

Midnight Bird Release

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Patron story done for Danuki

“Thank you for coming out!”

“Of course! I wouldn’t miss this for the world!” Korey smiled, taking his game and figure. “Just glad the midnight event happened. I definitely didn’t wanna wait until whenever the game showed up in the morning.”

Years and years of waiting had come to an end. It felt like an eternity since it was announced, but Korey had his hands on the prize. The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom was his now.

Not only that, but he had the special Link amiibo for the game too. He had lucked out. He had completely forgotten to pre-order one when they went on sale. Thankfully, the store had a few extras on the shelf, him snagging the last one.

Okay! Got the next few days off, so time to dive in and-

“You have the last one.” As he turned, he ran straight into another customer.

Though this customer was special. It was a woman, a green one at that with long, wild, messy black hair. She wore all black and radiated an unpleasant aura, her sharp yellow eyes staring at the amiibo in his hands. This couldn’t be good.

Korey tried to step away from the witch and keep on, but somehow, she seemed to be in front of him no matter where he stepped. “Stupid, stupid.” She muttered to herself, still staring at the figurine. “Shoulda pre-ordered, but noooo...”

This lady is bad news. How do I get away without setting her off-

“Excuse me, sir!” Her attention was on his face now, catching him off guard. Her presence and aura were more pleasant and peaceful, though he remained cautious. “Hi! I’m Beatrice: local, powerful witch and all of that. Listen... could I have that amiibo?”

“...no?” He almost immediately regretted that when her expression shifted.

However, the twinge of anger subsided almost as fast as her smile returned. “Well, it’s only natural you said that,” Beatrice remarked, nodding her head, “Best to offer something in

return, yes? I mean, that Link amiibo is nifty, but a true Zelda fan would part with it for something much, MUCH better, right?"

Suddenly, Korey felt a touch curious. "Something better? What do you mean?"

"Like I said, something better than that amiibo! I mean, look at me!" Beatrice winked. "I am a witch after all! I make anything happen with my magic!"

She held out her hands, stuffing her copy of the game in a pocket. She rubbed them together, creating green energy that radiated off of them. She slapped and pulled them apart, revealing a figurine of Link, much taller and modeled after the Twilight Princess's rendition of him.

She did the trick a few more times, making other characters and enemies appear. Korey's jaw hung briefly, his glasses nearly slipping off his head. "Impressed, eh?" The witch snickered. "I can give you something better if you just gimme the amiibo!"

He was indeed impressed. Witch's magic was certainly a spectacle to see up close. It lived up to the hype he's heard about the green women.

However, that didn't mean he wasn't suspicious. "Well, if you can do all of that," he asked calmly, "Why don't you just make the amiibo for yourself?"

"Because it wouldn't be an official product, and I want the real deal!" Beatrice stated. Korey privately admitted he could understand that feeling. "I'm fairly impatient and don't really want to wait for a restock. I would like your amiibo. I'll even pay you the same amount you did for that, plus a little extra!"

...well, I could use that money on something else. Korey thought, her offer now very tempting. *It's not like they're not going to restock these things eventually, like the Skyward Sword one. Maybe...*

"Okay, I'll bite. I'll take what you're offering and cash, but it better be good."

"Oh, it will!" The two exchanged the figurine and money. The witch leaned in, her grin looking devious. "You will not be disappointed!"

She held up a light green finger. Blue energy began to rise from it, circling her digit ominously. "Boop!"

Her finger jutted forward and bopped him on the tip of his nose. A numbing sensation struck his sniffer, his sense of smell vanishing. From the spot where she poked, the skin turned ink-black. The area hardened after and began to grow.

His nose pushed forward, pulling away from his face. His nostrils were drawn into the expanding tip, the bridge of the nose widening. The sensation was weird, foreign, and cold.

Korey tried to talk, but his mouth felt numb as well. His teeth were merging too, turning black and forming into two thick rows. They pushed out, his lips combining with them and then even with his nose. They pushed out altogether.

His face stretched forward further, hardening up. The bottom jaw stopped after a little bit, but the top pushed out a little longer. The tip of what used to be his nose jutted downward, the area hardening further.

Korey had a beak, a full-on parrot-esque beak.

“What... what the heck?” The numbness had left his mouth and in his vision, he could see the long, curved beak jutting from his head.

He tried to reach up but his head throbbed and grew numb. His vision felt blurry while his hearing faded. His ears disappeared into his head as his skull shifted. His eyes were pushed more to the sides as his head grew. The dome shape flattened as its shape matched more with his beak.

His eyes turned to a brilliant, warm amber as warmth rose within. Along the outline of his beak’s base, a thin layer of pale sky-blue feathers blossomed. A dark shade of those feathers created circles around his eyes. Lastly, brilliant ocean blue feathers grew over the rest of his head, a bit scruffier and puffer in the back. Some more grew long there, forming a striking crest.

Korey swayed a little as sensation came back. That was weird. He reached up and rubbed where his forehead would’ve been, striking the beak. He gripped the strong avian feature, sliding his hand down over it.

