

PROJECT NIGHT SKYE

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EXT. DECK OF THE SKYEBYRD, PIXIE'S SAILING SHIP - DUSK

BYRD, a gruff, yet fluffy teal ram with broad shoulders and dragon's wings, sits near the side of the ship, looking out across the fjord as the final strip of the sunset colors the seashore bright red. He enjoys the cool night breeze and the sound of the waves.

PIXIE, a blue double-tailed fox with red markings approaches Byrd from behind. She's carrying a small wrapped box gently in her teeth.

PIXIE

Hey...

Byrd's ears prick up, and he turns his head towards Pixie as she sits down on his right.

BYRD

Hey...

Pixie nuzzles Byrd with her muzzle under his chin. They're Sparks, magical gems embedded in their foreheads, light up.

Pixie sets the gift on the wooden rail in front of Byrd.

PIXIE

Look, I'm sorry about yelling the other day. It's my fault, really.

BYRD

What is this?

PIXIE

An apology gift, silly.

She leans against his shoulder and nudges the small box towards him.

PIXIE (CONT'D)

Go on, open it.

Byrd sighs, undoes the string and neatly unfolds the paper from around the box. He opens the box and tilts his head as he looks inside.

Inside the box is a tiny, chubby, yellow baby salamander.

Byrd looks at the small creature with a melancholy smile. The salamander settles on top of his head and trills contently.

BYRD

A salamander?

PIXIE
 Isn't he adorable!? I know they're
 your favorite animal!

BYRD
 Thanks Pixie...

Pixie sighs into his shoulder, and Byrd pulls away, his Spark
 lighting up a pale yellow.

BYRD (CONT'D)
 It's hard to stay mad at you,
 Pixie, but-

PIXIE
 Byrd, I just-

BYRD
 No, Pixie, listen to me.

Pixie tenses, and clenches her teeth, biting back a retort.

BYRD (CONT'D)
 We've both been through a lot;
 we're different people now.
 Everything is different, and I
 think we should stop seeing each
 other.

Pixie digs her claws into the ship's wooden deck.

PIXIE
 But things don't have to be
 different!

BYRD
 You can't change the past. And you
 can't change how I feel about you,
 now.

PIXIE
 But-

Byrd leans forward and rests his chin on her head to gently
 silence her.

BYRD
 I will always love you; but we just
 don't work anymore, and we can't
 change that.

Pixie pulls away from Byrd.

PIXIE

But Byrd! We can change that! We can fix this! I-if we remove all of our bad memories, then we can go back to the way things were! Don't you see!

Byrd stares at Pixie, shocked, and then backs away slightly, slowly shaking his head.

BYRD

Pixie, don't be ridiculous.

PIXIE

I am dead serious, Byrd! Why not!?

BYRD

Why- why not!? You can't just rip out your Spark because life got too hard! That's cowardice! And you can't force me to do that!

PIXIE

C-Coward!? Coward!? Do you know what I've been through!? Do you know what I've accomplished!?

BYRD

Yes, Pixie, we all went through the same damn thing! Farlight is gone! How can we rebuild the world that we have lost if we never remember it!? You are a coward! You're only so willing to wipe your memories because you just want to forget your mistakes, because you refuse to forgive yourself! You refuse to admit that you did anything wrong!

Pixie yells, too aggravated for words. She rears up and slams her paws down hard on the deck. The salamander squeaks and burrows himself further into Byrd's fluffy hair.

BYRD (CONT'D)

Calm down Pixie.

PIXIE

(Literally stomping mad)
No! No! I will not calm down! This isn't about me Byrd! This is about us! This is how we fix us!

BYRD

I don't want to fix *us*, Pixie! If you want to eviscerate your memory, then fine!

He pauses.

BYRD (CONT'D)

But leave me out of it.

PIXIE

I *can't* leave you out of it! I love you too much!

Byrd stands up, spreads his wings and stares Pixie down.

BYRD

That's not love! You don't love me; you love the idea of having a boyfriend like me! If you really cared about me, you'd respect my choices!

PIXIE

How dare you. How fucking dare you! I love you Byrd! I love you more than I have ever loved anyone in my life!

BYRD

(voice starting to shake)
Well, I'm sorry that you never learned what real love is, and I'm sorry I couldn't teach you that.

PIXIE

Byrd-

Byrd slams his hoof on the ground to cut her off.

BYRD

(Steadying his voice)
But it's come to the point where I can't take responsibility for your baggage anymore.

A silence, thick with tension lingers between them.

BYRD (CONT'D)

(Almost more to himself)
This is it.

