its chair, the pin having vanished. With a sigh, Zacian turned to the side again, deliberating on his options. He could always go to the other legendary pokemon and try to find one who was both an expert on dispelling curses and also willing to help him... or he could take his chances here with this banette on the night of the full moon. Neither was particularly appealing to him...

But with how trustworthy it had presented itself, and its clear expertise on the subject, the banette seemed like a good option. Especially if that magic it had promised could ensure that he didn’t end up making a fool of himself all around town. Even if he didn’t like the idea of risking being out while his curse was active, it would probably be best to try to stop this before it became any more of an issue, and that meant taking the help of an expert.

“As much as I don’t want to be out on the night of the full moon, if that’s what it will take, then I’ll be here. Please be prepared to keep me locked in here and restrained if necessary, I’d rather not have another scandal to be repaired,” he stated with a sigh, getting a nod from the banette in response.

“I’ll be sure to take any precautions necessary, of course,” it replied, stepping down from its chair. Zacian stepped off of the sofa, reapplying his glamour to follow the banette out of the room, planning on making his way home.

He didn’t like it... but with any hope, this would all be behind him on the next full moon.

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With his glamour reapplied, Zacian made his way back through the town. The sun was gradually growing lower in the sky, the canine quickly growing anxious about this plan, though he was too far in at this point to back out. Finding his way to the shop he’d entered before, he entered once more, winding his way through the shelves as carefully as he could manage with his growing anxiety about the sunset. Quickly making his way to the counter, he rang the bell again, once more summoning the shopkeeper, who invited him into the back room with just a simple nod.

His movements more than a little worried and antsy, Zacian followed into the back room, climbing up onto the couch once more and laying on it. He watched as the banette picked up some odd stones, placing them on the sides of the doorway as glowing blue lines of energy formed an X shape over it, linking between them. The banette walked towards him with something else in hand – what looked like a collar, the same shade of blue as the energy lines.

“This will ensure you are unable to leave through that doorway so long as you are wearing it. Assuming you don’t break down the wall once the curse takes effect... you’ll be confined to this room.” Zacian looked visibly disgruntled at the suggestion of wearing a collar... but relented, leaning his neck down to allow the banette to place it onto him. He had to trust that it was trying to help him, as difficult or... upsetting as the procedures might be to go through.

He watched as the banette retrieved something else from a drawer on its desk – what looked to be a mega stone. His tilted head prompted the banette to explain, attaching the stone to a bracelet and slipping it over one wrist. “I think its best for me to be at... full power to ensure I have the best chances of destroying that curse.” Zacian certainly agreed, he didn’t particularly want to take any chances tonight.

As the banette approached with the needle once more, Zacian turned around and lowered his head once more, feeling the icy sensation run through him once more as the banette possessed him. It took almost no time at all for it to locate the curse again, the canine now feeling a new strange sensation running through his mind as the curse was seemingly prodded. “It’s certainly close to activating, I can see it slowly extending over your thoughts...” the banette narrated, Zacian growing concerned.

“You’ll be able to handle it, right?” he asked with a growing worry, the banette responding immediately with a feeling of affirmation inside of his mind.

“Taking control of such a curse would be child’s play for me, I assure you...” Zacian saw a flash of light from behind himself where the banette was standing, an indication of its mega evolution taking effect. It felt... difficult to focus, strange and foreign thoughts running through the canine’s mind as he tried to keep himself under control. But it was clear it was a losing fight, as the curse began to take effect. He quickly felt instincts taking precedence over his thoughts as he fought to keep it under control. He just wanted to... play! He wanted to run outside and jump around and play, without a care in the world!

He heard the banette chuckling in his mind, confusing him for a moment, having forgotten all about what was happening for a bit. He still wasn’t quite sure on the details, all of the complicated things feeling foggier and foggier as he tried to focus on them. He was here for... help with something? He wasn’t sure what, though... but he knew he trusted the banette to help him with it, at least!

“Wow, what an... interesting curse. It certainly seems to make you much more puppy-like, as you said... such a shame the curse-giver locked it to take effect so infrequently, though... you’re far too cute like this to waste such a curse on only the full moon.” Something about the banette’s words felt... weird to Zacian. He wasn’t sure why, but it felt like that wasn’t right, for some reason. Even though it was nice of him to say that he was cute!

“I suppose it simply falls on me to remedy that, then... but first, let’s have some fun, shall we?” Zacian liked fun! The weird cold feeling suddenly grew stronger as he felt his legs moving on his own, which was more than a little startling, though the banette’s thoughts quickly reassured him that it was perfectly normal, it was just helping with its possession... and that made sense! Ghost types could do weird stuff like that. His legs moving on their own, Zacian flipped over on the couch, looking up at the now mega banette standing next to the couch with a wide grin, and he couldn’t help but bark excitedly at that. The banette laughed as it floated back to its desk, picking up some things from behind it and carrying them back over.

