The weeks passed and though the fires that had consumed the laboratory where long since extinguished the same could not be said for the passion that continued to ensnare Nostra. It was in the crucible of that fire that shi had been created, born from the near deaths of Leopold the scientist and his pet albino python Zoe. Though the two had been separate entities before the time living in the same rubbery naga body had melded their personalities together to the point that they thought as one person. They still had their separate memories, but at that moment the only one they were fixated on was that of finding out who had attempted to kill hir in that laboratory explosion.

Of course Nostra couldn’t just go off on a kidnapping spree or risk exposing hirself to the public; even if shi received positive public reception getting thrusted into the spotlight meant that those who were responsible would likely never get caught. With hir enhanced senses shi had heard several of the workers that had gotten close enough to the tree line of the forest shi inhabited that they were calling the lab fire a freak accident and what was worse was that they believed that Leopold was the cause of it. Even though that wasn’t hir name anymore the thought that hir legacy would be brought down like that because of some treachery brought hir blood to a boil.

So as shi waited for things to go back to normal and for people to put the alleged accident in the back of hir mind the goo creature got to work experimenting on the abilities given to hir by hrr new form. Though shi had thought that her body was completely made out of goo she found hir body to be quite solid, which was thankful since shi had no idea how they were going to move around or function if they had to focus to retain their bodily shape. After a few more experimental tests shi found that their extremely flexible body was comprised of the ooze but seemed to have a thin membrane that they could manipulate to some extent. The herm naga had watched on more than one occasion as shi stretched hir arm far past its limit and had a number of thin tendrils wave around in the air under hir control.

Aside from the new physical abilities of their new form they also found that shi no longer needed to eat either, just remain exposed to the sun in order to fuel her body. There was some hydration requirements though and found hirself going to the nearby river more than half a dozen times during the day just to drink. More than once shi caught hir own reflection, a serpentine pair of eyes staring back at hir as shi put a clawed hand to her muzzle. They watched for a few seconds as hir forked tongue flicked in and out, tasting the air as Zoe had done in their former lives.

“What are we…” shi said to herself as the realization that they were two different creatures at one point dawned on hir once again. As the days had passed by it became harder to remember that fact; at first when shi had talked to hirself they used words such as we and us, but the longer they remained together the more they referred to themselves mentally as me and shi given the dual nature of hir gender. How long would it be before Nostra was the only one that remained, they wondered as they craned their head down to drink. An even more pressing question was would they even care at a certain point as their thoughts turned once more to the plan they had been preparing since day one.

The analytical scientist part of hir had quickly gotten to work setting up a number of experiments that would help with their infiltration of the world around them, though unfortunately all of these would require something that shi didn’t have. Experiments required test subjects, and though shi would love to do it to her attempted murderer shi would also need inside info to solve that mystery. Shi was going to need some outside help for both prospects, shi reasoned as shi watched the sun set behind the hills as shi marked a month since the explosion happened, and fortunately shi knew just where to go to get it…

As the night grew long a pair of serpentine eyes glowed in the bushes that bordered a bar that was about half a mile away from the lab that Nostra used to work at, watching as several people that shi recognized as former co-workers left the bar together. Though shi rarely frequented it hirself shi knew that this was where a number of those who worked at the lab would go there after hours to have a drink, particularly the second shift crew. Among those was one in particular that shi waited for, her tongue flicking out into the air as shi waited patiently in the shadows until shi finally saw him. The young man stepped out of the tavern and staggered slightly as he made his way towards the sidewalk, too drunk to drive but close enough to his apartment in order to walk home.

That stumbling drunk was Dr. Arman Zihari, a researcher that had been hir lab assistant for years before he finally got promoted to his own team after hir recommendation. While he wasn’t the most brilliant scientist in the building but he worked hard and they had remained close even though he had been put on the second shift, often shi would be there talking to him just as he came on his shift while shi was coming off. Seeing him made those feelings bubble up and it felt like only yesterday they had talked about his new project while he sipped his tea and shi had hir coffee. He was the only one that shi was willing to trust at this moment and with the fact that he lived alone in his apartment it meant that he wouldn’t be missed right away, which also made him a perfect test subject.

The goo snake remembered back to what Arman had wrote on the memorial book when shi had gone to the grave site of Leopold after the memorial had concluded, looking in the sign-in book to see if there were any clues left by hir would-be killer. While shi didn’t find anything particularly of note shi was flattered by the number of people who had good things to say about Leopold and Zoe, the former human and snake blushing in their shared body as they went over who attended. It was at that point shi saw Dr. Zihari’s sentiments and realized that if shi was going to find someone to test out their abilities it would be him and began to plot… it wouldn’t be enough to just go up and talk to him, shi needed to make sure their reuniting wouldn’t be interrupted.

