

Captain Oliver

by

Alexander Lee-Rekers

SAM and RIVER sit on a couch, with as much space between them as possible.

RIVER

Thanks for coming.

SAM

It's fine.

RIVER

How's your new place?

SAM

I'm not in yet.

RIVER

But you did find one?

SAM

I did. *(Pause.)* I'm here, so let's just- What do you propose?

Pause.

RIVER

I was thinking ... what if you get weekends?

SAM

Weekends?

RIVER

Pick him up Friday, drop him off Sunday night.

SAM

No.

RIVER

You can drop him off Monday if that's easier?

SAM

It makes no sense to me when I'm the one working from home. Why can't you take weekends?

RIVER

Because I work. I won't have any time with him.

SAM

Can you try switching shifts?

RIVER

I need the money right now. At least for the time being.

SAM exhales, slaps their hands on their knees in a gesture of "let's move this along".

SAM

Why don't we do a week on, week off?

RIVER

I don't think we should displace him like that.

SAM

Two weeks, then. Gives him more of a chance to get situated.

RIVER

It's not the length of time. When are you getting into your new place?

SAM

In two weeks. Works out perfectly.

RIVER

And it's nice? I mean, it's safe for him and everything?

SAM

I assume so.

RIVER

Are you living alone? What are your housemates like?

SAM

They seem fine.

RIVER

And they know about him? That he'll be coming over?

SAM

I mentioned him, and they seemed fine with it.

RIVER

This isn't usual, I don't think. None of the articles I've read recommend it.

SAM

Well I don't see another way.

RIVER

Please have a think about weekends. Or maybe you can just ... come and visit him? He's happy, here.

SAM

He'll adjust.

RIVER

But why freak him out with a new place he's never been? If we don't have to? New people and-

SAM

I'll be there! I'll be right there with him. It'll be fine- Jesus, can you fucking trust me for once? For this one fucking thing?!

Silence. RIVER sits back. SAM pulls a cat carrier up on the couch between the two of them.

RIVER

I'm sorry.

SAM

No. I'm sorry.

RIVER

It's hard.

SAM

Yep.

RIVER

(Nodding to carrier.) You wanted to take him with you today?

SAM

No, I just picked it up after work.

SAM looks around the space.

It's strange being back. Feels different.

RIVER

I know.

SAM

Did he- I thought he'd run to the door when he heard me...

RIVER

I wouldn't take it personally. He's got a new spot in the bedroom. Last I saw him he was asleep.

SAM

Can I see?

Pause.

RIVER

Yeah. Yeah, I can take you back there.

SAM

I wonder if the apartment still smells like me...

RIVER

He remembers you.

SAM nods to themselves.

Get settled. We can try a week on, week off.

SAM

Thank you.

RIVER

See how he goes. *(Pause.)* Do you want to see his new hiding spot?

SAM

I ... let's just call him out here, yeah?

RIVER

Sure.

SAM

Captain Oliver? Cap'n?

RIVER

Come on, Captain Oliver!

SAM and RIVER keep on calling out his name.