Feeling his body move on its own again, Zacian lifted up his rump, the banette sliding something underneath it, which he gradually recognized as a diaper. He felt confused about that, he hadn’t worn those in a loooooong time... but banette’s thoughts reassured him again, so it was fine! The banette sprinkled quite a bit of baby powder between his legs before taping up the front of the diaper – the added bulk between his legs definitely felt weird, but it was there to help!

The banette floated closer, reaching out to place something inside of his mouth, a large rubber bulb filling up his muzzle now. A pacifier? He usually held his sword in his mouth... but it did feel nice to carry something in his muzzle like that, so he wasn’t bothered! He gently chewed on it, the feeling satisfying to him.

“Hm... I do think it would be a shame to waste a powerful curse such as this...” the banette said, gently reaching out to pet Zacian’s head, the feeling of its claws gently scritchng behind his ear feeling like heaven. Those claws gently made their way down his body and to his sides, ever so gently running along them and quickly lighting Zacian’s mind on fire, the ticklish sensation making him immediately squirm and giggle. As dangerous as those giant claws looked, they never hurt to the touch, any sudden jerks and squirms simply allowing them to pass through his body. Zacian let out an excited bark at the feeling of the tickles running across his belly and sides, overwhelming his mind at the intense feeling.

He could hear the banette giggling as well, which made him only feel happier as he was tickled and given belly rubs, his mind sparking with joy and excitement. “Perhaps I’ll just... keep you like this. It would be more than easy to store all of those... adult thoughts in some sort of trinket, and let the curse consume

the rest of your mind... would you like that, pup?" Zacian let out an excited bark. He didn't know exactly what the banette was talking about, but he was having lots of fun, and he liked this a lot! Whatever banette wanted to do was probably a good idea!

With a smile, the banette floated away to look through the shelves in this room, eventually picking out what looked like the handle and crossguard of a sword, carrying it over to where Zacian was laying. He looked at it curiously, giving it a quick sniff, before another icy feeling suddenly hit him. He stared at the sword's handle for a while, a little gem in the pommel of it slowly lighting up... before the banette pulled it away, carrying it over to its desk and putting it away. He wasn't sure what that was... he didn't *feel* any different! But it was probably fine, banette knew what it was doing.

"Now... how about we take you out for a walk, hm?" Zacian instantly perked up at the sound of that word, rolling over and hopping off of the couch on his own to see with wide eyes that the banette was holding a leash. He let out a bark through his pacifier, very excited at the prospect of going out for a walk, he had so much energy! The banette clipped the leash to his pacifier and floated to the door, taking away the strange stones that were giving off that weird energy. As it walked through the door, Zacian excitedly followed behind on his leash, following him to the front door of the store, and outside into the night.

As the cool night air hit him, something deep down felt... wrong... but he couldn't quite place what. It also felt really nice at the same time, though! Lots of smells and exciting places to explore! After just a bit of hesitation, he happily followed behind the banette, being led out of the alleyway and onto the main streets. With it being so late out, there weren't many people around, but he quickly noticed that everyone around was looking at him... he let out an excited bark at all the new friends around, his tail wagging excitedly.

The waddle induced by his diaper felt a little weird to walk with, but it wasn't bad, and it felt comfy! As the pair walked down the road, he took in the sights of the town, so excited to see everything and everyone. A lot of people seemed confused when they looked at him, which he didn't really understand, but plenty more were smiling and laughing, which was nice! He barked happily at all of those as he followed behind the banette on his leash, enjoying his walk.

As Zacian saw a particularly large group of people looking at him, he felt that weird chilling feeling come back as something in his mind was poked, sending a shiver down his spine... though that chill was countered by the sudden warmth growing in his diaper, and the relaxation and good feeling that came with it. He couldn't help but let out a happy sigh as his half-lidded eyes unfocused, just enjoying the good feeling... and as he snapped back to it, everyone around was smiling and laughing too! He gave a happy bark as he was given a gentle scratch behind the ears once more by the banette, his tail wagging up a storm.

After a nice long walk, Zacian realized they'd made it back to the alley where the store was, the banette leading him back inside. Was the walk already over? He wanted to walk more... though he was fine doing whatever with banette, it was so much fun! He was led gently towards the back of the shop, though this time through a different door he hadn't been in before, this one leading to a bedroom! He was a little sleepy... it had been a long day, hadn't it? He couldn't remember what he came here for in the first place... but it had been a lot of fun to play with banette!

"Here, how about you stay here tonight? We can always play some more tomorrow, after all..." the banette said, pulling a big, plush dog bed out from underneath the bed. With wide, excited eyes, Zacian pounced onto it, running around in a circle before laying down, feeling so comfy almost immediately. He was given a few more pets and some gentle tickles as his leash was unclipped, the canine looking up at the banette with a satisfied smile.

"Aww... how could I say no to that expression? I might just have to keep you..." it said, and Zacian responded with an excited bark at the idea, drawing a chuckle from the banette.

"After all, I don't think any of those legendary friends of yours could undo that curse now..." it said, giving a few more gentle scratches to the happy puppy on his new bed, his tail wagging away.