After a few days Nostra knew the scientist’s route well enough, having walked it with him before on more than one occasion in hir past life and then continued to stalk afterwards, and chose the perfect place to strike. It was a part of the street that curved into a blind corner with a streetlight that had been out for the last two years. Multiple times the goo naga had visited the area at night as shi wanted to be sure that hir hunting ground remained clear of others that may see the deed happen. Finally Nostra decided it was time to put hir plan in action as shi sat coiled up in a particularly thin spot between the underbrush of the bordering shrubs, the area remained blessedly clear save for hir target which continued to move in hir direction.

Arman was unaware of what lurked in the bushes as he continued to push himself to get home so he could pass out on the bed. The memorial service for his friend and mentor had been that Monday and the entire rest of the work week had been hell, he couldn’t go anywhere without someone or something reminding him of his loss. Though most of the others had moved on already he knew he was taking it particularly hard, especially since he had considered more than once of transferring jobs to a different facility. At that moment though all he wanted to do was go home and he was so focused on that goal he failed to notice the shiny white pair of scaled arms that reached out until they had wrapped around his body.

The grab happened so fast that Arman didn’t have any time to react before he was dragged away from the road and into the nearby grassy field with a speed like he had been hooked up to a truck. When he finally did have the capacity to scream he found a hand quickly covered his mouth, his eyes widening as he felt the goo synthetic material against his lips and the claws that were gently but firmly pressed against his cheek. As he continued to get dragged he realized that it was in the direction of the woods and the thought of being eaten by some creature that lived there began to sober him up quick as his body was flooded with adrenaline. He tried to struggle to get out of its grip but it was like those arms around him were made from solid steel as the starry night sky disappeared underneath a canopy of leaves.

When Nostra finally stopped they were far enough inside the woods that no one would hear Arman scream, which was exactly what he did when shi released hir hand from his mouth. Shi let him get it all out and he managed to use up all the air in his lungs before he had to take a deep breath before risking passing out. “Whenever you’re ready,” Nostra hissed as Arman turned his head around to see the head of the albino python looking at him and his eyes widened impossibly wide, though it looked like he was going to scream again instead his mouth was frozen open in pure terror as a small squeak came out of his throat. “There you go…”

“You… you can talk…” Arman said as he managed to let go of the breath he had been holding when it was clear the creature was not going to attack him, taking a few minutes before his brain was finally able to process what was actually happening to him. “What… are you? Are you an alien? Are you going to harvest my organs for experimentation?”

“Hardly,” Nostra replied with a hiss, slowly undoing the coils shi had wrapped around his legs to make him more comfortable when it was clear he wasn’t going to run as his scientific curiosity took over. “Though maybe whatever this substance we were working on has alien origins we assure you that we’re from the planet. We also used to be human… before the accident.”

There was a moment of silence as Nostra let the young man figure it out himself, the look of realization slowly growing on the human’s face as he put two and two together. “The accident…” he said as he looked at the goo naga with wide eyes, only these were not of fear but of sheer awe. “It can’t be… Leopold? Is that really you?”

“Well, along with Zoe yes,” the naga corrected as he leaned back against a tree. “The explosion caused the substance to merge with Zoe and then as we escaped the fire she grew big enough to take me out… then by the time we got out here whatever that goo was caused us to bind together into one creature. It’s Nostra now, by the way.”

“Unbelievable,” Arman said as he got closer, Nostra frowning slightly as shi wondered if he had heard a word shi said or was too busy examining him. “The material you were working on seems to have bonded to you on a molecular level and somehow took the structure of your snake pet and used it as a template to create this body. I can’t believe you survived that explosion… but why didn’t you contact me sooner? I thought you were dead, we all did.”

“That’s the point,” Nostra hissed. “You know as well as we do that something destructive of that magnitude doesn’t just happen on accident. Someone would have had to override several of the safety features to fail and even then rig it so that everything would explode.”

There was a few moments of pause punctuating only by the sound of the insects in the night air before Arman let out a sigh and rubbed the back of his head. “I’ve been thinking that myself now that you mention it,” Arman admitted. “I was kind of hoping that it was just some freak occurrence but you’re one of the most careful people I know and I doubt you’d do anything reckless on such an important project. I was even thinking of taking it to one of the higher-ups but they closed down the entire thing before I could muster up the courage to start to find the answers I wanted.”

“Don’t worry about it Arman,” Nostra replied as he patted the man on the shoulder. “We’re actually glad that you didn’t rock the boat, it makes it easier for us to go in and try and find who we’re looking for. But first I want to bring you back into my hideout so that we could discuss things further… and also to just make sure that our pulling you from the street doesn’t bring about any unwanted attention.”