“What is this?! What is happening?” His hand slid over to the top of his skull, fingers running through his soft, prim feathers. His heart began to race.

“It’d be easier to see yourself than ask me to explain it,” Beatrice stated. “Why don’t you pull out your phone and take a look?”

Korey reached into his pocket quickly, snagging his phone. Though looking down made him woozy for a second. The ground felt farther away and was getting even farther.

He was snapped out of that quickly though. His shoes suddenly bulged at the toe caps and just as quickly burst open. Two-toed, dark brown, scaly feet came through, black talons at the digits' ends. In the back, that part of the shoe split, another digit and talon popping out.

“What?! You did-” The young man angrily looked at Beatrice, but he stopped before he said anything. He now found himself looking down at the green woman instead of being at eye level. He was much, much taller than her.

Beatrice smiled, pointing at the phone he held, urging him to look. He did so, hesitantly. Checking the camera app, he saw Kass the Rito Barb.

Rather, he saw Kass' head looking back at him, having replaced his own.

“No way!” He gasped.

“Yes way!” The witch chuckled, patting his shoulder. “I told you, something that would be perfect for a Zelda fan? How can amiibo compare to being the best bird in the entire series?”

The bird-ifying man gulped. “Well ah... that is nice, but I'm not sure if-oh!”

A sudden jolt from behind caught Korey off guard. The back of his pants tore a little as long blue with yellow undercoating tail feathers sprouted. They were nearly as long as his thighs, jutting away from him.

Another jolt and his hands broke into goosebumps. There were bumps on the backs of his hands and then across his fingers. The bumps grew bigger and bigger until feathers sprouted. Black, white, gold, dark blue, and ocean blue sprouted across his mitts in dazzling layers.

The shock of it nearly made Korey drop his phone. However, his hands growing made sure it did slip from his grasp that easily. They swelled and expanded, his arms growing with muscle and strength to match them. Feathers grew more and more, longer and thicker until his limbs and mitts were wide and feathery, looking almost like wings.

Korey blushed, looking at his wing hands and down at his feet. He unconsciously rubbed his beak before looking back at Beatrice. “I-I mean... I do like Kass, but...”

“But what?”

There were some tears. His sleeves ripped and split open in several parts, unable to hold back his enhanced arms. "I'm not sure I would want to do this right now."

"Why is that?"

"Well..." The back of his shirt ripped, revealing more ocean-blue feathers as his torso slowly began to expand. "I'm clearly not wearing clothes fitting for this. Also, the important thing." He nodded his head around them, the witch taking a look.

The two of them were still in the middle of the game store doing its midnight release event. All of the customers and staff were quiet, staring at the curious scene taking place. The growing bird nervously said, "It's kind of embarrassing... being stared at by everEEP!"

In one big burst, Korey's shirt burst open. He had a wide, burly torso with a thick chest and dense waist. It was all covered in feathers, blue coating his sides and back. Gold feathers covered his front, running up the front of his neck to just below his bottom beak. Even with the feather coat, he still felt incredibly embarrassed to be ogled.

Bringing it all together, his lower half finished changing. His legs shifted very slightly up the sides of his hips. His thighs expanded and puffed out, a mixture of feathers and muscles making it possible. His posture shifted, knees arching forward and calves pushing back, his stance more like a bird's now.

For that is what Korey had become. He was a bird. He was the large, strong, but stunning, and mature Rito known as Kass. Besides his struggling pants and holding his phone and game, there was no trace of the old him.

The Rito looked down upon everyone, blushing with embarrassment. "Y-yeah... sorry about the weird s-show. We'll just le-"

"You did that?" A random woman asked Beatrice.

"Hmm?" The witch looked at her curiously. "Did that? Oh, yes. It was simple, really. Why do you ask, dear?"

"Can... can you turn me into Zelda?"

Beatrice grinned. "Depends. Which Zelda, and what is your budget?"

“Wait, can you turn me into Midna post-Imp form?” Another customer, a guy jumping in, asked eagerly.

“Can I be Midna as an Imp?” A new person asked.

“Can I be Sidon?!” One of the lady employees shouted, eager to get in. Soon, the witch was surrounded by folks all eager to get in on the fun. The witch looked more than happy to do it, mentioning various prices and deals she could provide.

“Kass” stepped back, shaking his head. *Shrewd woman, that’s for sure.*

Left alone, Korey looked himself over one more time. He slid one of his feathery hands over his chest and arm, feeling the power behind them. He felt his face, carefully taking in his beak and shape. Even with the new, larger edition and the shift in his eyes’ position, his vision didn’t really change too much.

Overall, taking the time to soak himself in, he had to admit, it wasn’t bad. The change was unexpected and a bit awkward to have done in public, but it was pretty cool. Kass was great and being him felt good. The witch was definitely onto something about this being better than an amiibo.

I can't wait to get home and have a better look at me! He hummed. *Gonna need to take a good look in the mirror before I start play...*

At that moment, something occurred to him. He looked at his hands. *Wait... can I play my game with these things?* Another thought hit him. *Crap, can I even fit in my car like this? Ugh, stupid, unforeseen issues.*

THE END?