

I'm A Skarmory

Written by: Icarus (Interstellar System)

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Content Warnings:

- Discussion of species dysphoria.
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I haven't fronted in a bit, though I do come out here pretty consistently at least once every 6 months. But man it never gets less weird not aligning with the body's anatomy. And yeah I get it, most nonhumans don't align with the body they're stuck in! But I'm a skarmory, and I see a lot of quadruped experiences, but not much from avians. So I'm weighing in with my stuff!

My feet--my primary gripping tools aside from my beak--are now replaced with simple, hardly useful for holding onto anything, human feet. They're just flat. There's no claws on the ends of the toes and god DAMN are there way too many of them. I understand they're to walk with, but mine doubled as tools and weapons. I guess I can kick people here? It's nowhere near the same, though.

My leg bones are much too long and much too short in places. Walking in this body feels like I'm walking on what should be almost my ankle. It feels like my legs are even just bent in the entire wrong direction, sometimes--definitely a weird feeling!

And my wings are now replaced with... What I'd consider the human equivalent of what my feet were. Gripping tools! Except.... Almost where my wings should be?? Why are my talons where my wings should be? This especially confuses my brain, because it tries to map my phantom talons onto our hands, which leaves my lower half feeling like it shouldn't be there at all. My legs are where my body ends, so if my hands are my talons, then... Why is there more body down there? It's led to me feeling phantom talons on both my hands and my feet on more than one occasion which is definitely something that feels so strange.

One thing I like is that my skin is still smooth. Though it may be smooth, sure, unfortunately it's soft too. It squishes like something I'd have considered food back home--and it's easy to accidentally injure. My body before was polished and metallic, right down to the knifelike feathers. Now if I trip and fall I have to be worried about more than just a little dent or two? You're telling me I can be seriously injured from something so simple? I can't just shed the feather and grow back some more armour?

My mouth. Oh my god don't get me started on the mouth. It's the worst part for me. One, why is it squishy like that? Two, why is the hard biting surface INSIDE the squishy skin? That just lines up with it being all too easy to bite into my own lips or cheek. Three, the teeth are brittle in comparison to my beak anyway! I have to be careful of chipping a tooth and not eat anything ridiculously hard--whereas before my beak was basically a pair of scissors. Why do I all of a sudden need to be so so careful with it? Why is it shaped like that? Why is it so flat on my face?

The mouth being one of the things I used to hold things with in my memories also lends itself weirdly to human anatomy. I can't open it as far, so I can't hold items I'd normally consider easy to carry in it. But it's also not generally socially acceptable to carry things around in your mouth either, for some reason? My hands get full, so the logical conclusion to me is holding whatever's lightest and less likely to be damaged in my teeth! A lot of our system members carry things in their mouth anyway if it's convenient, regardless of the social stigma--but it's still weird to me that there *is* stigma about it.

Overall the body feels feeble and brittle in comparison to what I used to be. It's also distorted in such a way that my own phantom shifts are inconsistent with how they're arranged, so even when I get shifts it feels dysphoric. It's so weird! I don't necessarily mind having a human body but every time I come to front, it ends up throwing me off a lot more than just a little.

Life here isn't all that bad though, there's plenty of things I like here too. A lot of the lifestyle changes from before are nice, and I do actually like some parts of our body!

I like that we have a lot of fingers in this body. My feet before only had 3 toes each, but having 5 fingers per hand is actually useful! It kinda helps fit more things with less likelihood of dropping stuff. I think the thumbs on these ones are a lot more useful than my feet were before, too--they're adaptable! Able to be used in all sorts of situations, not just grabbing things! I think that's cool. Like, I'm typing! Much faster than I'd ever be able to with my own beak or feet in my body--if metaphorical me knew how to type, that is.

I also like hair, even though everything on my body before was sharp or metallic. I just like the texture honestly--it's soft in a way that isn't all too dysphoric for me. It's a nice, like.. Stim toy, almost? Now that I think about it... Maybe I had fluffy down feathers between plates of armour to keep me warm? I haven't looked into it in all honesty. Not that the enjoyment of texture needs to relate back to me being a skarmory--just some pondering aloud.

I also definitely like that I don't have to be wild anymore. In headspace I can do what I want without fear of some predator who happens to know flamethrower coming up to me and deciding I'm a nice snack or I got too close to their territory. It's nice to be able to feel that in front too--the outerworld feels much more realistic to me and it's great to be able to feel alive and not constantly hunted.

Houses are cool, and so are beds. Having a bed and being able to make it all nice and comfy feels like nesting, to me. Where I would nest in thorns before to polish and harden my armour, this body nests in soft, fluffy things that protect us from getting injured by anything too hard. I think it's nice, actually--both I and this body nest in materials that match their body type! Kind of a cute little parallel.

I guess the conclusion I've come to after I've sat here rambling? Life is complicated, life is weird, but I'm here and I'm going to take as much joy out of living it as possible. Human body, skarmory body, doesn't matter. I'm here anyway, why not make the most out of it?