After another hour of carefully picking their way back through the field and away the main road Arman was escorted towards the cave that Nostra had called home for the last month. Since it was near the river there was thankfully a few ways they could get in while hir slithering form continued to keep the human in hir coils. Though it was clear that Arman at least understood the situation shi didn’t feel comfortable with him running about, especially if he suddenly decided to change his mind. It also served another purpose as shi jostled him around slightly on an outcropping of rocks, causing the human to cry out in slight panic as shi apologized for the rough handling while hir coils left a streak of goo on his exposed skin.

“Home sweet home,” Nostra hissed as shi brought the human into hir cave. “It’s not much but it’s all I had for the last month or so.”

“I can see why you haven’t gotten very far in your research as of yet,” Arman said as he looked around. “I don’t know how much help I can be but perhaps I can get some equipment in here for you and set up some sort of analysis lab, but we’re going to need a portable generator and some other essentials if I’m going to help you.” Nostra turned hir head away to hide the smirk on hir face as hir coils once more squeezed a little tighter than normal, just enough to cause the human to pant slightly. “Hey, watch in there with those coils.”

“So sorry…” Nostra apologized as she continued to spread the goo that had been transferring onto his body the entire time. “But I don’t need a lab or any help on leads, I actually have one or two that I would like to follow up on. No no, I need your help on a completely different matter, and you always were fond of testing…”

Before Arman could ask what was going on he felt the coils shift around his body even more, but this time it was with more purpose than merely rough transport as the goo naga began to slither even further up his body. As the human began to squirm Nostra took his still exposed upper body and ripped his shirt off with hir claws, knowing that he wouldn’t need them anymore. He wasn’t going to be the spy in the company that he had thought, Nostra needed him for something completely different as she used her powerful muscles to draw the human through her coils until his chest disappeared into them and his legs were exposed.

“What do you think you’re doing!?” Arman shouted before his mouth was muffled by the tip of Nostra’s tail as shi quickly ripped off the human’s pants and underwear in one quick motion. Soon the protests became muffled cries as the goo that had been slathered over the human’s face solidified, giving him the look of a featureless mask as the shiny white substance continued to spread over the entirety of his body. While Nostra hadn’t been sure of exactly what was going to happen when she had ensnared a human in hir coils shi found the process almost instinctual in nature as more and more of her body pressed against the human.

As she continued to slither against the human’s form she noticed two things that caused her a bit of surprise; that the layers of goo that she was slathering over his increasingly covered form had semi-solidified into a latex-like substance and that his ooze-covered cock was jutting out straight into the air. It had been so long since shi had experienced the touch of another that shi was also starting to grow aroused, hir hemi-penis throbbing as hir forked tongue began to drift towards it. But before shi got too close to the male’s throbbing member shi snapped hir head back and shook it. The logical scientist part of hir took over and reminded hirself that shi wasn’t doing this for sex, shi was doing this for science.

Even though at this point Arman was so thoroughly coated in the white goo that shi couldn’t even tell any of his defining features Nostra continued to slide all around the human’s body. Every layer of rapidly rubberizing goo that she transferred to him made his shape less and less discernable she kept going as the wiggling human attempted to move. With his arms pinned to his sides and his legs fused together there was little that he could do but bend and shi found that with each pass his position began to slowly change. At first he was straight upright but the more hir coils manipulated him with their muscles the more he was drawn into a fetal position, eventually his thighs were pressed up into his chest and were fused there as her body was able to cover more of him.

Eventually Nostra was just slithering around a smooth sphere and when shi finally no longer felt the urge to remain wrapped around the human shi uncoiled her body from Arman and let out a gasp. The goo orb was completely smooth and spherical with no trace of Arman’s body inside of it and though hir first thought was that something had gone terribly wrong when shi pressed hir hand against the rubber membrane shi could sense he was still alive. Shi breathed a sigh of relief and with hir anxiety draining away shi became more fascinated by what shi had just done. Shi couldn’t believe that shi had just encased hir friend in an egg, even though shi was a goo naga such a concept that shi could do other things was beyond hir recognition… until now.

Nostra wasn’t sure just how long shi was going to have to wait for whatever shi had done to Arman to crystallize, but since shi assumed that shi had created an egg shi figured it would hatch eventually. Since there was nothing more that hir body was telling her to do shi decided to go down to the river and clean hirself up. Shi was also extremely tired having been out all night and luckily for hir the sun was out and shining down on hir goo body while shi splashed around in the cool, clean water. Once shi had refreshed hirself and taken a large drink from the water shi coiled up on her favorite warm rock and allowed the water to drip from her golden mane while soaking up the rays.

As shi let hir mind wander she thought back to hir experiment… shi had just spent a month in isolation after someone attempted to kill them and the first person that shi came in contact with shi cocooned in a goo egg. Shi didn’t even know what was going to happen to Arman, and a surprising part of her didn’t really seem to care that much. It wasn’t that shi didn’t care about what happened to the human shi ensnared but shi knew that shi had just done something life-altering to him and it didn’t matter to hir. Would the human or the snake part of them have done this… or was this decision made by the goo naga that they had become?