Byrd takes the salamander from his head, and gently sets him back in his box on the ship's rail. He begins to turn away and takes one step to leave.

Pixie leaps out and grabs the base of Byrd's wing in her teeth.

PIXIE

No!

Byrd tries to pull away.

BYRD

Let me go!

Pixie wraps her front paws around Byrd's shoulders, trying with all her might to pull him back to her.

PIXIE

You can't leave me!

BYRD

Pixie! Please!

PIXIE

Byrd! I-

Pixie is cut off when Byrd pulls himself from Pixie's grasp, causing Pixie to slump to the ground.

Byrd beats his wings, beginning to take flight.

Pixie lunges again, pinning him on his stomach to the ground.

BYRD

You're insane!

Pixie digs her claws into Byrd's shoulders.

PIXIE

I'm pregnant!

BYRD

Wh-What-

PIXIE

I'm fucking pregnant, Byrd!

Pixie lets go of Byrd.

Byrd stands up and shakes himself off.

BYRD

And you didn't lead with that!?
Instead, you lead with wanting to
rip my soul out through my head!

PIXIE

You led with a breakup! I panicked!

BYRD

Pixie... We can work this out, but
this doesn't change how I feel
about our relationship.

PIXIE

If- If you leave me now, you'll
never get to see your child! I
won't let you!

BYRD

E-Excuse me!?

PIXIE

(Unsure of herself)

You heard me. If you break up with
me, I won't ever let you see your
child!

BYRD

Bullshit!

Pixie growls.

PIXIE

Why won't you listen to me!?

BYRD

I can listen to what you have to
say without agreeing with it! I
will not be removing my memories! I
am breaking up with you! And you
will not use our unborn child as
fucking leverage!

The bright moonlight glints off of Pixie's teeth as she howls with rage and lunges at Byrd, clamping her teeth around his spark, and bracing her front paws against his chest, and pulling.

Byrd pulls back against her, and the hard smooth gem slips from Pixie's teeth, causing her to fall onto her back.

Byrd tries to back away quickly while Pixie is getting back up. He trips backwards over a loose board.

Pixie gets to her feet and lunges again. She aims another bite at Byrd's Spark, she misses as he trips backwards over the loose board. Her teeth connect with his neck, and as he falls, the flesh tightly gripped in Pixie's teeth rips away from Byrd's neck.

Byrd collapses onto his back, choking on the blood pouring from his neck. His feeble gurgling fades quickly and his Spark goes dark.

Pixie spits the blood and fur from her mouth.

PIXIE

Byrd?

She leaps over to him.

PIXIE (CONT'D)

Byrd!!

Pixie shakes Byrd's unmoving form.

PIXIE (CONT'D)

Byrd! No!

Pixie screams in anguish.

PIXIE (CONT'D)

No! No! No! No! I- I didn't mean
it! Byrd! Please wake up!
Please...PLEASE!!

She shakes him.

EXT. A SNOWY HILL BENEATH AN OAK TREE -NIGHT

Pixie drags Byrd's lifeless body across the snow, streaking the fluffy white powder with red.

Pixie pushes Byrd's body into a hole she had dug near the tree, and it lands with a sickening 'Whump.'

Pixie pushes the dirt and snow back into the whole over Byrd's corpse. She struggles to drag and push a large stone over the hole and sits silently at the grave as the sun rises.

INT. SKYEBYRD - CAPTION'S QUARTERS - DAY

Pixie lays across her bed on her stomach, crying. The salamander is curled up next to her, snoozing.

Pixie starts to claw at her Spark, slowly becoming more aggressive and desperate. The salamander wakes up and squeaks.

Pixie's small thin claws start to dig under the gem, and small beads of blood begin to form at her clawtips.

She grits her teeth in pain as she pries her claws further under the Spark. More blood pours out as she pries it further from her skin. The salamander begins chirping at her in panic, trying to stop her.

Pixie starts shaking from the pain, but she keeps going.

Finally, the Spark pulls loose, and Pixie wails in agony.

Pixie dashes to the window, Spark held in one paw. She throws the gem out of the window and it lands in the water, sinking to the inky depths.

Pixie stares blankly out at the ocean waves, she slowly shakes her head, and confusedly wipes the blood from her forehead.

She shakes her head again and turns away from the window. She stares at the salamander for a moment.

PIXIE

Hey, little guy... How did you get
in here.

Pixie picks up the salamander, and gently pats him on the head.

PIXIE (CONT'D)

Poor thing, you must have gotten
lost... I'm going to call you
Cornelius.

FADE TO CREDITS