

Cottage Connect, Part 3 (House TF, Absorption, Expansion, Priconne)

The night lasts a lot longer for a house than for the people sleeping inside it. Since Sheffy was a house now, she got to experience this fact intimately, losing her mind with every second she spent waiting. By midnight, she felt like she was going insane: she *was* a person, wasn't she? Wasn't she? She hadn't been a house the whole time, had she?

Since the only people who could answer this question were currently snoring away inside her, Sheffy was left to sit there on the hill, her shutters flapping and shivering in the cool night breeze, and ponder the question herself, feeling increasingly sure of the answer. She *was* a person! They... they'd made her drink a potion, hadn't they? They had! ...Shouldn't it have worn off by now? ...It should have, shouldn't it?

By the time the sun started to rise – the first thin rays of sunlight creeping through her windows to poke the sleepers inside her, saying 'hey, wake up, sleepyheads!' – Sheffy wanted to scream in frustration. "Wake up!" she shouted. "Hey! It's morning!"

In his bed, Yuuki threw off the covers and stretched. "Good morning, Sheffy," he said, rubbing the sleep out of his eyes. "Did you sleep well?"

"I didn't sleep! I'm a house!"

In her other bedrooms, the rest of the Gourmet Guild were waking too. "I feel so refreshed," said Pecorine, making her bed. "That was the best night's sleep I've ever had!"

Karyl felt similarly. "I've never slept on such a comfy mattress," she said, pressing down on it experimentally.

Kokoro was sleeping so hard the others had to wake her.

As the sun rose steadily higher and higher in the sky, the four washed and made their way downstairs to Sheffy's kitchen, leaving her shivering at the tingling inside her as they made their breakfast. "So, what now?" said Yuuki, tucking into some cornflakes he'd found in one of her pantries.

"Well, we can't move on until Sheffy turns back," said Pecorine.

"How long is the potion meant to last?" asked Yuuki. They all turned to Karyl.

The catgirl shrugged. "Oh, about 24 hours or so."

"24 hours?!" Sheffy wanted to scream. "You mean I have to stay like this for almost the whole day as well?!"

"Hmm..." Karyl tapped her chin. "Well, it was out-of-date. Maybe it won't last as long as a fresh one? Anyway, the important thing is that we're all out of here *before* you turn back."

“What happens if we’re not?” said Pecorine.

“Well, it would mean—”

Sheffy didn’t hear the rest of Karyl’s explanation. Instead, her attention snapped to her body and the strange wave of feelings currently washing through it. Were... were her timbers shaking?

Even as she struggled to figure out what was happening, another wave of shuddering passed through her, making her gasp in surprise. This time, it wasn’t just her that noticed either: as dust spilled from her beams, Yuuki and the others stood and looked up in shock. “Sh-Sheffy are you okay?” asked Pecorine.

“You’re not going to collapse on us, are you?” asked Karyl, looking around nervously.

It was an effort for Sheffy to speak. “I don’t know!” she said, as another spasm rolled through her, making her shutters slam and her planks shake as if she were about to fall apart. Even her chimney wobbled precariously on her roof, as if it would fall at any second. “I feel like I’m... Like I’m about to...!”

It was Karyl who realized what was happening first. “She’s turning back!” cried the catgirl, rushing for the door. “Quickly! We need to get out of here before—!”

It was like a giant had taken Sheffy in her hands and started to squeeze her, crushing her domestic new body tight between its fingers. She screamed, the sound rushing through her like a sudden gust of wind, and just like that, she started to shrink.

Karyl had almost made it to her front door, and the others weren’t far behind her. But even as it flapped, swinging open and shut in time with the intensity of Sheffy’s screaming, the walls and the ceiling collapsed, threatening to crush the four of them into paste.

“No! No!” cried Karyl, fighting to move as the ceiling dropped. “No, it’s not supposed to happen *this* soon!” Forced to her knees, she ended up crawling, but no sooner had she reached the door than it slammed shut and turned to a slick, hard white. Karyl could only squeak as she recognized it as enamel. “No!”

Sheffy herself moaned through her newly restored mouth as her chimney grew long and started to coil as a tail, as her roof split from her walls as a pair of large wings, and her planks merged, restored to a layer of soft skin. And all the time, she grew smaller, smaller, more and more humanoid in shape, till soon she looked nothing like herself at all: just Sheffy, curled up naked in a ball on the top of a small hill.

Though there were a *few* little differences.

Stretching, Sheffy squealed in relief. “I’m back to normal! I’m a person again!” As she flung herself to her feet, however, she couldn’t help but notice she felt a little jigglier than normal.

Looking down, she gasped to see the largest pair of boobs she'd ever seen stapled to her chest. Th-they were even larger than Pecorine's! "Wh-what?"

Nnn~! came Pecorine's voice, clear in her head, though she definitely couldn't hear it aloud. *Wh-what happened to me?! Where am I? Why do I feel so jiggly?!*

H-Help me! cried Kokkoro. *I can't move either! And it smells so bad here!*

Sheffy looked over her shoulder and gasped to see her butt had grown almost as large as her boobs.

Noooo! cried Karyl, and Sheffy felt her tongue shiver in her mouth. *No! We turned back with her! We're parts of her body now!*

"P-parts of my body?!"

Nnnn~! Yes! And stop talking with me!

Sheffy realized she hadn't heard Yuuki. "Y-Yuuki? Where--?"

A sudden, intense heat between her legs. Sheffy slammed them together with a squeak, blushing and biting her lip.

I-I don't know, came Yuuki's voice. *B-but it's really hot and wet!*

Sheffy swallowed. What was she meant to do now?!