The goo naga continued to lay there with hir thoughts until shi felt sufficiently recharged, then slithered hir way back into the cave. As shi continued to slither around hir cave to wait shi suddenly saw the membrane of the egg stretch slightly. Hir head tilted as shi saw the bump move around the supposed shell of the egg shi thought that it might be a hand pushing out, but as it grew more pronounced shi saw that it was a serpentine head stretching it out. As the creature inside continued to try and push out shi found hirself putting hir hands against the lump as though to try and continue to coax the former human out.

It took a few more moments before the membrane broke, releasing a torrent of rubbery goo as the herm naga felt a body fall into hir arms. Nostra slithered backwards and pulled Arman out, except that it was no longer the human that he had put in there. As the two fell to the floor the goo naga was joined with a similarly white-scaled creature on top of hir. When Nostra was finally able to see what had just happened and saw a beautiful feral goo snake that had been Arman.

“You... are you alright?” Nostra asked, holding the head of the snake as shi looked into the eyes of the one that shi had transformed. Shi wasn’t sure if shi had done anything to him mentally, though as his serpentine body began to slither around hir Arman gave hir a look of understanding. “Arman, you still in there...”

“Yeah...” Arman replied when he finally seemed to get a chance to regain his mental acuity. “Is this... real?” When he looked at himself Nostra could tell that he was trying to look at where his arms were, his mouth hanging open slightly as he saw that they were gone. “Where did my arms go?”

Nostra just shook hir head. “I don’t know what happened to you,” Nostra said as shi rubbed the snake’s head. “I still don’t know what happened to me... and I think I may have gotten a little carried away in my experimentation. Admittedly revenge has been on my mind a lot and I’ve been thinking about how my transformation might actually help me get-”

Before Nostra could get out another word Arman leaned forward and kissed hir deeply, their gooey forked tongues sliding around one another. The naga was surprised at how voracious his recently-transformed counterpart was, but soon that really didn’t even matter anymore as they continued to make out. With no arms or legs to steady himself and still unused to his coils Nostra had to make sure that he didn’t slide off of hir and eventually shi just shifted hir own coils so that he was on the bottom while they continued to make out. Several minutes later they finally broke the kiss with both serpentine creatures panting.

“I don’t know why I just did that,” Arman said as he wiggled his new body away, though once more his inexperience in his new form took hold as he nearly flopped over before Nostra darted forward and caught him. “Not having new arms is a pain, but at least I can still talk. What did you do to me?”

“Relax Arman…” Nostra hissed, hir eyes widening slightly in surprise when shi immediately felt him go almost completely limp in hir arms. “I took my body to the limits myself and I knew I needed another to not only continue my experiments but to take it even further. It’s strange… I feel like I have more control over your form than I do even my own, what do you feel?”

“I feel… really relaxed,” Arman cooed, his eyes half-lidded as he stared up into the naga’s serpentine orbs. “I was panicking before and then I suddenly had the urge to kiss you, then started to panic again and now I just feel really good.”

The gears in Nostra’s mind began to turn as shi tried to figure out what had just happened. The fact that he seemed to melt in hir arms just after shi told Arman to relax made hir wonder if shi formed some sort of strange symbiotic bond with the creature shi created. It was from hir ooze that shi transformed him, maybe there weren’t just physical changes that happened. Once more hir scientific curiosity bubbled to the forefront and shi needed to know just how deep this connection went.

The first thing that shi did was tell Arman to go out to the river and wash off the excess goo off of his body, the shiny white snake giving a nod before immediately going out to the river. As shi followed behind while he tried to find exactly where the river was shi asked him what he felt when shi told him to do such a thing. It took a few seconds before he responded that he felt like it was the thing to do and that he had to do it as soon as possible. Nostra took a few mental notes as shi watched Arman wash himself, though it was clear that he while he had lost his arms he had gained a different aspect of hir anatomy as shi looked down at the new snake’s hemi-penis, and came to the conclusion that the former human was compelled to do what shi ordered like a form of hypnosis. It also appeared that the snake had a need to be around hir as shi took a few moments to slither away from the river and heard a slightly anxious voice ask where shi was.

Of course those were just the mental aspects of what had happened to Arman, Nostra mused as shi shouted back that shi was just heading back to the cave and to come meet hir when finished. As shi made hir way back up the pathway shi remembered all the things that shi could do with her own body, putting out hir hand and watching the tendrils pushing their way out to wiggle in the air. If that’s what shi could do to hirself, shi mused as shi got back into the cave, it made hir wonder of the possibilities of what shi could do to hir new pet project…