24
working title:
Rat Bites (?)

podcast ep/full spread

ideas:
-

[…]
it's like seeing someone used to hate experience love for the first time, like a taking care of a stray dog that was abandoned and abused

for stray dogs it takes like months for them to trust you--they'll eat food from you and live in your house but it takes ages for them to soften again, that's the patience i grew from [-].

plus her main instance of pulling away was reaction to external influences and someone else's narrative about him--it was like a stray dog hiding because someone was claiming it tore up their shoe when it didn't but the dog doesnt think it'll be believed. that being said, he negated his own innocence. like a stray dog taking pride in being seen as disruptive because it gives it power. nasty trait

[he did it, he's a stray dog]
[a mean rat, hint rat infestation]

So, instead of openly receiving it, she internalizes it, maybe fantasizing about it privately, but keeping it at arm's length in real life.
at one point the stray dog gets given a bunny plush. Openly the dog receives the gift, mild. but behind closed doors it is his favourite thing in the world.

it's like feeding a stray dog but it only eating when you leave tho it's been starving
[Just like the stray dog, it might feel too vulnerable to take the food (love) in front of you, so he waits until you're not around to "consume" it in his own way. She feels safer doing it in private, where there's no risk of exposing her need for love or fearing that it'll be taken away.]

a stray dog, instead of thinking it has to be completely vulnerable with its owner and do a 180 and be comfortable being babied, it teaches itself to be comfortable engaging with the person so that it can pick up stray socks and put it in the laundry for them or kill all the rats in the house. like it's a process of realising how healing having the dog is for the owner that makes the stray dog more comfortable to be more open, since it's an act of service for the owner

it's like the stray dog realising that the owner is equally as hurt and needing of love as it is
[rat bites?]

yeah i think im equally if not more wounded than he is, which he probably realises. im not holding on out of desperation, but i also need the connection like i also need to see him be

happy because i have the same fears too and want to show him love. im like more invested in his reception of love and care than he is, like in the dog analogy the stray dog catching how the owner cries to themselves every time the dog, thinking the owners asleep, goes to eat the food. like the owner literally waits to make sure the dog ate and cries every time seeing how hungry it is and seeing it feeling comfortable enough to indulge.

-from dogs pov the apartment is lovely and clean and state of the art
last page apartment is kinda old, owner living check to check
-visual storytelling, owner was also skinny when first adopted dog, by the end they're both plumper

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The Bird that thinks It's A Frog
{the deleted pages}

I should be flying already, I'm not good enough
Why am I so behind?
Will they accept me?
Is it really my time?
I can't do it
but i think i can try
It feels like I'm failing
every night I cry
Do I deserve this chance?
Have I missed the moment?
So many things undone
And nothing to show for it
The chains still haunt me
They would haunt you too
I FRICKING HATE THOSE CHAINS
life still feels like a dark room
It's over now I must move on
it feels like i always fall short
in the eyes of everyone

of finally being understood by someone

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The Bird That Thought it was a Frog